

**Collective Bargaining Bulletin #2**  
**24 June 2009**

Formal contract negotiations with the University Administration for an 11th full-time collective agreement began at 10:00 am on June 16<sup>th</sup> at the Fredericton campus. The atmosphere was positive and, while it has taken some time to get the process started, both sides are committed to extended periods of negotiations through the summer.

In April the Collective Bargaining Council identified *fairness* as the “overarching principle” for bargaining, and unanimously approved job security, workload and complement, compensation, and governance and transparency as themes under which a new collective agreement should be negotiated. To this end the AUNBT negotiating team worked through May and early June to identify and refine its approach to bargaining. In no fewer than 120 hours of meetings in Fredericton and Saint John the Team identified and developed articles to be negotiated. The Team also met on several occasions with the Collective Bargaining Committee and had consultations with the Canadian Association of University Teachers.

The inaugural session was preceded by smaller meetings between AUNBT’s chief negotiator Lloyd Waugh and David Clark, chief negotiator for the administration. These informal discussions helped establish ground rules (such as a media blackout) for negotiations and re-affirmed the historically positive nature of AUNBT/administration relations. In addition, in order to provide AUNBT with enough information to develop its compensation proposal, and in keeping with a tradition of “opening of the books,” the AUNBT and administration negotiating teams were given a ‘financial disclosure’ session by Dan Murray, Vice-President Finance and Corporate Services. Although some of the information requested about the University’s finances is still to come, the Team hopes that the new compensation package will be negotiated in a spirit of openness and cooperation.

As was noted in the first Collective Bargaining Bulletin on May 4, to the extent that the economic environment for contract negotiations can be viewed as challenging, it becomes all the more important for members to achieve greater *fairness*, and this is the goal of your negotiating Team. The Collective Bargaining Council will be informed by email if any meetings will be needed during the summer months and, as has been the pattern during previous rounds of collective bargaining, the AUNBT negotiating team will keep you informed with bulletins. While we had hoped that the administration's bargaining team would have been prepared to come to the table considerably earlier, members can take modest encouragement from the fact that the administration team has agreed to meet us on 20 full days prior to the Fall term.

A reminder: the AUNBT negotiating team is led by Lloyd Waugh (Civil Engineering) as chief negotiator, and includes Miriam Jones (Humanities and Languages); Charlene Mayes (Biology); John Neilson (Library); Steven Turner (History); and Rick McGaw (Economics) as chair of the Finance Subcommittee. A list of your Faculty or Departmental representatives on the Collective Bargaining Council is available from the AUNBT office in IUC Science Library, Rm 115, office hours: 7:30 am to 2:30 pm, tel. (506) 453-4661 or fax at (506) 453-3514 or e-mail: [AUNBT@unb.ca](mailto:AUNBT@unb.ca). Note that the current collective agreement continues in effect during negotiations. Finally, note that your PDAs account will be replenished as usual on July 1.