

Mount Allison Faculty Association

Media Release

For Immediate Release

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Mount Allison Faculty Association sets strike deadline for this Monday

(Sackville, NB) –The Mount Allison Faculty Association (MAFA) has announced that it has set a strike deadline for 12:01 am, Monday, February 3rd, unless new collective agreements are reached by that time. As of today, this strike deadline applies only to the full-time unit of faculty and librarians at Mount Allison.

“The Employer has raised objections regarding the list of part-time voters that MAFA used in the strike vote. In an effort to avoid a time-consuming and costly legal battle, MAFA has decided to hold another part-time strike vote taking into account the criteria for voter eligibility requested by the employer,” says MAFA President Matt Litvak. Part-time faculty members are hired to teach on a course-by-course basis, and their contracts are for 4.5 months or in some cases of even shorter duration. They do the same work in the classroom as full-time members. Many of our part-time members are underpaid, struggling to earn a living wage. Issues of part-time employment rights and compensation have been critically important to MAFA in this round of bargaining, Litvak says.

The main issues under negotiation in this round include resources to support the academic mission of the university, faculty and librarian staffing, workload, equity and human rights – including non-discriminatory workplace accommodation for persons with disabilities – and compensation, benefits and job security for full-time and part-time members.

Full-time and part-time faculty and librarians have been working without a contract since July 1, 2019. Negotiations began in June; conciliation began in August with a provincially appointed Conciliation Officer and concluded in November. The two sides have been talking since December with the assistance of a provincially appointed mediator.

MAFA’s full-time unit has close to 150 members and MAFA also has a part-time unit of over fifty members that teaches on a per-course basis.

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