



# ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

## President's Message

ANSUT continues to advance its role as advocate for better core funding and fairness for all faculty, and as stakeholders in matters involving post-secondary education. To this end, we met with officials from Labour and Advanced Education in November 2018 and submitted a recommendation brief regarding development of the 2019 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the province. ANSUT collaborated with CUPE 3912 to bring awareness to conditions faced by contract academic staff at universities across the province by hosting workshops during Fair Employment Week.

Research is an important aspect of our advocacy. Projects this year included a conference on Indigenization of the Academy, a synopsis of Acadia University's legal fees and a report on composition of Boards of Governors from our member universities. An update to the Culture of Entitlement report is in progress.

At an International Students' Forum at Cape Breton University in March 2019, hosted by CFS-NS and CB Students' Union, I presented on the value that international students add to our university, not only financially, but culturally.

I continue to sit on the Provincial Sexual Violence Prevention Committee (PSVPC). The PSVPC will produce a report within the next few months aimed at assisting universities and the NSCC with creating survivor-centric sexual violence policies.

One of our final, but most important, projects this year was to offer support as our colleagues at FUNSCAD went on strike in March 2019. ANSUT was able to attend strike lines and rallies, help with promotion of strike events and invite other labour organizations to also show support. We provided social media support to MSVUFA and SMUFU as they negotiated with their administrations.

ANSUT is in excellent shape financially, with a substantial reserve, although sponsorship of a successful conference resulted in a projected deficit for the budget, as expenditures planned for 2017/18 were actually paid in 2018/19. The projected deficit was substantially reduced by working on projects in-house and postponing a workshop on Indigenizing Collective Agreements and a conference on International Students until the next fiscal year.

*Scott Stewart*

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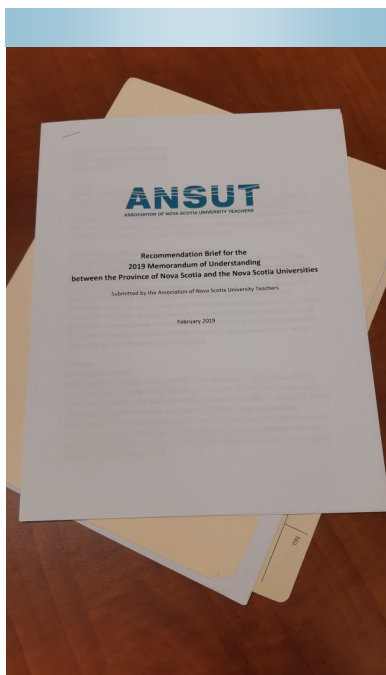


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## ANSUT in the News

- Universities, and their Students, Deserve Better—December 2018
- University Underfunding Continues in NS Budget—March 2019



## Government Relations

At a federal hearing to review the Copyright Act, held in Halifax on Monday, May 7, 2018, ANSUT Communications Manager Teresa Workman spoke in favour of fair dealing, indigenous copyright, and digital locks. University faculty collectively create thousands of articles, books, manuals and other written works every year. Providing access to the work of others, but also creating content – means that copyright is an always present factor in the working lives of faculty – and one that must balance the interests of both users and creators of works.

The panel of presenters included Eddy Campbell (UNB), Donna Bourne-Tyson (Dal Library) and Terry Bulger (Nimbus Publishing). The unedited transcript of the hearing is now available in pdf format.

Teresa Workman and Scott Stewart met with Labour and Advanced Education Director Ava Czapalay (Senior Executive Director, Higher Education) and Gregory Ells (Executive Director, Universities and Colleges) on November 16, 2018 regarding the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) being developed by the Council of NS University Presidents (CONSUP) and the province. Czapalay indicated the next MOU would be signed for 5 yrs, the 1% increase would carry over to the new MOU, and that there would be no tuition market adjustment. We were invited to submit a brief to the MOU working group, and did so in February 2019, providing recommendations on tuition, outcomes, indigenization and the funding formula.

*“...copyright is an always present factor in our working lives – and one that must balance the interests of both users and creators of works.”*



## Strike Support

Bargaining at 3 of ANSUT's member associations resulted in successful strike votes this year.

Although Mount Saint Vincent University Faculty Association (MSVUFA) and Saint Mary's University Faculty Union (SMUFU) reached agreements with their administrations before labour action became necessary, ANSUT participated in social media support for both groups as they worked through bargaining and conciliation.

FUNSCAD also had a strong strike mandate from their members, with over 97% of members supporting job action during a January strike vote. When conciliation failed, and FUNSCAD members began their strike on March 1, ANSUT lent support by attending and speaking at strike rallies on March 1 and 8, helping to promote FUNSCAD events through social media channels, arranging driving pickets, inviting local associations and labour organizations such as the NS Federation of Labour, NSTU, NSGEU and Hfx-Dart Labour Council to attend strike rallies.

Following the strike, ANSUT reached out to other provincial associations to see what their procedures are when a member association is on strike, and had the topic included on the agenda of the Provincial and Federated Associations meeting at CAUT Council in May.

Nationally, ANSUT offered support to other faculty associations that asked for help, including letters of support to associations such as the University of Western Ontario Faculty Association (UWOFA).



