

Queen's University Faculty Association
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For Immediate Release - April 30, 2009

Layoffs already occurring at Queen's University
-Kingston, Ontario

Layoffs are not a thing of the future at Queen's University in Kingston, they are happening right now.

Queen's Principal Tom Williams recently announced that "layoffs will be unavoidable starting next year if the university is unable to achieve agreements with employee groups that will reduce the wage bill." While this threat seems to be aimed at non-academic staff at Queen's, contract academic faculty are already looking for work elsewhere as University administrators move forward on their plans to discontinue courses and suspend enrolments.

Right now it is the Faculty of Arts and Science that is affected, but there is no guarantee that layoffs will not happen in other Faculties as well. Changes are occurring by administrative fiat for fiscal reasons and without an academic plan in place. The Executive of the Queen's University Faculty Association (QUFA) has stressed that adequate faculty input is essential to ensure that the quality of Queen's degree programs is not compromised.

The Principal has focused on the faculty wage bill to reduce the deficit. A few senior administrators recently promised to freeze their salaries in 2009-2010, but this must be seen in context. From 2006 to 2007, for example, senior administrators at Queen's saw their wages jump dramatically, the largest individual increase being 35.8%.

Last week Principal Williams expressed disappointment at the progress of talks with QUFA on two proposals "aimed at helping to shrink the deficit." QUFA has been ready and willing to talk about retirement options and to review the faculty salary model since contract negotiations last spring. QUFA had to wait until April 2009 for the University to appoint its representatives to the joint committee created last year in June to discuss salary matters. This committee has still not met. The University did agree in April to discuss retirement issues and QUFA is pleased with the progress of those talks to date.

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QUFA represents faculty, librarians and archivists at Queen's, but is concerned about the well being of all employee groups on campus. Employee group representatives have been meeting together and individually with senior University administrators since last fall in connection with the current financial situation. As always, QUFA is committed to working within the Queen's community to come up with responsible and appropriate solutions.

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For media inquiries, please contact:
Peter A. Dacin, QUFA President & Kraft Professor of Marketing, School of Business
on Friday, May 1, 2009
9:00 am to 12:00 noon at
613-533-6000 ext 75753

Sources:

1. "QUFA Voices - Myths and Facts: What can we count on?"
March 3, 2009
http://qufa.ca/publications/qufa_voices_2009/qufa_voices_2009.03.pdf
2. "Layoffs possible, principal says"
Friday April 24, 2009
http://qnc.queensu.ca/campusnews_article_loader.php?id=49f1d6577f43
3. For more QUFA news items and information, please visit our website:
<http://qufa.ca/>
<http://qufa.ca/publications/>