

Association of University and College Employees

September 24, 1979

To: Nancy Wiggs

From: Marcel Dionne

Re: Your memorandum dated September 18th, 1979 - contesting the referendum held in the Union Office.

With regard to your suggestion that the referendum on the issues of a third person in the office and an increase in union dues is not fairly conducted, I would like to bring to your attention the following - at the last executive meeting, which was conducted with the attendance of eight executive members, a lengthy discussion was held as to which forms the referendum in question should be held. A motion to have a poll referendum was made, and every member present expressed their opinion on the issue. 1) I personally expressed my concern on the issue of fairness, i.e. getting the most votes possible on the issues in question. 2) The number of polling stations. 3) The situation of flexible hours mentioned in your letter. 4) The mailed-in ballots versus the polling stations. 5) And the Vancouver General Hospital situation.

My concerns were in effect, similar to your own.

The following is a brief summary as to why the polling station was voted for by the executive and the reasons why I voted in favour of it.

Both issues are, or should be, a matter of great importance to each member of the Union. By receiving a ballot in the mail, whether or not I am concerned, I would in all probability cast my vote and mail it back. Any member of this Union who were really concerned on the two issues in question, for, or against, would have, or should have, taken the time to go and vote and that to me comes under the term democracy. The issue of space association was somewhat of a problem. Being September, it was not possible to locate available rooms for a period of more than one day. The length of time to run the referendum was also under discussion. Because of arbitration dates and other commitments, and also the lack of funds to hire sufficient personnel to supervise the voting the latter due to lack of volunteers; it was decided to have the vote in the Union Office, for a period not exceeding three days. Prior to voting. I also questioned the flexible hours situation. I was assured that coming from anywhere on Campus, it will take no longer than 15 to 20 minutes to come and cast a vote in the Union Office. As all members were advised a week ahead as to the location and the dates and time of voting, I felt it would not be unreasonable to expect any members to forgo a coffee break or a 1/2 lunch time to come and vote on two issues of great importance as so mentioned in your memo.

Office Contest to Referendum (cont'd)

As to your request for contesting the referendum, the issue will be discussed at the next executive meeting dated October 2nd, 1979, and a decision on the above will be taken in accordance with the guidelines of the Local by-laws.