

Update on 2010 Bargaining

Bargaining Priorities Approved

On Friday, January 8, 2010, KFA members voted overwhelmingly to approve the bargaining priorities recommended to them by the Working Conditions Committee. Now the work to develop a detailed bargaining package begins so that the KFA can negotiate a new collective agreement reflective of members' priorities.

Provincial Bargaining Strategy

The KFA President and Vice-President—Negotiations will be meeting with other Federation of Post Secondary Educators (FPSE) Presidents and Bargainers on Friday, January 15, to discuss provincial bargaining. A provincial Bargaining Conference will be held Friday, January 22, 2010 involving representatives from FPSE, BC Government Employees Union (BCGEU) and British Columbia Institute of Technology Faculty and Staff Association (BCITFSA) to establish a provincial bargaining strategy. We know that the bargaining mandate is established by the provincial government, and bargaining responsibilities in our sector ultimately and legally rest with the Post-Secondary Employers' Association (PSEA). The KFA is prepared to bargain with the employer wherever necessary in order to ensure our members receive the best deal possible.

Bargaining in Bad Faith?

In the midst of preparations for bargaining a new collective agreement, our employer is confusing things by trying to erode our bargaining rights. Before the holiday

break, we communicated with you our opposition to the position taken by Kwantlen Polytechnic University Board Chair, Scott Nicoll, that Senate decisions could override collective agreement provisions. This week, a number of documents were brought to our attention that purport to be "governance" documents but are, in fact, direct attacks on our collective agreement.

Through the guise of "governance," the employer is attempting to negotiate or change terms and conditions of our work, directly with individual departments and members, ignoring the KFA as exclusive bargaining agent. We have filed a policy grievance with President Atkinson at Step 3, seeking a cessation of this bargaining in bad faith.

In addition, the KFA Executive passed the following motion on January 13, 2010:

That the KFA Executive support a political action strategy to oppose the erosion of our collective agreement rights up to and including a rally, if necessary, at an appropriate time and location, to be determined by the KFA Table Officers.

Defending Your Rights

The KFA Executive is united in its determination to do all that is necessary to defend its members and their rights under the collective agreement and the BC Labour Relations Code.

We will keep you informed of developments on the bargaining front.

SPECIAL BULLETIN

Questions?

Contact the KFA at (604) 599-2200 or drop by our office in room B201 on Surrey Campus.

