Association of University and College Employees

PRESS RELEASE

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Article 35.04(a) Arbitration, of the Association of University and College Employees, Local 1 contract reads, "Upon the request of either party, the Grievance Committee and the Labour Committee shall meet and attempt to agree on a list of impartial arbitrators. If the committees are unable to agree on a list, they shall request the Minister of Labour to supply a list. <u>In</u> <u>either case, fifty percent (50%) of those on the list shall be women</u>." The AUCE Grievance Committee, after repeated attempts, has been unable to obtain from the University a list containing more than one woman (Mary Southin). At the union's expense and request, a lawyer provided a list of seven women considered acceptable to both labour and management. We asked the Labour Committee to agree to any three. The list included:

> Barbara Bluman, Chairperson, Workers' Compensation Board Board of Review

Nancy Morrison, a provincial court judge Lynn Smith, a lawyer, formerly on the UBC Faculty of Law Carolyn Gibbons affiliated with the B.C. Federation of Labour Gene Errington, B.C. Women's Research Foundation Louise Mandel, a lawyer Leslie Pinder, a lawyer

The Labour Committee rejected all seven and on request were unwilling to state their specific objections. Also, although we did ask them to provide us with counter suggestions of possible female arbitrators, they have refused to do so. They have stated they are unable to suggest any other women that would be acceptable. Their lack of co-operation in attempting to form a mutually acceptable list of arbitrators, in accordance with the union contract, belies the University's outward position of advancing women's rights on this campus and in our society.

(If you have any questions, please contact Jay Hirabayashi, Union Organizer, 224-5613)

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