

TUFA Negotiations Update: October 9, 2009

Where are we at in bargaining?

Last April, following a year of consultation, the TUFA membership approved a bargaining mandate. Based on this mandate, your team developed a set of proposals that were tabled at the end of May. At the same time, the Employer tabled their proposals, containing significant and far reaching changes to the nature of the work we do and indeed to the collegial structures that constitute an integral part of the University. In reaction to these proposals, the membership approved a response mandate. Our mandate, in its two parts, has provided the structure that your bargaining team has been following throughout the summer of bargaining. (All original proposals, the two parts of the mandate and minutes from all meetings held over the summer are available for viewing on the TUFA website at www.trentfaculty.ca for those who wish to review them.)

What are our issues?

- Improvements to the tenure process
- Protection against use of policies to change terms and conditions of our work
- Improved grievance language
- Improved discipline language
- Defence of our pension
- Protection of our salary parity formula

Why a strike vote now?

We have not reached a tentative agreement. There are several outstanding issues of significance on the table. While we are hopeful that we will reach agreement before October 21st, we must maintain our resolve, and insist again to the employer that we stand behind our mandate and our team.

What does a strike vote mean?

A strike vote is a statement of support for your Negotiating Team, and a way for members to speak directly to the Employer to tell them our determination to achieve a just settlement. A strike vote on October 21st does not mean that a strike is imminent. Such a vote is only the first of several steps preceding labour action. At the meeting before the vote on October 21st you will receive a full update of where negotiations stand and what issues remain on the table. And beyond that, the membership would not be taken out on strike without a general membership meeting.

Want to talk?

Here is a list of your faculty colleagues who would be more than willing to talk to you on the phone, answer emails, and have coffee with you to talk about the current bargaining situation:

Stefan Bilaniuk
Graham Cogley
Charmaine Eddy

Julia Harrison
David Holdsworth
Richard Hurley

Janice Millard
Momin Rahman
James Watson

**WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT AS WE WORK TO
REACH A FAIR AGREEMENT!**