



## HEAD NOTE TO *STRIKE BLOG*

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Professor Brian A. Connery's *Strike Blog* brings to the fore issues about the role of the blogosphere in academia. Which, if any, blogs are appropriate for a university publication that seeks to benefit Oakland University and its various constituencies? The Editorial Board, after careful deliberation, ultimately agreed with Professor Connery's assessment, that its publication does not seek to "reopen old wounds," but rather, may begin a more unconstrained and open conversation about the "informational asymmetries" that can arise "between a university and its faculty" (Siow 1998). *Strike Blog's* introduction makes clear that it does not purport to be "the last word" or a complete history, but rather that the blog is offered as an "*artifact from the first weeks of September,*" and a series of "*changing perspectives and sentiments*" in the life of a professor.

*Strike Blog* contributes to the on-going discussion about the status of blogging in academia, media, politics and popular culture. Blogging as a form of communication and exchange has exploded in the last decade, "with 39% of American Internet users reading at least one of the over 112 million blogs on the Internet" (Batts 2008). Social scientists continue to debate and analyze the "virtual power" of blogs (Liao, 2008), while academic institutions vary in their attitudes to blogging. Blogging has been defined as a "knowledge management and communication tool," as well as "play[ing] an increasingly important role as a forum of public debate" (Rosen-

crance 2004, 23; Farrell and Drezner 2008, 16). “The Power and Politics of Blogs” (2009), argues that blogs serve as “repositories” for “local knowledge” “for relevant policy issues” (Hayek 1945, quoted in Farrell and Drezner; Farrell and Drezner, 24). Recently Stanford University joined the many universities “test[ing] the blogging waters . . . by showcasing existing blogs written by faculty, students, or alumni” (Batts, S.A., 2008). *The Oakland Journal* hopes *Strike Blog* will serve as an invitation to readers to join the conversation thus begun.

## WORKS CITED

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