



The Sentinel

Voice of the ECC Faculty Association
Local 3791/IFT www.eccfaculty.org
Special Post-Negotiation Issue 2007

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Editor's Note

Good day, Colleagues,

Many of you will remember that when a strike seemed imminent, there was a suggestion for a special "Strike Edition" of *The Sentinel*—an issue in which faculty could share their experiences, both good and bad, in the last few tense weeks of contract negotiations.

Fortunately, the strike was averted, but that of course does not totally remove the need for this brief special edition of the faculty newsletter. Of course, there was the problem of what to call it, since "Special Strike Edition" is no longer accurate. Proving once again that teachers have a taste and talent for puns, many faculty suggested unusual titles for this special *Sentinel*. Marilyn Binda recommended, among several other names, that we call this issue "No Contract Left Behind," while Beverly Augustine dubbed this the "Lucky, No Strike Edition."

Dennis Lynch suggested that if the submissions proved rather uninteresting, the issue could be called "Strike Up the Bland."

After first noting that, oddly enough, a synonym for "sentinel" is "picket," Steve Lipinski suggested that the issue be named "A Swing And A Miss = A Strike; We Connected And Produced A Hit!" And continuing the sports metaphor, Dan Kocher recommended that the issue be called

“Bowling for Dollars” because we were “spared a strike.”

In addition to puns, other faculty members offered brief memories of the last few days of negotiations. Michele Noel notes that because of those last few nights, “There’s now a new verb in the English language: ‘vigiling’ (not sure if that’s one L or two!) I can’t remember when we made it up, though it was certainly after midnight one of the days!”

Lori Davy reports that her daughter, who worked in the computer lab during those periods of “vigiling,” referred to those last few late night sessions as “Faculty Gone Wild.” Hopefully, ads for THOSE videos won’t appear on late night cable any time soon.

On a more personal note, may I offer my personal thanks to the negotiating team—you all showed considerable grace under pressure, and I admire and respect you all.

My best,

WDemaree
Editor

PS. Be sure to ask any of the negotiation team members for the story behind the image at the end of this issue.



From the President

Congratulations to our ECCFA Vice President and Chief Negotiator and **Rick Green** for his efforts to bring a tentative agreement to our membership for a vote of ratification. Only those faculty members who have served as chief negotiators here at ECC can understand the difficulty of this task. **As our Chief Negotiator for the past TWO contracts**, I can affirm that this stressful responsibility imposes on your personal life, your teaching career, and your mental and physical mind state from the beginning of negotiations until a tentative agreement is ratified by both parties.

Interestingly, an article in the March/April 2007 issue of *On Campus* stated that more than half of the workers in the U.S. who don’t have a union say they would join one if they could. How grateful I am that our founding and succeeding ECCFA leaders (**Garrett, McEwan, Bailey, Sujak, Hutman, Hellmuth, Green**, and others) demonstrated forethought and determination to establish and strengthen our Association and our collective bargaining agreement.

An ECC administrator once told me she was glad we have the **ECCFA** here at ECC. She said it helps everyone know in writing via contract what is expected of the teachers and administration and what rights and responsibilities each of us possess. All you have to do is read and follow **THE CONTRACT**. I believe that **Dr. Sam**

understands this philosophy. I teach *Organizational Behavior*, and I feel I sense a trust and integrity from him. I hope this trust will eventually radiate throughout ECC. This is my forecast: Dr. Sam is going to change the culture here at ECC. Give him time. It **WILL** happen.

It is up to each of us as members of the ECC community to see that we fulfill the responsibilities of the ECCFA contract (or SSECCA, etc.) while ensuring that our rights are not violated. And remember, when a violation by the Board occurs, the **ECCFA Grievance Committee currently co-chaired by Sue Ford and Sarah Dye** has an unblemished record of filing and winning these cases. Now that our agreement has been ratified by our membership and the Board, please help your Negotiating Team ensure that our members do not in **ANY WAY** violate the language of our contract. Remember, when you do not fulfill your responsibilities, you place yourself and the ECCFA in a dangerous position.

Having been at ECC part-time as well as full-time since 1981, I've seen many changes collective bargaining and the ECCFA. **Where would we be today without the ECCFA?**

Thanks to all of our previous ECCFA presidents and chief negotiators. You know who you are, and you didn't do this job for recognition. You did it for our students.

In unity,
Linda

BITS AND PIECES

Wow! Special thanks to the faculty members who provided exquisite meals for the Negotiating Team since October. I have to admit: I'm glad I'm not being fed anymore! Hey, I might even lose weight now!

AND A SPECIAL ROUND OF APPLAUSE . . . to Michelle Noel and Carol Szabo. What a job to coordinate meals (in addition to your teaching careers and family!) for our Negotiating Team. Then to think about feeding 400 members? They were **READY** if they were called to do so.

Thanks also to **Al Szabo**, who provided valuable information regarding COBRA should we have needed it. Carol, we'll be calling on Al again in the future!

FINALLY, thanks to all of you too numerous to mention who prepared us to strike. A strike is seldom the right answer to a labor dispute, **YET** we were **READY, WILLING AND ABLE** should we have been forced to take that action. Special thanks to **Cindy Hutman** and all of our Strike Captains. And who can forget Howard, our Button King?!

