

Membership Update – May 1, 2014

Not a lot of new information has come to light since the last membership update from a week ago but, I can share a few developments. All OSSTF members that were due to receive layoff notices have been informed as of Monday, April 28th either formally or informally, through discussions with the University and the Union. The next step in the process is for me to meet with members individually, in person where possible, to discuss their options and clarify the process, where required. I am currently in the process of having those meetings this week and should have the majority of them completed by tomorrow.

The meetings I am conducting with the members are confidential between the member and I, unless of course they choose to disclose details to colleagues. This is a difficult time for our entire membership but, especially those who are dealing with making choices they were not prepared to have to make and have been forced into by the University. I ask that you respect our individual members' right to privacy where they would prefer that but, certainly be available to support them, as I am, when requested. I know that members have lots of questions and there continues to be misinformation and rumors circulating so, please contact me directly and I will do my best to get you the answers.

Now that all members have been notified the University will be posting, within the next day or two, the list of members, seniority date, job classification and proposed lay off date. Also according to Ontario Regulation 288/01, s. 5 (2), the notice shall constitute notice of termination as of the day of posting to any employee whom the employee named in the notice displaces. While I appreciate that members are on edge and want to know if and when they will be bumped, members who have recently received their lay off notice need time to consider their options and get their questions answered. At the same time, the Union has proposed, and will continue to propose, options to the University in order to reduce the need for bumping and further disruption of our members.

I will endeavor to continue to provide as much information as possible as I receive it and as I am able to share it. Your Executive can be reached via our contact information posted on our web site at www.d35-brock.osstf.ca. You will also find the most current Seniority List, (February 1, 2014) and a copy of our Collective Agreement on our web site. Please feel free to contact me directly at norm.westbury@gmail.com with any questions you may have.

Let us not take thought for our separate interests but let us help one another.

In solidarity,

Norm Westbury
President
OSSTF D 35