

Mr. Petter,

I would like to show my support for the TSSU during their collective bargaining and job action/strike.

The proposals put forward by the TSSU appear to be reasonable requests, specifically where job security is concerned. Many qualified staff are likely turned off from working at an institution that doesn't promise employment for longer than one semester. Having a work pool of graduate students for TM and TA positions sounds like it would benefit both parties involved in this dispute. It also doesn't seem like it would be difficult to make campus mail accessible at all campuses especially when it could decrease communication problems between staff and departments. As a respectable educational institution, it should be a guarantee that members of the TSSU would be able to work in conditions at par with or better than the minimum conditions set out in BC Labour Laws. Proposals made by employers that take away from the members, concessions, will only increase the length of the job action/strike and deteriorate the relationship between the two parties. Many of the proposals put forward by the TSSU have been implemented in other universities with generally positive results. Being able to look at how these aspects have improved the work and educational environment at those universities, should help the SFU administration see what it could do here.

As an undergraduate student dependent on both TMs and TAs for support in my classes, I know how valuable their jobs are. Without them I wouldn't receive grades or course assistance outside of what is provided by the course instructor. The recent increase in strike action will now begin to directly affect myself and my classmates due to grade withholding. Having recently finished midterms, I won't be receiving grades to determine how I'm doing in the courses. As much as I greatly appreciate comments from my TAs and TMs, having a quantifiable measurement of where I am in a course and by how much I need to improve is incredibly helpful.

This grievance has escalated and is now affecting students that are not part of it, which I'm sure is undesirable. Please consider addressing the concerns of the TSSU at the next bargaining meeting and sending a senior member of the SFU administration to the meeting who has the ability to make decisions and promises.

Sincerely,

Amanda Tipper