

Memo

To: NSCAD Community

From: President Dianne Taylor-Gearing

Date: January 17, 2019

Re: **Update on Labour Negotiations**

The Board of Governors of the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (NSCAD) and the Faculty Union of the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (FUNSCAD) began negotiating a new collective agreement early last fall. Discussions have been challenging, but respectful, and both parties have worked hard to find common ground on a wide variety of issues.

In December, we reached an impasse with Unit 1, which represents faculty and instructors, and the Union filed for conciliation to help the parties settle a number of outstanding issues. This is a common occurrence in collective bargaining in order to help parties resolve their differences. Conciliation sessions are scheduled for January 28, and 30, 2019.

We are proud of NSCAD's high level of academic excellence and student experience and we need to continue to position ourselves as a globally competitive university. However, our budget must be affordable and sustainable over time –and allow us to invest in priorities that will ensure our continued viability. These priorities include increasing student enrollment and undertaking a fundraising campaign to replace our aging infrastructure, much of which is currently inaccessible.

The Board of Governors is committed to reaching a collective agreement that is fair to our employees and ensures the University is sustainable. We are hopeful that the provincially appointed conciliator will help both parties successfully conclude a collective agreement and avoid any disruption to students.

If you have any questions, please contact: Dr. Ann-Barbara Graff at abgraff@nscad.ca or myself at president@nscad.ca.

Sincere regards,



Prof. Dianne Taylor-Gearing, FRSA
President, NSCAD University