

Faculty Update

Vol. 1 Number 2 • March 8, 2006

STRIKE OF 2006

GEORGE BROWN COLLEGE • LOCAL 556
College Professors, Counsellors & Librarians

We're moving the system *Up!*

KEY ISSUES

Management says it is a great pay offer, with no takeaways on workload! So what is our problem?

Well, these are the key issues we want some movement on:

- Quality education for our students!
- The overuse and exploitation of partial load, part time and sessional teachers
- Recognition of how workload, especially prep and evaluation, has increased in today's class rooms — with more students, and new applied degree and e-courses
- Classes in general that are way too large (management says there are offering a cap of 29 students per class, but that is a system average that includes counsellors, faculty on long and short-term disability leaves, and faculty assigned to non-teaching duties!)
- “Pilot projects” for up to 10% of faculty, who would work in “teams” with no SWFs! We don't want the SWF taken away from any faculty member
- A 2-year, not a 4-year, collective agreement
- We need to keep our salary ranges between the highest salary for secondary teachers and the lowest for university faculty

BENEFITS COVERAGE DURING THE STRIKE

Our Bargaining Team has confirmed that **OPSEU is picking up the cost of the entire insured benefit package**. This includes all of the Sun Life benefits for employees, on the same terms as in the Collective Agreement.

Not included are the uninsured benefits. These are salary paid during PD Leaves, college top-up payments for Pregnancy, or Parental Leave, payment for Short Term Disability and any other paid leaves.

Short term disability days should not be taken from one's bank during the strike period. If you are on short term disability, please contact the local office (416-977-0684) to work out arrangements during the strike so that you can receive strike pay.

Employment insurance for **Pregnancy, or Parental Leave** will continue, but the supplementary unemployment benefits plan will not.

Members on PD Leave are on strike and will not receive salary from the college. The college has said it will not be extending the leave.

Members on vacation are on strike and are not using vacation days. The strike will have some minor implications for **your next vacation period**. While we will still get the same number of vacation days, there will be a little less money paid out during the vacation period which will depend on how many weeks we're out.

There will be **pension implications if you retire within the next five years**. However, you can buy back pension contributions after the strike provided you pay your portion and the college's portion. We recommend you do this as soon as possible by contacting Human Resources.

S M I L E — You're On Candid Camera

Reliable sources report that the college has invested in new outdoor video surveillance cameras which are installed outside our college buildings. For example, there's one at the top of the Pasquale building across from 200 King St East. *So give 'em a wave, and don't do anything you don't want to have replayed on video in court.*

OPSEU's DAILY LOG

If you have access to the internet, make sure you visit "*The Daily Log*" at the OPSEU website — www.opseu.org

THE MYSTERIOUS PHONECALLER

Yesterday we received a disturbing phone call from a faculty member who was left a message on her voice mail from someone fraudulently presenting himself as our Union President. In the message the faculty member was accused of organizing scab labour, told she was sleeping with the enemy, and warned that the Union would take appropriate action after the strike was over.

No such phone call was ever made by our Union President. No such statements were, or would be, made by our Union.

If you receive a phone call of this nature, record it if possible, and notify your Union office immediately at (416) 977-0684. Such antics are not only disturbing, they violate the law. If these antics continue, we will be willing to take appropriate action.

HOW DO YOU GET YOUR STRIKE PAY?

For those who are picketing, the OPSEU and the local top-up cheques will be delivered on the lines by picket captains on Tuesdays.

THIRSTY OR HUNGRY?

There's fruit, water and snacks available at the Student Lounge doors at both the Casa Loma and St. James campuses.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY MARCH

As key Toronto-area strikers, we've been honoured with a request to participate in this Saturday's International Women's Day celebrations in a couple of ways:

- Have a free full breakfast on Saturday, March 11 at 9:00 at Steelworkers Hall, 25 Cecil St
- Along with Toronto's women hotel workers, take the lead in the IWD March! The IWD Rally starts at 11:00 am at the OISE Auditorium, with the March immediately following at 1:00 pm
- Email digital photos of our picket line ASAP to Allison Dubarry, allison.dubarry@uswa1998.ca so these shots can be included in a slide show at the start of the IWD rally.

So grab a couple of picket line friends and form a group to celebrate the day!

REAL LIFE BUMPER STICKERS

"No sense being pessimistic. It wouldn't work anyway."