
BUFA Bargaining Bulletin #1 - March 31, 2020

The University Administration has communicated to BUFA that it plans to proceed with bargaining a renewed collective agreement. In order to meet its legal requirement under the Ontario Labour Relations Act, BUFA will officially file a notice to bargain to the Administration on April 1, 2020 in advance of the expiry of our collective agreement on June 30, 2020.

We recognize that for some members negotiating a new contract will be viewed as a distraction in a time when we are collectively focused on flattening the curve in relation to COVID-19. However, it is important that the work of our Association continue, even if the way we operate in the short to medium-term is modified given the circumstances. This will be an unprecedented round of collective bargaining given public health requirements around physical distancing.

The parties intend to meet in mid-April to negotiate a bargaining protocol. We fully expect negotiations will take place using videoconferencing technology. We recognize and appreciate that the situation will require flexibility from both parties.

Our first formal bargaining session with the Administration's team has not yet been scheduled, but we expect it to be held close to the end of April. At that meeting we expect to table a set of non-monetary proposals based on the bargaining mandate approved by faculty and professional librarians at our December 2019 General Membership Meeting.

As always, we are committed to working cooperatively with the Administration to negotiate a new contract that helps secure Brock's future. The key priorities in this round of collective bargaining are preserving educational quality, expanding research capacity, defending collegial governance, negotiating scheduling flexibility, and promoting Indigenization and decolonization.

Throughout the process, we will be keeping members informed with regular email updates.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

In Solidarity,

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