



SMUFU President; Annual Report
October, 2025
President, Cathy Conrad

Dear Colleagues,

As I enter into my third year as SMUFU President, I would like to convey that while the role has been challenging and, at times, exhausting, I will forever recall this period of my service to our University as the honour of my career.

The highlight of the past year was our 50th Anniversary celebration, which so many of you were able to attend. This event highlighted great music, food and company, including the CAUT President, Executive Director, many of our retired former colleagues, and of course many of you! Since then, we have navigated the out-going senior University leadership, followed by the incoming Provost and President, and I remain optimistic that some of our former challenges are now in our past. At the same time, we confront new challenges vis a vis the Provincial Governments' Bill 12. I spoke out in the spring against this potentially devastating Bill, culminating in a motion brought to CAUT in Ottawa that passed unanimously:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/academic-leaders-condemn-nova-scotia-bill-as-threat-to-university-autonomy-1.7525907>

In addition, I attended NS Legislature and spoke out against Bill 12 at a Public Bills Committee meeting, and presented opposition to Bill 12 in several public forums and press conferences with colleagues from ANSUT and other local Universities. Subsequent to this, CUPE 3912 and SMUFU prepared a Bill 12 information event, including a reading of the Bill, with interpretation and analysis of the future impacts and consequences of its' contents. SMUFU remains committed to advocacy and solidarity with other local unions, and I participated regularly on the picket line and attended rallies for our colleagues at the Dalhousie University Faculty Association (DFA).

The work of the SMUFU President is diverse and includes many meetings with individual members who have concerns related to various aspects of their working conditions and potential violations of our Collective Agreement. The work involves meeting and consulting with the Bargaining Team and Lead Negotiator, and with the Grievance Co-Chairs. The work has taken me to Ottawa on three occasions over the past year; twice to attend CAUT caucus and

once to the Presidents' Forum, where I learn and engage and vote on motions on your collective behalf.

I continue to advocate for you on a variety of members' concerns, including student accommodations, the use of Glean software, concerns related to the use of AI in the classroom, Microsoft concerns, and concerns related to privacy and academic freedom.

I continue to advocate on your behalf to the senior leadership for more collegial governance, transparency and fiscal responsibility. This in part resulted in the preparation of an updated independent assessment of SMU finances prepared by Janet and Cam Morrill. I work closely with the finance team to ensure that our investments are sound and that our expenses are sound and our policies adhered to.

I lead and organize the SMUFU Executive team, meeting bi-weekly and sometimes more frequently as the need arises. We all work really hard on your behalf, and always strive to be efficient and effective. If you bring a concern to this SMUFU President, rest assured that it will be acted upon.

In Solidarity,
Cathy