



With the Bargaining Protocol Agreement in place, local bargaining started on February 13. The last of the fourteen scheduled bargaining days is April 3.

On the first day of bargaining both sides exchanged their proposal packages. In the coming weeks the detailed contract language regarding the proposals will be presented and negotiated.

Over the last two weeks I've received questions from several members regarding the effect of the court petition on bargaining. First, I will say that I fully support the defense of our bicameral system of governance. If it takes court action to accomplish this then so be it. However, I also know from four decades of experience that one cannot predict the various outcomes from a disagreement of this magnitude. Therefore, I believe that every effort should be made to achieve an out of court settlement that protects the rights of faculty. As far as the positive or negative effect on bargaining is concerned there are arguments that can be made either way.

An argument on the help side is that the court petition is a demonstration that the DCFA is willing to fight the good fight when necessary. Another point of view is that a court action is viewed as an attack that damages the relationship to the point that the willingness to engage is compromised. My own view is that the court petition is separate from bargaining and should have little effect if we bargain as professionals. I have experience with the bargainers on the other side of the table and my opinion is that they are very professional. The first two days of bargaining have given me no reason to change that opinion.

What can you do to help? Stay informed on the issues and come to DCFA meetings to listen and be heard. The next DCFA General Meeting is February 24<sup>th</sup>.

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