



**Graduate Students' Association**  
**Association des étudiant(e)s aux études supérieures**

Local 110 Canadian Federation of Students  
Section 110 Fédération canadienne des étudiantes et étudiants  
Strength In Numbers | L'union fait la force

To: Dominic Giroux, Board of Governors  
Cc: LUSU, LUFA, LAMPS, SGA, AEF

28 July 2009

Dear Mr. Grioux and Esteemed Members of the Board,

We were troubled by the recent news that the University bargaining committee decided to walk away from the table during negotiations with the Laurentian University Staff Union (LUSU). The members of LUSU are the people responsible for Laurentian's day-to-day functioning, they make Laurentian the exciting, vibrant and warm community that it is. They have and continue to show, through difficult economic times, a deep commitment to Laurentian's continued success and that of its students. This level of commitment can only be achieved by workers who feel a sense of pride for their work, are fairly compensated, who have a reasonable sense of job security, who have safe working conditions and who feel that their work is valued and appreciated by their employer. Sadly, this has been undermined by the recent behaviour of Laurentian management. While gaining *flexibility* in labour may seem like a wise immediate move from a budgetary standpoint, it will ultimately cost Laurentian in lost institutional memory throughout departments, reductions in efficiency with higher staff turnover and a loss of our valued student-friendly environment. These are hardly sound actions for an administration bent on increasing student enrolment and retention.

Students will not tolerate a labour disruption, especially not members of the GSA|AEES who are forced to pay tuition fees year-round. Also, since LUSU has been bargaining in good faith we must assume that LUSU members would prefer to work rather than strike. As such we will place all responsibility for a disruption squarely on Laurentian management, and you individually for presiding over these shameful actions of the bargaining committee. We will use every legal mechanism at our disposal to ensure that not only all of our members, but all Laurentian students, are financially compensated for lost tuition fees and potential career delays resulting from any such labour disruption.



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We understand the need for the University to cut costs. However, you can only trim fat where a surplus of fat exists. The members of LUSU are simply asking for a fair contract, one that respects their rights as workers and ensures adequate and safe working conditions. Laurentian University and the City of Sudbury owe a great debt to the labour movement. It would be a great shame to see Laurentian trample on the difficult victories won by our parents, grandparents and great-grandparents with great toil and conviction for worker's rights.

Please instruct your bargaining committee to continue to negotiate in good faith. We are confident that with all sides working together and with your leadership a fair agreement can be achieved that will satisfy the both needs of LUSU members and Laurentian's current budgetary concerns.

Bryce Mulligan, President

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