

STRIKING NEWS TODAY

March 14, 2006

#6

The real issue is workload and its impact on the quality of college education

How irresponsible of Dr. Miner to mislead the public with cavalier, inaccurate statements when he knows full well what the *real* issues are. Workload has been a major issue in negotiations from the outset. And not without warning.

Representatives from the colleges and the union visited every college as a part of the *Workload Task Force*. The first priority of that task force was to examine “time spent in preparation, evaluation and feedback, and complementary functions.”

Faculty told those task force members loudly and clearly that the time spent was not realistically reflected in the workload formula. Unacknowledged overtime work is the norm.

The on-line workload survey of faculty confirmed this message and provided reliable numbers to back it up. The year-long workload diaries kept by numerous faculty at all 24 colleges further confirmed the

message.

Miner and all college management have ignored the Workload Task Force college meetings, have denigrated and attempted to undermine the survey, and have proposed their agenda in the alternative.

Their agenda, once again: gut the workload formula — this time by removing limits on teaching hours.

To add insult to injury, management wants the union to endorse a four-year deal where the highest salary is less than that of our comparator groups — Ontario high-school and university faculty. **It is not going to happen.**

The union team remains committed to reach a settlement at the bargaining table. But that takes two parties. It is time for the McGuinty government to show leadership and order the management team to engage in real negotiations.

Students Support Faculty Strike

“There has to be recognition that high technology skills cannot be taught to large classes effectively.”

...A Seneca student

Students joined faculty on the picket line at Jane campus to demonstrate their support of faculty’s demand for quality education. Increasingly, students enroll at Ontario’s colleges to acquire hands-on practice with leading-edge technologies.

One student said that the courses they are currently involved in at Jane (CAD/CAM) are complex and challenging. CAD/CAM technology is used in manufacturing and industrial design. Teaching courses where the focus is on software and computerized equipment requires additional input from the teacher. It is very different from teaching a lecture class where students have only to take notes. High-tech classes involve the

teacher demonstrating techniques, explaining exceptions, showing best practices, and providing a technical context for instruction. The teacher guides and advises as the students work on their own, providing individual feedback as necessary.

If a class is two periods long, the teacher often must spend the first 50 minutes explaining the exercise and providing overall direction. That leaves just over an hour for students to get help on specific software programming problems. If there are 20 students in the class, each student gets an average of only 2 ½ minutes of individual

(Continued on page 2.. Students support)

E-mail us your photos & stories: union@opseu560.org

Would You Trust this Man?

"\$95,000 isn't bad for 14 hours a week, 35 weeks a year."

A Miner Discrepancy

by Peter Austin

Rae gave direction, McQuinty the cash;
Miner decided *his* task was to bash –
No, not the management bargaining squad,
Stubborn as mules and as stupid as cod;

Who, then – the minister (stuck on the fence,
Vowing he cares, though it's all a pretense)?
No, friends – the faculty, out in the rain –
We are the butts of this Brahmin's disdain.

Fourteen, the hours that we work in a week,
None in the summer, so says Mister Sleek.
"\$95,000 [for that] isn't bad."
Neither's three times it, for lie-telling, lad!



Seneca's Rick Miner,
chair of the
colleges' Committee of
Presidents

The average salary increase
of college presidents
in 2003 - 2004 was 20.6%.

Miner's 2004 Salary
\$220,815

...for your information,
management has offered a
12.6% raise over four years that
would increase the new
maximum salary to \$94,277 with
no additional increase to

Why is President Miner so loathe
to invest in improvements to the
quality of our students' education
that he resorts to devious public
statements that denigrate and
obscure our principal cause?



Somehow it seemed as though the farm had
grown richer without making the animals
themselves any richer – except, of course, for
the pigs and the dogs."

(Continued from page 1... Students support)

instruction. This is just too little when you
consider the detail required and the complexity
of the software.

"This is not like learning Microsoft Word," said
one student. "We need to learn how to develop
programs that will generate code to drive some
every expensive machine tools. If we can't get
the help we need, we could be out of a job in a
real hurry."

"Our teachers do the best they can", said
another student, "But they are also teaching
other subjects with double this class size."

Faculty are striking for manageable class sizes
that allow them to deliver quality education.

Rally for Quality Education

Thursday, March 16 11:00 a.m.
Yonge-Dundas Square, Toronto

11:45 a.m.

Mass March to the
Ministry of Training, Colleges & Universities
900 Bay St. at Wellesley

- Attendance is mandatory and counts towards one day's strike pay. (No replacement picket duty.)
- Look for the Seneca Local 560 banner and sign in with your picket captain.
- Bus for King picketers leaves King City High School: 2001 King Rd at 9:30 a.m.
- Rally ends at 2:30 p.m.

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