

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



January 2018

Happy New Year everyone! I hope everyone had a restful holiday break, despite the intense cold. I'd like to provide you with an update on recent activities.

As always, if you have questions about the Collective Agreement or issues you're facing in your area, don't hesitate to contact the UMFA office: UMFA staff and our grievance officers continue their important work helping members as needed, and providing support as we all continue to develop new teaching workload guidelines.

Another important activity currently underway is having UMFA members provide advice, support and "muscle" to important causes affecting labour and faculty associations around the country. At the November meeting of CAUT council, Mike Shaw (VP) and Greg Flemming (Executive Director) presented a session on how to organize strikes to a packed room. At the Western Regional Conference (a forum for the Faculty Associations of Western Canada), Brenda Austin-Smith spoke about academic freedom, I spoke about our recent experiences with the renewal of the International College of Manitoba/Navitas contract, and Robert Chernomas made a presentation about dealing with unfriendly governments. I also made a presentation in Nova Scotia on trends in university finances and the increased use of casualized academic staff as resources are diverted to other priorities.

We have yet to receive news about our Unfair Labour Practice against the University of Manitoba administration regarding their conduct during the 2016 strike, but anticipate it

arriving any day now. Within 24 hours of receiving it, we'll let everyone know what it contains.

We are also working on lobbying activities to influence legislation affecting many aspects of the quality of university education and research, affordability of education, and working conditions on university campuses. Robert Chernomas, in his role as president of the Manitoba Organization of Faculty Associations (MOFA), and I lobbied the provincial government last spring on the infamous Public Services Sustainability Act and Amendments to the Education Act. In November, we were on Parliament Hill directing our lobbying efforts toward MPs in hopes of encouraging them to enact the important recommendations in the [Naylor report](#), which include increased tri-council funding.

We also talked about the upcoming review of the copyright legislation which was last passed in 2012. In lobbying, we are encouraged to tell stories to supplement the data to help politicians get a complete picture of an issue. So, I turned my mind to copyright and how it affects UMFA members on the ground.

Over the last ten years we have seen several changes to the steps we needed to take to use copyrighted materials. I've had trouble creating permalinks to electronic resources, or obtaining permissions in a timely fashion. Other times the cost to provide those materials to students has been prohibitive. Fortunately, in more recent years, the interpretations of fair dealing have struck a balance between users and authors that have allowed us to incorporate content in our classrooms with far fewer barriers than in the past. We are asking that politicians resist pressure from the publishing industry and Access Copyright that would force a move backwards. There are also other important copyright issues that have been identified, such as the need to find effective ways to protect copyright on indigenous content.

Our Federal lobbying efforts were coordinated by the CAUT, with materials and information provided by CAUT members. The materials regarding copyright were developed by librarians, who are certainly more versed than me in the nuances of the legislation, which is not at all surprising. Our librarians, after all, are the professionals who preserve, organize, identify, and disseminate information. They raise concerns over the access and preservation of information, support teaching staff to ensure that we adhere to whatever

legislation is in force, and help us conduct and disseminate our research.

This year, we will be promoting the importance and diversity of the work of UMFA members. We will be highlighting the important and unique role librarians play in research and education. We will examine the work of instructors and their varied roles and responsibilities that are essential to making life on campus run smoothly. We will also feature some of the diverse roles and contributions of professors.

As we head into the school term, let's appreciate and support each other. Because together, we make U of M happen.

In solidarity,
Janet Morrill
UMFA President

We make **UofM** happen

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA
Faculty Association



Copyright © 2017, University of Manitoba Faculty Association, All rights reserved.

**You are receiving this email because you are a member of the
University of Manitoba Faculty Association.**

Mailing Address:

100-29 Dysart Road, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3T 2M7

[Update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

