



## **ELECTION FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **Candidate Statements**

#### **NOEL CURRIE**

I first joined the LFA board in May 2005, and served continuously until April 2014, when I stepped away to deal with family matters. During my time on the board, I was involved with organizing the fall and spring socials to welcome new faculty to Langara, representing the LFA at FPSE and BC Federation of Labour conventions as well as on the FPSE Bargaining Coordination Committee. I have served as Secretary, as Vice-President, and as a member at large. I bring many years of experience and a long memory.

With major changes to the College administration in the recent past and for the foreseeable future, the LFA board will have an important role to play not only in (as usual) advocating for faculty and upholding the Collective Agreement, but also in maintaining those elements of the college's culture that we value (collegial management, for example), and working to change those that we don't. I hope to rejoin the board to serve in what I imagine will continue to be interesting times.

I hope it suits --

Noel

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#### **ALISON CURTIS**

I'm the Coordinator of Collection Development at the Library, and have worked at Langara as a librarian for thirteen years. I've now served two terms on the LFA Board, and for the past year I've also served as a steward. I feel it's useful to have at least one non-instructional faculty member on the Board, to ensure that issues from those areas have representation and to bring a broader perspective to the group.

Over the past year I've learned about being a steward from ongoing meetings with my LFA steward colleagues, and also at educational workshops offered by the Canadian Labour Congress

and the Vancouver District Labour Council. While I still have a lot to learn, I've done my best to put these skills to work on behalf of members. I've also appreciated the opportunity to engage with the broader union movement through attending FPSE committee meetings and the BC Federation of Labour Convention last fall. I look forward to connecting with other union delegates at the FPSE AGM this May.

Another area of focus has been improving LFA communications. This year co-editor Stephen Phillips and I launched our first two issues of the LFA Newsletter, with contributions from numerous LFA members.

We intend to continue publishing new issues once a term. I've also worked on the LFA website, posting current news items, reorganizing content so that it can be more easily found, and adding material to make the site more useful as an information source. The website still needs a facelift and additional functionality. If re-elected, I'll continue to work with my LFA colleagues on improving the website, producing the newsletter, and representing the interests of members to the best of my ability.

Thanks,  
Alison

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## **NINA HEIR**

I seek your endorsement for a position on the Langara Faculty Association (LFA) board. As a Nursing Department Faculty member, I bring a unique contribution to secure improved working conditions by way of a positive, collegial, and open-minded process.

I made the gradual change from a professional ICU RN to the Nursing Department Faculty in 2006. Presently, my assurance to the School of Nursing Recommendations Committee involves interviewing candidates, assigning all types of contracts, and carrying out the evaluation process in accordance with the Collective Agreement. Additionally, my scope extends as an LFA representative to the Faculty Evaluation Committee.

I place a high value on the importance of the negotiating process, strive to advocate faculty rights, pledge to defend confidentiality, and sustain the integrity of the position. I can bring new ideas to organize our shared governance and bargaining to safeguard the rights of faculty.

As a teacher of student nurses in an undergraduate program, I understand the intricate nature of career and degree programs. The School of Nursing represents a sizable faculty contingent characterized by the highest student enrollment and program complexity. The culmination of professional and teaching experience lends to my knowledge of how Langara operates as an institution and across disciplines. My commitment is to offer a college wide contribution, serve faculty interests, and protect our collective agreement.

Nina

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## **DARRELL KEAN**

Thank you for taking the time to read this position statement. I would very much like your endorsement for my continued membership as a Langara Faculty Association board member. It is a position I have been filling for the last year and, I must say, the work is fascinating. I believe I bring a lot to the “table” and can serve the interests of faculty in a positive and collegial manner.

I have been a member of the Langara College faculty and the Langara Faculty Association since the Fall of 1991. During that time I have served the interests of faculty as a:

- Faculty member in Criminal Justice Programs (CJUS)
- Department Chair of CJUS for 8 years,
- Division Chair of Social Sciences and Management (2 years)
- Dean’s Delegate on Selection and Evaluation committees (approximately 10 years)
- Member of the Langara Faculty Association Board (2 years)
- Steward for 8 months
- Being part of the LFA Bargaining Team for the 2014-2019 Collective Agreement negotiations

These positions have allowed me to support the interests of faculty and the College by:

