

Examiner Bargaining Update

<http://www.opseu240.ca/>

September 19, 2017

Faculty Give Strike Vote a Thumbs Up—Sky Doesn't Fall

"A 'yes' to the strike vote sets the faculty on a path toward a strike. If a strike vote mandate is received, the union can take its members out on strike without a further vote by the members." [Management Academic Bargaining Update, August 28, 2017]

"This mandate does not guarantee there will be a strike. Of the 13 strike votes in the past 50 years at Ontario colleges, only three have led to a strike." [Mohawk President Ron McKerlie, September 16, 2017]

What a difference a couple of weeks make. In August, Management's Bargaining Team were in 'fear-mongering' overdrive, predicting the sky would fall if faculty supported a strike vote. However, if you read Saturday's, "A Message to Mohawk Students from President Ron McKerlie", you'll notice that the President actually takes the same position we took in response to Management's orchestrated hysteria about the implications of a strike vote.

As President McKerlie correctly noted, there have indeed been only three strikes in the past 50 years, despite faculty having taken 13 strike votes. Management's Bargaining Team has been irresponsible in its messaging. They have gone to the media, announcing the top full-time faculty step on the salary grid without mentioning the fact that 81% of teaching is being done by contract faculty who they don't believe deserve a full-time job. We heard the College, spreading this disinformation on local radio a few days ago.



Management's
Bargaining Strategy

Given Management's penchant for distorting the facts to mislead faculty, students and the public, we have to wonder if there's a leadership problem on the management side for the current round of negotiations. Do they have the right people on their team to do what's needed to reach an agreement a work stoppage?

While we appreciate President McKerlie's encouragement for students to remain respectful of their professors, we wish that the Management Bargaining Team would begin to show some respect for those same professors. With the strike vote behind us, we now have an opportunity to conduct real negotiations. Let's hope the Colleges don't squander that opportunity and risk a work stoppage.

What Happens Now?

Now, bargaining really begins. Our goal is a fair deal for faculty, both full-time and partial load, but how does that happen? Here are the answers to a few questions you might have. They come from <http://www.collegefaculty.org/>, your faculty website that brings you both the latest news and a lot of excellent background information to help you better understand the process and the issues. It includes a very useful FAQ page that addresses specific questions such as

[How is an agreement reached?](#)

[What happens if bargaining stalls?](#)

[When can a strike or lockout be called?](#)

Also, although we avoid initiating discussions of bargaining-related issues with our students, we have the right to respond to their questions, should they arise. Of course, we will attempt to have these conversations outside our classrooms. However, since Management is creating a climate of fear through misinformation, we have no choice but to set the record straight for our students.