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October 19, 2011

To: Dr. Frank Nichols, Chair, Brandon University Board of Governors
Dr. Deborah Poff, President, Brandon University
Cc: Joe Dolecki, President, Brandon University Faculty Association
Executive Committee, Brandon University Students' Association

Dear Drs. Nichols and Poff,

We are writing you on behalf of over 6,000 graduate students at York University to express our concern regarding your decision to ask faculty to cross the picket line to offer classes during the BUFA strike, and to announce that students who choose not to cross the picket line will not be protected from facing academic repercussions for doing so.

We feel it is disgraceful that you fail to respect the decisions of faculty and students alike at this point in time. Not only do we consider your decision unfair, to the extent that it requires that many faculty and students be prepared to sacrifice their principles in order to conform to an administrative announcement, but we also consider it unjust, to the extent that it opposes the right of members of the university community to observe the picket line of their own union, or of a fellow union, on campus.

We express solidarity with BUFA and BUSA in opposing your decision to punish faculty and students who choose not to cross the picket line, and strongly urge you to reverse this decision. We also express support for BUFA during this bargaining round, and encourage the University to negotiate a fair agreement that values their faculty.

We look forward to learning about the proactive steps you are taking to address this issue in a fair and just manner.

Sincerely,

Executive Committee
York University Graduate Students' Association