

ACROSS CAMPUS

**Assoc. of
University &
College
Employees**

Local 1 (UBC) Newsletter Box 11, SUB, UBC

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 5

SPECIAL VOTE ISSUE

April 1, 1974

VOTE YES for AUCE! APRIL 8, 9, 10

There will be a vote on campus conducted by the B.C. Department of Labor to decide whether AUCE Local #1 will represent UBC clerical and library staff. This is the final action to decide if we as staff are going to be represented through our own independent union. Everyone who is eligible to be represented by AUCE should make their opinion heard by voting.

A strong vote in favor of AUCE will show that we who work here are united behind our goals. It is important that the vote become a strong opening bid in the negotiating of our first contract. It might even be said that the stronger the majority, the better the contract will be.

The vote will be held on the 8th, 9th and 10th of April, the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday before the Easter weekend. The polls will be open from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. and from 12 noon to 5:30 p.m.

There will be several polling stations in places around campus so that everyone can easily get to the polls. We have proposed eight different buildings, but all the polling places have to be approved by the Industrial Relations Officer who is conducting the vote. Official notice of the vote, listing the polling stations and the hours they are open, will be posted around campus by the Department of Labor.

All clerical and library workers should go to the polls. If your name is not on the voters list, you may vote anyway. Such ballots will be set aside till the Board decides whether or not they should be counted.



DON'T MISS YOUR DIVISION MEETING!

The vote campaign will be carried out by the Divisions. Each Division will meet this week to plan the campaign, and to ensure that weak areas are well-covered. Contact your Division Steward to find out the time and place of your Division meeting.

DIVISION STEWARDS:

1. Lorraine Langille (Registrar's Off.) [REDACTED]
2. Jill Saunderson (Office Services) [REDACTED]
3. Veronica Turner (TRIUMF) [REDACTED]
4. Bonnie Schoenberger (Planning School) [REDACTED]
5. Keith Conroy (Forestry) [REDACTED]
6. Alice Johnson (Education) [REDACTED]
7. Colleen Nicholson (Dept of Med) [REDACTED]
8. Ian MacKenzie (Sedgewick) [REDACTED]
9. Glenis Williams (Woodward) [REDACTED]
10. Frances Reynolds (Main Lib.) [REDACTED]

HOW IT ALL HAPPENED

After three and one-half months of waiting, this week saw a sudden burst of activity around our application for certification. This special newsletter is intended to bring members up to date on the events of the last few days.

TUESDAY

In the course of our daily phone call to the Labor Relations Board, we were informed that the Board would be deciding on our application the following day (Wednesday). However, at the executive meeting we decided that we had waited long enough.

The executive decided to send a telegram to Premier Barrett, pointing out that these delays were in contradiction to the government's stated policy of making it easier for unorganized workers to unionize. We sent the telegram Tuesday night.

WEDNESDAY

We released the telegram to the press, and distributed it as a leaflet on campus. (If you didn't get a copy, call or drop by the office, SUB 228, 224-5613.)

THURSDAY

In the morning, our press release was carried on several radio stations. We phoned the Labor Relations Board again and were told that our application would be considered today! We were also told that the UBC administration had finally applied to the Board for permission to grant the end-of-probation wage increases. (See the last newsletter for a report of our letter to the administration asking them to do this.)

At 3:45 in the afternoon, we were told that the Board had made its decision but they couldn't tell us over the phone! We rushed down to the LRB office and picked up the letter.

The letter informed us that the LRB had decided to hold a representation vote to permit all those employees in the bargaining unit ("non-professional clerical and non-professional library employees...") to indicate if they wish to be represented by AUCE.

But the letter did not say when the vote would be held. It said, "You may, therefore, expect to hear from an official of the Department of Labor in regards to this matter at an early date."

After the experience of the past few months, we weren't sure what "an early date" meant. We decided to call a special executive meeting, open to all members, for Friday at noon.

FRIDAY

About 50 people crowded into the executive meeting. The meeting approved a letter to the LRB with our proposals for polling stations and hours of the vote. We agreed that we wanted the vote held as soon as possible, before Easter; that it should be held over three days; and that everyone should be permitted time off to vote. We also wanted to know right away the number of people who are eligible to vote, and to have a voters list posted two days before the vote.

After work on Friday, about 20 AUCE members met with Ron Bone, Registrar of the Labor Relations Board; Paul Weiler, Chairman of the Labor Relations Board; and two Industrial Relations Officers.

We presented them with our brief outlining our proposals for the vote. They agreed that the vote should be held April 8, 9 and 10. Mr. Calderwood will have to approve all polling stations, but they did not object to our proposal that there should be eight.

We asked them to tell us the size of the bargaining unit as determined by the Labor Relations Board. They refused.

The also refused to post a voters list a couple of days in advance of the vote. This means that people will have to go to the polls to find out whether they are eligible to vote.

One important question that is still not clear is how big a vote we need in order to win. Under the old law, abstentions were counted against the union. If, as we think, the bargaining unit is 1100, then we would have to get more than 550 voting in favor of AUCE. If there were only 450 voting in favor, even if only 50 voted against, we would still lose. It seems absurd that we would have to get a majority of the bargaining unit to vote for AUCE and they won't even tell us how big the bargaining unit is!

The new law doesn't say anything on this question, so it will be determined by precedent by the Board. The Board is expected to make a ruling on Wednesday which may well mean that, under the new law, all we would need would be a majority of those voting.

Because we applied on Dec. 14 and the new law didn't come into effect until January, nobody - including the Labor Relations Board - knows which law we are covered by! There is some consolation in knowing that we're not the only people who are confused.

In any case, we want the biggest possible vote in favor of AUCE. Not only will that ensure beyond a doubt that we will get certified, but it will put us in a strong position to negotiate our contract with the administration.

Return Requested:

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