

## Nominee for President

### Stephen Petrina

Professor

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I'm a Professor currently teaching a Video Ethnography graduate course and overseeing two SSHRC grants on the Philosophy of Media & Technology for Children & Youth. An area of my expertise is critical university studies, which includes publications such as "Higher Racism." I was elected Vice President of the FAUBC in 2022 and immediately discovered the urgent necessity of systemic reform of this union. My platform remains a wake-up call. I promise to support each and every FAUBC member, regardless of age, ancestry, colour, disability, gender expression, Indigeneity, place of origin, political belief, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, socio-economic class, status, or rank. I promise to believe and hear you instead of blaming you, which is now all too common across our campuses and the FAUBC. You are good at what you do. I know that. Another union is possible. Recall how the FAUBC dealt with accountability and transparency motions and reforms introduced by a significant grassroots demographic in the spring and fall of 2022 (i.e., Data on membership concerns and complaints + External reviews of the FAUBC every five years). What became of the motions as non-FAUBC members (i.e., lawyer, manager, etc.) escalated moral panics? Fast forward to 2024: we experience daily how much of the support for research, teaching, and engagement has degraded or been downgraded at UBC and how little has changed within the FAUBC. We sit and admire how systematically UBC's managers have bloated their offices and ranks while considerably tilting the tables against labour over the past 5-10 years. Why can't we turn to respond? Is it that the FAUBC is happy with its image of being just an old cruise ship stuck in a canal between English Bay and Okanagan Lake? FAUBC members routinely report that in effect we have two systems of management—FAUBC = UBC managerial practices—noting that responses to their concerns, complaints, and requests are predictably identical. Systemic reform and another union are possible. As VP, I learned that one of the reasons we cannot turn is that the Executive and Member Services & Grievance committees are dysfunctional. How many members have experienced the denial of services? How many members fear bringing their concerns, complaints, and requests to the FAUBC? What exactly do you get for the dues you pay? So yes, there is not merely room for change; systemic reform is necessary. I learned that the Contract Faculty Committee is highly effective. The Equity Committee's (EC) recent, progressive recommendation that UBC create a Disability Task Force is a milestone. I learned that the Librarians and Archivists Committee and Okanagan Faculty Committee need more supports and infrastructure to confront the

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*Stephen Petrina (cont'd)*

challenges at hand. I learned that the Anti-Racism and Indigenous Initiatives Committee has had successes but like you, wonder if there could be more power in intersectionality with the EC. For instance, we need to pressure UBC's Equity and Inclusion Office (EIO) into action. EIO continues to exclude "anti-Semitism" and "Islamophobia" in its EDI "Glossary of Terms" for campus education. Why are FAUBC members' EE policy complaints and inquiries punted over to HR? Why are FAUBC faculty and librarians feeling alienated, inequitably overworked, muzzled, over-burdened with administrivia and bureaucracy, unheard, and under-rewarded? Inflation over the past year was 5.6%. Consumer goods and services are up 3.5% - 6.8% from last year but feels worse. At best, we will get a 3% increase in our paycheques. How are we doing on contract language? We have nothing on Sick Leaves to protect against increasing incursions and demands on our leaves and accommodations. Another union is possible and desirable. If you want a President that works for you, vote for me. We can do this together. Thank you for your confidence— a vote for me is a vote for us.

Stephen Petrina