

MEDIA RELEASE

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Another day passes: SIAS still waiting for SGEU to sign mediation agreement

SGEU said yesterday it wanted to meet this weekend

September 9, 2011 – Although the Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union announced yesterday morning that it would meet with a mediator this weekend – and SIAS agreed – SIAS has yet to hear that SGEU has signed the mediation agreement proposed by mediator Tom Hodges.

"SIAS signed the mediator's agreement yesterday afternoon, but more than but 24 hours after saying it wanted to meet this weekend, SGEU has not reciprocated," says Dr. Robert G. McCulloch, president and CEO of SIAS. "It's time for SGEU to show it means what it says."

The terms of the mediation agreement proposed by Hodges would suspend job action by either party for the duration of mediation, which, if it starts this weekend, could last until September 16. Additionally, the agreement provides for a report and recommendations by the mediator in the event that the parties are unable to find common ground on new contracts.

"Signing the mediation agreement is a signal by each party that it's serious about finding a resolution. It's a sign of good faith," says Dr. McCulloch.

SIAS's unionized employees are members of SGEU's Professional Services and Academic bargaining units. They have been on strike since Tuesday.

SIAS is Saskatchewan's primary public institution for post-secondary technical education and skills training, recognized nationally and internationally for its expertise and innovation. More than 15,000 students were enrolled in SIAS programs in the most recent academic year; additionally, the organization drew almost 25,000 individual course registrations. Through program and course registrations, SIAS served almost 26,000 distinct students with programs that touch every sector of the economy. SIAS

operates campuses in Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Regina and Saskatoon, and provides a number of courses and programs through distance education.

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For more information, contact:

Patricia Gillies
SIAST Communications
306-659-3782
306-230-9233 cell

Information about SIAST can be found at www.goSIAST.com.