

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Board of Regents Seat Is Welcome, But Not Enough

MUNFA welcomes Premier Andrew Furey’s comments regarding a role for MUNFA on the Board of Regents, and is pleased to see discussion of collegial governance circulating in the public. This is one of the crucial issues for our members and it is unclear to MUNFA why the university’s administration is so opposed to including in our collective agreement standard provisions of collegial governance that are implemented at other institutions across Canada.

While the administration has recently raised the prospect of being open to a faculty seat on the Board of Regents, and MUNFA would welcome improved faculty and student representation on the board, it misses the essence of collegial governance. Inclusion in academic decision-making requires a commitment from the university’s administration and cannot simply be resolved with a legislative change from the province — and given the administration’s response to MUNFA’s requests at the bargaining table, there is no evidence that this commitment is forthcoming.

Nevertheless, we hope that the administration is as eager to move on other critical outstanding issues that concern our members, including improved job security for contractual members and equal access to post-retirement benefits. Without job security, any overtures toward greater inclusion in academic decision-making are empty gestures.

MUNFA member, former president, and vice-president of the Canadian Association of University Teachers Robin Whitaker is available to provide further comment.

The MUN Faculty Association is the certified bargaining agent for more than 800 academic staff members at Memorial University.

For more information, contact:

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