- interpreting the Collective Agreement
- implementing policies and procedures
- working on committees responsible for developing policies such as Course Outline Policy, Course Assessment Policy, Examination Policy, Concerns about Instruction Policy etc. and the International Registration committee
- protecting the interests of faculty and students through my work on the Behavioural Intervention Team and sitting on the following College-wide committees: Education Council, Deans and Division Chairs, and Langara Council
- attending the annual general meeting of FPSE
- attending a workshop on the legal rights of workers respecting issues of privacy
- attending a week long workshop on Steward Training hosted by the Canadian Labour Congress

The past 10 years have allowed me to better understand the entire College system including Executive, Administration, Staff and Faculty and to realize that the greatest gift we have at this College is our ability to work with each other to support our collective interests. As a LFA Board member, it is my job to promote the interests of faculty and ensure that nothing I do affects the integrity of and your confidence in this position.

I invite you to seek out members of any of the committees mentioned above to ask about my performance. I believe what you will hear is that I am a person who will professionally and competently represent your interests.

Darrell Kean

Criminal Justice Department

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### **BRIAN KOEHLER**

"I have worked as an instructor at Langara for the past 15 years and department chair for the past 5 years. During that time I have occasionally served as the LFA representative on selection and evaluation committees and have also periodically advised the LFA on information technology issues.

I would be honoured to represent your interests on the LFA Board for the upcoming year. One area I would like to work on is to try and get more engagement from the membership at large. We have been fortunate in the past to have had active and capable board and executive members. It would be ideal to have an ongoing dialogue with members in addition to the discussion that happens at significant events such as bargaining or the parking issue. The second area I would like to focus on is FPSE. Approximately one half of your dues are directed to FPSE and so I believe it is essential that FPSE adopt positions that are in the interest of all faculty in the sector equally. The change in leadership at FPSE this May will be an excellent opportunity to raise those questions.

If you have any questions about my candidacy, please contact me at 5822 or [bkoehler@langara.bc.ca](mailto:bkoehler@langara.bc.ca)"

Brian

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### **CHERYL MCKEEMAN**

I have been involved with the Faculty Association for most of the last 20 years. My interest is contract maintenance: ensuring that your rights as a faculty member are upheld and respected. If re-elected to the Board, I will continue to use my expertise and my experience to do the best that I can for the LFA. In particular, I will continue to work with the stewards (Jessie, Darrell, Alison) so that the LFA has a strong group of stewards to represent faculty. Over the next few months, some hot issues will be the Parking Grievance, a PD grievance, an upcoming arbitration, and getting the new Collective Agreement updated.

Cheryl McKeeman, Department of Math and Stat

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## STEPHEN PHILLIPS

I've taught political science at Langara for the past 20 years. In that time I've served on two LFA committees, the LFA Board (2002-2003), and the College Transportation Committee. Since my return to the Board last year, I've been co-editor (with Alison Curtis) of the LFA newsletter.

Throughout my time at Langara I've been a firm supporter of membership in FPSE, our provincial federation of college faculty associations. I contend that our membership has never been more crucial than it is today. In view of the misguided, even bizarre changes now under way in post-secondary education—most notably, Victoria's requirement that we derive ever more of our funding from international students—we must insist that the provincial and federal governments restore adequate levels of *public* funding to colleges and universities. Diminishing government grants, combined with our increased reliance on tuition fees and corporate sponsorship, amount to the implicit privatization of public education. Given the importance of what's at stake, it's vital that we give our all-out support in the year ahead to FPSE's province-wide campaign in defence of public post-secondary education. Likewise, the fall federal election will be an opportune time to take stock of the past 9 years of Conservative government—especially those policies that affect us as post-secondary educators—and to consider the alternatives on offer. The LFA can play a modest but important role in this by disseminating relevant research produced by CAUT and other organizations to which we are affiliated through FPSE.

When I ran for the Board last year I said the LFA needed to do a better job of informing members about union affairs. That message evidently resonated with other Board members as the past year has seen the issuance of two newsletters, a major enhancement of the LFA website (in both form and content), and more frequent use of the LFA listserv. We even, at long last, have an introductory leaflet introducing new faculty to the Association. I am especially pleased that members have received ample information over the past year about the extensive role played by your LFA reps. in FPSE—a welcome change from the dearth of information provided in past years. I am seeking another term, first and foremost, to make sure that communication remains a priority of the new Board.

