



MEDIA RELEASE

University of Regina Faculty Association (URFA) – First Nations University

August 19, 2010

The Faculty Association is saddened and disappointed at the nature and severity of the cuts just announced by First Nations University of Canada (FNUniv). The termination of a significant number of our faculty and staff members is a tragic loss to the institution. Many years of experience and knowledge are being lost with direct repercussion on the extent and quality of Aboriginal education programming. We understand the difficult position the administration is in. However we regret they chose to limit the Faculty Association's role in their restructuring plan. Their failure to honour the specific terms of collective agreements by ensuring members were consulted sufficiently to reach collegial consensus about how to respond to the financial exigency is particularly frustrating.

In our view it is short sighted of the provincial and federal governments to have placed ongoing funding in such jeopardy, particularly in light of the governance and management changes that were finally made earlier this year in response to serious allegations of mismanagement. This institution is necessary to the growth and success of the aboriginal population of Saskatchewan and of Canada. We believe there are many oversights that could have been implemented if continuity of funding had been assured. This would have encouraged student support and growth and alleviated the need for such massive job loss.

We reiterate that at a time when the Aboriginal population has the greatest growth rate in Canada, this institution should be positioned to expand programs, not reduce them. The provincial and federal governments have a responsibility to ensure these matters are addressed to allow FNUniv to improve their educational programs and governance.

for further information contact:

Dr. Miguel Sanchez, Chair, URFA, 306-530-0580

or

Patricia Fleming, Executive Director, URFA, 306-585-4586 or 306-537-2058 (cell)