

UMSU Meeting Minutes

Date: June 24th, 2021

Time: 6:32 PM - 7:08 PM

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

General Notes:

- Approval of the Agenda
- Approval of Minutes

Current Business:

Motions:

1. **Motion 0514: Indigenous Students' Working Group (ISWG)**
 - a. *Notes:* Emily noted that it is important to make these working groups to collaborate with students about their experience especially Indigenous students experiences, formed this working group so that way we can provide the support Indigenous students need to create a better student experience for them as well
 - b. Motion Status: **Carries**
2. **Motion 0515: Appointment of UMSU Board of Directors Chairperson**
 - a. *Notes:* regarding appointing Yashas as the chairperson for the UMSU board of directors
 - i. Yashas introduced himself, gave reasons as to why he should be considered and appointed as chairperson, which was met with no opposition
 - b. Motion Status: **Carries**

Reports from the Executives:

President's Report (Brendan Scott):

1. **Committees**
 - a. Brendan thanked everybody who joining the COVID recovery committees as well as Board members who applied for UMSU committed - DBO still needed
2. **OERs**
 - a. Emily and Brendan - met with Campus Manitoba to discuss the implementation of OERs at the UofM
 - b. There had been some interest from professors in the FoS
 - c. Emily and Brendan - submitted a change to the Universities Textbook Policy
 - i. To reflect the desire to have more profs to adopt OERs
 - d. *Notes:* Textbook Policy is up for review this year - so the submitted a way to implement OERS
 - i. having professors implement a way for students to access textbooks online without having to buy textbooks etc
 - ii. the only issue that some profs have with this is that it does take a lot of time for professors to compile all the information into a booklet
3. **MAPPS**
 - a. First meeting on June 3rd - Emily was elected as chair, Brendan as secretary, Vice chair will be an individual from RRC
 - b. Priorities for the year were set and welcome letters to political leaders were sent out
 - c. Meeting dates w/ Minister Wayne Ewasko & the NDPs have been set for early July

UMSU Meeting Minutes

- d. Next MAPPS meeting will occur in the next 2 weeks
- e. *Notes:* MAPPS will meet prior to the meetings with the Minister and the NDPs in regards to their talking points for said meeting

4. Month of May Letter

- a. June 9th - a letter composed by Brendan was distributed to students
 - i. This letter included updates for students regarding them on the large ongoing of UMSU throughout the month of May
 - ii. Letter was placed into the bi-weekly UMSU newsletter
 - iii. Letter also contains a statement in regards to the tragedy that occurred in Kamloops, BC

5. Endowment Fund

- a. Board of Trustees met and are reviewing their by-laws, as well as looking into a new strategic plan
 - i. This plan will occur throughout the fall with 4 meetings involving 8-12 students
 - ii. Goal is to have this finalized before the Christmas break
- b. *Notes:* have students come to biweekly meetings to discuss and give input on how the endowment fund should be used/spent

6. Manitoba Contract

- a. Completed and signed
 - i. Manitoban will be operating in Helen Glass basement for next 10 years

7. CASA

- a. Emily and Brendan spent 3 days at the CASA conference being informed of all operations and federal advocacy efforts
- b. Elections for CASA committees and the reviewing of the “get out the vote campaign” were the largest agenda items
- c. Emily and Brendan connected with other Student Unions and got to hear about how they operate
- d. *Notes:* Discussed the “get out the vote campaign” just incase a snap election needs to take place in the fall

8. CRSC

- a. Return to campus plan, will be verbalized during the BOD meeting
- b. *Notes:* hopes for in-person activities to be able to take place in the fall - if restrictions and everything regarding covid works out

9. Student Care Conference

- a. Brook and Brendan attended the annual stakeholder conference
- b. Some unfortunate news when it comes to the legal aid program - will not be implemented this fall
- c. B/c it is a new fee it has to be committee recommended to the Board of Governors before it is approved
- d. Brendan has no doubt that it will be able to be implemented Winter 2022

VP Advocacy's Report (Emily Kalo):

Campus Advocacy Updates:

1. Student Advocacy RE: Academic Integrity

UMSU Meeting Minutes

- a. May 2021 - Emily met with Brandy Usick (Executive Director of Student Engagement and Success) to discuss ways to improve advocacy efforts for students who are facing allegations of academic misconduct and/or dishonesty
 - i. Seeing many more academic dishonesty and misconduct cases
- b. Discussion was followed by a meeting with Heather Morris (Director of Student Advocacy) who provided a formal academic integrity orientation
- c. Some priorities that were set:
 - i. Increasing awareness re: academic integrity policies currently in place
 - ii. Increasing awareness re: resources currently available for students to utilize when tempted to commit academic misconduct or academic dishonesty
 - iii. Increasing awareness re: resources currently available for students who have been accused of academic misconduct or academic dishonesty
- d. Next Steps:
 - i. Reviewing academic integrity procedure and putting forward recommendations
 - ii. Reviewing academic integrity resources and putting forward recommendations
 - iii. Draft a revised resource page that streamlines the services available to students
 - iv. Draft a frequently asked questions (FAQ) resource for students
- e. *Notes*: discussed and planned out a tiered system regarding the most critical issues with academic misconduct cases; how to support students, if they know about resources the university has for Academic misconduct cases

