

March 24, 2020

Laurie R. Morris  
President  
Association of Employees Supporting Education Services  
103-900 Harrow Street East  
Winnipeg MB R3M 3Y7

Dear Laurie,

The University of Winnipeg senior executive group recognizes and values the work of all our staff. We appreciate the work they do every day to support students and faculty contributing to the University's success, today is no different.

Our goal is to support students and ensure that COVID-19 does not deter the successful completion of winter term.

We've had to make unprecedented decisions that include suspending in-person classes and exams, moving to alternate learning delivery modes, the UWinnipeg library is offering a range of remote services, and the Student Services team is shifting to alternative outreach models like online and phone advising. This pivot has been greatly facilitated by our dedicated campus technology sector.

UWinnipeg has had to close The Bill Wedlake Fitness Centre and suspend recreation services programming at the Duckworth Centre. All university-related, non-essential travel has been suspended and discretionary events on campus currently scheduled until May 1, 2020 have been postponed. We have taken these steps to reduce risk, in keeping with the advice and guidance provided by the Manitoba government and the Public Health Agency of Canada.

While essential services remain available, the UWinnipeg has adjusted campus hours in light of reduced activity. The University has a business continuity plan and we are actively working through contingencies to maintain campus operations and to enable some staff and faculty to work from home, where appropriate.

For those employees who hold a variable-hours, continuing appointment, they will be paid for all hours worked or scheduled to work, up to and including April 3, 2020, which marks the end of classes for the winter term. Employees will receive payment for these hours on April 17, 2020. Effective April 4, 2020, as there will be no hours of work available, a Record of Employment will be issued due to a temporary shortage of work. Employees are encouraged to apply for Employment Insurance benefits to mitigate any financial impacts.

.../2

Letter to AESES  
March 24, 2020  
Page 2

We recognize the provincial government has limited resources and is now dealing with a major public health challenge that is causing great concern for our economy. As one of the most efficiently run universities in the country, The University of Winnipeg will continue to prioritize investing in a strong student experience, as well as academic excellence in teaching and research. In addition to the provincial operating grant UWinnipeg is very reliant on tuition revenues which will be affected by COVID-19. Upcoming Spring Term (May/June) courses will be offered via alternative delivery options. There will be no in-person classes.

The UWinnipeg community is resilient and we are banding together.

I'm confident we will get through this challenging situation and gain valuable experience that will enhance our ability to deliver education with impact.

We recognize that this is difficult and we are grateful for your continued patience and understanding as we navigate these challenging times. The health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff is our top priority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A. Trimbee".

Dr. Annette Trimbee

Cc. Roberta Marsh, CHRO