

Statement of Solidarity with the University of Manitoba Faculty Association (UMFA)

The University 1 Student Council (U1SC) would like to publicly declare our stance in solidarity with our professors, lecturers and librarians and the University of Manitoba Faculty Association (UMFA) in their fight for fair treatment and a bargaining process free from third party interference.

UMFA salaries have been frozen since 2016 due to the unconstitutional Public Services Sustainability Act, which was ruled to be unconstitutional by the Court of Queen's Bench last year, and despite this, the University of Manitoba continues to refuse to increase salaries during negotiations that took place over the past year, with continuous interference from the Provincial Government during this process that is supposed to be between UMFA and the U of M.

We understand that students do not want a strike to impact their schooling, especially during this year of multiple challenges within our personal lives and studies. We also know that UMFA does not want a strike either, but has been backed into a corner and already exhausted other options that would have a lesser impact. As students, we must take into consideration the impact of the bargaining process that has been going on as well as what a strike means for the future of our University experience. 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 been increasing, 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 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 as students.

We encourage the University of Manitoba Students' Union to understand the negative long-term impacts on students that result from a deadlock between both parties and for other councils to release statements supporting this fight for fairness. Also, we encourage all students to familiarize themselves with the current situation, whether by talking to their professors, reading the Student FAQ on the UMFA website, following @studentssupportingumfa, and/or reading the recent article in The Manitoban regarding the UMFA strike vote.

In solidarity,
The University 1 Student Council