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URFA Requests Mediator to Reach Agreement for U of R Academic Staff

The University of Regina Faculty Association has made a request to the Minister of Labour for the appointment of a mediator to assist in reaching a collective agreement between U of R Academic Staff and the University of Regina.

“Last fall, our members signalled overwhelmingly that they did not accept the unworkable proposals being put forward by University management when they voted 87.4% in favour of a strike mandate,” said URFA President Sylvain Rheault. “Unfortunately, despite a strong strike mandate, and after much negotiation, we have failed to reach agreement with University management on a number of issues.”

Outstanding issues include protecting the academic mission of the university, protection for members exercising academic freedom, predictable teaching hours, equitable pay for sessional lecturers, compensation that keeps pace with the rate of inflation, and pensions comparable to those received by University management.

The Collective Agreement covering University of Regina Academic Staff members, which includes faculty, instructors, laboratory instructors, librarians and sessionals, expired in June 2017. Negotiations with University management have been ongoing since April, 2018.

“It was our hope that with a strong strike mandate, we would be able to return to the table and negotiate a collective agreement with University management that recognized and valued the crucial role our members play in supporting students at this University,” Rheault said. “Instead, University management has stuck to proposals that our members resoundingly rejected when they voted in favour of a strike mandate just a few months ago.

We are hopeful that with the assistance of a mediator, we will be able to reach a fair and reasonable agreement with University management without having to resort to job action that would interrupt students.”

The University of Regina Faculty Association is the certified bargaining agent for 1400 full and part-time employees in seven bargaining units at the University of Regina, First Nations University of Canada, Campion College, and Luther College.

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