

UMSU Meeting Minutes

Tristan Rohatynsky, Jasmine Tingey, Molly Crandall & Tiffany Tantakoun Reports:

Meeting with Student Coalition

Date: July 21st, 2021

Time: 6:00 PM - 8:25 PM

General Notes and Update:

1. Meeting with Tabitha as well as other members of the Student Coalition
 - a. Had a discussion about their motions as well as the harassment allegations, and what students were experiencing
 - b. We provided feedback in terms of how to phrase their motions, etc.
 - c. Provided some ideas on how we can help students who have been harassed/getting harassed
 - i. List of resources, etc.
 - d. Overall a productive meeting

UMSU BOD Meeting

Date: July 22nd, 2021

Time: 6:31 PM - 7:13 PM

Current Business:

Motions:

1. **Motion 0516: Hiring of a Chief Recruiting Officer (CRO)**
 - a. Status: Motion carried
 - b. Notes: Hiring a non-UMSU member (third-party) to chair the UMSU 2022 Elections
2. **Motion 0517: Statement of Solidarity**
 - a. Status: Seconded by Hanna Belec (ASBC UMSU Rep), Motion being referred to Executive Committee
 - b. Notes: Motion was read and will be reviewed by Executive Committee
3. **Motion 0518: Providing Impacted Students a Safe Space**
 - a. Status: Seconded by Dario Duque Giraldo (ASBC UMSU Rep), Motion being referred to Executive Committee
 - b. Notes: Motion was read and will be reviewed by Executive Committee

Reports from the Executives:

President's Report (Brendan Scott):

1. **New Updates:**
 - a. **MAPSS**
 - i. Avery Halldorson from RRC - elected as Vice Chair
 - ii. Expansion of MAPSS is looking very promising with UWSA and ACC potentially joining
 - b. **Month of June and July Letter**
 - i. Aug 3rd - letter composed by Brendan will be sent out to all students updating all of them the larger ongoing of UMSU in the month of June and July
 - c. **Health and Dental Contract**

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- i. Brook will go into detail about this later in his report
- ii. A new deal between StudentCare and UMSU has been struck

d. Health and Dental Plan

- i. Brook and Brendan have been working hard throughout the summer to improve the student Health Plan
- ii. Part of their commitment to supporting members' well-being, the current coverage for mental health practitioners has been expanded to include visits to counsellors and psychotherapists
- iii. The change will take effect September 1st, 2021
- iv. This is on top of licensed clinical psychologists and practitioners with a Master's degree in Social Work.
- v. A reminder that the UMSU Health Plan continues to cover 100% of the cost per visit for these eligible mental health practitioners, to a combined maximum of \$1,250 per policy year.

e. Orientation

- i. Tino will expand on this in his report
- ii. Orientation this year will be in-person in September
- iii. September 8, 9, and 10th, UMSU will be re-engaging the campus and informing students about their Students Union

2. Continuing Updates

- a. Clubs Coordinator position has been filled
- b. As of right now there is still a provincial mandate that there is no more than 25 students per classroom
- c. Creating new study spaces to allow students to manage classes in person and online
- d. Expecting about 2500 students on campus coming this Fall
- e. Opening some dining services across campus

VP Advocacy's Report (Emily Kalo):

1. Campus Advocacy Update

- a. See Continuing updates

2. Provincial Advocacy Update

a. MAPSS

- i. July 5th, MAPSS met in order to review priorities and talking points in preparation for their meeting w/ provincial parties this month
- ii. Throughout this meeting the Composition of MAPSS BOD was finalized
- iii. As of July 5th, 2021 - MAPSS Board of Directors officially consists of:
 - 1. Emily Kalo - elected to serve as Chair of MAPSS
 - 2. Avery Halldorson - elected to serve as Vice Chair of MAPSS
 - 3. Brendan Scott - elected to serve as Secretary of MAPSS
- iv. Representatives from University of Winnipeg's' Students Association (UWSA) and Assiniboine Community Campus (ACC) also attended the meeting

