



association of university and college employees

SPECIAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, OCT. 31, 1983, IRC 2, 12:30-1:30

Notices of Motion

1. Whereas, given the serious situation developing in both the public and the private sectors, namely in the BCGEU and the forest industry, and given the fact that all of the mass actions taken thus far by Operation Solidarity and the Solidarity Coalition have led to very little in the way of withdrawal or of changes in the current legislation, there now exists the possibility of further actions up to and including a general strike,

And whereas we must be prepared for such an eventuality,

Be it resolved that, in recognition of the fact that we have formally endorsed and participated in Operation Solidarity and the Solidarity Coalition, in the event of a province-wide general strike called by those organizations, we will remain off the job for the duration of the work stoppage as a form of political protest against the current legislation.

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2. Whereas AUCE Local 1, being a public sector trade union, is seriously threatened by most of the same legislation which threatens the BC Government Employees Union, namely Bills 3, 11 and 26, all of which put our contracted rights in jeopardy and severely curtail our ability to negotiate with our employer,

Whereas the BCGEU is in a legal position to strike, and has given notice that if any of the 1600 employees who have been given notice of termination are actually fired on Oct. 31, they will all walk off the job on Nov. 1,

Whereas there are BCGEU members working on campus, and we feel a strong sense of solidarity with them, and with other members of their union, as fellow government employees,

Be it resolved that if the BCGEU goes on strike, AUCE Local 1 will support their action and respect any BCGEU picket lines on campus.

Both motions moved and seconded by the AUCE Local 1 executive.

NB: BECAUSE OF A LABOUR DISPUTE CUPE 116 HAS ISSUED A HOT EDICT ON THE GRADUATE STUDENT CENTRE. AUCE MEMBERS HAVE BEEN ASKED TO NOT USE THE GRAD CENTRE UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE EDICT IS LIFTED.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
OCTOBER 31, 1983
MINUTES

Chair: Marcel Dionne

Secretary: Patricia House

1. Marcel announced that there was no agenda. The Executive had called the meeting to explain what was going on with the Operation Solidarity activities and what would be asked of AUCE.
2. Marcel announced that the Executive is withdrawing the two motions that were circulated with the announcement. The Executive felt that they had made a procedural error in bringing these motions forward because they were already covered by motions passed in July and September. For this reason Marcel ruled them out of order.
3. Marcel further explained that the latest information the Executive had received was that all the campus groups would be expected to be out on November 8, 1983. CUPE 116 will be following this course of action as are the other unions on campus.
4. Fairleigh Wettig then reported on the various unions on campus and what their current contractual/strike vote situation was. OTEU and BCGEU were in legal strike position. All other unions will be going out on November 8. It was made clear that in accordance with previous motions passed by the membership, AUCE was obligated to participate in the joint political protest. This means if you encounter a picket line when you come to work on November 8, you will be expected to honor it. It will then be up to the University to ask for a hearing at the Labour Relations Board to determine the status of that picket line. Until such a ruling comes down we all have to respect the lines; at that time we will have a membership meeting to report and decide what to do.
5. Ted Byrne then reported that this the eleventh hour of our involvement with Solidarity Coalition and we can not back out now.....if you aren't concerned as a tenant, as a parent, as a person with human rights, then you should be concerned as an AUCE member because of the extent to which this legislation threatens our contract and our union rights.
6. Fairleigh then reported on the Wesbrook Society dinner where Dr. Pedersen was the guest speaker. He has taken a courageous stand on University cutbacks. It is very clear to everyone that there will be layoffs in the next two years unless the government suddenly redirects more money to the University. AUCE is now the largest union on campus and we can probably expect to have the largest percentage of layoffs. Fairleigh also mentioned the "Declaration of Human Rights of the People of British Columbia" that has been drawn up by the Solidarity Coalition.
7. Marcel reported that the Executive has been communicating with the University regarding this situation and it is clear to Employee Relations that if there is a withdrawal of services, it will be as a political protest and honoring bona fide picket lines. Part of the difficulty at the present time is several things are happening at once and the legal situation is unclear. We do have protection under our contract under Article 17 that allows us to respect picket lines and we will operate under that until there is a court injunction or LRB ruling that tells us something different. The Executive will communicate information as it is available.

