

TSU Weekly Wrap Up – September 18, 2020

By Pete McKay-TSU President

I'm no English major so I'm not sure whether the situation qualifies as farce, satire, tragedy, or just plain ridiculousness. Regardless, it's been a mess. As I've said a few times during the past couple of weeks, if I don't laugh, I'll cry. Hope you can all laugh

Staffing/scheduling – And so ends the second week of school. And, still, some of you have not begun teaching. Or have timetables. Things have become a bit clearer as we've worked through this week, in large part, in some schools, to the extra work of guidance teachers who have been instrumental in getting the scheduling done. VS teachers have been given an opportunity to indicate course preferences, which I'm sure they appreciate. And, accommodations seem to have been worked out, too. Those who had applied for remote teaching from home due to immunocompromised concerns have had that granted, we hear.

Many questions regarding those who have been assigned to the VS regarding their roles in the school have been worked out. Following on our discussion with them, the Board indicated at the end of last week that they would not be removing people from their headship roles. We were concerned that people not be put at a disadvantage because of Covid. We do appreciate it when people listen to us, which happens once in a while. Association Reps will also remain in their roles unless they feel they cannot, in which case they would contact the office about resignation and an election. Even if working from home, Reps can co-chair LSSAC meetings through the use of Zoom, which should be in place for everyone who wishes it. There is no imperative to pack a bunch of people into a small conference room, increasing their exposure and discomfort.

Health and Safety – People seem to be adjusting to what the expectations are for H&S. Hopefully, students can follow the directions provided and not jeopardize your health. Confusion continues around the codes to be used in SEMS. If you are required to stay home because of Covid related concerns but are not sick yourself, you should not be using code 10. Even in cases where you display Covid-like symptoms and are still capable of working you should not be using a code 10 if told to stay home, pending test result, by the PH authorities. That is quarantine and qualifies for a code 26

LSSAC – We wrapped up the LSSAC elections this week. A couple of hiccups, mostly my fault in my first time at it, but we managed to complete the process successfully. Reps will review the role of the committee with the LSSAC members as they head into their first meeting of the new year. Bottom line is, the LSSAC is there to help ensure the Collective Agreement is upheld. Good luck to all and thank you, again, for your service.

TSU Office – I mentioned changes in portfolios last week and people are starting to catch onto those. We have made a couple of changes to the Release Officer School Liaison List and the DWM School List this week and will be sending those out to you shortly. While we have all been chipping in and picking up whatever needed to be, now that things are settling in somewhat, it will be important for the calls and emails to be appropriately directed. We ask that if there is an issue that your Rep cannot resolve for you that you contact the Release Officer assigned to your school. The exceptions being for sick leave and grievance matters. Those go to Paul and Angela respectively.

TSU Committees – And lastly, TSU committees have begun their meetings for the year, all remotely. Particularly of concern, now, as students are back and we see the number of Covid cases in the Province rising steadily. The committee business will obviously be limited this year but you should be hearing about online events as things unfold.

Stay safe and have a great last-of-the-summer weekend.