



Adjunct News

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What is the AFA?

The AFA is *your* union, protecting and fighting for the rights of all adjuncts covered under the bargaining agreement between the college and the AFA (anyone teaching at least six LHE's in any one of three semesters)

Negotiations Are Around the Corner

"I wish the administration ..."
"In the next contract, we should..." We all find ourselves saying this. Do something about it.

This coming year, your union representatives will begin bargaining for you to get the best possible adjunct faculty contract. We will have to live with this contract for several years. Tell them what you want and what exactly would make your teaching experience here at Oakton better for you and your students. Share your ideas with Bev Stanis, chair of the negotiating committee, as soon as possible.

There will also be a survey coming out requesting your input with a section for special interest groups such as nurses, music teachers, tutors, and librarians so those needs can be better understood and presented at the bargaining table. We need your feedback! When you receive it, please reply and return it to Keith Johnson.

Continued...Continued Eligibility...

Grievance Chair Bev Stanis will be sending out reminder letters regarding those on the list to submit the Continued Eligibility Form by October 2013. This

year there will be 4 instructors who will not be allowed to teach because they didn't respond to Oakton e-mail notification.

How to Get Your Unofficial Academic Transcript

You have everything needed to be "eligible." Now, how do you prove it? You need your Oakton unofficial academic transcript that will show the workshops you have taken, the trainings you have had, the classes here that you have taken, etc. To access this, you need to:

Sign in on Banner

- Go to Self-Service Banner Production (in the upper left)
- Go to Student Services (because you were a student)
- Go to Student Records
- Go to Academic Transcripts

Vote NO on the Pension Amendment

Election Day is around the corner. The ***very first item*** on the election ballot will be the ***Illinois Public Pension Amendment***. IEA (Illinois Education Association), the Illinois Federation of Teachers, and the Illinois League of Women Voters all urge you to vote NO on this amendment. What is it? This amendment would require a three-fifths

majority vote – *not a simple majority* – by the Illinois House and Senate to increase public pensions. In effect, passing this amendment means that more affirmative votes by the legislature would be required to approve changes in pension policies that benefit employees.

IEA states that this proposal would make fair contracts harder to come by than they already are.

The League of Women Voters points out that “some people mistakenly assume that the higher the vote required to take an action, the greater the protection of the members. Instead the opposite is true. Whenever a vote of more than a majority is required to take action, control is taken from the majority and given to a minority.”

Join Up

Speaking of negotiations, the union is only as strong as its members when we sit down at the bargaining table. The more members, the more our voices will be heard. You already get the benefits the union has won for you:

- Pay for required committee meetings
- A grievance process
- A fair and orderly way of distributing teaching assignments
- Annual, predictable pay increases

Now join and be counted!

Committees

Represent the adjunct faculty at committee meetings. The college is often looking for people to serve on various committees. It would be great if adjunct faculty were represented – and you are paid for your time. If you are interested in serving in this way, let Barb Dayton know, and she will forward your name when the opportunity arises.

Computer, anyone?

A plan might be worked out with the college for adjuncts who have worked a minimum of 2 years to purchase a computer on an installment plan. The cost would be divided over a specified period of time, with the money deducted from your paycheck each pay period. If you leave Oakton prior to completing payment, you would need to write the college a check for the balance. Interested? Contact Larry Knapp (l-knapp@sbcglobal.net) immediately.

Effect of Sequestration

Unless Congress finds \$1.2 trillion in deficit reduction, “sequestration” cuts will go into effect January 13. One of the programs affected will be the Federal TRIO Program and the Career and Technical Education State grants.

Obviously, the money has to come from somewhere, but NEA believes that Congress

should take a balanced approach to make sure that everyone plays by the same rules and doesn’t further cut education and other priorities. Share *your* opinion with your legislators.

Check Your Mail!

Do you enjoy teaching at Oakton? Would you like to continue to teach here? Beware. OCC is hiring an Assistant Dean in an attempt to enforce rules that have until recently been ignored and/or forgotten. In the future, remember it is your responsibility to pick up your mail before attending class and to read your OCC e-mail at least once a week. You should also check in at least weekly during the summer and during the month prior to classes starting.

Come to a Board Meeting!

We part-timers represent the majority of the faculty here at Oakton. Make the Board aware of our presence by attending a board meeting. The next one will be on the evening of Tuesday, November 13, at 7:30 in the Board Room, Room 1506.

In Memoriam

Adjunct faculty member George Tootelian passed away recently at the age of 83. A teacher for over 50 years, George was a popular physics instructor. Our condolences to his family.