URFA Supports URSU Campaign to Freeze Tuition

February 4, 2019

The University of Regina Faculty Association stands in support of the University of Regina Students’ Union’s campaign to lobby the Provincial Government to freeze tuition for post secondary students.

A decade of tuition increases has had an impact on the affordability of pursuing a degree at the U of R. Tuition has increased 36 per cent since 2008, and by 21 per cent in the past five years alone. The University of Regina is currently ranked in Macleans as the fourth most expensive University in Canada, and university students in Saskatchewan currently pay the highest tuition in Western Canada.

It wasn’t always this way. A decade of austerity, cuts, and underfunding of post secondary education by the provincial government have led to yearly tuition increases at Saskatchewan Universities. As a result, URFA members have faced increased workloads and precarity, and students have found themselves struggling to make ends meet while taking on high debt loads in order to obtain a post secondary education.

It’s past time for the government to take action. URFA supports a significant re-investment in Post-Secondary Education in Saskatchewan that would include a tuition freeze for students and improved teaching, research and working conditions for University Faculty and staff. The benefits of re-investing in post secondary education would be enormous, and has the opportunity to boost the province’s struggling economy while ensuring that we are able to build on and grow our post secondary institutions.

It’s time for the government to make post secondary education a priority. URFA fully supports URSUs campaign for a tuition freeze in Saskatchewan, and calls on the provincial government to re-invest in Saskatchewan’s post secondary education system.