



SIAST

SASKATCHEWAN INSTITUTE OF
APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

MEDIA RELEASE

Editors: See Backgrounder for additional details.

SIAST wants SGEU to let employees vote

Meeting the needs of students is SIAST's top priority

January 28, 2011 – More than a year and a half after collective bargaining agreements expired, and after months of negotiations that included conciliation and mediation, SIAST believes that the Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union (SGEU) should take SIAST's final offer to members for a vote.

SIAST tabled a final offer on January 19, when it became clear that no real progress was being made in mediation, and the SGEU bargaining teams were not available for further meetings until after March 6.

"Meeting the needs of students is a top SIAST priority" said Gary Earles, SIAST associate vice president, human resources. "With their interests in mind, we're hoping that the union will give employees the opportunity to vote on our offer."

SIAST negotiators tabled a competitive final offer with its two SGEU bargaining units that included wage increases of 5.5% over three years. When the union failed to agree to take the offer to its members, SIAST informed employees of the offer, as it is legally entitled to do.

Under the terms of the offer, SIAST employees are entitled to retroactive pay from July 1, 2009, to February 18, 2011, but no further retroactive pay would accrue after February 18, 2011.

Students can check www.campusupdate.ca or phone 1-866-878-8913 (Regina – 798-4500) for updates.

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Information about SIAST can be found at www.goSIAST.com.

CONTRACT TALKS BACKGROUNDER

January 28, 2011

SIAS's unionized employees are represented by the Professional Services bargaining unit (566 full-time equivalents – FTEs) and by the Academic bargaining unit (1,084 FTEs) of the Saskatchewan General Government Employees' Union (SGEU). Their most recent collective agreements expired in June 2009.

SIAS and SGEU met for four days of voluntary mediation with a mutually-agreed-upon mediator in January. When SIAS presented a final offer, SGEU terminated mediation.

The latest offers proposed by the Academic and Professional Services bargaining units would result in increased costs to SIAS of approximately 14.5% and almost 12% respectively. The final offer made by SIAS – 5.5% over three years – would result in increased costs to SIAS of \$6 million, compared with \$15 million for the union's proposals.

SIAS is providing bargaining updates and information on www.campusupdate.ca. SIAS also records updates on its emergency message line – 1-866-878-8913 (Regina – 798-4500).

SIAS is Saskatchewan's primary public institution for post-secondary technical education and skills training, recognized nationally and internationally for its expertise and innovation. More than 15,000 students were enrolled in SIAS programs in the most recent academic year; additionally, the organization drew almost 25,000 individual course registrations. Through program and course registrations, SIAS served almost 26,000 distinct students with programs that touch every sector of the economy. SIAS operates campuses in Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Regina and Saskatoon, and provides a number of courses and programs through distance education.