

April 2024

What is the AFA?

It's your union, protecting and fighting for the rights of all adjunct faculty members. We are affiliated with the Illinois Education Association, a state affiliate of the National Education Association.

Spring 2024 Payroll Dates

4/26, 5/10

AFA dues are taken out of the 4th and 5th paychecks.

Oakton Board of Trustees Meetings

4/16, 5/21 at 6 p.m.
in the DP Board Rm

AFA Meetings

On [Zoom](#) on the 1st Friday of each month; 10 – 11:30

AFA Open Office Hours

DP: Wed. 11-1 2166

SK: Mon.12:1:30 A213

[Online](#): 3rd Thurs of the month

AFA Happy Hour

Join us at Grandpa's Place
in Glenview on
Thursday, May 9th, 4-6pm
Snacks and soft drinks on us!



Division and Department Meetings

Most April Division Meetings were rescheduled to April 29th to allow for viewing of the eclipse. The May division meetings are cancelled as they would conflict with graduation. If you signed up for the meeting commitment package, the May meeting counts as a meeting attended. The only meetings adjunct faculty are contractually required to attend are the department faculty meetings at the beginning of the semester.

AFA Wins a Major Victory

Beginning September 1 this year, a new, reasonable, fair formula will be applied to the hours adjuncts have worked. The [new formula](#) will accurately reflect the time worked. In addition, the work start date will be the first day of class and work end date will be the date grades are due, acknowledging the work we do even after the last day of classes. When Oakton submits the final report to SURS upon an adjunct's retirement, the new formula will be applied *retroactively* to the adjunct's start date of employment at Oakton. This is a huge win for all adjuncts, which would not have happened without the persistent work of the AFA.

Why Should I Vote for a SURS Trustee?

If you are not nearing retirement now, you will retire someday. SURS, the State University Retirement System is the retirement administrator for employees in public higher education in the State of Illinois. That means that like Social Security, you pay money into it and will receive funds at retirement. Having people on that board who have shared community college experience is good. That is why IEA is endorsing 2 candidates: Randall Miller and Antonio Vasquez. Randall has president of City Colleges Contingent Labor Organizing Committee, and Antonio serves on the executive committee of Local 1600 Cook County College Teachers Union You can read biographies of the candidates. Voting takes place now through the end of April. *To vote online:*

1. Go to the voting site by clicking on this link or copying and pasting it into your browser's address field:
<https://vote.yeselections.com/SURS>
2. Enter your Election Code: 68346949
3. Enter your eight-digit date of birth
4. Enter the last four digits of your Social Security number.
5. Click on Continue and follow the voting instructions.

Vote now before you forget!

Been Here for a While?

If you have taught at Oakton for 22 semesters (based on seniority lists), have successfully completed and turned in your continued eligibility forms, and have consistently demonstrated strong or outstanding performance within the past 5 years, you can request the new title of senior lecturer. Fill out an application and submit a list of professional development activities you've participated in since last submitting your continued eligibility form and a letter of recommendation from your chair, coordinator or supervisor. If you haven't had a classroom observation in the past 5 years, you'll need a letter from your dean. Don't remember what professional activities you've done? ACUE? To get access to your ACUE accomplishments, go [here](#). All those CPD Workshops and Orientation Week offerings? Go to Academic Career and Transfer Planning in Banner, then Transcripts, then Unofficial Transcripts and then Student Services. [Application](#) due May 3.

Questions Answered

Can I take classes at Oakton for free? YES. In Fall and Spring, you can take up to 4 classes, and in Summer 2. And not just you –your spouse, domestic partner, and children providing they reside with

you. More information and the on-line form [here](#). Just think: that ceramics class you always to try out? Try your hand(s) at the piano? A new language before you take that next trip?

Where is that adjunct faculty lounge I have heard about? Need a place to relax between classes or chat with colleagues? Room 2166 next to the AFA office.

What are the Professional Development Funds?

Per [article 3.10](#) of our contract, we may be reimbursed for expenses incurred for professional development activities such as professional association memberships, tuition and fees for courses (including graduate and certification courses), registration fees, travel and related expenses for workshops and conferences, expenses to update qualifications, and technology expenses that support teaching (e.g., software, headphones, microphones, webcams, and computers). The annual limit is \$375; up to \$200 of that amount per year can be spent on technology. You can be reimbursed up to \$375 per academic year or \$750 for each two-year period dating from the start of the contract (i.e. \$750 for 2021-22 and 2022-23, \$750 for 2023-24 and 2024-25). Submit a request to your dean BEFORE you purchase any tech. Reimbursement will be on a first-come, ***Should I fill out a RADAR Form?***

The RADAR Team promotes a safe learning environment at the College and responds to concerning student behaviors that include but are not limited to disturbed writings, paranoid behavior, anger or irritation, suicidal remarks or attempts. Individuals displaying concerning behaviors may not necessarily be violating the Student Code of Conduct. After receiving a report form, the RADAR multidisciplinary team will assess available information regarding an individual student and determine an appropriate course of action.

The RADAR form is *not* for emergencies, as reports are reviewed by the RADAR team during business hours. *In case of emergency*, call Campus Police at ext. 1888. Campus Police are trained first responders who will contact other departments (Health Services, local police, EMS, etc.) as needed.

Please DO fill out a RADAR form when you are concerned about a student. If you need guidance about completing the referral, contact the team by calling the Office of Student Affairs at 847.635.1739 or sending an e-mail to radar@oakton.edu. The form can be found on the landing page when you go to myOakton under Employee Support Portals.

Mandatory Training Again

It is that time again. There are 4 modules that will take a little more than an hour: Cyber Security Awareness, Email and Messaging Safety, Protection Against Malware, and Password Policy and Multi-Factor Authentication. This must be done by June 17, but you can use office hours to do it. You'll be getting emails from Vector training until it's completed.