
BARGAINING BULLETIN



Following seven days of formal negotiations, proceeded by considerable preparation of draft contract language by the AUT Negotiating Team, that drew on both the online survey and individual department/program-level consultations, we can provide an update of the present situation.

The University administration is advancing non-monetary proposals which are of interest for Members. A form of post-tenure review has been tabled but the Negotiating Team has stated this is unacceptable in any form as it would undermine tenets of academic freedom and subject Members to recurrent performance evaluations.

The University administration has reaffirmed its intention to proceed with course scheduling software (Infosilem). The AUT countered that use of such software places limitations on the ability of Chairs, Coordinators and Directors (CCDs) to implement a range of teaching assignment accommodations. This managerial initiative poses a considerable challenge to individual Members attempting to adjust professional and personal obligations to achieve a satisfactory work/life balance.

Teaching stream proposals have been tabled by the University. Our Member survey indicated considerable reticence for adopting bifurcated instructional paths and any discussion on this matter will be carefully reviewed by the Negotiating Team.

Student opinion (course) surveys are under review.

The AUT maintains that due to the inherent equity and methodological limitations of these questionnaires they should not be used in the summative evaluation of Members.

The accelerating use of generative AI, and the implications for copyright, intellectual property (IP), and privacy/confidentiality issues, has been raised by the AUT. The adoption of a broad range of educational technology (EdTech) must be thoroughly assessed. We are informed by the recent CAUT Policy Statement on Generative Artificial Intelligence, <https://www.caut.ca/policy-statements/generative-artificial-intelligence-ai/>.

The Negotiating Team is assessing instances where new contractual language may diminish Members' opportunities to participate effectively in important governance decisions affecting our professional working environment.

Non-monetary matters concerning Laboratory Instructors, Nurse Educators, Part-Time Academic Instructors, Coady Program Teaching Staff, Learning Skills Instructors, Librarians and Archivist, and Dietetic Educators are in active negotiations to resolve workplace concerns of the diverse range of AUT membership.

Issues with monetary or compensation implications (e.g., salary, benefits, research, professional expense, and travel grants) will be addressed at forthcoming negotiation dates.