

Dear colleagues,

Our first Collective Agreement (CA) ends on June 30, 2009, which means that it is now time to prepare for the negotiations of our second CA. UWOFA is hopeful that these preparations will proceed smoothly, since we will be able to draw on the considerable experience and successes of our first Negotiating Team.

Timelines for negotiations indicate that the UWOFA Board will select a Chief Negotiator (CN) no later than March 2008. Within 30 days of being selected, the CN shall propose to the Board a list of nominees for the Negotiating Team (NT). The CN will consult with the L/A Bargaining Unit about the nominees for the NT, including discussion at a General Meeting of the Bargaining Unit.

In addition to forming the NT, we also need to form the Contract Committee (CC). All members of the NT will be members of the CC. By August 2008, the CC will need to develop a list of goals to be achieved in the next round of negotiations. These goals must be approved first by the Board and then by the Membership, before the next step.

Once a goal has been approved, the NT will be responsible for writing the relevant contract language and submitting the contract language to the Board for approval. (Note that this is a change from the last round of negotiations, when the CC was responsible for writing the contract language. This change is intended to lead to efficiency in the back-and-forth process of negotiations when the NT must revise proposals and respond to the Employer's counter-proposals.)

UWOFA will aim to give Notice to Bargain no later than April 1, 2009, so the NT shall aim to have completed all proposals by at least that date.

You may recall that in the fall we voted to recommend that UWOFA's representatives on Joint Committee should pursue discussions with Administration to roll over our current contract for one more year, which would put our negotiations at the same time as faculty negotiations. These discussions have not progressed very far, so we need to prepare for negotiations at the current end date of our CA.

As you can see, we have a lot of work ahead of us! Please consider how you would like to contribute to these preparations, and stay tuned for announcements of our Chief Negotiator and an upcoming General Meeting.

Cheers,
Kristin

Kristin Hoffmann
Research and Instructional Services Librarian
Allyn & Betty Taylor Library
The University of Western Ontario
London, ON N6A 5B7
email/MSN khoffma8@uwo.ca
tel 519.661.2111 x86217
fax 519.661.3435