

U of S faculty vote to reject contract

SASKATOON (CUP) — Members of the University of Saskatchewan faculty association voted overwhelmingly to reject a contract offer from the university, a faculty spokesperson announced Jan. 15.

Peter Millard, chair of the job action task force, says members voted to return to the bargaining table and to go to arbitration if necessary.

The 942 professors, assistant professors and lecturers who comprise the faculty association have been without a contract since June.

Four hundred members of the association participated in a day-long "study session" Jan. 16, which resulted in a number of cancelled classes. Classes taught by sessional lecturers, who are not members of the association, were not disrupted.

The work stoppage seemed to arouse little interest among students, and the students' union has announced it is officially neutral on the dispute.

Millard said the action was "symptomatic of a general kind of uneasiness and dissatisfaction about the way the university is run."

"The mood of the faculty members is aggressive," he said.

The association has already approved two kinds of protest. One calls for all members to exercise their right to inspect their personal files held by the deans of each faculty.

"The idea (is) for everybody to ask for these at once in order to clog up the deans' offices," said Millard.

The second possible action is a two-day study session, "probably

on Feb. 4 and 5".

If the university lags in negotiations, Millard said the membership may also consider a five-day strike.

"We are not so much asking for a

salary increase, but a decrease in our losses," he said. Faculty at the university have had salary increases below inflation for each of the past 16 years with the exception of 1980.

Millard said the association and the university came "pretty close" to an agreement but that the association had sacrificed enough.

"We gave the negotiating team a

mandate to settle for a 3.7 per cent increase and now we're down to 3.1. The difference is not much in actual figures, but it means a hell of a lot in principle."



State of the (old) Arts...

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Interested persons should direct inquiries and letter of intention to:

Dean Bennett
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