

Canadian Association of University Teachers  
Association canadienne des professeures et professeurs d'univers

# Executive Committee Comité de direction

Nomination Form / Formulaire de mise en candidature

## Nominee / Candidat ou candidate

**James Compton**

## Position / Poste

**President**

## To use this form / Comment utiliser ce formulaire

1. Save this file to your desktop / Enregistrez ce fichier sur votre ordinateur.
2. Open the form using Adobe Reader / Ouvrez le formulaire à l'aide d'Adobe Reader.
3. Fill in the fields / Remplissez les champs indiqués.
4. Attach additional documentation as required / Joignez, au besoin, toute documentation supplémentaire.
5. Save completed form to your desktop / Sauvegardez le formulaire rempli sur votre ordinateur.

## Documentation / Documentation

Nominations should include / Les dossiers de mise en candidature doivent comprendre :

- (a) a letter of nomination / une lettre de mise en candidature
- (b) the agreement of the nominee to serve if elected / le consentement du candidat ou de la candidate advenant son élection
- (c) a completed executive committee nomination form / le formulaire dûment rempli de mise en candidature au Comité de direction

## Nomination deadline : March 1

Date limite des mises en candidature : 1<sup>er</sup> mars

## Send completed form to

Faites parvenir le formulaire dûment rempli au

Chair, Elections and Resolutions Committee  
Président, Comité des élections et des résolutions  
Canadian Association of University Teachers  
Association canadienne des professeures et professeurs d'université  
2705, promenade Queensview Drive, Ottawa (Ontario) K2B 8K2  
Email / Courriel : nominations@caut.ca

## Personal information / Renseignements personnels

Name / Nom **James Compton** Telephone / Téléphone **519-641-1304**

Email / Courriel **compton@caut.ca** Fax / Télécopieur **n/a**

Full institution address including academic unit / Adresse complète de l'établissement, y compris l'unité académique

**Faculty of Information and Media Studies  
FNB, Room 4037  
The University of Western Ontario, London, ON, N6A 5B9**

CAUT is committed to principles of equity and actively seeks to diversify the membership of its committees. Nominees are encouraged to indicate, in the space below, whether they self-identify as members of racialized groups, people with disabilities, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, queer and 2-spirited people, Aboriginal people, and women. Responses are voluntary and will be kept strictly confidential. L'ACPPU souscrit pleinement aux principes de l'équité et s'emploie activement à diversifier la composition de ses comités. Les candidates et candidats sont invités à indiquer, dans l'espace ci-dessous réservé à cet effet, si elles ou ils s'identifient comme membre d'un groupe racialisé, personne ayant une limitation fonctionnelle, gai, lesbienne, bisexuel, transgenre, allosexuel et bi-spirituel, Autochtone et femme. Les réponses sont facultatives et elles resteront strictement confidentielles.

## Languages / Langues

CAUT's official languages are English and French. Indicate your level of competence.  
Les langues officielles de l'ACPPU sont l'anglais et le français. Indiquez votre niveau de compétence.

**Fluent in English**

## University and college appointments / Postes universitaires et collégiaux

Provide a brief summary of the university/college appointments held including name of institution, position and years.  
Décrivez brièvement les postes universitaires/collégiaux occupés et indiquez le nom de l'établissement, le titre du poste et les années en poste.

**\* Associate Professor, Faculty of Information and Media Studies, The University of Western Ontario  
2007-Present**

**\* Assistant Professor, Faculty of Information and Media Studies, The University of Western Ontario  
2002-2007**

**\* Sessional Instructor, School of Communication, Simon Fraser University - Summer 2001, Fall 1999**

**\* Teaching Assistant, School of Communication, Simon Fraser University - 1993-1996**

## Experience in academic staff affairs / Expérience des affaires du personnel académique

Provide a summary of your involvement with academic staff associations at the local, provincial, and/or national level.  
Décrivez brièvement vos activités au sein d'associations de personnel académique à l'échelle locale, provinciale et nationale.

- \* Currently serving as CAUT/ACCPU President
- \* Served two terms as CAUT/ACCPU Vice-president, 2014/15, 2015/16
- \* Served two terms as General Member At-large, CAUT Executive, 2012/13, 2013/14
- \* Past President, (executive member) UWOFA, July 2011 - July 2012
- \* President, UWOFA, July 2010 - June 2011
- \* Vice-President, UWOFA, July 2009 - June 2010
- \* Communications Officer, UWOFA, 2008, 2013-2015
- \* Editor of Faculty Times (UWOFA publication), 2008, 2013-2015
- \* Faculty of Information and Media Studies Representative, UWOFA Board of Directors, 2004-2007, 2013-2015
- \* UWOFA liaison with London and District Labour Council, 2012-2016

## Other relevant experience / Autre expérience pertinente

Provide a brief summary of experience or qualifications which you feel would be useful in the position for which you have been nominated.  
Décrivez brièvement l'expérience ou les compétences acquises qui vous permettraient d'occuper le poste pour lequel vous avez été recommandé(e).

Serving as President for the past year has given me greater respect for the job. It has also given me greater insight into the broad range of interests that the CAUT represents and defends -- from academic freedom to bargaining support. I have represented CAUT in a variety of fora, including, more recently, communicating our values and policies to delegates at a Conference Board of Canada conference. I was also fortunate enough to represent the CAUT at Education International's 10th International Further & Higher Education & Research Conference. I believe very strongly that the CAUT is a membership-driven organization. Our collective strength comes from the work we do at the local level. That is why I remain committed to developing a new model for mobilizing members. In that role, I have worked to strengthen ties with other unions and activist groups in Ontario and across Canada. I have participated in the Ontario Common Front Assemblies in Toronto and London. And I have continued this work locally at Western, where I have served as chair of UWOFA's Communication Committee and as the faculty liaison with the London & District Labour Council. In my role as VP, I also participated in the CAUT's first New Activists Workshop where I facilitated work designed to build skills for communicating with news media. In addition, I have joined solidarity pickets in support of collective bargaining rights for a wide range of workers, including university faculty. I have ten years experience as a reporter in British Columbia working for Canadian Press/Broadcast News and regional radio/TV stations.

