

UWOFA

Bargaining Bulletin

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 3

June 3, 2010

Bargaining for a Community of Scholars

Your UWOFA Negotiating Team, led by Chief Negotiator Associate Professor Mike Dawes, is now fully engaged in negotiations to complete a new Collective Agreement. Our current four-year deal expires June 30, 2010. Negotiations will continue through the summer months – and, if necessary, into the fall – in an effort to meet the goals approved by the UWOFA membership.

What is the broader purpose of our negotiations? Collective bargaining is too often reduced to a question of money – a raw calculation of dollars and cents. A fair Compensation and Benefits package is an important component of any collective agreement, but it is only one of 53 articles in our current agreement. The other 52 articles support our shared professional life as a community of scholars.

Better collective agreements mean better quality of education. Better collective agreements support sustainable student-to-faculty ratios in the classroom. Better collective agreements support better faculty recruitment and retention. Better collective agreements protect the idea that scholars (rather than, say, granting councils) should decide what to study and how to teach it. Better collective agreements provide greater levels of transparency and fairness for its members. Better collective agreements support a balanced workload for scholars pursuing excellence in research, teaching and service.

It is people – full-time and part-time professors, teaching assistants, staff, graduate students, undergraduate students – who constitute the university, not the bricks and mortar that surround us. In our current negotiations, it is the community of scholars itself that is at stake.