



Bulletin

New Travel Amount for Faculty International Travel

The Bulletin is a publication provided to Members to address issues of interest that may have an impact on Members' Academic lives.

In our current *Collective Agreement*, the University is required to maintain a travel fund of \$180,000 each fiscal year towards travel for the purposes of supporting tenured and tenure-track Faculty members in participating in academic conferences. The annual travel grant amount is \$1,800 per Faculty Member. The annual allocation of travel funds has been persistently underspent; the underspending rolls into the next year (i.e., does not expire). At present we have approximately \$90,000 in unspent funding from prior years. Several reasons have been identified to explain the chronic underspending including eligibility and insufficiency of the amount to cover the cost of travel and conference attendance. The issue of insufficiency of funds is heightened for international travel given unfavourable currency exchange rates and higher air fares.

At the June 13, 2018 meeting of the StFXAUT Executive Committee, an increase in the travel award amount for international travel was approved; the new travel award is retroactive to April 1, 2018. The change in travel award amount for international travel was recommended by the Joint

Committee (Charlene Weaving and Brad Long are the StFXAUT representatives on the committee). The new award amount of \$2,400 addresses the cost of international travel.

Article 2.12 Faculty Travel Budget stated:

3.0 ... A Faculty member who has received an Award shall have all such conference related expenses up to the amount of \$1,800 reimbursed.

Article 2.12 Faculty Travel Budget has been revised to state: (**changes in red**)

3.0 ... A faculty member who has received an Award shall have such conference related expenses up to the amount of \$1,800 reimbursed **for domestic travel and \$2,400 reimbursed for international travel. The timeline for this change is April 1 2018- April 1 2019. The travel awards will be reassessed in April 2019.**

In a fall/winter survey, Members will be asked to reflect on reasons for the underspending in travel awards.

Article 2.12 is on pp. 143-144 of the *Collective Agreement*. You can view the *Collective Agreement* (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2019) and the changes negotiated outside of the bargaining process at www.stfxaut.ca.