

October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Dear President Benarroch,

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Nursing Students' Association to express our support for our Professors, Instructors, Librarians, and Archivists represented by the University of Manitoba Faculty Association (UMFA), and their demands for a fair deal in this round of negotiations.

The Nursing Students' Association is understandably upset by the disruption to our studies that job action would pose, but we understand that UMFA has been forced to take these extraordinary measures by the University of Manitoba's refusal to stand up to the provincial government and negotiate honestly and in good faith. You have left them no option by denying them salary increases over the last 6 years that don't even offset the ever-rising cost of living.

You have publicly claimed to be committed to a "fair bargaining process", and said that UMFA members are 8% behind in salaries just based on inflation alone. The Nursing Students' Association would like to call on you to be true to your word and show the faculty and us students that you want what's best for the University of Manitoba. Both we and the public at large are aware that despite the University's financial position, and the increase in enrolment over the last two years, tuition has gone up by 9%.

As the University's biggest stakeholder group, the Nursing Students' Association wants to call upon you to share these resources equitably with the individuals who are responsible for the University's current financial good fortune, and the sustained good reputation of the University.

While considering the fair compensation UMFA members rightfully deserve, we also want you to consider the negative implications a strike will have on the province's healthcare system, as nursing students amongst other healthcare students' educations will be put on hold amidst a global pandemic. Given the current nursing shortage in the province, it is also unsettling to consider the possibility of disruptions to program progression and completion for the many promising future nurses we have at the University of Manitoba.

These are difficult times for everyone, but it is up to you to make the situation better, not worse.

Thank you, on behalf of the Nursing Students' Association,

**Gillian Laninga** (she/her)  
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