I also seek your support to press for an LFA that does more to encourage faculty—especially younger members—to become involved in the Association. In particular we need to make greater efforts to give effect to Art. 4(f) of our By-laws, which requires the Board once a year “to make an open invitation to faculty members to serve” on various LFA and FPSE committees. It is, quite properly, the prerogative of the elected Board to select delegates to represent and report back to it; nevertheless, the Board has a duty to put in place a transparent procedure that affords interested members the opportunity to volunteer their services. We also need to designate alternate delegates for FPSE standing committees, and the AGM, to make sure we have a full complement of reps. to these bodies at all times. The LFA can only benefit by drawing on the expertise and skills of more of its members, especially at a time when our working conditions are

facing challenges that require new responses on our part. Since a good case can be made for clarifying and codifying a number of our practices and procedures, I propose that the Constitution Committee be re-established to conduct a review of the LFA's Constitution and By-laws.

On a related note, I propose that the LFA liaise regularly with the elected faculty rep. on the Langara College Board so that important changes to the policies of the College can be brought to the attention of faculty in a timely manner. Case in point: last January the College Board voted to begin charging tuition fees for Adult Basic Education courses—courses (in English and Math) which had been offered for free in BC, by law, since 2007 and for which special funds had been earmarked by the province. The relevant law was repealed late last year by the Liberal government, thus opening a tempting, though highly contentious, revenue source for colleges. Our College Board's decision to impose tuition fees on ABE courses was taken in the absence of any meaningful consultation. Had the LFA been made aware of this issue ahead of time, it could have alerted faculty and enabled them, individually or collectively, to make their views known to our faculty rep. and to other members of the College Board. As an aside, I was pleased to participate in a meeting of FPSE's Education Policy Committee in February, which voted unanimously to recommend that the Federation wage a campaign demanding the restoration of tuition-free ABE programmes and the funds required to support them.

I would be happy to elaborate on any of the foregoing and to address any questions you may have about my candidacy. The best way to do that is by posting a question or comment on the Forums page of the LFA website. That way everyone who logs in can take part in the discussion—including other candidates.

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## **JESSIE SMITH**

It has been a great honour and responsibility to serve you as an LFA Board Member and Steward over the past two years. In the process I have learned a tremendous amount about: labour law, Collective Agreements (and how to defend them), conflict resolution, labour organizations, and the troublesome challenges facing post-secondary education in general, and Langara College in particular.

The core work of the LFA Board and Stewards concerns 'contract maintenance' i.e. ensuring that everyone at the College adheres to the Collective Agreement. I have personally worked hard to stand up for your rights at a range of meetings and events on campus where faculty voices need to be heard. I have also enjoyed representing the LFA at meetings of the broader labour moment. It was a particular thrill to be a delegate at the BC Federation of Labour Convention and vote in the first female leader!

If you vote me in once again I promise to do my best to continue to defend your interests, using all the lessons I have learned thus far. I try to keep my ear to the ground, but to serve you best I ask that you please alert me to issues you think the LFA may need to address.

Jessie Smith  
Instructor/Coordinator  
Latin American Studies  
Langara College  
604.323.5788

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## **PAUL SUNGA**

I am running for LFA Board with the intention of trying to motivate the LFA to take a more activist role in the operations of the College.

The key issues I would like the LFA to try to address are:

1. The overall vision of the College as a business instead of a public service that is central to the functioning of a literate, democratic society. The ‘business’ orientation that has predominated over the last years has resulted in a self-propagating and top-heavy administrative structure which adds little in value to student learning. It has also led to diversion of funding towards ‘marketing’ the College, instead of concentrating resources on classroom learning. There are a number of faculty concerns that continue to flow from this.
2. Ensuring that the College sticks to its core mission of creating educational pathways for economically and socially disadvantaged students.
3. As the College expands the proportion of international students, there is a need to re-design and expand learning opportunities, such as offering classes that can ladder English learners and international students into university transfer courses.
4. The need for the College to address environmental sustainability in an on-going formal process that focuses on educational program planning as well as on College operations.
5. The need for practical resources to support the initiation and development of College-based research.

**Candidate Profile:** I began teaching pathophysiology in the Biology Department in 1991 and teach full time in the Biology and Health Sciences departments. My main current activities are

focused on research in global health (as author of a mainstream textbook and other, not-mainstream works) and research into the links between cannabis, learning capacity and public health in the Lower Mainland.

Thanks for considering my candidacy for LFA Board.

Sincerely,

Paul Sunga (Biology/Health Sciences)  
Tel 5251  
psunga@langara.bc.ca