

MAFA NEWSLETTER

Mount Allison Faculty Association

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December 6, 2010

It's been **160** days since the expiration of our two collective agreements...

Reminder of General Meeting

**MAFA General Meeting,
Tuesday, December 7th, 1:30
pm, Avard Dixon G12. All
members are encouraged to
attend!**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This has been an active time at MAFA, as you can read in the items below. Of course it is a busy time for all of us, with classes coming to a close and the exam period about to begin.

I hope we can get a good turnout for the general meeting on the 7th. The general meeting is an open meeting (including honorary members), so we will not be able to talk in detail about what is happening at the bargaining table, as we can in meetings that are closed to all but the active membership. We should, however, still be able to give an idea of where we are. If no agreement is reached before Christmas, we will have a membership meeting devoted to the bargaining situation, probably in early January.

Rick Hudson
President

CONCILIATION BOARD APPOINTED

There was a conference call on Monday, November 29th, of the conciliation board with the parties. Gordon Petrie, Q.C., represented the administration. Rick Hudson and Steve Law represented the union. Board chair Jim Oakley, the two sidespersons (Chris Ferns for the union, and Eric Durnford, Q.C., for management), and the two sides agreed on December 9th and 10th as the first meeting dates.

It is likely that these two dates will be devoted to a mediation attempt. Two other days in mid-January were set aside if needed. Mr. Oakley expressed the intention to finish the work of the Board by the deadline of January 31st, set by the Minister.

MAFA NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

Negotiations are continuing at a rate of about two meetings a week. We have now had over 60 meetings with the Employer representatives. Progress is very slow. Important issues are not being resolved.

CAUT REPORT

Rick Hudson and Steve Law attended the Council of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) from November 26-28. On the 25th, Rick participated in the Parliament Hill Day, going from one New Brunswick MP's office to another's, along with with Roger Ouellette, the Vice-Président (Externe) of ABPPUM, the Université de Moncton union. All three MPs we visited (Yvon Godin, Dominic LeBlanc, and Brian Murphy) were receptive

to our message about the national importance of post-secondary education in the Maritime provinces, at a time of a declining post-secondary age group in our region. Rick and other members of the Board of the Federation of New Brunswick Faculty Associations (Dennis Desroches, Robin Vose, Roger Ouellette, and FNBFA Executive Director Gilles Allain) also had a breakfast meeting in the Parliamentary Restaurant with two New Brunswick MPs, Brian Murphy and Jean-Claude D'Amours.

Council started on the 26th, with a meeting of the National Union of CAUT (NUCAUT) at 8 am. But actual meetings on the floor of Council started only on the afternoon of the 26th. There were, somewhat surprisingly, some very contested debates about CAUT policies and model clauses, and even a roll-call vote. Later, on Saturday the 27th, the Chair of the Women's committee resigned under pressure, and a new chair was elected, after a long discussion about whether it was appropriate to elect an Assistant Dean to the CAUT executive.



During Council, we were able to talk with a number of our colleagues from the region. Linda Mann, the President of the faculty association at The Mount (Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax) was constantly checking her Blackberry to see how their strike vote was going. We were able to see other Nova Scotian reps, including those from Acadia, Saint Mary's, Dalhousie, and Saint-Anne, as well as people from UPEI and MUN. We also got to talk to UNB, Saint Thomas, and ABPPUM representatives on the floor of Council, as well as at the FNBFA lunch on Saturday the 27th, which was also attended by CAUT

Past President, Greg Allain, a former President of ABPPUM.

Council also gave us a chance to confer in person with CAUT personnel who have been very helpful to MAFA, both recently and in the past. Besides the Mount Saint Vincent case, our negotiation is one of the more worrisome going on in the country, now that Carleton University has settled. The MAFA representatives were able to talk with Brian Brown, President of the CAUT Defence Fund, and Peter Simpson, the Defence Fund's secretary.

ARBITRATION ON RON JOYCE CENTRE DIRECTOR IS HEARD

The long-awaited arbitration on MAFA's grievance about whether the person hired as the director of the RJCBS is in the union or excluded was finally held on December 1st in Moncton. Arbitrator Bruce Outhouse led a 3-person arbitration panel in hearing the case. We expect the panel will announce its decision in due course.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS, 2010-11

Please mark these dates on your calendar:

- Fall General Meeting**, Tuesday, December 7th, 1:30 pm, Avard Dixon G12
- Spring Annual General Meeting**, Friday, April 8th, 3 pm, Avard Dixon G12
- Retiring Members' Party**, Friday, April 8th, 4:30 pm, University Club

MAFA 2010-2011 EXECUTIVE

- Richard Hudson - President (Commerce)**
- Gina Grandy - Vice-President (Commerce)**
- Peter Brown - Past President (English)**
- Robert Rosebrugh - Treasurer (Math and CS)**
- Jeff Lilburn - Collective Bargaining (Library)**
- Loralea Michaelis - Grievance (Political Science)**
- San Patten - Unit 2 (Continuous Learning)**
- David Thomas - Membership (Political Science/ International Relations)**