

FAST FACTS



OCTOBER 9, 2018

IMPORTANT TO NOTE

SEEQs evaluated - send us your comments!

The Senate has revived its Committee on Instruction and Evaluation, and among other things it's now tasked with evaluating the SEEQ instrument. UMFA has established an ad hoc committee so the Association can make a submission to Senate, and we want your feedback on SEEQs to inform our submission.

We'd like a written account of your experiences, good and bad. Don't worry – we'll keep your information confidential and not share your name with anyone. Information on how to submit your comments is below.

There are three main areas on which we'd like you to focus when making your comments:

1. *Academic value*: Do you think that the SEEQs provide constructive, formative feedback on your teaching practices? Do you generally receive informative written student comments? Do you receive comments that pertain to aspects other than your teaching practices (these can be positive or negative, like comments on how you look or dress)? Did you receive discriminatory comments that are personal, sexist, racist, or that have an ethnocentric bias? What kind of feedback would assist you to improve your courses? Do you perceive that summary scores are considered equitably in tenure and promotion

decisions?

2. *Privacy*: SEEQ scores are made available to the student population. Do you feel it is reasonable and justifiable to distribute this information?

3. *Harassment*: Are written student comments respectful? Have you ever received written SEEQ comments that are harassing and that might show bias on the part of your students? If so, what has been the nature of these comments and have they had negative effects on your experience as an instructor/professor and employee? If you still have copies of harassing or otherwise inappropriate comments, we'd like to see them so we can fully impress on the Senate Committee the extent and nature of the problem.

4. *Teaching Dossier*: Have you ever been encouraged by your Dean or Director to start or maintain a Teaching Dossier? What do you keep in it? Has it helped you improve the effectiveness of your teaching?

Please submit your comments, experiences, and any documents you'd like to share about SEEQs to umfaseeq@gmail.com by November 26, 2018. All submissions will be kept confidential.

Please note, too, that if you or your colleagues are experiencing harassment or other forms of inappropriate behavior, via SEEQs or otherwise, please immediately contact the office for confidential advice and support: faum@umfa.ca 204.474.8272.

Thinking of retiring soon and you are over 58?

The date to give notice of your retirement and participate in the retirement allowance program is December 31. The details of the retirement allowance program are found in Appendix F of the collective agreement-the program provides a retirement allowance \$20,000 to \$100,000 if you provide irrevocable notice to retire. The amount of the allowance depends on your age at retirement and the number of years' notice you provide.

If you are thinking of retiring, we encourage you to contact the pension benefits office and request a statement of retirement benefits. This statement, which is provided upon request, gives you information about your expected monthly pension given your exact age at retirement, and an estimate of the lump sum payment you would receive if you choose to take your money out of the UM plan. Since it takes up to six weeks for the pension office to generate your statement, please contact them as soon as possible.

Contact information is below.

Surnames beginning in:

A to K: Please email pension-pension-admin@lists.umanitoba.ca

L to Z: Please email Dawn.Dumanske@umanitoba.ca

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Protect Manitoba Jobs: Stop Bill 28

Manitoba Building Trades Campaign

The Manitoba Building Trades has launched a campaign in support of good wages, strong safety standards and the continued use of Project Labour Agreements on major capital projects. This campaign aims to stop Bill 28 from passing in the Legislature. For more information, visit <https://letsbuildmb.ca/>.

Solidarity messages in support of imprisoned Iranian teachers union activist

Education International, the global union federation representing education workers, and LabourStart have an urgent appeal out for solidarity messages in support of an imprisoned Iranian teachers union activist. To date over 10,000 solidarity messages have been sent,

and they are hoping to double that. For more information, the campaign can be found [here](#).

Update on negotiations at Canadian universities

On September 20, members of the University of Western Ontario Faculty Association (UWOFA) voted 94% in favour of strike action, should negotiations not reach a satisfactory conclusion. Conciliation begins later this month. A strike deadline has not been set. To read about the issues on the table, visit: <https://www.uwofa.ca/news/bargaining-bulletins-faculty>.

On September 25, the University of Sudbury and the Laurentian University Faculty Association – University of Sudbury reached a tentative three year agreement. The agreement will now be presented to the membership for ratification.

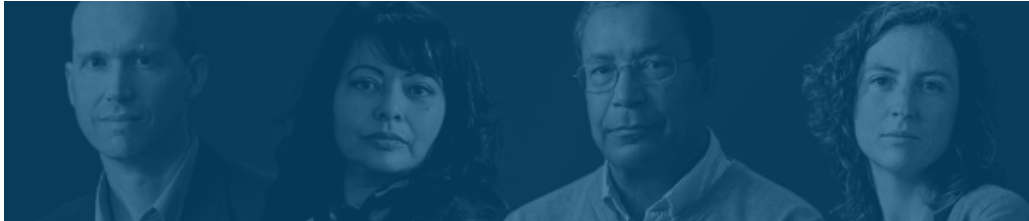
The York University Faculty Association is continuing to meet with the employer. Seven meetings are scheduled between the negotiating teams for October. Last month, a motion by Executive to consider holding a strike vote if it becomes necessary was supported by the membership. To date, a strike vote has not been called. To see recent bargaining updates, visit: <https://www.yufa.ca/bargaining/>.

Members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 1975, which represents a diverse range of employees including IT workers, truck drivers, parking enforcement officers and shopkeepers at the University of Saskatchewan, have voted 70% in favour of strike action. The vote took place on September 27 and 28. Members have been without a collective agreement since Dec. 31, 2015. For more information, visit: <https://1975.cupe.ca>.



CAUT

Canadian Association of University Teachers



Fair Employment Week

An increasing number of educators in universities and colleges across Canada are stuck in insecure part-time or contract positions. These positions are underpaid for the work being done. In fact, many of these positions earn less than a living wage.

CAUT's annual "Fair Employment Week" runs from October 22-26, 2018. This event is meant to draw attention to the working conditions of contract academic staff in Canada.

For more information on Fair Employment Week, visit <http://makeitfair.caut.ca/>.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

**Make Poverty History
in WINNIPEG and MANITOBA**

KNOW
POVERTY MAKE IT HISTORY

Join Together!

Call on the City of Winnipeg
and Province of Manitoba to

End Poverty Now 

Thursday October 11th
12:00 noon – 1:30 pm
City Hall 510 Main Street 

We will march from City Hall to
the Manitoba Legislature

Book Launch - *Untold Stories: A Canadian Disability History Reader*

Friday, October 12, 2018

7:00 pm - Grant Park in the Atrium, Winnipeg

Winnipeg launch of [*Untold Stories: A Canadian Disability History Reader*](#) (Canadian Scholars Press).

This volume, co-edited by Nancy Hansen, Roy Hanes and Diane Driedger, tells the history of disabled people in Canada from Confederation to the present. For the first time, one volume brings together the history of a group of people that have often been invisible in Canada's history.

Nancy Hansen, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor and Director of the Interdisciplinary Master's Program in Disability Studies at the University of Manitoba. Nancy is a former member of the Member CAUT Working Group Academics with Disabilities and Equity Committee, former President of the Canadian Disability Studies Association. She received an Einstein research fellowship examining Disability Studies and the Legacy of Nazi Eugenics. Nancy is co-editor of the Routledge History of Disability.

For a list of upcoming UMFA meetings, please visit our website:

<http://www.umfa.ca/news/meetings-events>.

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 for consideration.

We make **UofM** happen

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA
Faculty Association