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Negotiations for a first contract between Local 1 of the Association of University and College Employees and the UBC administration broke off Friday (May 24).

The Contract Committee of the union stated that negotiations could resume when the UBC administration is prepared to bargain in good faith.

The University has offered:

- a wage increase of 38.00 per month for the lowest paid, up to 82.00 per month for the highest paid classification;
- no improvement in vacations;
- no allowance for stewards to process grievances during working hours;
- no reduction in hours of work;
- an open shop, with non-members having the right to vote in elections of union officers

The University's wage offer is less than 24 cents per hour for employees who now earn 408.00 per month. Some employees would actually take a cut in pay.

The union's Contract Committee stated: "UBC is a public institution, funded primarily by the provincial government. Yet the administration does not even abide by provincial labor law which requires them to bargain in good faith.

"The anti-union approach of UBC's personnel department seems to have more in common with the policies of the previous Social Credit government than with the expressed positions of the present government."

The union is proposing a catch-up wage increase. About 40 per cent of the employees affected presently earn less than 500.00 per month, while the average wage in B.C. is about 800.00 per month.

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