



January 14, 2020

## In this issue:

- [Stand up for PSE in the upcoming provincial budget](#)

### *News you can use*

- [Coming soon: 2020 bargaining survey](#)
- [Time to organize a constituency meeting](#)
- [Condolences](#)
- [Know your CA: Travel and Expense Funds \(Research/Study Leave\)](#)

### *Upcoming events*

- [UMFA Board Meetings: Open to all Members](#)
- [4<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's March](#)
- [Precarious Work: Discussion on Sessional Labour in Academia](#)

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## Stand up for PSE in the upcoming provincial budget

Welcome back!

I hope you all had a restful holiday and are easily settling into the start of the winter term. As you may know, this year is a bargaining year, and with our salary re-opener fast approaching, we begin the work this term to gather the information needed to develop our bargaining proposals. It must be acknowledged that we, other faculty associations, and other unions increasingly find that the bargaining process and bargaining outcomes are not just determined by the workers and the employer. In both the core public sector, and the “broader public sector”, the political landscape increasingly impacts our work lives.

For example, the Manitoba government has made changes and introduced legislation that impacts not only our compensation, but perhaps other aspects of university life. Manitoba universities now report to the Minister of Economic Development of Training rather than the Minister of Education, the consequences of which are not yet clear. In the worst case, this may be a harbinger of the changes enacted by Ontario’s Ford government to apply short-sighted, narrow metrics (e. g., graduation rates, graduate employment rates) to post-secondary institutions and to tie large portions of operating grants to performance according to those metrics. There are also bills before the current session of the legislature with implications for us such as the Public Service Act, the Pension Benefits Amendment Act, the Labour Relations Amendment Act, and the Workplace Safety and Health Amendment Act (see <http://web2.gov.mb.ca/bills/42-2/index.php>). Legislation in this and other provinces are often thinly veiled attacks on collective bargaining rights and worker protections.

In addition to legislative changes, the upcoming provincial budget will obviously impact the entire UM community. Reductions or freezes in the operating grant, even if offset by tuition increases, reduce accessibility of education and are used by the Administration to justify meager salary increases, increased hiring of contract academic staff and greater use of term positions, and cuts to faculties that could result in increased class sizes, reduced course offerings, and other cuts that make the lives of all UM workers and students more difficult.

We are fighting back as much as we can. Political activity and outreach are important tasks of the UMFA executive – with both provincial and federal elections in the past year, we met with municipal, provincial and federal politicians. We are part of the Partnership to Defend Public Services, the coalition of workers that is challenging the constitutionality of the Public Services Sustainability Act (the one that gave us the 0, 0, 0.75% and 1% salary scale increases over the past four years). We are part of the Winnipeg Labour Council, the Manitoba Federation of Labour, the Canadian Labour Congress and the Canadian Association of University Teachers. More importantly, many of our members have influential voices in the political arena, engaging in activities ranging from exercising their civil right to knock on doors during election campaigns and writing op-eds on social and political matters that affect us all, to performing service for the broader community and producing research that mobilizes public opinion and influences government policy.

Our knowledge and skills are well recognized and respected, and to that end I encourage you all to speak out to shape this political landscape. In addition to university funding, you may wish to comment on the many other funding decisions that impact our lives and the health of our communities. As a source of information and inspiration, the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives of Manitoba made the following recommendations in the 2020 pre-budget consultations: <http://policyfix.ca/2019/12/12/2020-manitoba-climate-social-action-budget/>

To present your views, the province has launched a Build a Budget feature at <https://engagemb.ca/Budget-2020> that gives Manitobans the opportunity to create a provincial budget focused on their priorities. They say they welcome suggestions on how government spending and revenue should be prioritized, as well as suggested efficiencies and ideas for innovative ways to save money while ensuring services are available.

If you can, I strongly encourage you to make your opinions known. Written submissions can be emailed to [budget2020@gov.mb.ca](mailto:budget2020@gov.mb.ca). Public consultations on the provincial budget are taking place in the next few weeks at the following dates and places, listed below.

Best wishes for the school term! I hope that either I, VP Mike Shaw, our Chief Negotiator Cam Morrill, or other members of the Executive and Bargaining Team run into you in the coming months as we organize constituency meetings and faculty walk arounds.

Janet Morrill  
UMFA President

***Dates/Times for provincial budget consultations:***

- Monday, Jan. 13 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Kikiwak Inn, Highway 10 North, Opaskwayak Cree Nation (near The Pas);
- Monday, Jan. 13 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. at Best Western Thompson, 205 Mystery Lake Rd., Thompson;

- Tuesday, Jan. 14 from 10:30 a.m. to noon at Flin Flon City Hall, 20 First Ave., Flin Flon;
- Tuesday, Jan. 14 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at Westwood Inn (Valley Room), 473 Westwood Rd., Swan River;
- Wednesday, Jan. 15 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Southdale Community Centre, 254 Lakewood Blvd., Winnipeg;
- Wednesday, Jan. 22 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at Millennium Exhibition Centre, 227 10th Ave. NW, Altona;
- Thursday, Jan. 23 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Garden City Community Centre, 725 Kingsbury Ave., Winnipeg; and
- Monday, Jan. 27 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. at Jake Epp Library, 255 Elmdale St., Steinbach.

