

University of Manitoba Faculty Association members remain committed to the future of public education, set strike deadline of November 2nd

Winnipeg - The University of Manitoba Faculty Association (UMFA) continues to prioritize the future of public education in Manitoba and has set a bargaining deadline of October 31st and a strike deadline for November 2nd. UMFA continues to push for real action from the University administration to address issues of faculty retention and recruitment. This announcement comes 24 hours after the University of Manitoba Students Union (UMSU) voted to support UMFA in their fight to protect, defend, and enhance public education in Manitoba.

“Our members are committed to the future of public education in Manitoba, and we are frustrated that after 5 years of wage freezes and government interference that the administration can’t recognize why we continue to struggle with issues of faculty retention,” said Orvie Dingwall, UMFA President. “We want the University of Manitoba to continue being a great university, but to do that requires investment in attracting and retaining the high-quality instructors, professors, and librarians who provide students with the support and opportunities they need.”

While a strike deadline has been set and communicated to the University administration, UMFA continues to demand that President Michael Bennaroch act on his previous comments which recognize that faculty compensation continues to lag behind other leading institutions. That commitment to the future of students and faculty includes protecting the independence of the university from the provincial government, and to prohibit the government from continued interference in UMFA’s negotiations.

“It’s incredibly disappointing that both the administration and the provincial government continue to put the short- and long-term future of students in jeopardy,” said Dingwall. “We know that students support UMFA in our fight to protect high-quality public education in Manitoba. We need an administration who prioritizes students and their learning conditions.”

UMFA represents over 1,200 professors, instructors, academic librarians, and archivists at the University of Manitoba.