

President's Report: UWFA AGM, Nov. 22, 2021

We acknowledge that we are gathered on ancestral lands, on Treaty One Territory. These lands are the heartland of the Métis people. We acknowledge that our water is sourced from Shoal Lake 40 First Nation.

Thanks to Lisa McGifford for her work on behalf of the Association, and to Marissa Dudych – Marissa, in particular, has been working for UWFA for 10 years; congratulations! Thanks to Council and Executive members, who assisted with so much of our work in the last six months, often at short notice, and during times of the year when we are typically engaged in research or on vacation. My thanks to all members.

As has become a cliché, I want to start by acknowledging the incredible work of faculty here at UofW since our last meeting. If anything, we've worked through the hardest period of the pandemic since we last gathered at an annual meeting last May. The "third wave" was the direst so far, with patients shipped out of province to free ICU beds, and a return to sharp lockdown measures we thought we had left behind. I offer my sympathies to any member who lost a loved one or had to see them moved out of province to receive care. It's a critical failure of our health care system, a consequence of ideologically fueled austerity.

Moreover, I'm especially aware of the strain – to say the least – that these measures put on members who are parents of school-age children, who were suddenly faced with closed schools once again and who once more had to balance teaching, research, service, and home-schooling. We've also worked through another incredibly complex and exhausting summer, as we faced changing "return to campus" instructions from University administration, at least three different processes, one of which was introduced on a weekend, by my count.

Of course, since our last annual meeting, we've lined up to be vaccinated. The spring AGM was the day after my first dose, and now this AGM is one month before I get my third. We've seen the life-changing and life-saving effect of the basic scientific research – much of it at Universities – that is slowly reducing the scope of the pandemic; most notably, in recent days, the wonderful news about vaccinations for children over 5.

Amid these incredibly busy months, UWFA members have continued to excel in teaching, research, and service. The University has continued to operate without missing a step – indeed, by hitting new heights in, for example research funding – because of the work of UWFA members. We know that this work has been exhausting and, to a large degree, uncompensated or recognized beyond platitudes. These months of the pandemic have put into sharp focus that a University *is* faculty and students, not classrooms, corridors, and buildings. That faculty work – service, mentorship, collaborations, outreach, research and scholarship, teaching, learning – is the work that defines the University. For all of that, maintained at the highest level during the some of the most difficult circumstances of the last fifty years, UWFA members deserve praise and recognition – so, at least from me, thank you!

My PowerPoint presentation (available as a .pdf) runs through some activities that we've been doing, some are regular things, some special; members are always welcome to contact me for more information on any of my activities, or those of UWFA Executive or Council.

– Peter J. Miller, President, University of Winnipeg Faculty Association

UWFA AGM, Fall 2021

President's Report



UWFA members at UMFA Solidarity
picket at the Legislature, Nov. 5., 2021

COVID-19

“Return” to Campus Timeline

- UWFA: call for vaccine and mask mandate, Aug. 9;
- Interviews with *Winnipeg Free Press*, *Radio-Canada*, *Global News*, *CJOB*, *CTV*, *CityTV*, Aug. 9-12;
- UWFA meeting with VPA and HR, Aug. 13;
- Employer survey on vaccination, Aug. 13;
- Preliminary survey results and implementation of vaccine mandate, Aug. 19
- All-union and Employer meeting re: vaccine mandate, Aug. 30

Cases on Campus

- Two reported as of Nov. 18th (with caveat on reporting method)

Faculty association at University of Winnipeg want mandatory masks, vaccines this fall



Charles Lefebvre
CTVNewsWinnipeg.ca
Supervising News Producer -
Digital

WINNIPEG -

Employer Meetings



- Met with Pres. Currie: May 6; June 3; Sept. 9
- Met with VPA Jan Stewart: May 5, 19; June 2, 16, 30; Oct. 13, Oct. 27
- Attended Board of Regents: May 3, June 28

UWFA Membership

- New Member BBQ at Assiniboine Park, Sept. 17, 4-8PM
- Drop-in Members' events at the Forks: Sept. 16, Sept. 23, Sept. 30, Oct. 7
- UWFA sweaters have been designed and will be for sale to members soon; watch your inbox



Solidarity with UMFA

- Dog walk pre-strike protest: Oct. 29th
- Rally at the Legislature: Nov. 5th
- Rally at the Fort Garry campus: Nov. 12th
- March in Tuxedo: Nov. 16th



Other Activities as President

- Joined Manitoba Federation of Labour Executive Council
- Represented UWFA with the Manitoba Federation of Labour at the Rally for Reproductive Justice: Oct. 2nd, 2021
- Volunteered on behalf of UWFA at the UWinnipeg Vaccine Verification Centre, Aug. 31, Oct. 7, Nov. 17
- Filmed “why I give” as UWFA President for UWinnipeg United Way campaign launch: Nov. 3
- Attended Fall convocation dinner as representative of UWFA: Oct. 14