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## NEWS YOU CAN USE

### Coming soon: 2020 Bargaining Survey

2020 is a bargaining year, which means soon you will receive an invitation in your email inbox asking for your feedback in a bargaining survey. Your feedback will be used to inform the Collective Agreement Committee (CAC) and the Bargaining Team as proposals are developed. Details coming soon!

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### Time to Organize a Constituency meeting



2020 is a bargaining year.

**Have you thought about setting up a constituency meeting in your area?**

Let us help you get started!

Contact your Board Rep, and ask them to set up a meeting.

**Not sure who your rep is?**

Head to the UMFA website under "Get Involved" to see a list.

**Don't have a rep?**

Contact the UMFA office for assistance:  
faum@umfa.ca/204-474-8272

## Condolences

UMFA offers its condolences to the families, friends, colleagues, students, and peers of the members of our UM community and others who lost their lives on Ukrainian Airlines Flight PS752. We all mourn this terrible loss.

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## Know your CA: Travel and Expense Funds (Research/Study Leave)

You may not have known, but if you're on a Research/Study leave you have access to an additional Travel and Expenses Fund.

In addition to your Faculty's pooled travel and expense fund, as well as your personal travel and expense fund, if you're on a full RSL during the 2019-2020 academic year you have access to up to an additional \$2,129. These funds are to support expenses and activities incurred as part of your research/study activities and include travel, the purchase of literature and equipment, and services in support of your scholarly work.

On a half RSL rather than a full one? This same additional fund is available to you, just in pro-rated amounts.

Wondering how to apply? Each unit organizes itself a little differently, so speak to your unit's administrative assistant for information on the best way to get reimbursements.

*Eligible expenses, as described in Article 27:*

27.1 The University shall provide funds for the purpose of subsidizing the:

- (a) travel of Members for attending meetings of academic or professional groups or for pursuing research and scholarly work which forms a part of university duties; or
- (b) purchase of books, journals and other published works and items of equipment to be used in the performance of their academic duties; and/or
- (c) purchase of services to be used in the performance of their academic duties or in support of the research and scholarly work which forms a part of their university duties.

Questions? Check out article 27 of the CA ("[Travel Funds and Expenses](#)") or contact the office: [FAUM@UMFA.ca](mailto:FAUM@UMFA.ca) or 204-474-8272.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### UMFA Board Meetings – Open to all Members

Is your department currently without representation? Do you have an issue you'd like to raise with your UMFA colleagues? Just want to see how UMFA conducts business? Come to a Board meeting at the UMFA office. While only Board Members can table motions and vote, Board meetings are open to all Members of the Association. The next meeting takes place on **Thursday, January 23 at 4:00 p.m.**

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## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's March

The 2020 Women's March is taking place on Saturday, January 18 at the Manitoba Legislative Building from 11am - 12pm. This year's event, March for Our Human Rights, will focus on bodily autonomy, which is the right to self-governance over one's own body without coercion or external pressures.

**Twitter:** @WinnipegMarch

**Instagram:** @WomensMarchWinnipeg

**Facebook event:** <https://www.facebook.com/events/803377890087755/>

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### Precarious Work: Discussion on Sessional Labour in Academia

The UM Institute for Humanities presents Precarious Work: Discussions on Sessional Labour in Academia. The session takes place on January 21 in 111 St. John's College. More details in the poster below.

**hUMANITIES**  
University of Manitoba Institute for the Humanities

**PRECARIOUS WORK:**  
Discussion on Sessional Labour in Academia

KEYNOTE SPEAKER - 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM  
**SARIKA BOSE (UBC)**  
"Marginalization, Race and Precariousness in the Academy"

**TUESDAY,**  
**JANUARY 21, 2020**  
**111 ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE**  
**LUNCH PROVIDED!**

- What are the intersections of sessional labour and colonization, racism, and other forms of oppression?
- What does it currently mean to be sessionally employed in Manitoba?
- What are the stakes of granting PhDs in this moment?
- How might we challenge prevailing misunderstandings inside and outside the university about sessional instructors and university teaching labourers more generally?

PANEL - 12:30 - 2:00 PM  
**KATELYN DYKSTRA**  
(UM - FKRM, UMIH)  
**ALYSON BRICKEY**  
(UW - ENGLISH)  
AND GUESTS

We welcome all to join us at this event for open dialogue about these challenging times for academic labourers.

Questions?  
Contact [umih@umanitoba.ca](mailto:umih@umanitoba.ca)

 **UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA** | Institute for the Humanities

*If you have information or an event that you'd like to share in an upcoming issue, please email the item to [umfa-communications@umfa.ca](mailto:umfa-communications@umfa.ca) for consideration.*

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA  
Faculty Association

We make **UofM** happen