

# COCAL VII

TRI-NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CONTINGENT ACADEMIC LABOR

August 11-13, 2006

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

## **Friday, August 11, 2006**

- 9:00-5:00      Conference registration at SFU Harbour Centre (**Concourse**)
- 10:00            Labor tour of historic Vancouver (Pacific Northwest Labor History Assn.)  
(**Meet in Harbour Centre Concourse**)
- 1:00             *Opening Address: TBA (1900 Fletcher Challenge Theatre)*
- 1:30             *Opening Session: State of the Nation (1900 Fletcher Challenge Theatre)*
- Canada: Greg Allain, CAUT
  - Mexico: Raul Gatica, ex-SNTE/CNTE
  - USA: Cary Nelson, University of Illinois/AAUP
  - Moderator: Deena Rubliak, TSSU/SFU
- 6:30             Buses depart from SFU Harbour Centre for President's Reception
- 7:00             University of British Columbia's President's Reception  
                    UBC Museum of Anthropology (included in registration)
- 10:00            Buses return to SFU Harbour Centre

## Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2006

9:00-5:00 Conference registration at SFU Harbour Centre (**Concourse**)

AM *Organizing: From Local to International*

9:00 Plenary (**1900 Fletcher Challenge Theatre**)

- Canada: Vicky Smallman, CAUT
- British Columbia: Cindy Oliver, FPSE
- Quebec: Marie Blais, FNEEQ-CSN
- Mexico: Maria Teresa Lechuga, UNAM
- United States: Joe Berry, NEA/Chicago COCAL
- Moderator: Joe Berry, NEA/Chicago COCAL

10:45 CUPE/BC Coffee break

11:00 Workshops

**Please note that seating is limited in some rooms, so participation in workshops will be on a first come, first served basis.**

1. Keeping Track of Contingents (**2245 McCarthy Tetrault Lecture Room**)
  - John Curtis, American Association of University Professors

The AAUP has developed an index listing numbers of contingent faculty by US institution. Come and see how it works, what it can be used for, and help provide feedback on features to include or ways to make it more useful.

2. Mobilizing Members (**1900 Fletcher Challenge Theatre**)
  - Guy Dufresne, SCCUQ/FNEEQ-CSN
  - Petra Ganzenmueller, University of British Columbia
  - Brenda McLean, University of Alberta
  - Mary Millet, California Federation of Teachers/AFT
  - Vivian Zimmerman, Prairie State College/NEA

Learn how to engage your membership and encourage them to take action. Facilitators will share some strategies that have worked for them and then participants will break into small groups and brainstorm more ideas to add to the list.

3. **Public/Private Universities (1315 Bank of Nova Scotia Lecture Room)**
  - Rob Clift, Confederation of University Faculty Associations of BC
  - Barbara Gottfried, Boston University/AAUP

Join a lively discussion about the various ways that public and private universities shape the landscape of higher education and the different strategies for organizing contingents and achieving equity in one versus the other.

4. **Different Organizing Models (2945 McLean Management Studies Lab)**
  - Elaine Bobrove, Camden County College/AFT
  - Maria Peluso, Concordia University Part-time Faculty Association
  - Chris Robinson, University of Victoria/CUPE

Some contingents are in their own union, some share that union with other faculty, and some are not organized at all. Discuss the pros and cons of various organizing models with facilitators who represent three of the myriad possibilities.

12:00 Lunch (on your own)

PM *Universalizing Casualization? The Academy and Beyond*

1:00 Overview (**1900 Fletcher Challenge Theatre**)

- Art Huseonica, University of Maryland University College

1:30 Panel Discussion (**1900 Fletcher Challenge Theatre**)

- Param Grewal, Canadian Farmworkers' Union
- Linda Paul, University of Regina
- Laval Rioux, FNEEQ-CSN
- Hector Mora Zebadua, STUNAM
- Moderator: Art Huseonica, UMUC

2:45 Coffee break

3:00

## Workshops

**Please note that seating is limited in some rooms, so participation in workshops will be on a first come, first served basis.**

5. **Achieving Regularization (1900 Fletcher Challenge Theatre)**
  - John Braxton, Community College of Philadelphia/AFT
  - Tom Friedman, Thompson Rivers University FA
  - Rory Wallace, Emily Carr College of Art and Design FA

Job security via conversion to full-time permanent positions is a key goal for most contingent academics. How do we take steps towards this goal during bargaining? What language and activities will allow us to create a career path for part-timers? Join us to discuss solutions and successes.

