

MAFA NEWSLETTER

Mount Allison Faculty Association

email: mafa@mta.ca, Room G2, Centennial Hall Tel: 364-2289 Fax: 364-2288
E-mail: mafa@mta.ca Web: www.mafa.ca

March 11, 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It has been a long time since the last MAFA “white” newsletter, although we have had several “blue” newsletters and a couple of membership meetings, where I have reported to the members.

The main issue we have been dealing with this year has been the negotiations. These have been long and difficult, but have now reached a successful conclusion, and the membership has voted to ratify the agreements. The new agreements will be officially signed and will come into effect as early as next week.

I want to thank our negotiation team – Steve Law, Anita Cannon, Rob Cupido, Andrew Irwin, Juan Carlos Martínez, Geoff Martin, Renata Schellenberg – for all the work they have done, with close to 70 meetings with the other side, and the three months of the Conciliation Board process.

Rick Hudson
President

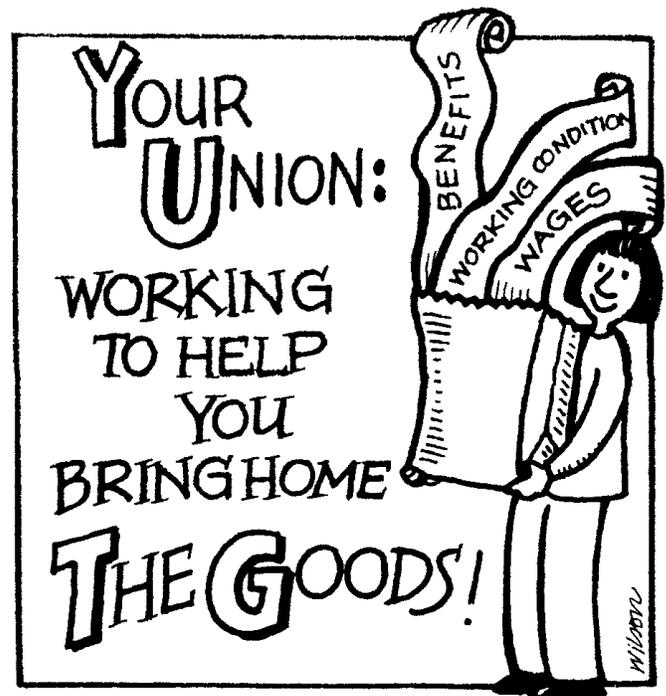
STRONG MAJORITIES VOTE TO RATIFY NEW COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS

Members of the Mount Allison Faculty Association have voted overwhelmingly to ratify new collective agreements, after a nine-month bargaining process: 92% of the full-time unit and 93% of the part-time unit voted in favour of ratification.

The vote took place over two full days of voting,

ending March 7th. The contracts for both full-time faculty and librarians and part-time faculty run for three years, retroactive to July 1, 2010.

MAFA President Richard Hudson expressed pleasure at the decision of the membership to ratify the agreements. Hudson said: “We achieved important improvements to the agreements, particularly with respect to working conditions for the full-time faculty and librarians, and to both salaries and working conditions for our part-time members. Although the agreement will see full-time salaries fall further behind those of UNB and other New Brunswick universities, we decided to put off addressing the issue of parity to the next round of



negotiations, two years from now.”

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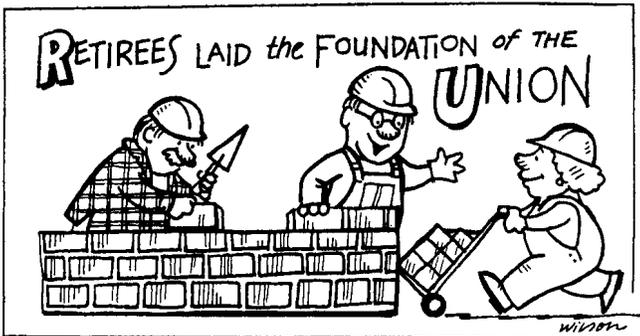
The vote arises from tentative agreements reached on February 16, 2011. Previously, the MAFA membership had voted to reject a report produced by a government-imposed Conciliation Board.

Mount Allison's Board of Regents ratified the agreements on Friday, March 11th.

