

# CUASA Communiqué

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thecommunique

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## CUASA Steering Committee

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## CUASA Communiqué Update

The *Communiqué* provides information of general interest and use to all CUASA members. It is not a record of CUASA Council meetings; for these, it is incumbent upon individual members of Council to report directly to their units, either in writing or verbally. Given that Council meetings are open to all CUASA members; no confidential information is discussed. Contrary to some reports, everything that takes place in Council can be reported to your unit, and CUASA applauds those Councillors who have been doing so. If any member of CUASA is being stifled from communicating matters from CUASA Council meetings, please contact the President and Grievance Officer of CUASA.

## Changes to CUASA staff

CUASA's Executive Director position is now vacant. Meanwhile, we have welcomed Pascal Gagné on board in a temporary role as Technology and

**Chair, Grievance**

Pum van Veldhoven, Sociology

**Salary and Benefits Officer**

Vacant

**Chair, Internal Affairs**

Peter Gose, Anthropology

**Communications Officer**

Root Gorelick, Biology

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Vacant

**Instructor Representative**

Vacant

**Librarian Representative**

Kristof Avramsson

**CUASA Office Staff****Executive Director****Senior Grievance and Arbitration Officer**

Christal Côté

**Office Manager**

Deborah Jackson

**Records and Space Mgmt. Coord.**

Liala Swayty

**Technical and Communications Coord.**

Pascal Gagné

Communication Coordinator, and a search is underway for a new Member Services and Communication Officer.

### Teaching evaluations

Teaching evaluations are a perennial issue for many members, whether because of blatant bias or simply because student evaluations – no matter how useful they may be for us as teachers in assessing the student experience – are simply not a particularly good measure of teaching effectiveness. The existing student evaluation questionnaire will probably be revised soon. In the interim, it is important that all CUASA members recall that they have the right to opt for paper versions of student evaluations, which is a way to remove some gender and racial bias in these evaluations. Note, however, that if a student drops a class at the last day allowable, their teaching evaluations will still count if done via paper, but will be excluded if completed on-line.

Rarely, peer-evaluation of teaching is conducted, which some members may find beneficial. Note, however, that in-person peer-evaluation of teaching can only be done with the explicit agreement of the teacher being evaluated. In other words, other faculty members can only observe your teaching with your permission. If peer-evaluation is being imposed upon you, please contact the CUASA office immediately.

### IRRG dean's lecture and Bill C-51

In November 2016, Carleton's administration sponsored and hosted a closed two-day meeting that was supposed to culminate in a public lecture, which was shut down by protest, on how to prosecute Indigenous and environmental activists as terrorists per Bill C-51. In response to this, CUASA Council asks the university to:

1. re-affirm its institutional goal to reconciliation with Indigenous and sustainability initiatives.
2. confirm that it does not endorse as an official University position the IRRG symposium's characterization of Indigenous land and water defenders as terrorist threats to critical infrastructure.
3. acknowledge that characterizing Indigenous and environmental activists as terrorist threats contradicts Carleton's avowed institutional goals of working toward reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and of supporting environmental sustainable initiatives.
4. review the IRRG's mandate as a University-sanctioned Research Group and propose any changes necessary to bring it into alignment with Carleton's other avowed institutional goals.

### Sexual violence policy

Students protesting the university's sexual violence policy have been holding or gently affixing with string a paper sign stating "Stop Sexual Violence - #NotOurPolicy" at the Bronson Street entrance to campus. These students have been threatened with criminal charges for vandalism and mischief by Carleton's special constables. The Department of University Safety claims that, "There's a university policy with respect to posting on campus and that policy does not permit the posting of banners on university premises without seeking permission." Whether or not one agrees with the existing sexual violence policy, it is disturbing that Carleton's administration would threaten to arrest or in any way sanction peaceful student protestors for putting up paper posters and banners expressing their views about official university policy. It seems that the Carleton administration is more concerned about protecting its public image than taking meaningful steps to support survivors of sexual violence or engage in meaningful consultation.

A rally is organized for Thursday 2 March 2017 at 4:00 pm against threats to the *Not Our Policy* campaign at the Carleton sign on Bronson at Sunnyside. More information can be found on [facebook](#) (<https://www.facebook.com/events/1756725177976973/>). All members of the university community are invited to join the organizers in telling the Carleton administration that engaged peaceful dissent will not be silenced.

### Free tuition program

Carleton has a “free tuition program” for CUASA members and their dependents. This free tuition program also extends to a pair of reciprocity agreements, with York University and Simon Fraser University. Students need to apply once a year for each fall/winter and once a year for each summer term for this program, which covers full tuition, but nothing else. Each university offers this free tuition reciprocity to at most five students per term from any of the other two universities. The only proviso is that if a student fails a course covered by the free tuition program, that they must retake and pass it or an equivalent course at their own expense before being eligible for free tuition for a subsequent fall/winter or summer term. For more details, please contact Laura Wilson <[Laura.Wilson3@carleton.ca](mailto:Laura.Wilson3@carleton.ca)> in the Carleton business office.

### Collective bargaining

The Collective Bargaining Committee (CBC) thanks all those who participated in making successful the topical, group consultations, and department/unit visits over the past two months. Your feedback provided valuable insights and information. The CBC looks forward to our department visits scheduled for early March and are happy to receive your comments via e-mail at [chiefnegotiator@cuasa.ca](mailto:chiefnegotiator@cuasa.ca), and/or organize department/unit visits should this be of interest. Stay tuned for further collective bargaining up

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Carleton University Academic Staff Association  
2006 Dunton Tower, 1125 Colonel By Drive  
Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5B6

Phone: 613-520-5607  
Fax: 613-520-4426  
Email: [cuasa@cuasa.ca](mailto:cuasa@cuasa.ca)

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