

2014 Negotiations Committee Members:

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

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Dear Colleagues;

You will recall from previous updates that mediated contract negotiations were scheduled for this past weekend. During those sessions, the parties signed off on no articles. We experienced progress on a few issues, but regression on others. For example, the Employer tabled proposals that come closer to meeting the needs of our Members on the issues of seniority rights for Term Members, phased retirement, and reporting and evaluation procedures. Unfortunately, on other fundamentally important issues, the Employer tabled proposals that actually move away from the convergence that had been developing. They tabled language on program redundancy and on the tenure and promotion process that not only departs from provisions normal in the university sector, but clearly represents withdrawal on their part from the progress made on those issues during the previous sessions. Overall, the Employer has not indicated that it is willing to abandon its practice of bundling unrelated articles into a package—insisting that they will not agree to any specific article until there is agreement on all of them.

The Employer also presented us with their costing of our monetary proposals (and one of theirs), but the parties still remain far apart on monetary issues.

The parties are scheduled to meet again during the coming weekend. Once again, we will update you on the results of those talks as soon as we can. On behalf of the entire bargaining team, I thank you once again for your tremendous support for our efforts.

Ted Binnema  
Chief Negotiator