The Employer has stated that they are aiming to provide retroactive pay and make other adjustments by March 31, 2011.

MAFA WILL HONOUR THREE MEMBERS AT RETIRING MEMBERS' PARTY IN APRIL

Three long-serving members of the academic staff will be honoured at MAFA's Retiring Members' Party on Friday, April 8th at 4:30 pm in the University Club.



Belinda Code (Music) and Rhianna Edwards (Library and Archives) will be retiring from the university, and Berkeley Fleming will serve next year as Vice-President (Academic and Research).

As always there will be lots of refreshments at this event, which is a good way to bid adieu to the teaching term. All members and friends of the honorees are invited to attend.

FNBFA REPORT

The FNBFA Board met in Fredericton on February 4

On the 4th, the Prix Nicole Raymond Prize was awarded to Miriam Jones of UNB Saint John. Professor Jones originated the blog "Living in Interesting Times" which discusses postsecondary education issues in the New Brunswick context. David Bell, former President of the Association of University of New Brunswick Teachers (AUNBT) introduced Professor Jones.

Postsecondary Education, Labour, and Training (PETL) minister the Hon. Martine Couombe spoke at the meeting. Rick was able to talk to the Minister, and they discussed the use of Conciliation Boards. The Minister stated her belief in free collective bargaining, and said that was the reason for the deadline placed on our Conciliation Board. Dennis Desroches, President of the FNBFA, had met with the Minister before she named the Conciliation Board, and had expressed faculty's disagreement with the use of these Boards.

At the Board meeting on February 5th, MAFA was represented by our Vice President, Gina Grandy. The Board discussed issues involved in the restructuring currently going on at the FNBFA. The Federation has been particularly active this year, with the provincial election and with the imposition of conciliation boards. Currently the FNBFA is adopting a series of new policies, and is reviewing its priorities. Some bylaw changes will be proposed at the AGM this spring.

Part of the review of priorities concerns the position of Executive Director of the Federation. At the meeting, the Board voted to not renew the contract of Executive Director Gilles Allain. Mr. Allain finished work at the Federation in mid-February. The FNBFA Executive is now working on redefining the position and searching for a new Executive Director. The Executive is composed of President Dennis Desroches (St. Thomas), VP Michèle Caron (Moncton), Secretary/Treasurer Jean Sauvageau (St. Thomas), and Past President Rick Hudson.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS, 2011-12 EXECUTIVE

Members in good standing are encouraged to consider offering for the 2011-12 Executive.

If you want more information, please contact Peter

Brown (pbrown@mta.ca), Ivan Cohen (icohen@mta.ca) or Renata Schellenberg (rschelle@mta.ca), who comprise the Nominating Committee.

PART-TIME RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY STIPEND AWARDED

Congratulations to Prof. Brooke Dufton, a part-time member in Music, who has won a part-time stipend for Research and Creative Activity for her project entitled “Canadian Women’s Art Song in Performance and Pedagogy.”

The stipend is worth \$5508 (2010-11 rate) and is designed to provide salary support to enable part-time members to engage in research and creative activity. She was one of ten applicants for the award.

“We should all be really pleased with amount of high-quality research and creative activity being done by part-time members,” said MAFA President Rick Hudson.

The next competition will be in Fall 2011. Three such awards will be available and all part-time members teaching in the 2011-12 academic year are encouraged to apply.

STAKEHOLDER MEETING WITH THE MINISTER OF PETL

MAFA President Rick Hudson attended a stakeholder meeting on postsecondary education with about 50 other people in Fredericton on February 4. The meeting was called by Postsecondary Education, Training and Labour (PETL) Minister, the Hon. Martine Coullombe. Rick attended as MAFA President. David Stewart, VP Administration, represented the Mount Allison administration.

The Presidents of UNB (Eddy Campbell) and Saint Thomas (Dennis Cochrane) represented their universities. The Université de Moncton was represented by two Vice-Recteurs. Sam Greg-Wallace from Mount Allison was one of a fairly small number of student representatives. The other faculty associations were represented, and FNBFA President Dennis Desroches was also present.

Government officials went over the state of the province and the Minister answered questions in a session that lasted around two hours.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS, 2010-11

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)**