

UGFA Update - COVID-19

Faculty Association <facassoc@uoguelph.ca>

Thu 9/2/2021 10:52 AM

To: Faculty Association <facassoc@uoguelph.ca>

Cc: Denise Sanderson <dsanders@uoguelph.ca>

Dear UGFA Member,

Our most recent survey sought to gauge the degree of confidence among UGFA members for the Administration's plans for Fall 2021. To the statement "I am confident that the Administration's current plans for a return to campus will keep the campus and surrounding community safe in Fall 2021," 66% of respondents said that they strongly disagree (40%) or disagree (26%), while 19% of respondents said that they strongly agree (8%) or agree (11%). 15% of respondents said that they neither agree nor disagree. The total number of respondents was 546, which represents a response rate of 60%.

The incoherent nature of the Administration's response to COVID-19 not only contributes to an increase in the level of anxiety on campus, but it also contributes to inequities as the Administration has distributed risks unequally across the UGFA membership. As an ever-increasing amount of the work that UGFA members do becomes "remote," that work falls outside of the terms of our Collective Agreement and lacks the protections that were in place as part of our previous COVID-19 Letter of Understanding (LOU). More than ever, we need an LOU between the Association and the Administration to ensure that the terms and conditions of the work of UGFA members are clear, and that all UGFA members are treated fairly and feel safe in their workplace. After repeatedly pressing the Administration in recent weeks to return to bargaining, on Tuesday, August 31, we delivered to them a formal request to do so. To date, they have not responded to our request.

We still do not have the answers to a number of important questions, such as how the vaccine mandate will be enforced, how the vaccine status of UGFA members will be collected and stored, what will happen to UGFA members who remain unvaccinated in the absence of an exemption, and many others. We will continue to press for answers, and for the Administration to return to bargaining an LOU, and we will keep you informed as things develop.

With best wishes,

Mary DeCoste, UGFA President

Herb Kunze, UGFA Vice-President

UGFA

5 University Ave East

(519) 767-6547

Monday - Wednesday 9:00am - 4:00pm

Thursday - 9:00am - Noon

Friday - 9:00am - 4:00pm

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