

VP Internal Report – 2014 OSSTF D 35 AGM  
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As the academic year draws to a close and we begin to get ready for Fall Term once again, we face new challenges in the University. It's been a difficult time for many of our members and we don't know what further challenges we will face in the future. The University continues to be irresponsible with money and repeating mistakes over and over again with no accountability or transparency in their actions. Our membership is paying the price for this negligence.

Brock is not alone in this mismanagement of money. Universities all over Ontario are struggling and staffs are losing their jobs to help bail out these irresponsible boards. The University of Windsor and Guelph are just two other Universities who have lost support staff during this time of "fiscal austerity" and as we are all aware, we too have suffered a loss. Over the past year I have been very active in working towards holding the Universities accountable for their spending while lobbying the government to improve their funding to Ontario Universities which should include dedicated funding for staff positions that can't arbitrarily be cut because the University cannot properly budget a building.

I have met with the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities on a number of occasions, challenging him on funding models, international developments, and the threat of increased technologies. I've also been active on the Provincial workgroup on University Issues which meets to collectively work together on common concerns that we are all facing, developing policy and working with the provincial office to represent our concerns at Queen's Park.

I am also an active member on the Communications and Political Action Committee at the Provincial level. On this committee I have worked to better voice the concerns we have at the University level and have begun to create materials that all members of the OSSTF can use to lobby their local MPP's. I have contributed to workshop development for University leaders on University funding models. I have also recently submitted a workshop for consideration to be presented at the Summer leadership conference that will, once again, present the challenges our membership face when students transition from High School to University. I have also attended numerous workshops and conferences which have all prepared me for the fight we have ahead, a fight that I will not back down from until conditions improve at Brock and at all Universities across Ontario.

As the election has now been called I anticipate that, if re-elected, I will, along with Norm Westbury, continue to be a voice for Brock, and all Universities in Ontario. We will continue to communicate with local MPP's and Queen's Park demanding improvements in funding, workload, and overall working conditions for all of our members. Ontario has the lowest funded Universities in Canada, funding which should, and does, directly relate to our jobs, student enrolments, and ultimately

employment rates. There must be improvements in funding models for the Universities in Ontario if we are to protect our jobs and the future of our families. University boards MUST be held accountable for their spending just as we must hold our MPP's accountable for their inaction in the protection of Post Secondary Education in Ontario.

It is my sincerest hope that our membership will be active in this election and express their voice in the form of a vote; a vote for increased funding at Universities, a vote for accountability in University spending; a vote to keep our jobs, not lose them. We must ask our MPP's how they intend to ensure we will not lose our jobs in the face of increasing cuts to education while Management and Administration continue to flourish and while boards continue to spend with no accountability.