



# The OWL HOOTS

Issue 519

February 20, 2014



## General Assembly

A General Assembly has been scheduled for **Thursday, February 27, at 11:30 a.m.** in room 5B.13. **Negotiation priorities** is the main item on the agenda.

### DTU position on the creation of a Quebec history course

The DTU executive council adopted the following motion at its January 29th meeting:

The DTU executive council opposes any possible job loss associated with the proposed creation of a Quebec studies course and demands the administration join the union in mitigating any negative impact of the proposed course on faculty and disciplines.

### Minimum of 21 hours per week of on-campus presence

At the beginning of the semester the science-sector Dean sent out a Welcome memo which required the following from the sector faculty:

**“The minimum on-campus availability is 1.5 x the teacher’s contact hours or 21 hours, whichever is greater.”**

Following this memo, the DTU informed its members of several inaccuracies in the Welcome memo concerning the teacher availabilities and insisted that there is no minimum 21-hour requirement for on-campus

presence. The Dean then replied to the faculty agreeing with most of our corrections but insisted that teachers be on-campus for a minimum of 21 hours per week.

However, according to our collective agreement, (Article 8-3.06)

*A professor shall normally perform his/her duties on College premises. He/she shall be required to be there when the duties of his/her workload so require.*

There is no obligation to be present for a minimum 21 hours per week.

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## DSU visits to classes

The Dawson Student Union (DSU) would like to make brief visits to classes to invite students to the DSU General Assembly. We encourage you to allow DSU representatives to speak briefly to your classes if it does not interfere excessively with the class schedule.

## The spectre of neo-liberalism: Quality Assurance

### 1. What is it?

Quality Assurance for educational institutions is a *New Public Management* model that applies the methods of managing business enterprises in the delivery of products and services to schools, cegeps and universities. Under this model, education, which was a public good prior to the internationalization of national economies, is viewed as a commodity, students as clients and teachers who deliver the services, as customer service agents.

**FNEEQ's position is to resist this model of evaluating education. Education and knowledge ought not to be considered commodities - students are not clients, and teachers are not customer service agents.**

### 2. How does it affect the College?

Under the *New Public Management Model*, the academic dean oversees sector deans who become essentially department managers. Their responsibility is to ensure the **effective, efficient and cost-effective** delivery of education at the College. This leads to the micromanagement of teachers and departments, which could lead to a loss of academic freedom and departmental autonomy. It is a business model intended to **standardize** the requirements and outcomes necessary for achieving a post-secondary degree or diploma in North America and Europe.

### 3. How is it applied at the College?

Since 1993, the Commission d'évaluation de l'enseignement collégial (CEECC) has been the body given the legal mandate to evaluate Quebec Colleges in both the public and private sectors.

Recently, there has been a shift in the approach taken by the CEECC, from evaluating outcomes to evaluating institutional mechanisms associated with quality-assurance and their effectiveness. Four CEGEPSs in the réseau were chosen as 'trial colleges' to apply the new evaluation procedures. In addition, **Dawson College has volunteered** to begin the process, and is currently undergoing a full-audit of its system of quality-assurance mechanisms.

### 4. What is the DTU doing to address the situation?

Discussions are currently taking place at the FNEEQ *regroupements* and between local CEGEP unions. College Marie Victorin, which is one of the five colleges undergoing a full audit, held an inter-union study day on January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2014 to address the impacts this will have on teachers and students. The Dawson Executive was in attendance. We will be vigilant in our mandate to ensure the protection and autonomy of our teachers in their pursuit of providing superior, quality education at Dawson College.

## UTTAM

Approximately five years ago, the Quebec government started a process aimed at reforming the Quebec occupational health and safety regime. UTTAM, Union des travailleurs et travailleuses accidenté-e-s de Montréal, finds regrettable the omission of a public consultation in this process and has therefore published the Livre vert <http://www.uttam.qc.ca/livre-vert/>, to foster discussion on the topic and propose legislative measures. On the subject, UTTAM has opened a consultation at large in the hopes of eventually making



recommendations to the government of Quebec on the occupational health and safety regime.

You can complete the online survey and access the Livre Vert at: <https://fr.surveymonkey.com/s/LivreVert>

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