



September 24, 2014

Dr. Diane Beauchemin
President
Queen's University Faculty Association
9 St. Lawrence Avenue
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Via email qufa.president@queensu.ca

INITIATIVE CAMPAIGN

PRINCIPAL AND VICE-CHANCELLOR

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Dear Dr. Beauchemin,

Thank you for your letter of July 17 regarding the implementation of a centralized waste collection program on campus. I apologize for the lateness of this reply. I would like to provide clarification around both the central waste collection program and the peak energy demand management program that involved air conditioning shutdowns a number of times this summer.

The central waste collection program began rolling out campus-wide this summer, after successfully running as a pilot project in Richardson Hall since January. Similar programs are already in place in other organizations, including universities and the federal government. The program applies only to desk-side waste and recycling bins located in personal workspaces, and I can assure you that no changes have been made to the custodial services provided in laboratories.

The university is committed to an accessible workplace and recognizes that some individuals may face barriers with respect to the central waste collection program. I would encourage anyone with such concerns to contact their head, supervisor, or Physical Plant Services (PPS) directly at ext. 77301 or fixit@queensu.ca. PPS can arrange an appropriate accommodation, such as ensuring that a custodian collects garbage and recycling from the individual's workspace.

Queen's is also committed to maintaining a safe and healthy work environment. As I mentioned, the central waste collection program has been operating successfully in Richardson Hall for nine months. Common sense practices, such as emptying personal bins at the central stations on a regular basis, can avoid accumulating too much recycling or garbage. If anyone on campus becomes aware of a health and safety issue,

I would suggest they contact Dan Langham, Director of Environmental Health & Safety, at ext. 74980 or dan.langham@queensu.ca.

You also mentioned the benefit of an organics composting program. I can confirm that Queen's does have such a program, with organics bins available at food service outlets and throughout the John Deutsch University Centre. The program is also available to departments across the university and more information is available by contacting Llynwen Osborne, Waste/Information Coordinator, at ext. 33396 or llynwen.osborne@queensu.ca.

I would also like to address some inaccuracies around the university's peak electricity demand management program that appeared in the September edition of QUFA's *Voices* newsletter.

The demand management program is part of a provincial initiative that asks major electricity users to reduce their consumption during periods of peak energy demand (usually occurring on the hottest days of the summer), in exchange for a reduction in the "global adjustment", a charge that makes up a significant portion of our energy bill.

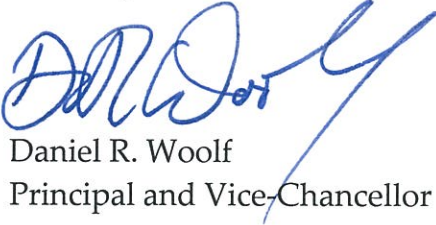
Queen's global adjustment rate is decreased in one year according to its share of total provincial electricity usage during the highest demand periods of the previous year. For example, our air conditioning shutdowns in the summer of 2013 resulted in a roughly \$1-million reduction in the university's global adjustment charge this year. This is crucial savings that helps secure the university's financial sustainability and protect its academic mission.

In your *Voices* column you reported that Richardson Hall was not part of the demand management program. In fact, it was one of the 16 buildings involved in the program. (A complete list is available [here](#).) However, there was one shutdown afternoon where air conditioning systems were left on in both Dunning Hall and Richardson Hall to accommodate classroom usage in Dunning. The two systems are connected and one could not have been turned off while the other remains on.

You also raised the concern that some sensitive equipment was put at risk because of the shutdowns. PPS only shuts down "comfort cooling" systems and not the "process cooling" systems used to cool equipment. If you or your members have specific examples of equipment that could have potentially been affected by the shutdown of comfort cooling systems, please contact Nathan Splinter, Energy Engineer, at ext. 32961 or splinter@queensu.ca.

I trust this information provides clarification on the above initiatives, which, along with many others Queen's is undertaking, are aimed at promoting both environmental and financial sustainability. I note that you also raised some concerns with respect to the collective agreement and you may choose to pursue those through the Joint Committee on the Administration of the Agreement or directly with Dan Bradshaw, Associate Vice-Principal (Faculty Relations).

Sincerely,



Daniel R. Woolf
Principal and Vice-Chancellor

Copy:

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