



President’s Message



By Blair Howes

Hello Faculty,

Here it is almost mid-March. We should be starting to enjoy longer days of sunshine, but instead Mother Nature has decided March will come in like a lion. I am very hopeful that it will exit like a lamb.

Personally, I am quite done with six-foot-high snow berms down each side of the driveway. 😊

Now on with the rest of the updates.

I still meet biweekly with the Presidents of the 13 other colleges in Alberta. There are only two institutions still in collective bargaining. Keyano and Lakeland Colleges will resume their individual bargaining processes, and I am hopeful that they will come to terms before the end of April of this year.

I am looking forward to seeing new and familiar faces at the ACIFA Conference which will be held at the Chateau Lake Louise in May. For me this is really a time of decompression and new learning. I am completely confident that this Conference will offer something of value to all who choose to attend. Watch for the Monday updates for details about how SAFA subsidizes 40 members to attend this event annually. This is a great value for your professional development dollars.

continued on page 2

In This Issue:

President’s Message	Page 1
Library Report	Page 3
Why I Agreed to Join the Job Action Committee.	Page 4
Cartoon	Page 5

Editorial Board

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- Wendy Strashok
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Layout

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SAFAGRAM is published by the SAIT Academic Faculty Association (SAFA) three times a year usually closer to the end of the months of Fall, Winter, and Spring.

Send submissions to SAFAGRAM, care of the SAFA office, N201 or e-mail submissions to kathie.dann@sait.ca. Please keep submissions under 300 words, double-spaced. Submissions may be edited for grammar, length, or content.

SAFAGRAM editorial policy, as approved by the SAFA Executive on June 14, 1995, is as follows:

1. The Editorial Board has the final say as to what is included or deleted from the newsletter.
2. Editorial Board decisions about newsletter material must be agreed to by consensus.
3. The newsletter will include a disclaimer stating that the views expressed in its content do not necessarily represent the views of the Editorial Board or SAFA.
4. All material included in the newsletter must
 - be signed by the author when submitted to the editors, but anonymity may be requested and granted for printing.
 - be based on “reasoned argument” if personal criticism is used.
 - not involve name-calling.
 - not include sexist, racist, or homophobic comments.
 - be related to SAIT, although this will be interpreted broadly.

The views expressed in SAFAGRAM do not necessarily represent the views of the Editorial Board or SAFA.

<http://www.safacalgary.com/>

The new year started off a bit rocky I think for most, as the Christmas break didn't really offer the lion's share of Faculty any new or positive news as the return to a "new normal" is still somewhat unclear for most of the Administrators of our Institutions in the Province.

To be clear what is a "new normal" as we find some of the new and excited students have actually spent the lion's share of their high school years (due to the pandemic) in a virtual world of learning and have truly missed out on the social experiences. Those years normally offer to prepare the students for the next phase of education in the post-secondary world. I truly feel the pain of this group of students, as they are not quite sure what to expect nor do they get the sense of expectations placed upon them in the adult education world.

As I take some time to reflect on the midpoint of this academic year, I recognize that many of us in the post-secondary world (support staff, Faculty and students) are suffering from some level of uncertainty—whether it's elder care issues, mental health and well-being issues, child care issues, job uncertainty, precarious employment, the new and emerging issues with Artificial Intelligence, and yes perhaps even global supply chain issues. This is certainly the result of after effects of shutting down the Provincial economy to protect against a global pandemic. If nothing else, the pandemic accelerated the administrations of our institutions long-term plans and goals by five to seven years, and they will struggle with infrastructure upgrades that will surely be needed to keep pace.

The ray of sunshine and hope simply is that we got through this time the best we could, and we all should be proud of the fact that we have persevered. As time passes, sadly this will be forgotten by those who come after us . . . to replace us in the world of instruction.

Faculty members at our Provincial post-secondary institutes have gone far above and beyond to ensure the youth of this Province who attend our institutions will be successful and will be able to embark on their own journeys of lifelong learning.