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
MINUTES

October 31, 1983

IRC 2

12:30-1:30 p.m.

CHAIR: Marcel Dionne

SECRETARY: Patricia House

There was no agenda for the meeting. Marcel Dionne announced that the purpose of the meeting was to give members all the information the Executive had been able to gather about the potential BCGEU strike and the possible general strike. The Executive has decided to withdraw the two motions that were circulated in advance of the meeting because it was felt they were out of order. The motions that were previously passed at membership meetings in July and September dealt with our participation in any action of Solidarity. (These motions were circulated again to the meeting)

Marcel further explained that we expect to be called upon to stay away from work starting November 8. CUPE 116 have told us that when the B.C. Federation of Labour calls them to go out (expected November 8) they will go.

Marcel then turned the floor over to Fairleigh Wettig to report on what the situation is with the other campus unions. Her notes follow:

Education Sectors (Scheduled to go out Nov. 8th) Reports rec'd from:

- BCTF 59% in favour of general strike - Scheduled to walk on Nov. 8th
- Langara Faculty Association 52% in favour of a 1 day political protest.
- AUCE Local 2 (SFU) in favour of General Strike
- Cap College Faculty Association (N.Vanc) 92% in favour of General Strike
- King Edward Campus 67% in favour of General Strike
- CUPE Provincial all locals called out

UBC Campus Situation

- Those in legal position to strike: OTEU Local 15 - 2 components: AMS / Thunderbird
- CUPE 2278 TAU Strike Vote November 17, 1983 looks positive
- BCGEU 5 components: Firehall
Admin Services of Lands, Parks and Housing (Chancellor Blvd.)
Environmental Lab on Wesbrook
Fish & Wildlife on Main Mall
Forestry on Celtic Dr.
- CUPE 116 (contract expired - no strike vote taken on negotiations HOWEVER they are having a general meeting Sunday to instruct membership that they are expected to participate in General Strike.)
- IUOE Local 882 (contract expired, no strike vote taken on negotiations but have stated that as Fed affiliates they will participate in General Strike)

The floor was then opened up for questions. Marcel asked that speakers limit their comments to five minutes as he wanted to allow as many people as possible to speak and we had limited time. He then turned the chair over to Fairleigh and left the meeting to contact Employee Relations to [REDACTED] the meeting time to be extended. ^{inform them} ^{would}

Kitti Cheema was the first speaker. [REDACTED] She made it clear that she was speaking as an individual member and not as a member of the Executive. Kitti then launched into her statement. It was a lengthy political comment and when it became clear that the membership was not prepared to listen any more and that she was out of order, the Chair and the Trustees attempted to stop her. However, she would not stop until she had read the whole prepared statement, [REDACTED]

Then other members asked various questions:

- Q. Asked for practical detailed direction; how will we know if a picket line is legal?
- A. You won't, you have to assume that it is and not cross it until there is a legal ruling (LRB or court injunction) brought down. The Executive will inform you when such a determination is made and the membership will decide at that time what to do.
- Q. What happens to you if you cross a picket line?
- A. Marcel said he didn't know. Under the by-laws any other member could press charges against you. Discipline could range from a reprimand to fines to withdrawing your Union membership which would call your continued employment into question. On the other had the membership may decide to do nothing.

Then Katy Young (AUCE Local 1's lawyer) was asked to answer the question of the legality of withdrawing our services as a political protest. She stated that there are few precedents on this type of action, so it is unclear just how the LRB or the courts would rule. She feels our contract gives more protection than most and that a good argument can be made for this type of protest. However, she did point out that because it is relatively untested in the law, it is very hard to predict the outcome and so some risk is involved.

Although Employee Relations had given consent to an extension of the meeting, it became necessary to adjourn at this point because the room had been booked for some one else.