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## Collective Agreement

### Facts

#### Did you know that...

No Member shall be assigned the development of a Distance Education Course without his/her consent. When development of a DE course is part of the assigned workload, a written statement of the equivalency will be provided, in advance, and the credit given shall be, at least the equivalent to the credit value of the course

## Program Prioritization Process (PPP)

The University recently announced the formulation of the PPP. The PPP is composed of twenty two members. There are ten (10) elected members ( 5 faculty and 5 staff), two (2) students, seven (7) current and two (2) past Chairs of Senate Committees and the Provost. The purpose of the Program Prioritization Process is to rank academic programs, administrative programs and services at the University. These ranking will be used in the allocation of the 2014 budget.

The objective of the PPP is to cut \$30M from the operating budget over the next four (4) years with the academic programs seen as the 'main drivers of cost' and therefore, the main area to be reduced/constrained. All programs and services will be reviewed to identify areas where expenses can be saved and revenues increased.

Of importance for all members of the University community is the issue of Academic Governance.



## Academic Governance

Academic Governance, or the responsibility for academic issues, such as determining curriculum, rests with the Senate. While the PPP Committee can make recommendations, ***it is our academic governing body which must approve academic changes.***

The University statement on the roles and responsibilities of Senators states:

*“The Senate is the foremost academic decision-making body of the University of Guelph and Senators have a vital role in Fostering and supporting the mission and goals of the University. These include a commitment to: the highest standards of pedagogy; the education and well-being of the whole person; meeting the needs of all learners in a purposely diverse community that fosters creativity, skill development, critical inquiry, and active learning.”*

So, while the Board of Governors has responsibility for the financial wellbeing of the institution, it is our Senate which maintains the academic integrity of our university. While the PPP may be reviewing our academic programs to ‘identify areas where expenses can be saved and revenues increased’, it remains the responsibility of Senate to determine the academic direction.

Integrative Planning will continue during the PPP process, however, we have been assured that new substantial changes are on hold until completion of PPP.

## UGFA Faculty Senate Caucus

One of the ways for our elected senators has an opportunity to prepare for Senate meetings are to attend the UGFA Faculty Senate Caucus meeting (Chaired by Ed Carter, UGFA President). Now, more than ever, we need to ensure that the quality and standard of education which our Members have worked so hard to promote and maintain is not jeopardized. If you are an elected Senator, please come to our meetings. If you are a member who is concerned about the integrity of our academic life, we encourage you to contact the UGFA (ext. 52126) to submit your name for membership on the UGFA Academic Freedom Committee.\*

We urge all members to be vigilant during this PPP process and to inform the Association of any concerns which you might have (facassoc@uoguelph.ca).

## UGFA Annual Teaching Awards Reception

On Thursday October 25<sup>th</sup> we will be holding our annual reception for the recipients of the UGFA Distinguished Professorial Award as well as presenting the UGFA Distinguished Service Award. The event will be held at 4:00 p.m. in the University Club. Details to follow. If you have not already notified the UGFA of your intent to attend, we urge you to confirm your attendance by calling ext. 52126.