**Rachel Milner**

**Bio:** I earned my Ph.D. in Biochemistry at the University of Cambridge, in 1989, and then came to the University of Alberta for a Post-Doctoral Fellowship with the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research, from 1990-1993. Between 1993 and 2000, I worked as a technical writer and trainer for various companies in Edmonton (e.g. Saville Systems, BloodTrac, Enbridge, Digix) and moonlighted as a sessional instructor in biochemistry at the University of Alberta and Concordia University College. During this time, I also had three children. In 2000, I became a full-time member the Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, as an FSO. During the last 15 years I have been responsible for the development of a revised teaching curriculum for the undergraduate biochemistry program, including the development of several new courses. I am currently director of the biochemistry undergraduate teaching program, student advisor, and instructor of both laboratory and didactic courses. I also conduct research in teaching, having completed an M.Sc. in Educational Research (University of Exeter) whilst on professional development leave (2010-2011).

**Experience and Rationale:** I have more than seven years’ experience working with AASUA (as the second Councillor for FSOs since 2008, as Teaching and Learning Committee member since 2009, as Chair of Teaching and Learning Committee since 2012, and as Chair of the Agreement Review Committee (ARC) since 2013) and I feel that I could use this experience to help me succeed in the role of Chair of the FSO Constituency Committee. My major objective in seeking this role is to build a connected community of FSOs here at the UofA. We are one of AASUA’s smallest constituency groups and many FSOs don’t meet other FSOs in their everyday work environment. There is no routine mechanism for communication among FSOs and I am highly motivated to help establish communication channels, from FSOs to Council, from Council to FSOs, and among FSOs. Other members have suggested to me that an informal mentoring network could be helpful among FSOs, especially for those who are “the only one” in their department and I am interested in exploring this and other ideas for our constituency. My second objective in seeking the role of Chair is to ensure that other FSOs are engaged with our constituency work and, especially, are keen to take on roles within the FSO executive, AASUA and GFC. I discovered the AASUA somewhat by accident and I would really enjoy facilitating others in taking on representational roles on behalf of our constituents.