

# AT A GLANCE

~~Bulletin-Bulletin-Bulletin-Bulletin-Bulletin-Bulletin-Bulletin-Bulletin-Bulletin-Bulletin-Bulletin~~

Negotiations between the UPEI Faculty Association Bargaining Unit # 1 and the University Administration commenced in May. Early meetings between the two bargaining teams focussed on procedures and established the protocols that will shape the process of negotiating our next collective agreement. These were important discussions, as they helped to lay a foundation for the fair exchange of information and encouraged the productive and constructive discussion of positions. Once procedural matters were resolved, both teams tabled the Articles of the Collective Agreement they intend to open for negotiation and indicated new Articles they intend to include. The Faculty Association has indicated that we will open twelve Articles, will seek the inclusion of two Memoranda of Understanding (MOU), and will propose three new Articles. The Association also proposes minor editing (fixing typos) in two additional Articles. The Administration has indicated its intention to open twenty-three Articles (some of which are described as housekeeping measures), seeks the inclusion of three MOUs, and intends to open the schedules of certification. None of the administration's items have been indicated to be monetary. There is overlap, with eight of the existing Articles being mutually opened. In all, twenty-seven Articles of the Collective Agreement will be opened, plus MOUs, and new language. The Teams have agreed to table complete language for **all** proposals on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. It appears to be a hearty table!

Decisions about which Articles to open were made by your Executive, based on information provided by you, the Membership. In surveys conducted in 2009, members of the UPEIFA Bargaining Unit # 1 were invited to identify

priority items for a new contract. Your survey responses were carefully reviewed. The Executive Committee considered your concerns and suggestions as well as problem areas previously identified. The package of bargaining positions was then presented and approved at a General Meeting of the Membership in May. Your priorities have become the objectives your negotiating team seeks to attain at the bargaining table. The package the UPEIFA team will present is focussed, fair and reasonable. It contains no grandiose demands, and its proposals are very much in keeping with standard practice at Canadian universities.

The UPEI Faculty Association – Bargaining Unit # 1 (UPEIFA BU # 1) is comprised of faculty members, librarians, clinical nursing instructors and sessional instructors, and was certified as the official and exclusive bargaining agent for this group in 2001. The elected executive of the UPEIFA has appointed your negotiating team: Wayne Cutcliffe (Chief Negotiator), Sharon Myers, Jim Sentance, and Chris Vessey. The Administration has appointed Michele Dorsey of Human Resource Associates (Chief Negotiator), Peggy Leahey (Spokesperson), Christian Lacroix, Jeff Wichtel, and Virginia Wickstrom. We are quite hopeful that negotiations will be conducted with integrity, and that agreements will be achieved in a timely manner.

Watch for the next issue of the UPEIFA *Negotiations-At-A-Glance Bulletin*!

The Association's *Policy on Decision-Making During the Collective Bargaining Process* can be found on the Useful Links page of the FA website.