

Laurentian staff work to rule

SUDBURY(CUP)—Laurentian University staff began a work-to-rule campaign just before the start of classes in a bid to reach an agreement with campus administration.

Laurentian's staff association, representing 170 clerical, technical,

secretarial, computer, administrative and other employees has been in a legal strike position since Sept. 1. Its contract expired June 30.

Negotiations between the university and union reached an impasse during the labour day weekend. Many outstanding issues remain unresolved.

The university last offered a 1.8 per cent increase in wages, or an average of 18 cents per hour. But the union wants an increase equivalent to the cost of living increase over the past year—about five per cent.

Despite the university's growing deficit, the union thinks the university is financially capable of handling its proposal. Laurentian

received a 9.4 per cent increase in grants from the Ontario ministry of education last year.

And more students than ever have enrolled at Laurentian, which will likely boost revenues.

An information bulletin circulated by the union describes the university's contract offer as "not only unrealistic and unreasonable, but certainly undemocratic."

To assist students who live on campus and may get caught in the

dispute, the Laurentian students' union, along with l'Association des étudiant(e)s français(es), is distributing residence passes enabling students to cross union picket lines without breaking the strike.

Although the students' union has said it wants to remain neutral in the dispute, the school of social work has given its support to the union. Both the students' union and the faculty endorse the work-to-rule campaign. □

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