

Tristan Rohatynsky, Jasmine Tingey, Molly Crandall & Tiffany Tantakoun Reports:

Current Business:

Motions:

1. Motion 0523: Binding Arbitration

WHEREAS the University of Manitoba Faculty Association (UMFA) officially called a strike following the University of Manitoba's failure to provide faculty appropriate compensation.

WHEREAS since the legal strike officially began on November 2nd, 2021, UMFA and the University of Manitoba have not reached an agreement.

WHEREAS the academic careers, mental health, and overall well-being of University of Manitoba students continue to suffer.

WHEREAS third-party binding arbitration would alleviate both UMFA and the University of Manitoba of negotiations.

WHEREAS third-party binding arbitration would put an immediate end to the strike and therefore alleviate the student body of further academic disruption.

BE IT RESOLVED the University of Manitoba Students' Union endorse binding third-party arbitration for the 2021 UMFA/UM labour dispute.

- presentation explaining what binding arbitration is → lawyers or judges - who work as arbitrators on down time - not necessarily the case
- Authoritative third party decision making process
- Scenario 3 on wednesday so time sensitive
- Decision by the board on the motion; no guarantee that both parties will be satisfied
- Consider the stakeholders; many different opinions from students, students want strike to end which binding arbitration would allow
- Orvie Dingwall (pres of UMFA) and Erik Thomas - spoke on the criteria they wanted to discuss before agreeing to arbitration - i.e., discussing governance issues, vacation time and how prof teaches the class (in-person or online) to not be discussed during arbitration
 - UMFA has agreed to go to arbitration before but the arbitrator was not qualified to make decisions regarding governance, they need to go on strike

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- UMFA stated they are happy to send money issues to arbitration but refused to send everything through arbitration, want parameters to surround what they want in advance
- Have made progress but there is still a bit to go in order to come to a unanimous decision
- Want to go for binding arbitration but not for issues regarding governance issues that UMFA is trying to resolve
 - Conditions UMFA would like to have resolved PRIOR to binding arbitration:
 1. Back to work
 2. Online Learning
 3. Vacation Policy - working 3 terms
 - a. This really affects nursing instructors
 - b. Vacation is primarily for the Faculty of Nursing - having them double up on teaching in order to take a vacation
- When going into discussion
 - Students noted
 - This motions was worded vaguely, sounding like a blank cheque
 - Some were not comfortable agreeing to the motion and passing it would be shortsighted
 - Motion risks putting future students in a bad position
 - Some spoke out about how they support UMFA and the strike
 - Some spoke out about amending the motion to include UMFA's conditions
 - Emily stated Umsu still supports UMFA, execs were more than willing to amend the motion to include UMFA's conditions, wanted to bring this motion to the board to create an open discussion about this as well as to hear changes etc.
 - After further discussion
 - Motion was amended to have the following BE IT RESOLVED clauses:

BE IT RESOLVED the University of Manitoba Students' Union endorse binding third-party arbitration for the compensation issues in the 2021 UMFA/UM labour dispute.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Umsu endorses UMFA's terms and conditions for items that need to be resolved prior to agreeing to binding arbitration. Including, but not limited to, return to work protocol, no assigned teaching three consecutive terms and consent to teach online.

- Continuing discussion
 - Students stated

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- to support the original motion and unconditionally support UMFA as it will support UMFA no matter what other terms/ conditions they want resolved
- Students from the College of Pharmacy, spoke on behalf of other health science students, on how their schedules in the present and the future are greatly affected
 - affects rotations, clinicals, patients they see
 - affects costs of schooling
 - wants to keep BOTH students and UMFA in mind
- Others stated that this motion does not follow what UMFA wants
- One student noted the original motion was pointless but the amended version is much more specific - worded better
- After debate finished
 - UMSU Chair presented the amended motion 0523, the motion passed.