

February 15, 2022
For Immediate Release

Acadia Faculty's Efforts to Resume Negotiations Unanswered by University's Board of Governors

Wolfville, NS—The Acadia University Faculty Association (AUFA) has informed the provincially appointed conciliator that they are ready to resume meaningful negotiations on multiple occasions since the strike began on February 1, 2022, but there has been no response from the Board's team.

Although the Board's team insists publicly that they are willing to return to the table, their message to AUFA from the start has been that a new agreement, and now an end to the strike, means accepting the Board's terms. This is not a negotiation, and certainly not one that is taking place in good faith.

According to AUFA President Andrew Biro, "we are on strike for one reason: from the start of negotiations in May 2021, the Board of Governor's negotiating team has been unprepared and unserious. Instead of negotiating *with* AUFA, they have made and continue to make ultimatums, expecting us to accept an incomplete offer that fails to invest sufficiently in Acadia's academic sector."

Acadia's faculty care deeply about our students and have gone above and beyond during the pandemic to maintain the Acadia Experience. Despite added pressures resulting from the pandemic, AUFA's negotiating team was prepared to get to work on May 1, 2021 to reach a tentative agreement that would make a genuine commitment to new tenure-stream positions to meet steadily growing enrolment targets and program demands. In addition, AUFA's proposals include better wages, benefits, and commitments to job security for part-time faculty; commitments to equity and diversity; and maintaining collegial governance. These improvements are needed for Acadia to attract and retain the tenure-stream and other faculty that make Acadia an excellent place to learn and work.

According to Biro, "the Board team's message from the beginning seems to be that investing in faculty and the academic sector is unsustainable. If they truly believe this, then they must also think that investing in Acadia's students and the Acadia Experience is unsustainable. Our team is ready to negotiate an agreement that will end the strike and get back to class, while protecting the high-quality education our students expect and deserve."

It's time for the Board team to finally get serious and return to the negotiating table in earnest with the faculty it claims to value.

The Acadia University Faculty Association is the certified bargaining agent for 350 full-time and part-time professors, librarians, archivists, and instructors at Acadia University. Follow us on Twitter (@AcadiaFaculty) for further information and updates.

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