



November 6, 2012

A Potential Strike by Academic Workers at StFX? Frequently Asked Questions for Students

Nobody wants a strike to happen and negotiations are continuing at this time. Below are a set of answers to many of the questions you may have.

*Remember: The administration does not 'own' the university.
Students, librarians, staff, and faculty: We are the university!*

Who does the StFXAUT represent?

Our union represents more than 400 StFX academic workers: full-time, part-time and contract faculty, librarians and archivists, nurse educators, lab instructors, Coady teaching staff, Extension staff, and academic skills instructors at the Writing Centre.

Will there be a strike?

We have been negotiating for nearly five months now without any sign that the administration is interested in serious bargaining. A strike is the last option for the union. But before that happens, we will seek the help of a conciliator appointed by the provincial government. If conciliation fails, the StFXAUT is prepared to strike for a reasonable contract.

What would a potential strike be about? What are the issues?

The administration has rejected or refused to discuss most union proposals to protect the Academic Mission at StFX and to improve the jobs and conditions of our members. Instead the administration has proposed changes that would weaken academic freedom and job security and increased administrative control over teaching and research.

How would the administration's proposed changes affect students?

Job security and academic freedom are vital to high quality, innovative teaching and research. If working conditions continue to deteriorate at StFX, it will be increasingly difficult to recruit and retain the high quality academic employees that make an excellent teaching and research possible. The quality of your education is at stake.

What is the StFXAUT fighting for?

The StFXAUT is fighting to defend the Academic Mission of StFX, to protect the jobs and improve the work conditions of our members, and for quality education for students.

How would a strike affect me?

Classes will be cancelled in the event of a strike. While the StFXAUT regrets any disruption in your academic year, we are determined to defend academic workers and the quality of education at StFX in the long-term.

What will a strike involve?

You will see pickets at University entrances. These pickets will not prevent your access to the university grounds. Please feel free to stop and chat with our members on the picket lines. If you want, you can even join us!

How long will it last?

The length of a strike depends on progress at the negotiating table, and the willingness of the administration to actually bargain.

Who makes the decision about my exams and academic year?

All issues to do with academic accommodation for missed classes and exams are decided by the administration. Please contact them directly.

Is there anything I can do?

Write to Vice President Finance and Operations Ramsay Duff (rduff@stfx.ca) and to Chair of the Board of Governors Frank McKenna (c/o BoG, StFX University, Antigonish, NS, B2G 2W5) and ask them:

Why is the administration refusing to bargain seriously with the StFXAUT?

Where can I get more information?

Check out the Bargaining Bulletins and FAQ's at StFXAUT's website <http://stfxaut.ca/>
Facebook page: St. Francis Xavier Association of University Teachers
Twitter feed: StFXAUT