

Solidarity with the University of Manitoba Faculty Association (UMFA)

The Arts Student Body Council (ASBC) stands in solidarity with our professors, lecturers, and librarians in the University of Manitoba Faculty Association (UMFA) as they continue to fight for free and fair rights at the bargaining table. UMFA salaries have stagnated since 2016 due to the unconstitutional Public Services Sustainability Act, and the University of Manitoba refused to increase salaries during negotiations that took place last year. Furthermore, the provincial government is getting involved with the process between UMFA and UofM.

As students ourselves, we understand that the backdrop of a global pandemic, public health measures, and continued online classes may lend to uncertainty amongst undergraduate Arts students. No one wants a strike, especially in the middle of the fall semester. However, it's important to know that UMFA's fight isn't just for them, it's also about our futures as students. Frozen wages impact job retention, which means longer class waitlists, an extended academic run due to lack of requisite classes offered, low-quality advisors, fewer research opportunities, and fewer professors teaching. Our domestic and international tuition has increased, while our professors, lecturers, and librarians continue to be paid significantly less than their counterparts in other provinces. **These issues are already happening, which is why it is important for us as a student body to collectively organize in championing fair and free bargaining rights for UMFA.**

We proudly stand with Students Supporting UMFA, an organized student group that recognizes the continued struggle of UMFA in negotiations with the University of Manitoba. By standing with Students Supporting UMFA, we are contributing to a unified student front that works to amplify the voices of the largest stakeholders in the university- us students.

We encourage the University of Manitoba Students' Union to understand the negative long-term impacts of a deadlock between both parties to students. Furthermore, we actively motivate other student councils to release statements of support and ally with Students Supporting UMFA to strengthen the unified student front supporting the cause.

In solidarity,
The Arts Student Body Council

