

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



New contract positions Laurier for success in competitive market *WLUFA vote demonstrates overwhelming support for three-year agreement*

For Immediate Release

September 09, 1999
69-99

Contact: Robert Byron
Executive Director, Finance & Administration
(519) 884-0710 ext. 2248

or Dr. Doug Lorimer
Chair, History Department
(519) 884-0710 ext. 3192

WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University and its faculty association have reached an agreement that strengthens Laurier's ability to retain and attract quality professors. The three-year collective agreement, signed by University administrators and representatives from the Wilfrid Laurier University Faculty Association earlier today, brings faculty salaries more in line with the Ontario average.

The 298 members of the WLUFA bargaining unit will receive a two percent pay increase in the first year, followed by a one percent increase in each of the two remaining years. The agreement also includes provisions for career-development increases, merit adjustments and parity adjustments.

"This contract recognizes that we are entering a phase where the University will be hiring more faculty because of retirements and increasing student demand," said Robert Byron, executive director for finance and administration. "We need to be in a position that allows us to attract the very best people. And we need to reward current stars."

More than 50 percent of eligible members voted over two days earlier this week; 150 voted to accept the agreement, while two voted against. Doug Lorimer, chair of the bargaining committee, and Byron agree an honest approach to the negotiations by both sides led to an equitable agreement.

"The negotiations were conducted in a very open environment," explains Lorimer. "We had really good communications and we're able to accomplish a great deal."