



Dalhousie Faculty Association

Press Release
February 17, 2012

Strong Strike Mandate

Halifax – The Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA) President Anthony Stewart today reported that 83 per cent of the votes were cast in favour of giving the association executive a strike mandate.

“I am pleased that the Membership gave the Executive such a strong strike vote,” says Dr. Stewart. “This should send a message to the Dalhousie Board about the strength of our resolve to get a fair deal.”

Dr. Stewart says he wishes that conciliation talks on Wednesday had been more productive. In fact, the DFA declared the conciliation a failure because of the gap between the two parties.

“We presented a simple proposal with four points we needed to move ahead with a pension deal,” says Stewart. “They replied at 8:30 p.m. with a 34-page legal document and the demand that we strip any mention of pensions from our collective agreement.

“If we did that we would lose any protection our Members have for their pensions,” says Dr. Stewart. “It boggles the mind how Dalhousie’s President can claim Members’ concerns are being in any way addressed.”

Dr. Stewart says while the DFA was offering the Administration a way to earn solvency relief for the pension plan by moving to a JSPP – which will be in \$50 million a year – what the association gets back is a plan to eviscerate Members’ rights.

He questioned if the two sides were really in the same room together, because the Administration is claiming that there was “significant progress” and that non-monetary issues “were resolved.”

“The truth is that the DFA offered to withdraw all non-monetary items if the Administration would withdraw theirs, in order to move onto other substantive issues,” said Dr. Stewart. “This is not resolving issues, and is an excellent illustration of how the Administration is spinning things.”

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