## Priorities for CAUT / Priorités de l'ACPPU

Identify what you feel should be major priorities for CAUT in the next two years.

Quelles devraient être, selon vous, les grandes priorités de l'ACPPU pour les deux prochaines années?

The Liberal government in Ottawa has brought in some welcome policy changes, such as, increased research funding and the return of the UCASS survey. However, federal support for the tri-councils remains well below 2006/7 levels. The CAUT must continue to press the federal government and to ensure these policies are deepened and strengthened.

Academic staff associations across Canada will face continued government austerity programs and utilitarian managerial overreach that, in some cases, demonize academic staff, and public sector workers generally. In addition, these actions can threaten academic freedom. The CAUT should work to assist academic staff associations to deflect these policies through continued bargaining support, but also by developing a mobilizing model to facilitate collective action by CAUT and its members.

We must work to bolster and enhance the grassroots power of our members and the capacity of local associations to represent the collective interests of tenured and non-tenured contract academic staff. This work will occur on many fronts, including bargaining and grievance support, but also political advocacy initiatives.

## Additional comments / Autres renseignements

Provide any additional information you feel would be useful to Council delegates in their consideration of your candidacy.

Ajoutez tout complément d'information utile que les délégués du Conseil pourraient prendre en compte dans l'appréciation de votre candidature.

Ted Montgomery

Chair, Elections and Resolutions Committee

Canadian Association of University Teachers

2705 Queensview Drive, Ottawa

Email: [nominations@caut.ca](mailto:nominations@caut.ca)

### Compton Nomination for Presidency of CAUT/ACCPU, 2017-2018

Dear Ted,

It is a pleasure to write in support of Dr. James Compton's nomination for the presidency of CAUT for 2017-2018. I have the highest regard for James's integrity and abilities, and I am confident he would continue to serve CAUT members well in the role of president.

I first came to know James at CAUT Council when he was part of the UWOFA delegation. When he joined the CAUT Executive in 2012 I carefully watched him find his feet, learn from colleagues and staff more experienced than himself in this setting, and gradually intervene productively on matters of communication strategy, membership mobilization, and on the ever-sensitive tension between business unionism and union activism as part of a broader movement for social and economic justice. James and I rapidly became friends, sharing work, exploring common concerns about the Harper agenda and an increasingly neoliberal academic leadership in Canada, and discussing how we could better advance the interests of all our members in face of increasingly brazen managerial overreach and the cynical exploitation of the weak and precarious.

As I departed from the Executive and AF&T, I was glad that James was still there and even happier when he showed interest in succeeding Robin as president. CAUT has been blessed by a series of very able presidents, and James has maintained that tradition over the past year. His columns in the *CAUT Bulletin* have been outstanding for their clarity and political acumen. His background in journalism and his academic expertise make him a very effective communicator, and CAUT is now the beneficiary of skills honed at Western and ever more securely grounded in academic unionism and the broader labour movement in Canada and internationally.

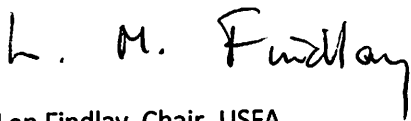
I most recently saw James in action as CAUT President at the Western Regionals in Winnipeg early last November, meetings that occurred while UMFA was walking the picket line and where we joined them. James and I talked a lot then and I was once again impressed by the care with which he received the

opinions of different locals and constituencies before connecting them to the bigger picture of governmental disinvestment and directiveness towards universities and colleges across the country. James takes the job of president immensely seriously, and brings remarkable intelligence and energy to the tasks that face someone in that role.

The new federal government seems less hostile to academe than its predecessor was, but not yet committed to the concerted, unapologetic public reinvestment in a public post-secondary system that has served Canada uncommonly well in the past and can continue to do so in future. Alas, neoliberal attitudes are still prominent at the national and provincial levels. In keeping with this reality, our universities and colleges are still too often resented by funders for their residual independence, for their advocacy and exercise of academic freedom, and for the willingness of academic staff to organize and bargain collectively for those working conditions essential to the advancement of an academic mission and the public interest. James Compton understands well what needs to be done in the current conjuncture. Most importantly, he views CAUT as a member-driven organization with a proud tradition of assistance, education, and leadership. He sees CAUT as a big tent that can be pitched and filled, locally, nationally, and internationally. For James, the interests and competencies of our members is what keeps us strong. Need and knowledge on the ground help shape good policy, and achieve and disseminate best practices in and beyond academe.

In my view, James is right in emphasizing mobilization at the local level, and the development of better communication skills to get a progressive message out amidst the clamour and multiple distractions of the new mediascape. When one of our locals does well, the prospects improve for us all.

I have no doubt James has the vision, receptivity, and resolve to help set an appropriate course for the incoming Executive, and I therefore strongly support his nomination to continue as president of CAUT/ACCPU.



Len Findlay, Chair, USFA

Distinguished University Professor,

University of Saskatchewan

**From:** [James Compton \(UWO\)](#)  
**To:** [CAUT Nominations](#)  
**Subject:** Re: FW: My Nomination Form  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 07, 2017 11:01:11 AM

---

Hi Monique,

Yes, I agree to serve as president if elected.

Best,

James

---