



association of university and college employees
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Editorial Office
Ubysey
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Campus Mail

The Editor:

In the Oct. 8th issue of the Ubysey, AMS President Haugen expressed her belief that: "The university must be ruthless in attempting to cut costs". I take considerable offense if I am correct in assuming that Ms. Hougen is suggesting that other groups on campus be sacrificed in order to aid the students plight. The following press release was issued August 18th and will clarify the position taken by AUCE local I regarding what we certainly consider as 'ruthless' budget cuts. ALREADY IMPLEMENTED.

August 10th, Mr. Richard Bird, an arbitrator, delivered his award concerning the 1981-1982 salary increases for the University of British Columbia Faculty Association.

On August 14th, in the wake of this arbitration award, the University imposed a hiring freeze on all positions, both academic and non-academic, at the University. This means for Association of University and College Employees (AUCE) members, that no-one will be able to fill any posted or temporary position at UBC. This freeze also stops transfers within the University. AUCE finds this situation has been made even more intolerable by the fact that we have received no notification from the University. This lack of consideration is abhorring.

AUCE managed to squeeze only 19% over 2 years out of the UBC budget. The recently arbitrated award of 18% (plus 3% merit award) over 1 year to faculty only exacerbates our frustration with our pitiful salaries. After all, prices of housing food, clothing and interest rates are rising for ALL OF US.

This directive from the Vice-President's office threatens to drastically reduce the AUCE bargaining unit, to impose an enormous added work-load on our members and to eliminate temporary positions.

We must protect ourselves. AUCE members must strictly enforce those articles in the Collective Agreement which can protect us. If we don't utilize our Collective Agreement, we will be helping to subsidize the faculty's wage increase, aid the University with their hiring freeze, and lessen our job security.

The budgetary constraints placed on the University by the Provincial Government are unrealistic in light of the current rate of inflation. This is made evident by the ridiculously low wage offers the University has made to the various bargaining units on campus.

It is ludicrous to expect that the already underpaid and overworked AUCE clerical workers should be expected to bear the brunt of budgetary constraints imposed by the Administration. Such a move is indicative of a definite lack of concern for non-professional workers.

Haugen would have been more constructive had she approached the problem in conjunction with the others at UBC who are also seriously affected by budget cuts.

Yours truly,

Wendy Bice
Union Co-ordinator, AUCE Local I

cc: M. Haugen, President, AMS