

Dear Faculty Association Members,

Your newly elected and re-elected leaders are coming into office at a busy time with a lot that needs to be fixed in your faculty association. We're going to have to take it step by step. Until now, a lot of power has been centralized and many faculty have grown distrustful of that. In this term, one of my key objectives is to put more power of the faculty association into the hands of more faculty.

One way to do that is transparency. Over the summer, the leadership team will develop a draft communications plan to present to the executive committee in the fall. We will fill in the gaps of the last couple years by posting on the website the minutes that were previously distributed by email, and posting other information related to the dealings of the faculty association. Later this summer, I will post a schedule of meetings for the entire 2014-2015 academic year so all interested faculty can plan to attend.

Another way will be to push to reform our by-laws to ensure fair processes and transparency. I've already had some discussion with Kevin Crawford, CCRIFA parliamentarian, about the process for reforming or amending the by-laws, and I will to put it on the Executive Committee agenda in the fall so that we will have the opportunity to take it to the general membership for ratification before the end of the academic year. I encourage faculty members, especially members of the Executive Committee, to review the by-laws and identify areas of concern that may need revision or amendment.

With greater access to information and improved ground rules, I am confident that the faculty association can begin to develop greater trust in its leaders, provide better opportunities for participation, ensure fair access to union resources, and strongly and consistently defend our contractual rights. In the meantime, I will do what I can within the duties of the presidency to move in that direction.

I have already begun to take steps to provide more access and information, and to delegate as much as the by-laws currently oblige. We have cleaned out and reopened the CCRIFA office in room 3013 at the Knight Campus. Faculty association secretary Sandra Sneesby has begun reorganizing the files there, tracking down minutes and other documentation from the last several years, and getting access to the website. Denise Lazo, in accordance with the duties of the Vice President spelled out in the by-laws, is taking on primary responsibility for grievances in close consultation with me.

We have a long way to go and I humbly acknowledge that I personally have a steep learning curve. I am fully committed to performing my duties to the best of my ability and to improving those abilities every day. And I invite you to let me know what you see that could be done better.

During the summer sessions, I will hold office hours at the faculty association office, Knight Rm 3013 on Wednesdays from 9 am to 10:30 am and Thursdays from 1 pm to 3 pm. Please stop by to say hello or if you have any specific matters to discuss. Otherwise, I will keep you updated on developments via email and this website.

Best wishes, and congratulations on the conclusion of another year!
Shawn Parker
CCRIFA President