

OCUFA

Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations
Union des Associations des Professeurs des Universités de l'Ontario

August 17 2010

Sent by e-mail to: roger.strasser@normed.ca

Dear Dean Strasser:

On behalf of the more than 16,000 professors and librarians employed by Ontario's universities, I write today to demand that the Northern Ontario School of Medicine administration return to the bargaining table and conclude a first contract with OPSEU Local 677 expeditiously.

The support staff at NOSM have worked diligently to conclude a first contract with you in order to ensure that the students were not affected by a labour dispute. The union has presented you with a reasonable package, consistent with industry standards in our sector and past practice in your own institution. And yet the NOSM administration has chosen to delay negotiations and put the students' year in jeopardy.

Faculty and staff in Ontario universities understand that these are challenging times in the province and for our institutions. However, the challenges facing the post-secondary sector at this time of rising enrolments and insufficient funding from the government cannot be solved by refusing to agree to a basic package of employment standards and rights that are available to other workers in this sector. Employee compensation is not the cause of the current challenges, and we do not accept that restraint on the part of your support staff will solve them.

We will not allow any employers in the university sector to hide behind the cover of externally proposed restraints to avoid their responsibilities to bargain in good faith to conclude an agreement, an obligation that still exists in this province. Our members are resolved to support collective bargaining on all university campuses to protect the interests of workers in our sector, the students we serve, and our communities.

A new school year is almost upon us, and time is of the essence. Please return to the bargaining table today and conclude a fair agreement with your support staff.

Yours Sincerely,



Mark Langer
President