



Insider's Scoop! The DEANS' REAL MESSAGE

A kind rat from the 9th floor just sent us a copy of the first draft of the Deans' Message to the York Community, which was sent out on January 15, and is now on York University's website. It is our duty to make this draft public as it reveals the rationale behind the Deans' official message. Discourse analysts at York Is Us Research Institute have compiled a paragraph-by-paragraph rendition of both versions. Their careful study shows that no amount of hogwash can cover the dirty truth behind the Dean's message. See for yourself:

Message from the Deans to the York community.

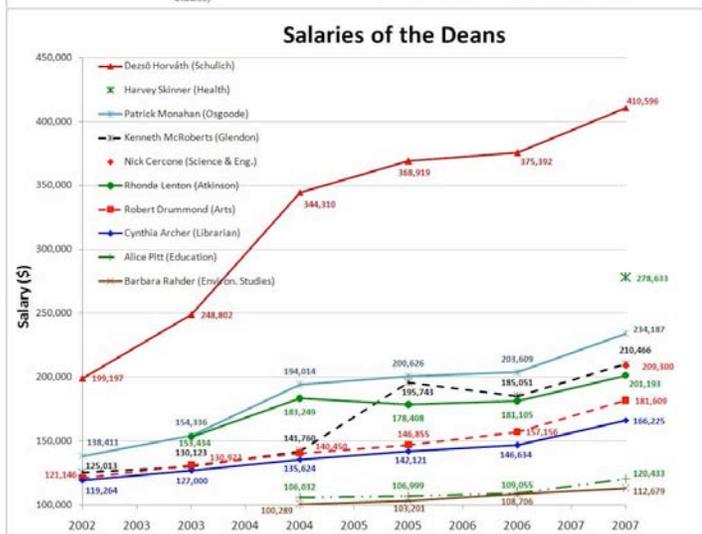
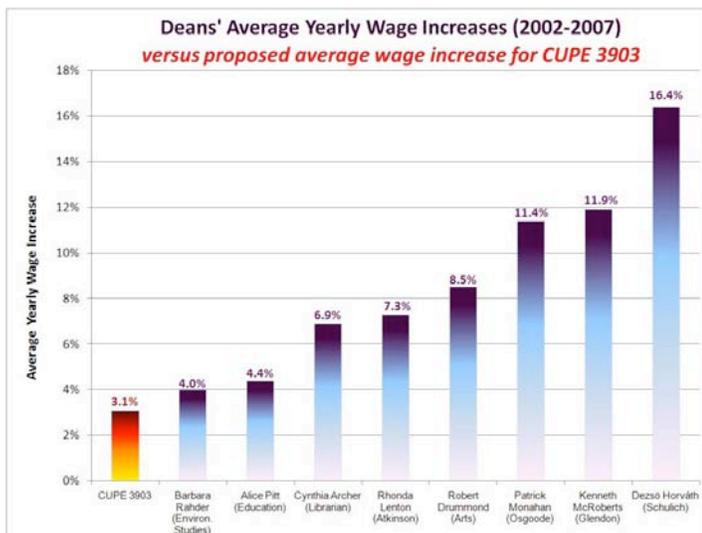
[OFFICIAL MESSAGE] When CUPE 3903 went on strike in November, we all undertook to seek the suspension, with limited exceptions, of academic activities in our Faculties. In so doing, we acknowledged our reliance on the work of our CUPE colleagues in helping to carry out the academic mission of the University. In addition, we continue to recognize the importance to our graduate students of financial support for the successful completion of their "apprenticeship" in our profession.

[FIRST DRAFT] When CUPE 3903 went on strike in November, we thought our best strategy was to suspend all classes immediately. This way, we had all of the students' attention at our command. By circulating glossy and well-timed press releases we made sure students would turn against the union instead of against us. We are

grateful for the fact that half of the teaching at this university is done by Contract Faculty and Graduate Students. Thanks to them we save an inordinate amount of money we would otherwise have to spend on increasing our full-time faculty cohort. With more than 100 professors retiring in December and a freeze in tenure-stream hiring in effect since 2007, we know it is hard to justify our hard line stance against the union. But we'll coat the pill in a little sugar and fuzzy language and hope they'll take the bait.

