

REPORT OF THE EQUITY COMMITTEE – 2008

The Equity Committee has been very active this year and has undertaken a number of new initiatives. The Committee was initially composed of Christine Daigle (Chair), Jennifer Epp, Karen Houle, and Marie-Ève Morin. After the publication of our first *Equity Alert*, we were joined by Jason Blahuta and Kevin W. Gray.

1- EQUITY ALERTS

The Committee has published a total of 3 alerts in the academic year. The first alert was sent by email to the membership. It was decided that the following alerts would be posted on the website and on the blog and that an email alerting their publication would be sent to the membership (instead of the text of the alert itself). We are happy with the numerous reactions that our alerts have triggered, positive and negative, as they inform our thinking on the state of equity in the profession.

2- EQUITY BLOG

Our reaction to the flow of emails sent to the membership list and/or the executive director of the association after the publication of our first alert, we launched a blog to provide a forum for discussion. Interestingly, not many people have used the public forum to discuss equity issues or issues they saw arising in our alerts, preferring to resort to private emails. For a long time the blog was nowhere to be seen unless one knew the URL (<http://www.acpcpa.ca/blogs/eq/>). Recently however the webmaster has posted a prominent link on the home page of the CPA website which we hope will generate more traffic to the site.

3- QUALITATIVE SURVEY ON EQUITY IN CANADIAN PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENTS

Our largest project this year has been the preparation and administration of the qualitative survey. We had announced last year that we wanted to conduct a survey of persons involved in philosophy departments across Canada (graduate students, part-time instructors, tenure-track faculty, and tenured faculty). Our aim was to gather information as to how people experience equity-related issues and problems in their departments. We prepared the survey questions, we applied for and secured ethics clearance from the Research Ethics Board of Brock University and administered the survey using the website Survey Monkey in April and May (with a closing date of midnight, May 9, 2008). We sent the invitation to participate via administrative assistants in all philosophy departments, asking them to distribute the link to graduate students, part-time instructors, and faculty members.

At the time of writing this report, a total of 190 surveys have been filled (156 in English and 34 in French). We should be able to provide a preliminary report of the contents at the AGM in Vancouver and we will begin discussing some of the issues we see arising as part of our round-table discussion at the congress.

4- QUANTITATIVE SURVEY:

Next year, we will conduct our regular quantitative survey designed to monitor hiring in philosophy departments, and admissions to graduate programs. It would be helpful if Chairs of departments kept data pertaining to hiring and admission to graduate programs handy.

5- COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE:

Continuing members are Jason Blahuta, Christine Daigle, Kevin W. Gray and Marie-Ève Morin.

We warmly thank Karen Houle for her many years of service in the Committee and dedication to equity issues. Thanks also go to Jennifer Epp who is leaving us but will continue to dedicate her energy to other important social justice issues.

On behalf of the Equity Committee,
Christine Daigle, Chair