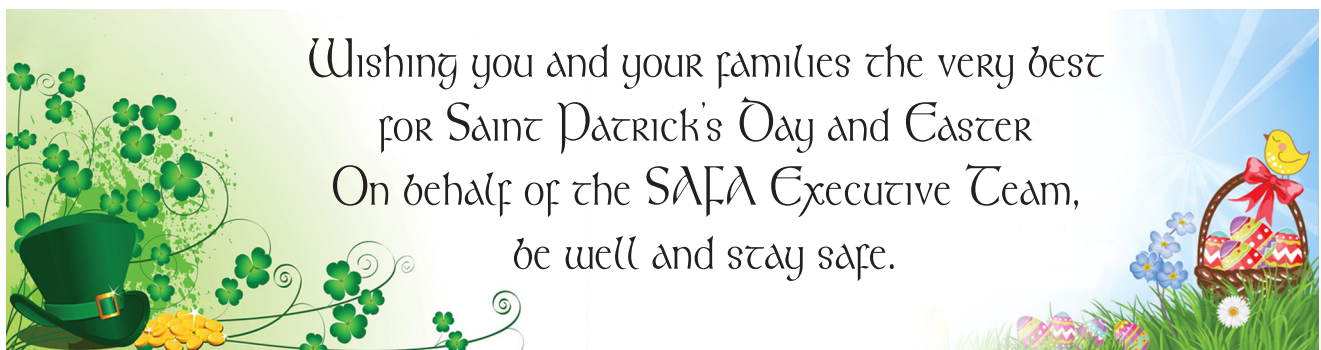
Finally, if you haven't heard a "Thank you" or "You're doing a great job" from your Deans or Academic Chairs, *then let me be the first to say those words to you in 2023.*

I have said this before many times and it still rings true even today: *I cannot stress enough that maintaining your conversation and social contact with your colleagues is very important these days and not just through the holiday seasons. Although some "shop talk" is required, I would also encourage other conversations of mutual interest other than work.*

Watch for the upcoming live and in person SAFA events. It is great to see everyone at the social gatherings and not just on a flat screen for a change.

In 2023, I want to remind everyone of the need for all SAFA members to send an alternate e-mail address to Kathie in the SAFA office in case of a communication breakdown between SAFA and SAIT. Also, visit the SAFA website often in the new year for regular updates.

I remain dedicated to Faculty and remind everyone that I continue to meet with the other Faculty Association Presidents throughout ACIFA to ensure we have current and up-to-date information as to what is happening at the other institutions. As well, we are meeting with the Government of Alberta officials in our sector.



Always, in service of membership.
Blair

The Library Report

Hilary Stamper, Learner Services

Support for research and curriculum development

How does the Library support Scholarly Activity?

In offering its bachelor degrees, SAIT adheres to the standards set by the [Campus Alberta Quality Council](#) (CAQC). The CAQC requires Faculty teaching in degree programs to engage in scholarly output in order to enhance and maintain their knowledge base to support instruction.

The Reg Erhardt Library's outcomes for scholarly activity support are as follows:

- Promote a better understanding of scholarly activity for Faculty across campus
- Educate Faculty on the research process
- Provide support for conducting literature reviews
- Ensure Faculty understand author rights and copyright issues with regards to publishing research

As information experts, our Librarians can help you scope your research question, locate sources for your literature review, and navigate the publishing process. Book an in-person or online consultation with one of our Library Liaisons [here](#).

Upcoming Scholarly Activity Workshops

March 29, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. | [Mind the gap: Literature review basics](#)

April 4, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. | [Introduction to evidence synthesis methods: Scoping & systematic reviews](#)

Library Curriculum Support

Are you working on a new course? Looking to update a current course? The Library can help you find and vet new and alternative materials to incorporate into your curriculum. Get started with the following resources:

- Reach out to our [Copyright Officer](#) to ensure your course materials are being properly used.
- Learn more about finding and using [Open Educational Resources](#) (OER).
- [Schedule a meeting](#) with one of our subject matter experts, Library Liaisons, for one-on-one help with finding course readings and materials.
- View our [list of research databases](#) and other e-resources to start exploring content.
- Use our [curated Subject Guides](#) for your program or course in Brightspace to link students to valuable Library and more resources.

