

Invitation

To the entire university community



*Faculty unions :
Last bastion of academic
freedom ?*

Thursday, May 12, 2011, in Sherbrooke

20th Anniversary Colloquium
of the FQPPU

Special event

during the 79th Congress of Acfas

Université de Sherbrooke / Bishop's University

Faculty unions : Last bastion of academic freedom ?

To celebrate its twentieth anniversary, the Fédération québécoise des professeures et professeurs d'université (FQPPU) is organizing a colloquium to be held at Acfas, to take stock of the current state of faculty unionization, examine the social and scientific aspects of the university, and lay out a course of action aimed at preserving independence of knowledge.

IN AN ERA OF CHANGE

University research and teaching are increasingly subject to pressure from many sources. Administrative choices, the variety of criteria and sources for funding, increased internationalization as well as practical and economic constraints, all have an impact on academic disciplines and on the professoral and research professions. The question is how the organization of academic work, with union or association support, can counter the undesirable aspects and ensure the maintenance of academic freedom, an indispensable requirement for free advancement of knowledge and development of teaching and research activities.

THE ROLE OF FACULTY ASSOCIATIONS

The current and future role of faculty unions will be examined in their relation to the broader aspects of knowledge and research. More specifically, professoral workload in the universities will be the subject of debates and workshops where we will address topics such as autonomy, collegiality and academic freedom, as well as issues of responsibility, ethics and social and institutional commitment.

The colloquium will also examine the history of the faculty unionization movement in Québec, with a formal book launch of a new work on FQPPU itself.



For more information :

FQPPU, 4446 boul. Saint-Laurent, suite 405, Montréal H2W 1Z5

comites@fqppu.org

☎ 514-843-5953 or 1-888-843-5953

THE FQPPU IN BRIEF

• REPRESENTATION

FQPPU acts as the representative for Quebec university professors. A politically-oriented organization, it defends and supports the development of universities as a public service. It interacts with governments, parliamentary commissions and various other organizations, notably in Québec but also across Canada and abroad, on all issues concerning universities. It is regularly consulted by public decision-making bodies. University financing, renewal of the professoriate, the role of professors in university governance, organization of research and academic freedom are some major issues in which FQPPU is active and defending the principles of autonomy, collegiality and accessibility.

• ORGANIZATION

The unions and associations which make up FQPPU decide its orientations and priorities at meetings of the *Conseil fédéral*. These meetings allow for free exchange of information on union matters and legal and political issues. Delegates from each member association are invited to three meetings a year, paid for by the Fédération. *The number of delegates is proportional to the membership of each association.*

FQPPU meets the needs expressed by its members within the framework of the mandate defined by the *Conseil fédéral*. It provides public support to member unions and associations, notably during workplace disputes. *FQPPU maintains a reserve fund to be used in these cases.*

• RESEARCH

To meet its members' needs and take informed action, FQPPU regularly commissions specialized studies which it publishes and distributes. These studies are carried out by individual members, its own committees, or by external researchers. In recent years, studies have been produced on intellectual property and commercialization of research, aspects of university learning, academic freedom and institutional autonomy, surveys on professors' working conditions and the problems of women in academic careers, etc. Since 2006, FQPPU has published the following research reports :

- *Le fonds des immobilisations des universités – Une nouvelle cohérence à trouver entre vocations, budgets et réalités*, 2010
- *Enquête sur le corps professoral québécois : faits saillants et questions*, 2008
- *Financement des universités – Investir dans le corps professoral*, 2008
- *Le harcèlement psychologique chez les professeures et professeurs d'université*, 2006
- *Renouvellement du corps professoral dans les universités au Québec - Profil et expérience d'insertion des recrues en début de carrière*, 2006

Current research priorities for FQPPU are university financing and the state of the professoriate, among others.

• INFORMATION

FQPPU keeps up-to-date on trends, decisions and discussions concerning universities, the world of education, and all other relevant topics. This is done through its own website, its electronic bulletin, regular meetings, etc. All information gathered or published by FQPPU as well as its reports and briefs are generally made available to everyone. FQPPU informs the media, through press releases and other means, of its official position on issues.