2. Open Education Resources (OERs) - Campus Manitoba

- a. June 9th, 2021 - UMSU research and advocacy met with Campus Manitoba representatives to discuss importance of open access and open educational resources (OERs) at UofM
- b. Campus Manitoba - able to provide UMSU w/ UM specific statistics in regards to the savings associated with OER's - outlined a number of recommendations for increasing OER awareness on campus
 - i. Members of UMSU's research & advocacy team - including the VPA and President have been registered for the 2021 Open Education Conference in October
 - ii. Plans for Open Access Week - Oct 25th, 2021 - Oct 31st, 2021 - are currently being made
- c. June 21st - Emily met with Lisa O'Hara - Vice Provost Libraries and University Librarian to discuss how UMSU and the University Libraries can collaborate in general operations - specifically creating OER incentives at UofM

Provincial Advocacy Updates:

1. MAPSS

- a. First MAPSS meeting for 2021-2022 term held on June 3rd, 2021 - during the meeting strategic goals were made for the term regarding MAPSS priorities, the growth and expansion of the organization, as well as MAPSS Executive member elections
 - i. Emily was elected to serve as Chair of MAPSS
 - ii. Brendan was elected to serve as Secretary of MAPSS

UMSU Meeting Minutes

- b. Welcome letters sent to the provincial government on May 31st, 2021 - letters serve as the first steps towards partnership with the new MAPSS team and political leaders
 - i. MAPSS received responses from all parties and are currently working with the politicians and their respective offices to set up virtual meetings - goal is that these meetings will hopefully serve as the first step towards consultation and collaboration
 - 1. June 6th, 2021: Meeting with the Honourable Wayne Ewasko
 - 2. TBD: Meeting with the Liberal Caucus is currently being scheduled
 - 3. TBD: Meeting with the official opposition is currently being scheduled

Federal Advocacy Updates:

1. Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA)

- a. Brendan and Emily attended the CASA Foundations Conference virtually from May 25th - May 28th, 2021
- b. Letter of intent was sent to CASA on behalf of the President and VP Advocacy in mid-May and was presented to the full members at the Foundations Conference on May 25th, 2021
 - i. Following this presentation, UMSU's membership was made official and UMSU is now a recognized member of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA)

Continuing Projects:

1. Inclusivity and Safe Change Rooms at the ALC

- a. June 3rd, 2021: Emily met with the 2020-2021 UMSU VP Advocacy and a concerned student to debrief and discuss safe change rooms at the Active Living Centre
 - i. Meeting was to review the diagram of new shower stalls sent to us by the Director of Facilities for the Faculty of Kinesiology and Recreation Management; feedback and recommendations have been provided to the director
 - ii. June 23rd, 2021: Follow-up meeting between Emily, the concerned student, and UMSU VP Student Life
- b. June 21st, 2021: Feedback on the Sport and Recreation EDI Initiative
 - i. Emily was contacted by Gene Muller, the Director of Athletics and Recreation, and Craig Brown to provide student feedback on this initiative and recommend student group collaboration in regard to their anti-oppression journey; next steps are currently being outlined

VP Community Engagement (Tino Dogo):

1. Projects

- a. Welcome Guide
 - i. Has been working on breaking down tasks for the Welcome Guide, will be discussing the budget for this project w/ Exec
 - ii. Plans to include students in the development of this guide to capture direct input from the students
 - iii. When the budget and tasks are sent - will then provide an overview of the timeline as well as milestones

UMSU Meeting Minutes

2. Marketing/Engagement

- a. Website
 - i. Currently gathering information from departments internal to UMSU to update website pages
 - ii. Also considering how the website is mapped and how we can improve user experience
- b. Sponsors
 - i. COCA - introduced us to some sponsors that we'll be using from time to time
 - ii. Tino's main focus has been on working with local businesses and seeing how their services can fit into the UMSU programming
- c. Brand Guidelines
 - i. Marketing and Tino are working on developing defined brand guidelines for UMSU as a whole
 - ii. Tino is looking forward to presenting these ideas the they land on to the board
- d. Leisure Guide
 - i. Gathered feedback from the last Leisure Guide program - glad to say that both registrants as well as facilitators enjoyed the program
 - ii. In Winter 2021 they provided funding for classes due to the positive uptake
 - iii. Feedback gathered indicated participants would be willing to pay a small fee to access classes, which is promising as it could increase the funding available for the program
- e. Marketing Assistant
 - i. UMSU has hired a student Marketing Assistant for the summer months
 - ii. Tino is excited about having them with us and all the added student input our marketing department will be privy to

3. Green Team

- a. 3rd week of June - hosted discussion w/ different groups of stakeholders on campus on the Climate Action Plan that is currently being developed by the UM office of Sustainability
- b. Summary has been attached - if anyone wants to read it just let any of us know and we can pass it along!