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1. Both associations have expressed interests in MAPSS as a provincial advocacy organization, and a follow up meeting between MAPSS and ACC was conducted on July 14th
- v. MAPSS met with Uzoma ASagwara - MLA for Union Station and Critic for Health, Seniors, and Active Living, and Jaime Moses, MLA for St. Vital and Critic for Advanced Education and Skills, and Economic Development and Jobs, from the NDP Caucus on July 7th
 1. This meeting proved to be a productive space for coalition building and consultation
 2. Priorities discussed during the meeting included:
 - a. International Student Healthcare
 - i. December 2020, MAPSS put forward a cost proposal which included a public buy in option for international students that would be cost neutral for provincial tax payers
 - ii. MAPSS requested feedback on said cost proposal and reiterated its dedication to ensuring equitable treatment and care for all international students in the province
 - iii. MAPSS has prioritized its work on said proposal will continue to strategize different ways it can ensure international students receive the care and treatment they deserve
 - b. Bill 33
 - i. MAPSS had already secured its main objective of protecting student union fees
 - ii. Bill 33 went to committee and passed in April. Despite ultimately passing there was strong opposition during the committee stage.
 - iii. During the committee Stage, the Minister referred to his willingness to continue consultation re: Bill 33 - MAPSS will focus on ensuring consultations occur as we move forward
 - c. Access programs
 - i. December 2020, MAPSS put forward a cost proposal that included creating new job placements and improving outreach with regard to Northern Learners
 - ii. MAPSS requested feedback on said cost proposal and urged the political party to increase access program exposure in the media and during question period
 - d. The Skills, Talent, and Knowledge Strategy

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- i. MAPSS reiterated its concern re: performance based funding and demand for more work learning opportunities
 - b. A follow up meeting with the NDP Caucus is being scheduled for the fall
 - c. Meeting with the Honourable Wayne Ewasko re-scheduled for August 3rd, 2021
 - d. Meeting with the Liberal Caucus is currently being rescheduled
 - 3. Federal Advocacy Update**
 - a. CASA**
 - i. UMSU president and VPA have been registered for the CASA Policy and Strategy Conference July 26th - July 30th, 2021
 - 1. Update at next Board of Director Meeting
- 4. Projects**
 - a. Indigenous Students Working Group**
 - i. Emily met with members of the Indigenous Students Working Group on June 26th, for the first official meeting.
 - ii. During introductory meetings discussion were held surrounding increasing cultural competency and the best practices moving forward
 - iii. All members of the working group now have access to the *Indigenous Initiatives and Education Report*
 - iv. During the next meeting: *Theme 1: Relationships* under section "Actionable Items" will be discussed
- 5. Continuing Updates**
 - a. Student Advocacy RE: Academic Integrity**
 - i. Since meeting with Brandy Usick, the Executive Director of Student Engagement and Success, and Heather Morris, Director of Student Advocacy in May of 2021, Emily has completed the following action items:
 - 1. Reviewed the Academic Integrity Procedure and drafting recommendations
 - 2. Reviewed Academic Integrity Resources and drafting recommendations
 - ii. Emily have begun the process of putting together a report which will include a summary of findings and a condensed list of all recommendations Emily plans on putting forward
 - 1. Next Steps include:
 - a. Drafting a revised resource page that streamlines the services available to students
 - b. Drafting a frequently asked questions (FAQ) resource for students
 - iii. July 19th, 2021 - the Academic Misconduct Procedure Working Group (AMPWG) met to discuss an upcoming pilot program, strategies to streamline misconduct, and opportunities for student and staff

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- iv. Priorities set in the meeting:
 - 1. Increasing awareness re: academic integrity policies currently in place
 - 2. Minimizing the amount of time between an allegation being made and a hearing occurring
 - 3. Streamlining the appeals process to minimize waste time and resources
 - 4. Maintaining and/or maximizing procedure and policy equity to ensure that no students are being disadvantaged
 - v. Next steps include formally conducting an environmental scan to determine
 - 1. What policies and procedures are in place at other institution in the province/country
 - 2. What is the student perspective of current academic misconduct policies/procedures
 - 3. What is the staff perspective of current academic misconduct policies/procedures
- b. Open Education Resources (OERs)**
- i. Beginning of July - Emily was connected to Janice Winkler, the new Open Educational Resource (OER) Librarian at the University of Manitoba, by Lisa O'Hara, Vice Provost Libraries and University Librarian
 - ii. Janice and I met on July 14th, 2021, to discuss how UMSU and the libraries can collaborate and create incentives for professors to implement OER's
 - iii. Moving forward Emily, Janice and Campus Manitoba will work to strategize campaign ideas, ways to raise awareness and faculty incentives re: Open Access Week - October 25th - October 31st

VP Community Engagement (Tino Dogo):