6. **Using Strike Preparedness to Get a Better Contract (1315 Bank of Nova Scotia Lecture Room)**
  - Greg Bird and Kristin Hole, York University/CUPE
  - Martin Courval and Nicole Blouin, SCCCUL/FNEEQ-CSN
  - Jeff McKeil, Federation of Post Secondary Educators

Striking is an effective way to achieve goals, but requires a tremendous amount of preparation and effort. Come and hear about a face-to-face approach that helps members gain ownership over the process and flattens out the representative model that unions often rely upon. Timelines and resources will be discussed that can help you adapt these strategies to your own campaign.

7. Getting Things Done in the US State Legislature  
**(2945 McLean Management Studies Lab)**

- Erika Gubrium, AAUP (moderator)
- Jonathan Karpf, California Faculty Association
- Marcia Newfield, City University of New York/AAUP-AFT
- Karen Thompson, Rutgers University/AAUP-AFT

Faculty in many US states have turned to state government in the fight to win better working conditions and compensation for part-timers. Facilitators will briefly describe their successes and failures in different states and give advice on strategies for crafting favorable legislation and getting it passed.

8. Maintaining a United Front **(2245 McCarthy Tetrault Lecture Room)**

- Mayra Besosa, California Faculty Association
- Paul Fisher, Oregon Education Association
- Kerensa Peterson, City Colleges of Chicago
- Valerie Wilk, NEA (moderator)
- Dee Woods, California College of the Arts

How can we maintain and strengthen organizations and coalitions with varying types of membership? The discussion will focus on presenting a united front in bargaining and during other activities, with the ultimate goal being to promote a coherent platform on which to base action.

- 4:00 Workshop Reports (to whole group) **(1900 Fletcher Challenge Theatre)**
- 5:20 Depart SFU Harbour Centre for one-block walk to Storyeum
- 5:30 Check-in at Storyeum (142 Water Street)
- 5:45 Storyeum performance begins
- 7:00-11:00 Banquet at Storyeum in Gastown (included in registration)

**Sunday, August 13, 2006**

AM            *Temperature Rising: Global to Local Threats Against Academic Freedom*

- 9:00            Panel Discussion (**1900 Fletcher Challenge Theatre**)
- Mordecai Briemberg, Douglas College (retired)
  - William Bruneau, UBC (retired)
  - Douglas Giles, Harper College/ex-Roosevelt University
  - Larry Gold, AFT Higher Education
  - Flo Hatcher, AAUP
  - Keith Hoeller, Washington Part-time Faculty Association/AAUP
  - Cary Nelson, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign/AAUP
  - Arturo Ramos Perez, STAUACH
  - Kathy Sproles, National Council for Higher Education/NEA
  - Susan Turner, University of Victoria/CUPE
  - Moderator: Gwendolyn Bradley, AAUP

Panelists will provide a diversity of perspectives on the threats against academic freedom and the ways in which the exploitation of contingent labor promotes this agenda.

*There will be two short breaks in this Panel Discussion, with coffee available.*

12:30           Depart for short walk to Koji Japanese Restaurant (630 Hornby Street)

1:00            Lunch at Koji Japanese Restaurant (included in registration)

PM            *Regional Issues*

- 2:30            Local Meetings
- Canada (**1315 Bank of Nova Scotia Lecture Room**)
  - Mexico (**2245 McCarthy Tetrault Lecture Room**)
  - Western United States (**1900 Fletcher Challenge Theatre**)
  - Eastern United States (**2945 McLean Management Studies Lab**)

4:00            *Closing Address: Jinny Sims, British Columbia Teachers' Federation*  
**(1900 Fletcher Challenge Theatre)**

**Thanks to all the presenters, organizers, and volunteers who  
have helped make COCAL VII a reality!**