

2014 Negotiations Committee Members:

Ted Binnema (Chief Negotiator)  
Paul Bowles  
Darwyn Coxson  
Shannon Wagner  
Donna Plourde

13 January 2015

Dear Members of the Faculty Association;

During this past weekend (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday) negotiations between the bargaining teams of the UNBC FA and the UNBC Board of Governors resumed for the first time since the UNBC FA Executive unanimously approved a vote of the membership to approve a strike mandate.

The sessions began on 9 January with the UNBC FA responding on all outstanding non-monetary issues. Faced with an impending strike vote of its FA members, the Employer showed more flexibility than it had on some crucially important issues this weekend, but stood firm on others. As a result, although the Employer has moved in a positive direction on some issues, it has signaled no change on others: program redundancy being a noteworthy example. The parties signed off on only one article. Apart from that article the Board's bargaining team still insists on bargaining the remaining articles as a package. In sum, these most recent mediated sessions demonstrate that the UNBC Board of Governors' bargaining team does take notice of the resolve of our members. However, it is clear that continued determination and pressure will be necessary to reach a negotiated agreement, as we have not yet achieved any of the goals identified as top priorities by our members.

The bargaining team believes that, in light of the facts laid out above, it is more important than ever that you provide the FA Executive with a strong strike mandate. The parties have scheduled three more days of mediated negotiations (23, 24, 25 January). We hope a deal can be finalized on those days. If it is not, our team will also be willing to meet with the Employer thereafter. We believe that a strong strike mandate will improve our chances of negotiating a sector-norm agreement.

Ted Binnema  
Chief Negotiator