

Robert Farmer

Recipient, Donald C. Savage Award



Robert Farmer is an Associate Professor cross appointed in Information Technology and Business Administration at Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, Nova Scotia. He has over 30 years of experience within educational institutions, initially as an administrator then as an academic. He has served the MSVU Faculty Association as member at large, treasurer, vice-president, and is currently serving as president.

Farmer has taken an active leadership role with collective bargaining since 2007; first as a team member, then as the financial member and as chief negotiator in 2012 and 2015. He also led the contract committee that researches and generates the bargaining priorities for the MSVUFA Executive.

Farmer has established a reputation as an able, innovative chief negotiator and is recognized for his fairness, responsibility, and integrity as evidenced by his election to multiple terms on the MSVUFA executive and key university committees.

In his nominations Farmer is praised for "His expertise with financial analysis and information technology has given our teams an edge over the employer's teams. He brings a strength in strategic planning to negotiations: how to prioritize issues, how to push a reluctant employer to bargain, and when to close a deal".

Farmer is a skilled communicator which is a benefit in explaining complex issues to members as well as to the employer. Membership communication was particularly challenging in the 2015 round of bargaining and, as one of our bargaining team members commented, Dr. Farmer "must be a great teacher as she now understood the complexities of the financial issues".

Farmer is an active member of the provincial university teachers' association (ANSUT) and regularly attends regional faculty association and chief negotiator meetings on behalf of MSVUFA.

At the national level, Farmer was elected to CAUT's Collective Bargaining and Economic Benefits Committee in 2013 and continues to serve on this committee. Farmer is also currently serving on NUCAUT's Executive as Treasurer.