



January 19, 2006

To Loyalist College Students:

Many of you will be aware of the current provincial negotiations between college faculty and management to reach a new contract. You probably have questions about whether the negotiations could affect your academic year, so I thought it best to write directly to you.

You may be wondering if there is the possibility of a strike. It is a fact that a strike is a possibility during any labour negotiation. We do not want a strike, because a strike would be harmful to students. Therefore, we will do everything we can to avoid one.

We still have time for negotiations and I hope that a settlement can be achieved. Our provincial management bargaining team will work with the faculty union bargaining team in an attempt to achieve a satisfactory contract that respects faculty members' important contributions, creates innovative solutions and allows us to use our limited resources as effectively as possible.

At the same time, the college will have to begin to prepare for the possibility of a strike. Again, we would prefer not to be making strike preparations, but in order to protect your best interests we have to do everything possible to minimize a potential disruption.

In an effort to reach an immediate settlement, management is offering 12.6% over four years that moves the new maximum salary to \$94,277. In addition, two-step coordinators will have their maximum salary moved to \$99,303. We believe that this offer demonstrates that one of our top priorities is to compensate our faculty fairly so that we can recruit and retain the best people to teach and support our students. This offer is consistent with the settlement reached with the support staff and with other public sector settlements.

These negotiations directly affect you, so you should ask questions, seek answers, and voice your opinion; and I hope that you will do just that. You will find information related to the current round of bargaining posted at both www.TheCouncil.on.ca, and www.opseu.org/caat/colleges.htm.

Please understand that we are committed to negotiating a settlement which ensures that:

- our students receive the highest quality of education possible,
- our faculty members are compensated fairly, and
- our colleges continue to deliver strong programs.

I hope that when the parties return to the bargaining table they will make a concerted effort to resolve all outstanding issues. I will attempt to keep you informed of developments as they arise.

Maureen Piercy
PRESIDENT