• COORDINATION AND SOLIDARITY

FQPPU works in conjunction with other organizations to effectively lobby and influence decisions which affect universities, in Quebec, across Canada, and at the international level.

FQPPU is a member of Education International (EI) and is mainly active in the Higher Education and Research Caucus. It also participates in the Public Education Network, the Canadian Commission to UNESCO, and it works with the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) and similar groups of faculty associations and unions.

FQPPU is a member of the Table des partenaires universitaires du Québec (TPU) ; joint activities include the organization of a « Journée nationale de réflexion sur l'université québécoise » (2010) and a workshop « Impact of the private sector on universities » during the first Forum social québécois (2007), and the co-signing of the *Manifeste de l'université québécoise* (2010) and the *Déclaration sur la gouvernance universitaire* (2007).

• COLLOQUIA, CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

Colloquia, conferences and seminars are valuable means to debate and disseminate information on issues of interest to our member associations. FQPPU holds one or two such exchanges each year, to which the entire university community is invited.

Since 2006-2007, FQPPU has held seven colloquia and two seminars:

- **Expertise et autorité universitaires dans les médias : à la rencontre de deux éthiques professionnelles** – Acfas Congress 2010
- **Femmes et sciences à l'université / Women faculty in the sciences** – Acfas 2009
- **Faut-il reconstruire l'université québécoise ? / Must we rebuild the Québec university ?** November 2008
- **À qui « appartient » l'université ? / Who « owns » the university ?** – Acfas 2008
- Seminar on «Research», January 2008
- Seminar on «Governance», October 2007
- **La production et la diffusion du savoir à l'heure des TIC : enjeux pour le travail professoral** – Acfas 2007
- **Du rêve à la réalité : colloque sur les études doctorales et les débuts de la carrière professorale / From dream to reality : a colloquium on doctoral studies and starting the professoral career**, March 2007
- **Politique(s) et recherche universitaire** – Acfas 2006

At meetings of the Conseil fédéral, FQPPU regularly proposes a conference, workshop or seminar on a major issue. Since 2006-2007, topics have concerned education and the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), integrating new professors, intellectual property, administration and governance of universities, the impact of new technologies (ITC) on academic work, participation of women in faculty unions and associations, the role of the intellectual in forming public opinion, the impact of innovation policies on research.

FQPPU also periodically organizes **education sessions for member associations**. Recent sessions dealt with psychological harassment and handling complaints, the roles and responsibilities of union executive officers, and negotiating collective agreements.

Founded in 1991, FQPPU currently has 15 member unions and associations:

- Association des ingénieurs-professeurs des sciences appliquées de l'Université de Sherbrooke (AIPSA)
- Association des professeurs(e)s et bibliothécaires de McGill (APBM) / McGill Association of University Teachers (MAUT)
- Association des professeurs/seures de Bishop's University (APBU) / Association of Professors of Bishop's University (APBU)
- Association des professeurs de l'École Polytechnique (APEP)
- Association des professeures et professeurs de l'École nationale d'administration publique (APPENAP)
- Association des professeurs de l'Université Concordia (APUC) / Concordia University Faculty Association (CUFA)
- Syndicat des professeurs/es de l'Institut national de la recherche scientifique (SPINRS)
- Syndicat des professeures et professeurs de la TéléUQAM (SPPTU)
- Syndicat des professeures et professeurs de l'Université du Québec à Chicoutimi (SPPUQAC)
- Syndicat des professeurs et des professeures de l'Université du Québec à Rimouski (SPPUQAR)
- Syndicat des professeurs et des professeures de l'Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières (SPPUQTR)
- Syndicat des professeures et professeurs de l'Université de Sherbrooke (SPPUS)
- Syndicat des professeurs et professeures de l'Université du Québec à Montréal (SPUQ)
- Syndicat des professeures et professeurs de l'Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue (SPUQAT)
- Syndicat des professeures et des professeurs de l'Université du Québec en Outaouais (SPUQO)

All documents mentioned and other information are available on the FQPPU website : www.fqppu.org