



## SIAST NOT INTERESTED IN AVOIDING A STRIKE

September 2, 2011

The Professional Services bargaining committee presented management with a new revised offer on Thursday, September 1, 2011, at approximately 5:30 p.m.

To date SIAST has refused to respond to our revised offer and has refused to meet with the bargaining committee to discuss changes to this offer.

Instead SIAST has recommended that a special mediator be appointed by the Minister of Labour under Section 23 of the Trade Union Act. The appointment of a new mediator may take days or weeks.

The SGEU negotiating committees view this as yet another unacceptable stalling tactic.

In light of SIAST's refusal to bargain in good faith, the bargaining committees have deemed it necessary to go forward with proposed strike action.

We regret that this action is necessary, but we have exhausted all other avenues.

The Academic and Professional Services bargaining committees proposed that Tom Hodges be appointed as mediator to expedite an agreeable settlement. If the parties could not come to an agreement the terms of reference would include the receipt of a written report from Mr. Hodges. Having assisted the bargaining committees previously Mr. Hodges would be familiar with the issues at hand.

The employer has refused to agree to appoint Tom Hodges unless he is appointed under Section 23 of the Trade Union Act. The employer's rationale for that position is that the Minister of Labour would then set Mr. Hodges terms of reference which would deny us the right to free collective bargaining.