

Campus Chairs Update

November 2017

Bargaining update

Your bargaining committee has dates to meet with management at the end of January. We will be sending out a separate communication after we have met.

Extended Health Benefits

Your bargaining committee met with some Saskatchewan Polytechnic Faculty Association (SPFA) executive members on October 23. The intent of this meeting was to find out if the SPFA would be agreeable to a joint approach to the employer requesting to move discussions regarding any improvements or changes to our extended health care plan to a separate bargaining table so as not to hinder either party in reaching a Collective Agreement.

Our current extended health plan is a tri-party agreement, meaning that not any one party – the Employer, the SPFA, nor the PSBU, can negotiate changes to the plan without the express agreement of the other parties.

We have been trying to have these discussions in previous rounds of bargaining without success and as such the extended health care plan remains unchanged since the SPFA were certified. Prior to that time, the Academic and Professional Services units together would meet to bargain improvements at a separate table. Any discussions of the extended health care plan do not impact our current dental care benefits.

It was a surprise to PSBU that while attending an unrelated matter in front of the labour relations board on November 9, that the legal counsel for SPFA indicated their intention to remove the SPFA membership from this tri-partite agreement.

The President of the SPFA sent correspondence to PSBU on November 17, 2017 (on website) outlining their intentions. We dispute the allegations that the 'objective' in our October meeting was 'to achieve separation and division of funds without lengthy litigation', nor that it was our intention to have January meetings to 'identify a route to establishment of autonomous health care plans'. Your Bargaining Chair, Bonnie Bond, replied via a letter to the SPFA on November 20, 2017 (on website).

We note that the SPFA AGM was held on October 26, only three days after our initial meeting with the SPFA and therefore assume that the SPFA membership made the decision to separate from the health plan at that meeting.

While we respect the rights of the SPFA membership to direct their executive, your Bargaining Committee remains committed to ensuring that the rights and benefits that have been duly negotiated for our Professional Services membership under SGEU are respected and adhered to.

Holiday closure

Employees are required to utilize family development days between Christmas and New Year's as per article 12.16. Members are encouraged to read article 12.16 for clarification. If your EDO falls during the break, it is to be taken on the following workday or to be rescheduled to another mutually agreed day.

Voluntary separation

Your bargaining committee has received inquiries regarding our units' participation in the voluntary separation proposal. This is already covered under article 7.2.2 voluntary lay-off. Any questions can be directed to your local campus chair.



This is our last communication before the New Year. Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season.

In solidarity,

Bonnie Bond, PSBU Bargaining Chair
Ryan Greyeyes, Campus Chair, Saskatoon Campus
Ellen Leaman, Acting Campus Chair, Moose Jaw Campus
Terri Wale, Campus Chair, Regina Campus
Deb Zawada-Wiebe, Campus Chair, Prince Albert Campus