



Issue 441—August 26, 2008

D.T.U. Executive

Sylvie Perron
President

Mary Hlywa
First Vice-President

Maryann Farkas
Second Vice-President

Gleema Nambiar
Secretary/Treasurer

Administrative Assistant

Elisabeth Leone

General Inquiries
931-8731, #1799
Room 8A.11

www.dtu.qc.ca
dtu@aei.ca

WELCOME TO ALL TEACHERS

After the grey and rainy summer we've just had, we hope you've not grown too used to 'siestas' and DVD-watching to energetically resume your duties at Dawson where you left off in June! We wish to welcome back all teachers and especially the new ones who are joining us this semester. We encourage you to find supportive fellow faculty members to ease your transition into the rhythm of life at Dawson and in your department. Feel comfortable to bring to the union office questions regarding your working conditions, contractual rights or any other related subject. We will do our best to respond to your queries or direct you to those who could be of assistance. Your union is here to offer you information and support on matters that are important to you. Read below to find out about our upcoming workshops for new and not-so-new teachers. In the meantime, please visit the DTU web site: www.dtu@qc.ca or contact us at local 1799.

AUGUST SALARY INCREASE EXPECTED SOON

The eagerly anticipated August 2008 salary increase, giving FAC teachers parity with those of other college federations, is still awaiting confirmation from the *Conseil du Trésor* (Quebec Treasury Board). FAC assures us that once this confirmation comes through in the next few days, *MELS* (the Ministry of Education, Leisure & Sport) will sign the *Entente de principe** and we will receive our August salary increase retroactively. FAC teachers from then on will receive salary increases at the same time as FEQ and FNEEQ teachers.

* Already ratified by FAC and the *Comité Patronal de Négociation des Collèges*, in May of this year...

For more information please access FAC Announcement: <http://www.lafac.qc.ca/doc/en/factualites/Actu815A.pdf>

TEACHERS' DUTIES AND AVAILABILITY

All the duties of the teaching workload are itemized in Clause 8-4.00. You will find these on pages 153 to 156 of the English collective agreement, and page 155 to 158 in the French copy of the contract.

As you probably know, one of our many duties as regular teachers is to provide *encadrement* (coaching and support) to our students. A good way to fulfill this obligation, but not the only one, is certainly to hold office hours. We all know that teachers often go far beyond their availability in the interests of supporting and coaching their students toward success. However it is relevant to note that in relation to providing *encadrement*, our collective contract does not indicate a fixed minimum time.

It is important to remember that Continuing Education teachers are not obliged to provide *encadrement*, as they are paid hourly for the time they spend in class.

Regular teachers are available to the College for 32.5 hours per week (pro-rated for part-time teachers) and our collective agreement requires us to be on campus "when our duties require it".

If you are one of the few Dawson full-time teachers who also teach a class at Concordia or McGill, you do *not* need to fill an Exchange of Availability form. However, *you must* ensure that you are available to the college 32.5 hours every week respecting the availability rules:

- Your availability has to be established Monday to Friday between 8 a.m. and 11 p.m.
- A minimum of 14 hours must elapse between the end of an availability period in one day and the beginning of the next availability period.
- The daily availability period must take place within a 10 hour time span.
- You will find more details under clause 8-3.00 “Provisions Regarding Availability” in our collective agreement.

If the College does question your availability, it would be wise to contact the DTU office for full information (local 1799, room 8A.11).

NON-PERMANENT TEACHERS SEMINAR

On **Monday, September 15 at 11:30 a.m.**, the DTU will hold an information seminar in 8A.7 for non-permanent teachers. Topics to be discussed are major issues relating to: CI issues, priority lists, classification, work experience, employment insurance, and implications of being hired in mid-career. A light lunch and refreshments will be served. For more information and to RSVP, please contact us at local 1799.

CONTINUING EDUCATION SEMINAR

We also invite teachers working in Continuing Education to an information seminar to discuss topics such as CI accumulation for hourly paid courses, job security, priority, workloads, rights and obligations. The meeting will take place on **Thursday September 25 from 4:00 to 5:30** in room 8A.7, and a light meal will be available for those who attend. For more information and to RSVP, please contact us at local 1799.

SENATE ELECTIONS

Those of you who are interested in representing teachers of your constituency on the Senate should know that a new round of Senate elections is coming up. This year 4 mandates are coming to the end of their term, one at the end of September and the others on October 25, 2008. The newly elected candidates will acquire positions for approximately 3- year terms that will all end on September 30, 2011. The positions up for re-election are for Physical Education, French, Social Technologies and Science.

If you are interested in presenting your candidacy as a new or returning Senator, you must submit your completed nomination form to the DTU office by September 15, 2008, together with a brief statement of your interest or intent in representing teachers on the Senate. Elections will be held on September 24, 2008; details to follow.

Nomination forms are available from the DTU office, Room 8A.11; you will also be receiving them through internal mail.

DTU DROP-IN HOURS

This year, in order to improve efficiency and clarify availability of services at the DTU office, we are introducing DTU office drop-in hours. These are blocks of time during the week when a teacher can come by, with or without an appointment, to meet with one of the DTU Executive who will be staffing that block. The block times are as follows: Monday 1- 4 p.m., Tuesday 1- 5 p.m., Wednesday 10 a.m. - 12 noon and 1-4 p.m., Thursday 9 a.m. - 12 noon. Other times throughout the week are certainly available for appointments, but effort will be made to arrange these appointments in advance. As in the past, you can book an appointment by calling our administrative assistant, Elisabeth Leone, at ext. 1799, who will coordinate appointments according to each person's availabilities. You can also obtain an appointment by speaking with an executive member directly. We hope this new approach will enable teachers and the DTU executive to structure their time more effectively.

The DTU office is open from Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. – 12 noon and 1 to 5 p.m., where our knowledgeable Elisabeth can assist you with basic information and set up an appointment for you as needed, taking into account everyone’s schedules. The schedule of our drop-in hours will be posted on our website at www.dtu.qc.ca and on our DTU office door at 8A.11.

As we mentioned above, if you are a new teacher or want to know more about the union, please feel free to come by the DTU office to meet members of your union executive and get to know about services that you may need in assuring your employment rights now or in the future. You may want to get involved in the Dawson Teachers Union and contribute to our teachers’ collective voice!

As we enter into our weekly schedule this semester, **do remember that Wednesday, September 3rd, 2008 is actually a Monday schedule** for the college and for the DTU office as well.

DTU Office Schedule — Fall 2008

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00–10:00				Drop In	
10:00–11:00		DTU Executive Meeting	Drop In	Drop In	CRT Meetings
11:00–12:00			Drop In	Drop In	
12:00–1:00	Office Closed For lunch	Office Closed For lunch	Office Closed For lunch	Office Closed For lunch	Office Closed For lunch
1:00–2:00	Drop In	Drop In	Drop In		
2:00–3:00	Drop In	Drop In	Drop In		
3:00–4:00	Drop In	Drop In	Drop In		
4:00–5:00		Drop In			
Evening			DTU Executive Council once a month		