

For Immediate Release

Acadia University Faculty Set Strike Deadline

(14 November 2017, Wolfville, NS) Today the Acadia University Faculty Association (AUFA) issued a strike deadline of Monday, November 27.

“After months of trying to get the university to bargain productively for a fair and equitable collective agreement, we have no choice but to call for legal strike action,” said AUFA President Stephen Ahern.

AUFA and the Acadia Board of Governors began negotiations for a new collective agreement in late March, but talks reached an impasse in June when the board refused to discuss key faculty proposals. AUFA filed for the assistance of a provincial conciliator in early September. After conciliation stalled on the first day, AUFA members voted 81% in favour of strike action.

“Our members have made it clear they will not back down in the face of an employer who refuses to bargain reasonably,” said Ahern. “We do not take the step towards job action lightly.”

During another round of conciliation last week, the Acadia board failed to address any of the major outstanding issues, including restoring full-time faculty positions, addressing pay equity, achieving salaries in line with regional averages, and gaining a commitment to fundraise for a campus childcare centre. The board has rejected these faculty proposals while asking for significant concessions, including clawing back the compensation of part-time faculty.

“We’re disappointed that the Board’s refusal to negotiate has led to this point, but we are committed to fighting for a contract that recognizes that Acadia University cannot be the extraordinary university it advertises to students and parents without investing in its faculty.”

AUFA has indicated that its negotiating team remains willing to engage in productive bargaining, and hopes the university administration will return to the table ready to make the moves that will lead to a fair agreement.

The Acadia University Faculty Association is the certified bargaining agent for 331 full-time and part-time professors, librarians, archivists, and instructors.

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