April 11, 2018

URFA Members,

Yesterday, the Provincial Government released their budget for the 2018-19 fiscal year. The budget increased funding to the University of Regina by less than one per cent, and provided only a small fraction of funding for needed capital maintenance. The message from the provincial government was clear that their trend of austerity, when it comes to the funding of post-secondary education, will continue.

In response to the provincial budget, University of Regina President Vianne Timmons mentioned yesterday in the media that a tuition increase or layoffs were both potential options for balancing the University's budget. Unfunded capital projects proceed while human capital, the people who support the mission of the University, are ignored.

URFA does not accept the University balancing their budget on the backs of its employees, URFA's members. URFA members are also reminded that there is strong language in your Collective Agreements, including a number of measures and steps the University must take before any reduction in the number of URFA members due to financial reasons. The language can be found on page 99 of the URFA Academic Collective Agreement, and on page 36 of the URFA APT Collective Agreement.

The University’s budget comes down to choices. Over the past few years, the University has made choices that have impacted URFA members, as workloads have increased and positions have been eliminated or gone unfilled, and permanent Academic positions have been replaced with an increasing reliance on sessional instructors. In turn, these choices have impacted the students that we serve.

When preparing their budget, the University should consider options that do not impact URFA members or the students of the University of Regina. It’s time for the University to start investing in the people that they rely on for the day-to-day operations of this institution.

In Solidarity,

Dennis Fitzpatrick

President, URFA