

Association of University and College Employees

LOCAL No. 1 (U.B.C.)

November 10, 1976.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FILE COPY

A mediator has been appointed to assist in contract negotiations between the University of British Columbia and the union representing 1300, mostly female, library and clerical workers.

Provincial mediator Jock Watterston will commence meetings with representatives of the University Administration and A.U.C.E. Local 1 on November 23.

Negotiations for a new contract began August 13 but have been suspended since October 26 when the union applied for mediation services. Members of the union have been working without a contract since September 30.

Union president Ian Mackenzie said that the University has shown no willingness to move on any of the union's major demands but have countered with demands of their own intended to take away rights under the old contract.

"On all monetary matters", Mackenzie said, "the University hides behind budgetary restrictions and the anti-inflation legislation and refuses to consider any improvement for our members".

"In the matter of wages, A.U.C.E. members continue to be the victims of sex discrimination. Our base rate is now more than \$200.00 a month behind the base rate for male-type technical jobs at the University although the requirements and qualifications are similar".

Federal anti-inflation regulations provide for the exemption of

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contract settlements which eliminate disparities based on sex discrimination.

In response to the union's demand for parity with the technical workers, the University has offered a 6 percent wage increase, the offer coming just four days after U.B.C. signed a 7½ percent agreement with CUPE Local 116, the union representing about 1400 other university employees, including technical workers.

Mackenzie said the offer is well behind the rate of increase in the cost of living in Vancouver and "would only serve to increase the discriminatory disparity between ourselves and other U.B.C. employees."

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