## Indigenization of the Academy Conference

Approximately 170 delegates attended the conference, held in Membertou, Cape Breton on May 3-5, 2018. Conference speakers included (back row, left to right) John Sylliboy, Marie Battiste, Jeff Ward (emcee), Cheryl Bartlett, Blair Stonechild, Sakej Youngblood Henderson, and ANSUT president Scott Stewart and (front row) Elder Albert Marshall, and Stephen Augustine.

The conference included presentations on current research, the value of two-eyed seeing, and the importance of building advocacy between indigenous communities and universities and, together, addressed the importance of indigenous history, epistemology and spirituality as the academy moves towards Indigenization.

Talking circles and breakout sessions concluded the conference, and allowed delegates time to share their ideas, and, most importantly, to listen to the concerns and ideas of others.



*Conference delegates participate in a talking circle.*

### ANSUT by the Numbers

#### REVENUES

|                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Faculty Dues    | \$128,787        |
| Interest Income | 588              |
| <b>TOTAL</b>    | <b>\$129,375</b> |

#### EXPENDITURES

|                              |                |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Accounting Fees              | 2,936          |
| Course release—<br>President | 9,261          |
| Donations                    | 1,400          |
| Insurance                    | 1,264          |
| Interest and Bank<br>Charges | 9              |
| Lobbying &<br>Research       | 8,957          |
| Meetings &<br>Conventions    | 2,272          |
| Membership fees              | 1,101          |
| Newsletter &<br>Website      | 378            |
| Office                       | 3,537          |
| Professional fees            | 3,450          |
| Rent                         | 9,315          |
| Salaries & Wages             | 76,323         |
| Travel                       | 15,104         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                 | <b>135,307</b> |

|                                     |                  |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>REVENUE OVER<br/>EXPENDITURE</b> | <b>\$(5,932)</b> |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|

### Research Projects

- Indigenizing the Academy Conference—May 2018
- Synopsis of Acadia University's legal fees—August 2018
- Report on the composition of Boards of Governor's at ANSUT member associations—September 2018
- Update to 2012 Culture of Entitlement Report—Ongoing



## Workshops & Meetings

### Communications—May 10, 2018

ANSUT hosted a communications workshop with Lisa Keller and Christina Muehlberger from CAUT, held at MSVU. The audience included members from most member associations, and CUPE3912, as well as a graduate student, a government employee and staff from Halifax Public Libraries.

### Provincial Sexual Violence Prevention Committee (PSVPC)

ANSUT President Scott Stewart represents ANSUT on this committee, which will culminate its work in 2019 with a report aimed at assisting universities and the Nova Scotia Community College with creating survivor-centric sexual violence policies.

### CAUT Council — May & Nov 2018

ANSUT president Scott Stewart attended Council meetings in May and November to represent ANSUT. This included meeting with other provincial and federated associations, and discussing ANSUT concerns with Nova Scotia's MPs during Parliament Hill Day in November.

### ACCFA (Atlantic Canada Council of Faculty Associations) — June 8, 2018

ANSUT Members meet annually with representatives from the Atlantic provinces. This year, the meeting was hosted in Sackville, New Brunswick, by FNBFA (Federation of New Brunswick Faculty Associations). The day long meeting offered representatives an opportunity to share areas of concern, and offered presentations on collegiality (by Paul Deguire), CAUBO (Canadian Association of University Business Officers) (by Sue Blair), contingent faculty (by David Robinson), Indigenization of the Academy (by Robin Vose), free speech (by Matthew Sears) and experiential education (by Mary Lou Babineau).

## Make It Fair

ANSUT co-hosted 2 workshops with CUPE3912 to celebrate Fair Employment Week, and bring awareness to the conditions faced by contract academic staff (CAS) across the province.

The first, on October 30, was held at the Halifax Central Library. Suzanne MacNeil, president of the Halifax – Dartmouth & District Labour Council, spoke on the value of networking with other faculty, and with labour organizations. This was followed by a panel discussion with CAS Julie Quinn, Karen Harper and Kim Robinson. They each spoke about recent conferences they've attended and the benefits they found from attending CAUT Council, COCAL, and a Labour Council Course on dealing with Domestic Violence in the Workplace.

The second workshop, on November 2, focused on ways to fund research while employed on a contract basis. Adam Sarty, Associate VP Research & Dean of Graduate Studies & Research, Saint Mary's University (SMU), discussed how to access resources at SMU, and Karen Harper, adjunct professor at SMU and Dal and communications officer for CUPE 3912, talked about how she keeps her



research program current, even as she enters her 12<sup>th</sup> year as CAS.

ANSUT joined CAUT and other academic organizations during Fair Employment Week in a twitter campaign to spread awareness about precarious work and highlight the results of the recent CAUT survey. ANSUT tweets during the week were seen by 11,900 people, earning 154 profile visits.

## The Association of Nova Scotia University Teachers (ANSUT)

ANSUT advocates for the quality, accessibility, and academic integrity of Post-Secondary Education. It believes that such education is a right, not a privilege; and it represents its members in maintaining and improving the autonomy and diversity of their individual institutions to those ends.

ANSUT was founded in 1997, and in 2001 ANSUT was admitted to membership of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) as an officially recognized provincial association. It currently represents over half the academic staff in the province. ANSUT maintains a strong commitment to lobby all levels of government in the areas of funding teaching and research activities, allowing the recruitment and retention of highly qualified academic staff. To that end, ANSUT has consistently advocated funding policies that ensure Nova Scotia universities will increase their competitiveness as world-class academic institutions.

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