1. New Updates

a. Board Retreat

- i. In late august/ early September, we plan to host a retreat for the UMSU Board of Directors.
- ii. Carly will be sending out a doodle poll to see what dates work best for directors so please be sure to fill that out when it's sent out.
- iii. The retreat will serve as an opportunity for directors to interact and familiarise themselves with directors from across campus.
- iv. We're also planning on info sessions that will help demystify some of the responsibilities of being an UMSU Director.
- v. Full details will be sent out in an email as our plans are still tentative for now.
- vi. If you have any questions however at this point, please let Tino know.

b. Marketing/Engagement

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- i. No new updates

2. Continuing Updates

a. Projects

- i. Welcome Guide

1. Continuing on from the last meeting, Tino now has the tasks for this project fully outlined. I'm working with our operations team to determine a budget for this and thereafter we'll be recruiting the help of students in putting this guide together.

b. Green Team

- i. On the 12th of July, we held our first UMSU Green Team meeting of the year.
- ii. Tino hosted the meeting primarily for Green Team members that were returning from previous years.
- iii. Attendance was impacted because of summer schedules but we discussed engagement ideas for the year, including ideas around advocacy campaigns to promote sustainable solutions around campus.
- iv. Related to sustainability: I've been meeting with our VPFO and GM biweekly to discuss sustainability for UMSU as an organisation.
- v. We're soon coming up to our 3rd of such meetings, and we'll be updating the board as we solidify our goals for the year.
- vi. We plan to implement measures that mitigate our environmental impact to our office return as well as the businesses that will be opening up as it progressively becomes safer for those to open up.

c. Fall Orientation

- i. Continuing from Tino's previous report, continue to put plans together for Fall orientation programming
- ii. Keep an eye out for communications on what the finalized plans will be
- iii. For now, Tino can confirm that they are incorporating an outdoor in person component in addition to the virtual programming that we'll be host in early to mid-September
- iv. We plan to use the platform Gather Town as this will be more engaging for students than the traditional virtual video call
 1. Just like if you need any extra support w/ marketing/sponsorship - shoot Tino an email

d. Bison Sports

- i. Looking to finalize their sponsorship agreement with Bison Sports
- ii. Tino has been consulting with the VPFO in regards to the terms of this arrangement
- iii. They're planning on a soft return to campus in the as a warm to a hopefully bigger start up in the winter term

e. Holiday Hampers

- i. Tino has been meeting regularly with our staff members to plan out the annual Holiday Hampers program

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- ii. Returning board members will recall that we had to change up the program last year to make it pandemic friendly.
- iii. Although it has been especially difficult to say what the future will be like over the past year or so, vaccine adoption rates do serve as a positive sign overall about the future.
- iv. We surveyed previous applicants to the program and the feedback received was overwhelmingly positive.
- v. A large majority of respondents noted that they were primarily grateful for the support they received during that time. With some of these responses in mind, we're exploring ideas on how we can create a program that allows more flexibility of choice for the applicants, as well as the opportunities for engagement that bring our campus together during the holiday season.

VP Finance and Operations (Brooke Rivard):

1. New Updates

a. Business Reopening

- i. Discussions have continued around the reopening of more UMSU business in fall, some staff have been contacted for their return, time frames are being laid out, and an opening plan is being developed.
- ii. With Degrees still being our choice of the first business to reopen, and understanding that many students won't be on campus in fall for classes or to satiate their chicken finger and poutine cravings, we are looking into the possibility of opening Degrees to an online ordering/delivery service like SkipTheDishes.
- iii. This would allow for the business to cater to a greater population of students, and help ensure fiscal security for the fall term.

b. Dental RFP

- i. With the redevelopment of the parts of University Centre affected by the fire, redesigns have been able to take place, allowing for new additions.
- ii. One of these new additions is the inclusion of a dental office (different from the one previously in the area).
- iii. This office will see a certified Dentist take on UM dentistry students, where they can learn in a practical environment (The first of its kind in Canada).
- iv. Part of this process includes the creation of a Request for Proposal, the University, specifically the faculty of Dentistry has been more than helpful in the creation of this and understanding the practitioners needs, and how best to approach this matter.
- v. The RFP is currently being created, and will be put to market soon to fill the space as soon as possible for students.

c. StudentCare Contract

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- i. The Student Care contract has been finalized, approved, and signed! The agreement is for a length of four years (ending August 2025), and continues to offer more services/ coverage than previous years.
- ii. A notable new addition to ensure greater coverage for students is the expansion of the mental health benefits to include visits to counsellors and psychotherapists, in addition to licensed clinical psychologists, and practitioners with a Master's degree in Social Work.
- iii. This expansion still has the same coverage limits as the previous agreement (100% of the cost per visit, to a maximum of \$1250 each policy year).
- iv. Further along the lines of Studentcare, is the legal protection program that was voted on last year, and will be seeing its Grand reveal at the UofM this year.
- v. As we are excited to offer this program to students, and see it as a valuable extension of the plan we are exploring avenues of subsidizing the costs for the upcoming year so students can experience the plan before monetarily committing (\$28 a year) in the coming years.
- vi. Discussions around the subsidy are ongoing, but we are committed to getting this done ASAP.

