

UMFA members and students, stand united for better recruitment and retention of faculty
Students call on President Michael Benarroch to bargain in good faith

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Winnipeg - The University of Manitoba Faculty Association (UMFA) was joined by University of Manitoba students on the picket line today, demonstrating support for UMFA members and calling on the administration to fix recruitment and retention problems at the university. UMFA President Orvie Dingwall was joined by Gieselle Ortilla, a nursing student, and Alex Rana of Students Supporting UMFA (SSUMFA), along with other students at the University Crescent and Markham Road picket line.

“It’s wonderful to be joined by our students who clearly see how recruitment and retention issues at the university affect the quality of their education,” said Orvie Dingwall, UMFA President. “Our working conditions are their learning conditions. We’re grateful to have their support and are hopeful that the university accepts our reasonable offer, so students can return to their classes.”

Students have frequently joined UMFA members and supporters on the picket line and have also organized a “Teach In” series featuring UMFA members who speak on their areas of expertise. The speakers’ series was coordinated by SSUMFA, whose members joined UMFA President Orvie Dingwall on the picket line today.

“We know that our university has chosen to increase tuition fees year after year, and it’s time that we see some of that invested back into student learning conditions,” said Alex Rana. “If we want to attract students to the University of Manitoba, we need our university to properly invest in the reasons we chose to attend university – our faculty.”

“As a nursing student, I am aware of how important it is to properly invest not only in our healthcare system for today’s nurses, but also in our university so that we can educate the next generation of nurses,” said Gieselle Ortilla, a nursing student at the University of Manitoba. “Our provincial government needs to properly fund nursing education and stop interfering in bargaining, so that we can recruit and retain the best educators for tomorrow’s nurses.”

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