



# University of Manitoba Students' Union

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Students defeat ten of the twelve fee proposals; “We will be ready” for more attacks on accessibility: UMSU President**

**MANITOBA**— Students are claiming a partial victory today as the provincial government has announced they have rejected ten of the twelve tuition fee increase proposals from the University of Manitoba. “This victory shows the power of student organizing and mobilization,” stated Heather Laube, President of the University of Manitoba Students’ Union (UMSU). “There is no doubt in my mind that the provincial government would have approved more of these proposals had students stayed silent and not voiced their opposition to these ridiculous increases.”

The ten rejected increases included proposals to hike tuition fees in Dental Hygiene, Law, Agriculture, Nursing, Medicine, Education, and Occupational, Respiratory and Physical Therapy, as well as the undergraduate Management program. The two approved increases are for Dentistry (a 20% increase in fees September 2010 and 2011) and the Masters of Business Administration program (a 25% increase in fees in September 2011 and 2012).

“While we are happy that students were able to push the government to reject most of these proposals, the increases that were approved by the provincial government do represent an attack on the accessibility of those programs,” stated Murat Ates, Vice-President Advocacy of UMSU. “It is shameful that the NDP government chose to ignore the concerns of students and other Manitobans in approving the proposals they did.”

New versions of the proposals that have been defeated, in addition to the proposal for a 215% increase in graduate student continuing fees that was withdrawn in May in the face of student pressure, can be resubmitted to the Council on Post-Secondary Education and the Provincial Government at any time. “These victories are real, and students should be proud,” said Laube. “But the only thing stopping the University from bringing them forward again and the provincial government from approving them next time is students and our allies. We will be ready.”

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For more information, please contact:

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*As the largest students’ union in Manitoba, the University of Manitoba Students’ Union represents over 23,000 students.*