

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



University committed to reaching settlement in labour dispute *with Wilfrid Laurier University Staff Association*

For immediate release

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WATERLOO - Officials of Wilfrid Laurier University are ready to return to the bargaining table "at a moment's notice," Jim Butler, vice-president: finance and administration, said this morning. "We are committed to reaching a satisfactory settlement with the members of WLU staff association, and are eagerly awaiting indication that they wish to resume negotiations."

Negotiations between the university and the 400-member staff association broke off at about 4:30 a.m. this morning. The university had tabled its latest offer, but "rather than discussing the details, the union preferred to set up picket lines," Butler said. "We're disappointed, of course, and had hoped to continue the bargaining that had been going on throughout the weekend. But we also respect the right of this group to withdraw its services."

Butler indicated that the university is "open for business". Classes are continuing, and while some inconveniences and delays are expected, every effort is being made to minimize these.

"Students are our first priority," Butler stressed. "We will be making every effort to see that they are inconvenienced as little as possible. We will continue to provide service in all key areas; we will also provide regular updates so they're aware of any changes or alterations that may be necessary."