

Just a dream, just a dream

Tenure track access for contract academics



You're not there

Marc Ouellette
McMaster U.

Not-for-profit status allows universities to become Virtual Enterprises. This has nothing to do with being on the Internet, instead it means

- ⇒ Possess only intellectual property
- ⇒ minimal capitalization
- ⇒ partner with best/2nd best in class
- ⇒ minimal workforce
- ⇒ “with the aim of avoiding the formation of a new legal entity” (Raffaini)

Examples include Walmart, Qualcomm, Nortel and many universities.



School is out for . . .

Marc Ouellette
McMaster U.

Combining numbers from OCUFA and the CFS shows that there are (see Ouellette, *Academic Matters*, forthcoming, Oct. 2010)

\$ 100,000 more students in Ontario

¢ Compared to 1995 levels

\$ 1,000 fewer full-time faculty

¢ In that same time

\$ More than 5,500 faculty needed

¢ To maintain 1995 student/faculty ratios

My own faculty is down 23 bodies since 2006, but after hiring 2 new people last year, claims to be in the midst of an expansion conveniently forgetting the history.



I'll be what I am

Marc Ouellette
McMaster U.

In researching the sector for my local and for my union, I have found five (5) distinct constituencies

- ☹ Professionals with day jobs
 - ▶ Certificates required, some retired
- ☹ The leg up
 - ▶ Usually ABDs or PDFs
- ☹ Those who teach
 - ▶ And are not interested in research
- ☹ Those on the wheel
 - ▶ And who cannot get off
- ☹ The aspirationals
 - ▶ Who foolishly dream there is a

tenure stream job
Although national surveys are not yet in, local data and prelim sketches show only 15% are "leg up."



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"Thanks for the 'Good luck on your new job search' card. But I wasn't aware I was looking for a new job."

Don't know much about history

Marc Ouellette
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There are those who deny that casualization is part of an over-arching plan

- ✍ Individual departments operate independently
- ✍ They respond to general institutional plans do their own thing.
- ✍ Simply a trend of behaviour, across units, contributes to an overall change
- ✍ that was never quite intended by anyone



Jeff Rybak, of Maclean's Oncampus & 3902 (ugh).

For Rybak, even though “adjuncts are people too”, they are “yet to jump over some significant hurdles that their full-time counterparts long ago cleared.”

What's it all about

Marc Ouellette
McMaster U.

There are two competing visions of what is at stake in the privatization of universities

☹ The idealistic view

- ▶ Centre of culture, learning, etc.

☹ I envision myself as a CEO even more than a dean.

- ▶ Ilene Busch-Vishniac, Dean of Engineering at Johns Hopkins University
- ▶ *Prism* magazine Interview, Dec. 2000

She's been McMaster's Provost & VP Academic since 2007.

