

August 25, 2020

Nancy Laird, Chair, Board of Governors
Office of the University Secretariat
Athabasca University
#1 University Drive
Athabasca, AB T9S 3A3

Dear Ms. Laird:

On behalf of the University of Saskatchewan Faculty Association (USFA) Executive Committee, I am writing to express solidarity with the efforts of Athabasca University Faculty Association (AUFA) to protect its bargaining unit. We are disappointed and angry to hear that the Athabasca University Board of Governors is considering changes to its policy for designating employees to particular bargaining units. We understand that the proposed de-designation will remove approximately 62% of AUFA's members from the Association.

Such de-designation would significantly diminish the bargaining power of AUFA and undermine the collective voices of the university's employees. A unionized workplace is the best way to ensure through collective bargaining that there is recognition of strong protections of academic freedom, critical to a robust education. Any institutions where faculty are at risk of losing academic freedom are not ones that we would recommend our students to attend.

Should Athabasca University de-designate members from AUFA, the USFA Executive Committee will be recommending to our members that they discourage students from attending Athabasca University.

Sincerely,



Allison Muri, Chair
University of Saskatchewan Faculty Association