

UMFA Members Approve Fair Deal, to Return to Class Tomorrow Morning

Improvements to working, learning conditions benefit faculty and students

For Immediate Release
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Winnipeg, MB. The University of Manitoba Faculty Association, which represents 1,200 professors, instructors, and librarians, has voted to accept a new collective agreement. UMFA members are excited to be returning to work tomorrow morning.

UMFA had been on strike since Nov 1, and had been without a contract since March 31. The new agreement is a one-year deal, which focuses on workload protections, enhancements to collegial governance, and fair assessment practices. It also includes a letter in which the university commits to no layoffs of any librarians or instructors before the start of 2019. UMFA accepted a zero-percent salary increase in exchange for these substantial improvements to governance issues. The agreement includes:

- A collegial model for determining workloads, based on the model used successfully at the University of Saskatchewan, in which Deans collaborate with their faculty to set workloads. This new process will help protect teaching quality;
- A guarantee that standards and processes for tenure and promotions will be set by faculty;
- Limitations on the use of performance metrics in assessing performance;
- Privacy and confidentiality improvements;
- Increased administrative support for faculty to free up more time for research and class preparation; and
- Enhancements to professional development, health and dental benefits, among other modest improvements.

“Going on strike was a difficult decision for our members, but this new agreement shows what we can accomplish when we work together,” said UMFA President Mark Hudson. “On behalf of all UMFA members I would like to express our deep gratitude in particular to students for their overwhelming support over the past three weeks. Now we get to do what we love most, and return to our classrooms, labs and libraries.”

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For more information contact Mark Hudson, president@umfa.ca