

Fall 2022 Newsletter

OSSTF/TARA

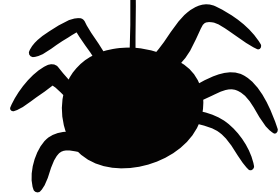


Message from the President

Welcome back to the start of another busy semester. After a long summer, we are slowly starting to feel cooler temperatures, and to see a warm, visually-pleasing palette of reds, oranges, and browns. We get to hear the sound of crunching leaves underfoot and, my favourite, we enjoy the taste and smell of pumpkin spice in everything.

While the cooler weather and shorter days can seem depressing for some, I hope you will find the sights, smells and sounds of fall inspirational, the way I do, and take a few minutes each day to enjoy the beauty around you.

Over the summer, the Executive worked on many things. To name a few, we revised the Enrichment Fund criteria, created a new Inclusion Officer position, and resolved any outstanding retro payment concerns brought to our attention. Throughout this newsletter, you will see updates regarding all of these things. I am also excited to tell you about some new things planned for this year, including our new initiative to promote OSSTF on campus. This newsletter is filled with information on those topics and much more! As always, we are committed to providing you with as much information as possible. If you'd like information on items not included, or if you have questions that you'd like answered at an upcoming Member Check-In, please let me know!



OSSTF/TARA



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President's Awards for Exemplary Staff Service

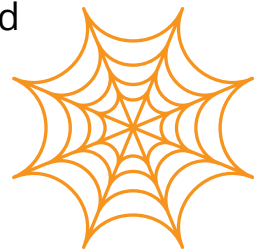
Please join us in congratulating some members who were award recipients last month. More information on these awards is available online:

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/president/awards>



Hidden Hero

Jennifer Cosentino, Administrative Assistant with U of G's Maplewoods Centre for Family Therapy and Child Psychology, ensured that the centre continued its clinical training of future psychologists despite remote work provisions necessitated by the pandemic. Working closely with clinicians, clients, supervisors and Financial Services, she instituted systems to ensure accurate and timely maintenance of record-keeping and billing services. She was instrumental in facilitating a complicated move of the clinic to newly renovated quarters, notably ensuring privacy-compliant management of sensitive client records and assessment tools.



Wellness, Health & Safety

Ensuring top-notch wellness and maintenance of Ridgetown Campus's animals and facilities used by students in the renowned experiential learning agriculture diploma is the job of the Ridgetown Campus Livestock Team of Mark Monden, George Woudenberg, Norm Tosh, Rob Reid, Dave Hogg and Christina Lockerbie-Thom. The group ensures that the livestock team has reliable and accessible use of the facilities and strives to share pertinent data, knowledge and other information. The team members have ensured prompt attention to occasional wellness, health and safety issues and even stepped in to help with livestock experiential teaching while an instructor recuperated from surgery.



Inclusion Officer

In December 2021, the OSSTF/TARA Executive sent out a survey asking the membership to identify ways we could enhance/improve our services to the membership. You identified equality and inclusion as priorities. As a result, we worked to identify ways to create an inclusive and welcoming workplace atmosphere, and to create/maintain a safe space where members can freely participate in meetings in an equitable manner. At the 2022 Annual General Meeting, a motion was presented to create an Inclusion Officer position within the local Executive. This motion was passed unanimously, and it has now been incorporated into our Constitution and Bylaws.



Enrichment Fund

We are still accepting Enrichment Fund applications. This funding is available to assist members with costs associated with their pursuit of learning and professional development opportunities. The award value is up to \$300. If you have not yet taken advantage of this negotiated benefit, an application and criteria can be obtained from our website (<http://www.d35-guelphlara.osstf.ca/>). Completed applications should be submitted to me at president@d35.tara.osstf.ca.



Benevolent Council Applications

The Benevolent Council exists to provide assistance to active members, who find themselves in extreme financial need due to prolonged illness, accident, or extreme emergency. This assistance can be in the form of relief grants of up to \$3,000 in a federation year, or simply advice on ways/means to alleviate distress. This program is offered through Provincial Office and is available to our members. If you wish to access this fund, members are asked to contact us directly (at president@d35.tara.osstf.ca), so we may assist with the application process.



Cell Phones



Further to the email you have received from department Admins from Jenna Harty, Director of Integrated and Internal Communications, Communications & Marketing | University of Guelph informing you that all faculty and staff must have a secondary device (e.g., mobile phone) set up for multi-factor authentication in order to access Microsoft 365 services. I would like to draw your attention to article 22.08 from your collective agreement.

"22.08 Members who are required to use their personal cell phones for work purposes shall be reimbursed according to departmental/unit practice."

Please feel free to forward the article to your supervisor with the request of how to have your phone paid for. Please inform Elizabeth if you run into any problems (ecoplant@uoguelph.ca).



Collective Bargaining Committee

The Collective Agreement between the University and the Union has been ratified by both parties and all eligible members should have received their retroactive pay on June 23. If you believe that you are eligible, but payment was not received, please contact your local representative. We are still waiting for hard (printed) copies of the Agreement and we will get them to you as quickly as possible, once received.



COVID-19



Please visit the University's COVID-19 website for the latest information. Please also check your local Public Health website for the most up-to-date community-specific information. Booster shots are available for campus members, including staff, through Student Wellness. More information can be found on their [website](#).

OSSTF/TARA Annual General Meeting (AGM)



The 2023 AGM is tentatively scheduled for June 14 at 12:00 noon. We are working out logistics for this meeting, we but are hoping to hold the meeting in a hybrid format where all can participate either in-person or virtually.

This year, elections will be held for the following Executive positions: Vice-President, Grievance Officer and Secretary. If you are interested in volunteering for any of these positions, or if you would like more information, please reach out to your local Union Representative.

Monthly Member Check-Ins

We are still receiving lots of positive feedback about monthly member check-ins, so we will continue to host them on the third Wednesday of every month, during the lunch hour, until next May. These virtual Check-Ins are designed to facilitate informal conversation where members are welcome to engage their local Executive on any topic of interest. Suggestions for potential topics are always welcome!



Promoting OSSTF on Campus

Our Executive is always looking for ways to support students and give back to our campus community. After much thought and collaboration with OSSTF Provincial office, I am pleased to announce that our local has been granted an additional \$1,000 to promote a positive image of OSSTF/FEESO in 2023. Funds may be used to support student clubs, sponsor student teams etc. If you have suggestions about how to promote a positive image of OSSTF/FEESO on campus, we want to hear from you!

Activity



Post a photo showing your Halloween spirit on our Kudoboard for a chance to win a \$25 gift card. The winner will be drawn at random at our next member monthly check-in on Wednesday, November 16th, 2022 from 12:00-12:30pm.

Executive Committee

President.....	Joe Rooyakkeres
Vice-President.....	Elizabeth Copland
Member Services Officer.....	Laleh Hatefi
Secretary.....	Laurie Winn
Treasurer.....	Caitlin Brookbanks
Communications Officer.....	Vanessa Joy

Representatives:

Simcoe.....	Rachel Riddle
Vineland.....	Kyla Wastell
Candy Keith.....	New Liskeard
Keptville.....	Tom McLean
Ridgetown.....	George Woudenberg



An updated copy of our member seniority list will be available on our website later this week (<http://www.d35-guelph tara.osstf.ca/>).