

FAST FACTS



NOVEMBER 6, 2018

Hi everyone,

Below you'll find relevant news items and UMFA related information that we hope you'll find helpful. 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.

IMPORTANT TO NOTE

Is there any academic value in the SEEQ instrument?



The University of Manitoba has been using the SEEQ instrument as the tool of choice to collect feedback from students on courses and course instruction. UMFA would like to know: ***do UMFA members gain any feedback from the SEEQs that is of real 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?

As the university is gearing up to have the Senate Committee on Instruction and Evaluation review the SEEQ instrument, UMFA has established an ad-hoc committee to make a submission to be included in this review. We need member feedback to inform our submission.

In addition to the above, we would also like to hear your thoughts on the following:

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

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.

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?

We'd like a written account of your experiences, good and bad. Your information will be kept confidential and we will not share your name with anyone. Please submit your comments, experiences, and any documents you'd like to share about SEEQs to umfaseeq@gmail.com by November 26, 2018.

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.

Over 58 and thinking of retiring soon?



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.

Surnames beginning in:

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

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

Career Month

Working with the UM Career Month Working Group, UMFA has offered to encourage our members to engage in conversations with our students about our careers and to promote Career Month events. To that end, please [click here](#) to access three power point slides that include some possible questions for you to answer for your class sometime between October 29 and November 7. Note that there are different slides for the first and second weeks as they promote different events.

In one of your classes between October 29 and November 7, we encourage you to take about 15 minutes, if possible, to answer any or all of the questions or to substitute your own. The questions are:



1. What were the routes/experiences that got you here? What experiences enhanced your career success?

2. Beyond teaching, what are the other aspects of your position (research, service etc.) that excite you?

3. What career advice do you have for the students in front of you?

Not only will this help our students, but it also strengthens UMFA by allowing our students to understand all the things we do outside of the classroom, and why we think they are important.

NEWS YOU CAN USE 



UMFA Solidarity Committee supports CUPW on the picket lines

On October 29 the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) went on strike in Winnipeg and Brandon. The UMFA Solidarity Committee was on site at the airport mail processing plant, as well as the southwest depot on Wilkes Ave.

Interested in helping to support other labour and union activities in Manitoba? Consider joining the UMFA Solidarity Committee!

To be added to the email list of events that the Solidarity Committee will attend throughout the year, click [here](#).



Professors and Instructors Make U of M Happen!



Earlier in the year, we acknowledged the importance of librarians on campus as they make research and higher learning possible through their work. To see the interviews from that campaign, visit the [website](#).

Now it's time to talk about professors and instructors! Keep an eye on Facebook, Twitter, and our website starting later in November, as we share some of the day-to-day work conducted by

your colleagues, as well as the challenges they face. We will also look at some of the misconceptions that students or the public have about these professions.

Follow along and share these profiles on your social media using the hashtag **#WeMakeUofMHappen**.

MEETINGS & EVENTS



UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA
Faculty Association

COFFEE WITH THE PRESIDENT

NOVEMBER 20, 2018
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
EXTENDED EDUCATION
COMPLEX HALLWAY
(near the tunnel entrance)

Come meet with UMFA President Janet Morrill as she hosts "Coffee with the President" later this month. If you have issues or concerns you want to discuss, or if you just want to come by and say hello, she is looking forward to seeing you.



DECEMBER 6, 2019

LABOUR ON FILM


**BRING YOUR LUNCH AND JOIN YOUR UMFA
COLLEAGUES FOR A LUNCH TIME MOVIE SHOWING
OF STANLEY KUBRICK'S "THE SEAFARERS"**

(PSST...THERE'S POPCORN TOO!)

**12:30 P.M. - 1:30 P.M.
ELIZABETH DAFOE LIBRARY
ROOM #160**

RSVP: UMFA-COMMUNICATIONS@UMFA.CA

**UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA
Faculty Association**

We make  happen



This conference commemorates the Winnipeg General Strike of 1919, a landmark moment in North American working-class history. In May and June that year, some 30,000 workers ceased work for six weeks. Provoked by the inequities of industrial capitalism, the authoritarianism of their workplaces, the brutal experiences of the First World War, rising prices and stagnating wages, an insecure economic outlook, intransigent employers, and a federal state that responded to their demands with growing repression, the city's workers stood together in an astounding display of unity. This conference explores the history and continuities of those struggles, many of which continue to confront us today.

The conference is part of an extensive program of commemorative activities planned for spring 2019. More information can be found on the Manitoba Federation of Labour's website: <http://mfl.ca/1919>.

The conference website is <http://1919-2019.com/>. Registration will begin soon. Please plan to attend!

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

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

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We make **UofM** happen

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA
Faculty Association



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