[OFFICIAL MESSAGE] *At the same time, we have had to recognize the unusually severe budgetary constraints that currently characterize all universities in the country in the midst of a worsening economic crisis. And we have had to consider the significant negative impact of a continuing labour disruption on all of our students, as well as on the reputation and academic development of the University.*

[FIRST DRAFT] At the same time, we have had to recognize that universities across Canada are achieving full synergy with industry. With "York-to-The-Power-of-50" we have finally entered the new era of FUCK (Full and Unwarranted Commodification of Knowledge). Every year, we produce new crops of commodified knowledge providers disciplined to bow to the higher powers of Global Capital (GC). After the financial mess it put us all in, we realize GC has nowhere left to turn to except to universities. We have no intention of letting GC down, as many perks come our way when we follow its lead. [See charts on reverse page.] Therefore we fully approve of York's prioritized spending plan of \$150 million for the new



Medical School¹ and we gladly accept that the budget cuts to our faculties are a necessary sacrifice for the good of neoliberalism. The new FLAPS (Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies), with its "Degrees with Flex Appeal"² slated to start in 2010, perfectly meets industry demands for global precarity. We know very well that academic

development has nothing to do with fostering critical knowledge and creative thinking in students. These ideas belong to the last century, and CUPE members should know that. We can't afford to ruin the reputation of this university now that we have 22 full-time hires in Public Relations and have spent so much money on marketing spins and wine labels.³

[OFFICIAL MESSAGE] Having all these considerations in mind, we have reviewed the offer for settlement tabled by the University administration (and indeed have been consulted as negotiations were underway). We believe that the offer is a responsible effort to meet the needs of contract faculty and graduate students in an extremely difficult economic climate. Familiar as we are with the budget situation in our own Faculties, we do not believe that more can be responsibly provided. We hope CUPE members will recognize the gains they have made, and put an end to this debilitating strike by accepting the settlement offer.

[FIRST DRAFT] Having all these considerations in mind, we have reviewed the offer for settlement tabled by the Administration's Bargaining Team (and gladly signed by one of us on our behalf). We believe that the offer is a responsible effort to meet the demands of our neoliberal university in an extremely volatile global market. Familiar as we are with the plans to turn this university around completely, and make it a domesticated machine of industry-friendly knowledge production, we do not believe that more can be responsibly provided. We hope CUPE members will not recognize the kind of noose we are putting around their necks, and that they will gladly accept to strangle themselves into oblivion by voting yes at the ratification vote.

1. "Ontario's health minister gives strong support to York medical school plan", Y-File, February 22, 2008 <http://www.yorku.ca/yfile/archive/index.asp?Article=10002>.
2. The New Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies homepage: <http://www.yorku.ca/laps/>
3. <http://www.yorku50.ca/wine/>

Announcing CUPE 3903 Unit 2 Chronicle

- 8 pages of articles, analysis, commentary and photos. Essential reading for all present and future contract faculty.
- Required reading for all academic managers of the two-tier academic employment system.
- Recommended reading for Deans that once championed the CUPE-YUFA Affirmative Action Conversion Program.

Issue No. 1, January 2009 includes:

- The Quality of Education at York -- To Be Announced!
- January 4th Contract Negotiations Update!
- The Teaching Stream Appointment Offer: 'Win/Win' or Subterfuge?
- A Response to the Employer: You Say, I Say
- Costing SRC's and the Administration's Economic Arguments

York Is Us endeavours to redefine York University's identity for the university community and the outside world. We are calling for your modest submissions for "York's 50th: A Rumpus." Send us your small creative reflections that ransack the last 50 years at York. Submissions should not be larger than a hairless Chihuahua and be digitally transportable. Submissions will be selectively showcased in upcoming XFiles.

XFile9 is archived at http://yorkisus.org/xfile/pdf/XFile9_19jan2009.pdf
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