

Collective Agreement Expiry: June 30, 2018

Our Collective Agreement with the MSVU Board of Governors expires June 30, 2018, and we will be in a position to give notice to negotiate no later than April 2018. This update is the third in a series of communiqués prepared by your MSVUFA Bargaining Team and MSVUFA Communications Committee to ensure that you have the information about the negotiation process. The members of the Bargaining Team for this round are Geneviève Boulet (Chief Negotiator), Reina Green, James Sawler, Anthony Yue, and Diane Piccitto.

The Public's Support of Post-Secondary Education and Faculty

The latest Post-Secondary Education (PSE) Poll of 800 Nova Scotians provides a picture of the current climate of public opinion that frames our 2018 negotiations. The poll highlights that members of the public have serious concerns about affordability and accessibility of PSE with 88% expressing support for reducing tuition fees and a willingness to pay higher taxes. Of those polled, almost 70% noted that they trusted faculty and staff significantly more than they do administration and government to develop PSE standards and over 80% thought that faculty, staff, and students should have a major role in institutional governance. To see the full report, [click here](#).

Setting the Mandate

We are quickly approaching the end of the preliminary stages of the bargaining process, with two more bargaining preparation meetings planned (March 16 and April 10). Since last spring, the membership has been canvassed during meetings held by the Contract Committee, an open committee chaired by MSVUFA Vice President Jeff MacLeod, and, more recently, at meetings that have been taking place prior to the MSVUFA General Meetings. In addition, the Bargaining Team has introduced a series of weekly polls as another way to receive feedback from the membership with questions formulated in light of pre-meeting discussions or informed by concerns raised by individual members. Thus far, topics have covered Professional Expense Reimbursement (Article 39), Workload (Articles 23, 24, 49), and Retirement Incentives and Partial Retirement Programs (Article 47). We now arrive at the important moment of setting the mandate, the key objectives with which we will enter bargaining. The MSVUFA Executive will propose the mandate at the upcoming March General Meeting, where MSVUFA members will be called upon to vote on it.

When Is the Next Bargaining Preparation Meeting?

WHAT: Article 47 – Retirement Incentives and Partial Retirement Programs

WHERE: Faculty Lounge Seton 404-405

WHEN: Friday, March 16, 2:00-3:00pm

Importance of Face-to-Face Meetings and Attendance

For confidentiality purposes, it is best that detailed discussions about negotiating issues be done in face-to-face meetings with the membership (such as the ones noted above), rather than by email; therefore, it is important to attend and participate in these meetings, especially the General Meeting on March 16 (beginning at 3:05pm) where members will vote on the mandate.

MSVUFA Website and Collective Agreement Location

Visit the MSVUFA website (www.msvufa.ca) for information and resources. You can access an electronic copy of the current [Collective Agreement \(July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2018\)](#) there, as well as viewing previous agreements.

Who to Contact with Questions or Input

If you have a general aspect of the bargaining process that you would like addressed in a future update, please contact the Chair of the MSVUFA Communications Committee, Alla Kushniryk (Alla.Kushniryk@msvu.ca).

If you have a specific question or concern about negotiations or about an item in the Collective Agreement, please feel free to contact me by email to arrange a meeting or a telephone conversation. You may also send me your concerns anonymously in a sealed envelope through internal mail.

En toute solidarité/In solidarity,

Geneviève Boulet, PhD

MSVUFA Chief Negotiator

<http://www.msvufa.ca/bargaining/>