

2015 OCUFA LORIMER AWARD

CITATION FOR WILLIAM SALATKA

The logo for OCUFA, consisting of the letters 'OCUFA' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The 'O' and 'U' are significantly larger than the other letters, and the 'F' is also large. The letters are a gradient of blue, with the top being a lighter shade and the bottom being a darker shade.

Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations
Union des Associations des Professeurs des Universités de l'Ontario



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Read by Judy Bates, OCUFA President

Numbers can be ornery things. They can be inscrutable, used to obscure reality rather than illuminate it. University administrators can – and frequently do – deploy batteries of numerical data to confound and paralyze faculty negotiators. Fortunately for faculty, we have a secret weapon in the numbers war – Bill Salatka.

Bill has served with distinction on the Wilfrid Laurier University Faculty Association Executive, as well as on many bargaining teams. For the last two rounds of negotiations, Bill has put in laudable service as Chief Negotiator. Through all of these roles, Bill's fluency with numbers has been an incredible asset to WLUFU. As one of his nominators put it, Bill's numerical acumen is nothing less than legendary. In fact, it was Doug Lorimer – one half of the husband-and-wife team for which this award is named – who first recognized this ability, and used it to great effect in WLUFU's dealings with the Laurier administration.

Bill's commitment goes beyond his work with the full-time bargaining unit. He has also devoted "countless hours" to the contract academic staff unit, working hard to improve their working conditions.

Bill's ability to render even the opaquest university financial statements transparent and easily understood has also been a great asset to OCUFA. He has shared his knowledge and insight widely across the province. As a founding member of OCUFA's University Finance Committee, he has expanded the financial literacy of Ontario's faculty associations in popular face-to-face and online workshops.

While numbers have a reputation for being cold, Bill's nominators were at pains to highlight that he is anything but chilly. All remarked on his genuinely kind and generous nature. As one put it, "it is important to understand that Bill is one of the nicest people you're likely to meet."

For his skill with numbers, his commitment to building the skills of his colleagues, and his spirit of generosity and compassion, we are honoured to present Bill Salatka with a 2015 Lorimer Award.