TAs back on job at UofT

by Philip Lee-Shanok the newspaper

University of Toronto's 2,500 striking tutorial assistants were walking back on the job as of Monday, March 18.

The TAs, represented by Canadian Union of Educational Workers Local 2, voted the previous Sunday to accept a proposed settlement with the university which ended the 16 day old strike.

There was movement on the major issues by the administration said Vanessa Kelly, chair of the TAs union. While there were some gains, "we were disppointed in other areas," she said.

David Cook, vice-provost of Staff Functions, said he was "pleased" with the outcome.

"It's their settlement as much as ours." Cook said.

The settlement was the outcome of a marathon 22 hour bargaining session which ended at 7a.m. Thursday morning. CUEW 2 held a meeting of its membership, followed by a ratification vote, on Sunday.

The CUEW 2 bargaining committee recommended that its membership accept the package.

According to Kelly, 697 of the 823 members that voted agreed to accept the settlement. There were 118 "no" votes and eight spoiled ballots.

Kelly agreed that the settlement was a good one, with major gains in the areas of overwork and job

The TAs proposed workload study committee will look at class size and job descriptions and generally review TA workload over the last three years. The committee will then make recommendations for specific changes.

TAs have also gained an additional year of job security for PhD students, giving them a total of three years guaranteed employment as a

Kelly said that the university had

also accepted the right of TAs to benefits such as a dental plan and maternity and sick leave. Grievance procedures and hiring criteria will also be improved.

CUEW 2 had been asking for wage increases of eight and seven per cent over the next two years. The administration offered six and four. The final package gives the TAs six and four and a half over two years.

After the acceptance of the pack-

age, Kelly said that there should be no change to the university's grading policy, although it may not be possible to catch up on some work.

Cook agreed, saying that adjustments may not be necessary, but, in some cases, changes in scale may be required.

"The bottom line is to get the undergraduate program back underway and finish the year," he

Strike could have been avoided

by Katy Clarke

The Newspaper

University of Toronto teaching assistant Nicole Petrin, believes the teaching assistant strike could have been avoided.

She also claims the teaching assistant's rights were breached as not all of the members of the Canadian Union of Educational Workers Local 2 bargaining unit voted on the university's final offer.

Last Monday, Petrin filed a grievance against the union with the Ontario Labour Relations Board.

According to Petrin, only about 300 of the 2,400 teaching assistant attended the meeting on Feb. 25 when the members rejected the university's final offer. Petrin believes the outcome of the meeting might have been different if all the members had been present.

"A lot of the TA's would have been satisfied with the university's final offer of six per cent and four per cent [wage increase over two years]," Petrin said. "It is better than the other unions are being offered."

Petrin pointed out that under the Labour Relations Act section 72 (v) all members of the bargaining unit have a right to vote on the university's final offer.

"It is part of the Labour Relations Act that we have the right to ratify the final offer made by the employer," Petrin said.

All of the teaching assistants are members of the bargaining unit but only those who sign a card are members of the union.

The bargaining unit has the right to ratify the offer made by the employer but TA's who are not union members do not have the right to get involved in the union's economic management.

Petrin said "only members of the union were present at the meeting but every TA should have voted."

President of CUEW, Local 2, Vanessa Kelly claims that the university never presented the final

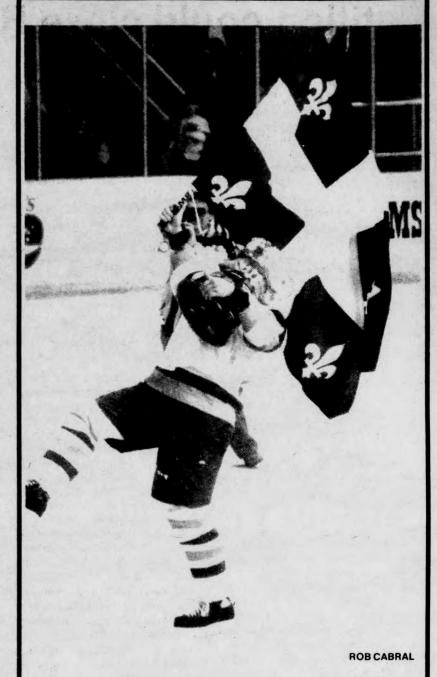
"The university refused to move from its position and that is when negotiations broke down."

At the meeting on Feb. 25, a motion was made that the membership reaffirm the strike mandate given in November.

Kelly said no final offer was presented as negotiations were still going on and a meeting was scheduled for the following day.

According to Kelly, all bargaining unit members were notified about the meeting through home mailing and they could participate if they signed a union card.

Everyone knew about the meeting and it was clear what the discussion was going to be, Kelly said.



Enfin la victoire

A Trois Rivières Patriote whoops it up with the fleur-de-lis after the Pats thumped Alberta 7-2 for the CIAU title last Sunday at Varsity Arena. For more coverage see p.25.



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