

## UMSU Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, December 2, 2021

Time: 6:30 PM -

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

### **General Notes:**

#### **1. Community Representative Bi-election**

- a. Mature & Part-Time Students' Representative
- b. Indigenous Students' Representative
- c. Accessibility Students' Representative
- d. 2SLGBTQIA+ Students' Representative

### **Current Business:**

#### **Motions:**

#### **1. Motion 0524: EDI Working Group**

- a. Notes: Amended to include Accessibility Representative to be apart of the working group

#### **2. Motion 0525: UMSU Board Reforms**

- a. Notes: Some of the proposed changes to the Bylaws
  - i. Positions, Reporting and Responsibility, Appointment to a Position, Removal of Appointee, Resignation of Appointee
- b. Notes: Proposed Changes to GOM (Governance and Operations Manual)
  - i. BOD composition

### **Reports from the Executives:**

#### **President's Report (Brendan Scott):**

#### **1. New Updates**

##### **a. International Student Health Care**

- Met with MLA Jamie Moses
- Giving UMSU petitions for students to sign to show international student support but legislature only accepts physical signatures which is difficult in an online environment so they will try again next semester
- Will be sponsoring changes UMSU Act changes

##### **b. CFS**

- Attended national conference
- Motion to have online voting failed
- Motion to support UMFA passed

##### **c. Santa**

- Brendan is santa!
- Hours are 10-2 pm
- \$2 digital pictures and \$5 for physical pictures
- Funds go to Holiday Hamper program

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### **d. Red River**

- UPASS meeting to talk about prices as their program/deal will affect ours

### **e. Governance**

- Met with SPCSA to discuss their concerns with the board reform

### **f. Trivia**

- Hosted on November 24, come out to the next one!

### **g. Campaign Promises**

- Had a AGM meeting before and gave an update to the students

## VP Advocacy's Report (Emily Kalo):

### **1. New Updates**

#### **a. Campus Advocacy Updates**

##### **i. AGM**

##### **ii. Self-Declaration for Brief and Temporary Absences**

- To allow students to provide a self-declaration form in lieu of a medical note (or other documentation) when a student is unable to complete a scheduled test, assignment or exam, due to a brief absence caused by Extenuating Circumstances.
- To minimize costs to students and unnecessary use of public health resources for the purpose of obtaining a 'medical note'
- For brief or temporary absences affecting academic/course obligations, several universities across Canada have moved to a 'self-declaration' model in which students complete a 'self declaration of extenuating circumstance' document to obtain short-term academic considerations
- The College of Nursing piloted this model in fall 2017 and has continued to use it because it was a successful initiative.
- This proposed policy is an opportunity for all Faculties/Colleges/Schools at UM to move to one model.
- If approved, the policy and form could also be used for other non-medical circumstances in which it is difficult or not possible for a student to obtain a formal, official document (such as international documentation)
- This code would help ensure that all students, regardless of what program, are treated equally and that no student is "diagnosed" or further victimized by their instructors.
- Our hope is that by including this in the form, students will recognize that there are multiple services and resources for them to access beyond the form itself.

#### **b. Federal Advocacy Update**

**i. CASA**

- Has officially announced that they will be hosting “SuperCon” from February 13th to February 19th, 2022.
- The conference will include advocacy training in addition to Members of Parliament (MP’s), Ministers, Senators, public servants, and stakeholders to press for improvements to Canada’s post-secondary education system.

**2. Continuing Updates**

**a. Pharmacy Students’ Association Re: Wellness Days**

- Currently no break between 3rd and 4th year, but is working with the dean and students to create a proposal to shift their course schedule. This allows them to take a wellness day.
- The current schedule has the 3rd year spring exams followed immediately by the beginning of a practicum without breaks for 8 months.
- Working with CAPSI (advocating for Pharmacy student’s rights)
- To better align with both the original intent of PHMD4000, as well as the credit hour allocation system used for other fourth year courses, we ask that the PHMD4000 research course be changed from the current 16-week model to a 6-week (240 hours) research project students can complete over the course of the entire year.

**b. Proof of Vaccination**

- The announcement included details around vaccination – mandating that rapid testing alternatives will not be available to those who have chosen not to submit their proof of vaccination, unless they have received an approved exemption.
- Nov 26th - In person classes were announced
- Bugs fixed for uploading proof of vaccination
- If you hear students experience equity issues (names not matching their vaccination status), encourage them to email Emily Kalo

**c. Bargaining Negotiations**

- Finished first draft of Senate proposal for compassionate grading
- Read over and put forth own concerns to ensure all students are included
- Left a portion in the proposal for students to include testimonials from students regarding their experience with labour negotiations

VP Community Engagement (Tino Dogo):

**1. New Updates**

**a. Holiday Hampers**

- UMSU Holiday Hampers program is now in full swing
- Application deadline to receive a hamper has passed
  - As of now, there is a waitlist of students well over 70 people

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- Discounting ineligible students (e.g. Graduate Students), UMSU is still expecting a significant amount of students on the waitlist
- The waitlist grows shorter as UMSU receives more donations
- If you or your group are planning on donating to the program, please do so at your earliest convenience so that UMSU can ensure that all students that have indicated that they're looking for support are able to receive it

### **b. Celebrating Black History**

- Took time to celebrate black history
- UMSU hosted a Caribbean Steel Band over a lunch block
- Intent was to have students come along and enjoy some music & they grabbed lunch and got on w/ their business
- Ran social media giveaway in partnership with the Kenyan Tusome Bookstore
  - Winners of the giveaway received copies of *The Skin We're In* by Desmond Cole & *They Said This Would Be Fun* by Eternity Martis

### **c. Winter Orientation**

- Students can expect a range of *sustainable swag* when we return
- working with the university to create a space dedicated to engaging the campus with activities, tours, info sessions, and of course socializing

## **2. Continuing Updates**

### **a. Marketing/Engagements**

- Financial Webinars: These continue as scheduled.
- Open Positions in Marketing: I received an update from our Operations team that there are strong candidates who have applied for the open positions. We're scheduling interviews and should have these positions filled in the coming weeks.

