

SCFA Emergency General Meeting

2005 01 27 – 4:00

Present: 26 members (including 6 executive members)

Tracy Punchard explained the purpose of the meeting: to vote on a motion proposed by the SCFA executive **that in the event of an impasse at the bargaining table, a strike vote be conducted**. As an executive motion, this does not require a seconder. Speakers were asked to introduce themselves and state whether they were speaking for or against the motion.

Background to this motion was presented. The progress of bargaining has been slow. Many issues are still unresolved; the sides are far apart. Other colleges are in the same situation, and are taking similar action. The motion is aimed mainly at the provincial bargaining table, but it does have implications at the local table.

There was a question about the time frame of this vote. If it passes, what is our commitment? Bev Onischak explained the current bargaining situation. Common table sessions are scheduled up to February 11. Local table sessions are scheduled for February 16, 18, 19 and 21. If these sessions result in an impasse, the strike vote could be taken. If the strike vote passes, the union could serve strike notice, and a strike could be called any time between 72 hours and 90 days.

There was discussion about the strategic aspects of this vote, and whether it is a standard practice. It was described as a “weapon in the arsenal”. This is not a drastic step, but it does have important consequences.

Speakers in favour of the motion pointed out that it does empower the bargaining people, that it might make bargaining proceed a little more seriously, and that it's important to support our bargainers.

[It was also noted that the time of this meeting was not convenient for some departments who work until 5:00.]

Tracy reported that she had met with the Student Association to explain the situation. The students were very supportive. They are impressed with the current quality of instruction at Selkirk College, and were concerned about maintaining this quality.

In response to a question, Tracy indicated that if this motion passes, in the event of an impasse in bargaining, there will be another vote - with full notice, by secret ballot.

Vote on the motion.

Carried (97% in favour).

Adjournment: **M/S Monica Vogler/Janet Mayr** (approx. 4:30 pm) **Carried.**