d. Sustainable Initiative Funding

- i. UMSU received sustainability initiative funding from the Government of Manitoba totaling \$9500 to pursue sustainable initiatives.
- ii. This funding was originally allotted to the UMCycle program, but with Covid causing closures and restrictive opening possibilities, UMSU has not been able to capitalize on these funds.
- iii. Talks have been had with the MB government to seek an extension on the term that we are granted these funds as to help the reopening of UMCycle in the spring when doing so will be plausible.
- iv. These talks were productive, and UMSU has graciously been granted an extension on the initiative funding to the coming year.

2. Continuing Updates

a. Club Rooms

- i. Renovations at UMSU are not just limited to those affected by the UC fire, the club rooms are also seeing touch ups and renovations in preparation for the new club room system.

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- ii. These renovations are ongoing, and will see repairs to any present damage, new carpet, new paint, a new Bluetooth/ pass code locking system (scheduled through the Club rooms coordinator), and a new storage space for club belongings.
- iii. These redevelopments are hopeful to complete in the fall and be ready to welcome back students ASAP.
- iv. *New update* We have moved onto selecting flooring materials, and further construction has continued as permits come in.

b. Corridors Proposal

- i. Recent talks w/ the University space development team has given great news around the “corridors project” - cooperative working space where students can develop their own businesses, a program created under President Benarroch
- ii. As stated in my previous report, the two sites that were being considered for the project were the fireside lounge, or the second floor Tim Horton’s in University Centre, cutting either in half to accommodate the space needed for the project.
- iii. These spaces were in discussion as the most desirable location, UC151 (the old hair salon) was tied up in ancillary contracts for the coming years.
- iv. These contracts have since been sorted out, and the project has been given the green light to go into UC151!
- v. This is a great success for students, as we know spaces to rest and relax like the fireside lounge are at a premium on campus.
- vi. This project will be moving forward with development very shortly as it is a top priority of President Benarroch

c. Fire Redevelopment

- i. Is ongoing, construction has been able to pick up as permitting comes through and insurance starts to reach a finalized state
- ii. Insurance discussions on coverage are ongoing but nearing their end

d. GPA’s and Service Center

- i. Both of these locations remain open, and will remain open barring any significant Provincial and University rule change
- ii. Currently looking at the plausibility of expanding hours and stock of GPA’s for the fall term to serve students on campus

VP Student Life (Savannah Zocs):

1. New Updates

a. Consent Culture

- i. Emily and Savannah have been in meetings with some students from a couple of clubs around campus as well as Riley Shannon - who now represents Bringing in the Bystander and a couple of representatives from Justice for Women to talk about how we can

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implement consent culture workshops and programming for more students on campus

- ii. Starting point will likely be with student clubs, and hopefully ensuring that the majority of all their members are training in either consent culture or BITB

b. REES Youth Advisory Board

- i. Couple months ago Savannah applied and was chosen to sit on the REES YAB, which is a panel of post- secondary student leaders who are passionate and knowledgeable about sexual violence prevention work on campuses.
 1. Hoping this prevention work will eliminate many of the barriers regarding in-person reporting
- ii. Savannah is excited to sit on this board and will keep you all updated as things move forward!

c. Hardship

- i. Friendly reminder that the hardship form is now online and has been for a few months now!
- ii. In the interest of keeping things consistent I won't be accepting the old paper hardship form, so please spread the word to your students that if they wish to apply, they have to do so through the online Formstack that can be found on the UMSU website

2. Continuing Updates

a. Survivor Poetry Project

- i. Savannah has compiled all the submissions into a manuscript to send over to the publisher, and is just waiting on some resources from partners to add to the resource bank before she finalize everything

b. Campaigns

- i. Savannah is finalizing some details with the Campus Safety campaign, and then everything should be good to launch at the end of the month.
- ii. There's going to be a contest for students to enter so please keep an eye out!

Committee Reports:

1. Executive

- a. No report today

2. Governance

- a. Have elected a Chair for the committee

3. Selections

- a. Interviewed 2 candidates for CRO but have proceeded to look for a third-party to run elections

4. Judicial Board

- a. All positions have been filled