### **b. Projects**

- Welcome Guide: Excited to report that we've had our first round of copy review. We're making progress on this project and we'll be continuing with the goal of launching our Guide in conjunction with winter orientation and the return to campus.

## VP Finance and Operations (Brook Rivard):

### **1. New Updates**

#### **a. Budget**

- 2022/2023 budget has started to form

#### **b. Empower Me**

- Brook is speaking with StudentCare in regards to mental health coverage through the Empower Me program

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- Recent student input has let me know that there is work to be done in the way of ensuring students can be matched with a racialized professional should they choose to do so, and some changes to the current system of continuing with your current professional after 6 meetings.
- The feedback has been brought back to the service development team at Studentcare, and updates should follow shortly.
- If you or your council has noticed any gaps in coverage, or needlessly complicated systems that currently need to be followed, please reach out to me to those too can be addressed.

### **2. Continuing Updates**

#### **a. Sustainability**

- UMSU partnered with IISD to host a sustainability activism workshop this past Tuesday
- More than 20 environmentally-minded students from across campus were in attendance, learning how to become better climate activists, and how to navigate some common obstacles

#### **b. HUB Rebranding**

- Work has begun inside the HUB's space, painting, floor resurfacing, and minor repairs + upgrades have started and will continue through the winter break

#### **c. UMISA Smudging Capability**

- The contract to install the air filtration system into the new UMISA space has been awarded, work is set to start following the winter break (6-8 weeks from now), and should conclude part way through the winter term
- While the construction is happening, UMISA will maintain their current space

### VP Student Life (Savannah Zocs):

#### **1. New Updates**

##### **a. Healthy Sexuality Events**

- Savannah is planning a couple other events for the healthy sexuality campaign that will take place before and after the tabling event.
- Savannah would like to host a healthy sexuality trivia night at the Hub hosted by drag queens, and then host a larger drag show at the Hub later in the month as well.
- Savannah will continue planning smaller events to continue engagement throughout the month of February outside of the tabling event
  - Perform a drag queen show at the HUB to promote healthy sexuality

##### **b. PEP-AH Online Sessions**

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- Savannah has been working with the western PEP-AH committee to organize some virtual sessions for students from Western Canada to attend
  - The first session will be focussed entirely around sexual violence prevention in intersection with alcohol consumption and safety, and Savannah will be speaking during the session and talking about how students can be as safe at social events and act as prosocial bystanders whenever possible

### **c. Harvest Manitoba**

- Met with some of the organizers behind Harvest Manitoba, and got to experience the process of how they pack and hand out all of their donations to the food bank clients
- Will be dropping by whenever to help them before board meetings on Thursdays and encourage everyone to spread the word about Harvest Manitoba, as they help a lot of students in need, and especially during the holiday season

## **2. Continuing Updates**

### **a. Healthy Sexuality Campaign - Tabling**

- Savannah has reached out to all our participants and will be having name tags made up for everyone planning to attend the tabling event
- Savannah plans to also organize a large meeting with everyone in January to sort out any last details before the month of February when everything begins

### **b. REES**

- This is a tool that UMSU has been pushing for the U of M to adopt since the Spring of 2019
- Savannah has been working closely with REES and with the University to foster a relationship that will allow this important resource to become available to the student community at the University of Manitoba
- As of the Fall of 2019, The U of M was the only post-secondary institution in the entire province of Manitoba that had not made an agreement to sign on with REES
  - The university and REES were in long talks about implementation and attempting to iron out an agreement, but the unfortunate fact of the matter seemed to be that the U of M was more concerned with the legality of this tool than having it as a resource for its students
  - As of about a week ago, REES pulled out of the conversations with the U of M because they felt talks were just continuously going in circles and they felt that the U of M didn't have any true intentions to actually implement and provide the program

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- Through Savannah's connection with REES they approached UMSU and asked if we would be interested in providing the tool through the students' union instead, and said they could have the tool up and running at the U of M campus by the Winter semester
- UMSU is beginning conversations with REES to start up this program, as we feel it is the responsibility and obligation of leaders on this campus to provide this for students
- UMSU is waiting to hear back from REES about finding a time that works for us all to meet, and we will be meeting with the CEO, Mary, with Thomas (GM), Leeandra (Service Centre Manager), myself, Brook, Emily, and Brendan

### Committee Reports:

#### **1. Judicial Board**

##### **a. General Recommendations to Executives**

- Reviewed via observation, self-reports, review of executive reports, BOD minutes, peer review evaluations/questionnaire, and follow up interviews
- Judicial Board found no reason to take any disciplinary action on any of the executive members
- Presented general recommendations
  - i.e., all