Archives Spotlight

Have you ever been curious about what SAIT looked like throughout the past 100 years? The SAIT Archives, located in the Reg Erhardt Library, has digitized many of the historic photos of SAIT and its people, events, and stories.

Take some time to explore SAIT's history through the Archive's [digitized photo collections](#).



Why I Agreed to Join the Job Action Committee

alita Brown, dip WSET

As a long-term employee—who experienced prior collective agreements created with little fanfare, and often the use of a mediator to rule in favour of what appeared to be management’s rights—I was excited when the Post-Secondary Learning Act (PSLA) made changes to allow for teachers to go on strike! I thought that bargaining outcomes would be more in our favour if we could hold strike action. That would get us what we want . . . easy? Not quite! I hoped by joining the Job Action Committee, I could help to achieve better outcomes for my colleagues; I would learn how easy it would be to go on strike and get what we want or so I thought! Instead, what I have learned is that holding a strike should be the last resort!

Strike only happens after members have made their voices heard through petitions, rallies, letter writing campaigns, and collective actions. The Job Action Committee is the group who coordinates this work, as well as creating the plans and procedures for a successful strike. The Committee, through participation in workshops and learning from other post-secondary institutions, has reinforced for me how important it is for ALL of my colleagues to be actively on the same team—as we bargain and present our concerns to management, stakeholders (students, SAITSA) and local government. Working collectively we can have a bigger voice that is more effective in achieving better outcomes.

We need to take the time before our Collective Agreement expires in 2024 to prepare the necessary groundwork should our Association have no other choice but to go on strike. This is why I am glad I joined the Committee. If you’d like to join the Job Action Committee to help us in our preparations, please contact the SAFA office at safa@sait.ca.

Cheers, alita

Very “Punny” Jokes

What do you call an instructor who can’t control her pupils?

Cross-eyed.

What do you call an instructor who forgets to take attendance?

Absent-minded.

What do you call an instructor who refuses to fart in class?

A private tooter.

What do you say to comfort an English instructor?

There, they’re, their.

What do you get when you cross an instructor with a vampire?

Blood tests.

What kind of food do math instructors prefer?

Square meals.

Why did the student take a ladder to school on his first day?

Because he was going to high school.

If the pilgrims came on the Mayflower, then what do instructors come on?

The scholar ships.

Witty Retorts

Chemistry instructor: “Did you know protons have mass?”

Student: “I didn’t even know protons were Catholic.”

Instructor asks, “If I had 6 oranges in one hand and 7 apples in the other, what would I have?”

Student: “Really big hands!”

After an exam the instructor said to me, “I hope I didn’t see you looking at John’s answers.”

I said, “I hope so too.”

Instructor asked the class, “What’s the longest sentence you can think of?”

Someone piped up from the back and said, “Life imprisonment.”

I told the instructor, “I don’t think I deserved a zero for this exam.”

She said, “I agree, but I couldn’t give you any less.”

Instructor: “Johnny, give me a sentence with an ‘i’ in it.”

Johnny: “I is...”

Instructor: “No, Johnny, when you say ‘i’, it should be followed by ‘am’.”

Johnny: “Okay, I am the 9th letter of the alphabet.”

SHOUT OUT – Jason Long



Jason has been an incredible mentor and supporter of mine as I began my instructional journey at SAIT. His materials, guidance, and willingness to help and answer any questions I have has been incredibly selfless and kind. He is a wonderful colleague and we are lucky to have him at SAIT.

Thanks, Jason.

*Matt Watterworth
Film & Video Production*

ROBO-ASSESSMENTS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Load the key words - one click and done! Essay finished and I can still catch up with the gang to hang out this weekend. I love AI!

Upload the essay - one click and marked! Work-life balance is restored. I love AI!



Wow, our student and faculty satisfaction surveys have never scored so high!

Admin

HJLOGAN '23

'CUZ YOU CAN'T SPELL education OR happiness WITHOUT AI