4. COCA Student Life Summit

- a. Like last year - UMSU took advantage of the Virtual Conference offered by COCA to send as many team members as we wanted to the sessions
- b. The Marketing department attended the sessions with other student unions
- c. Sessions ranged in subject matter with wide ranging topics from newsletters to specific showcases of talent
- d. The reports Tino received from the team highlighted lessons learnt during said sessions and ideas of how we can incorporate some changes based on some good ideas brought up during discussion

5. Circularity 21

- a. Week after COCA I attended the Circularity 21 virtual conference.
 - i. Main theme for this was related to the circular economy and some of the actions organisations can undertake to facilitate players in the circular economy.

UMSU Meeting Minutes

- ii. Sessions put on by Green Biz were thoroughly interactive with polls and breakouts that were naturally integrated into the Hopin platform used to host the conference.
- b. Biggest lessons learnt here were related to our UMSU businesses and how we can introduce circular systems
 - i. As the province continues to loosen restrictions I'll be excited to apply this to the reopening marketing plans.
 - ii. As well, Tino has been discussing ethical purchasing with our GM and VPFO so this will play into those considerations as well.

6. Orientation

- a. As we get closer and closer to September, Tino has been working with marketing to solidify our ideas for orientation.
 - i. Hoping that they'll be able to have some amount of in person engagement however, our plans will primarily be hosted online to ensure everyone's safety.
- b. Tino will update directors with more concrete details in the coming weeks.
 - i. If your council already has plans in place, please shoot me an email with your plans.
 - ii. We want to make sure we're allowing Faculty Associations have an opportunity to interact with their home faculty without too many distractions in September.
 - iii. Also, if you'd like UMSU support in organising your ideas, please email me and we can discuss how we can support you. Be it marketing or sponsorship.

7. Co-Curricular Experiential Learning Team (CELT)

- a. At last CELT meeting, Brandy Usick presented on the Orbis platform
 - i. This new platform will be used to catalogue experiential learning (EL) and co-curricular (CC) opportunities.
 - ii. On their accounts, students will be able to keep track of their EL and CC.
 - iii. The platform is currently live but the university will be doing a full launch in the coming months.
 - iv. Currently, they are developing a charter for the project through an external consult
- b. Tino had also discussed interfaculty collaboration on EL
 - i. The team was briefed on how faculties have expressed eagerness and excitement on EL and will be looking at how opportunities currently offered fit into the current EL typology
 - ii. Centre for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning (CALT) at the University has now hired a dedicated staff member to assist faculties w/ enhancing their EL offering to students
 - iii. Any thoughts on EL from your faculty is welcome

8. Board of Trustees

- a. BOT met and assigned Adam Pawlak as Chair of the Board. Revision of the Endowment Fund's governing documents continues.
- b. The BOT will be recruiting the help of students and Directors to assist with providing feedback and input on the changes and updates proposed by an external consultant.

UMSU Meeting Minutes

9. Bison Sports

- a. Tino had met with Bison Sports to discuss ideas around engaging students w/ sports events as the University Leagues begin to start up again
- b. There has been speak of playing “in bubbles” with schools only playing those that are within the allowable driving distance.
- c. They’re hoping to work toward an agreement that contributes to a culture of sustainability on campus. Further updates will follow in future reports.
- d. The University will host the Volleyball Championships that were initially cancelled during the first round of lockdowns in March 2020

10. National Indigenous Peoples’ Day

- a. June is National Indigenous Peoples’ Month and June 21st is National Indigenous Peoples’ Day.
- b. It was a pleasure having the University of Manitoba Indigenous Students Association (UMISA) do a takeover on our page @MyUMSU to commemorate the day.

VP Finance and Operations (Brook Rivard):

1. Business Reopening

- a. The General Manager and Brook have started to lay the ground for the reopening of at least of on the 3rd floor UC businesses for the start of fall
 - i. This business will act as a means of seeing the demand for these services and will aid in the reopening of the other two businesses (one of these which will hopefully be in the fall term also)
- b. HUB Rebranding/Face Lift - the groundwork of a time frame and the general guidelines of what would like to be seen has been laid out under the guidance of Brenda, the General Manager, the HUB’s Manager, and Brook
 - i. They will be seeking student input and ideas in the future

2. 113 Helen Glass

- a. To ensure the continued smudging capabilities of UMISA, the university has required and air filtration system to be installed
 - i. To allow this to be the easiest renovation, UMSU approached UMISA about changing rooms to 113 Helen Glass, and that proposal was accepted
 - ii. The University has agreed to split the costs of the filtration system; this was budgeted for at the end of last year - expected \$15k cost, budgeted up to \$20k
 1. This quoted cost did not reflect the true cost to install, the new cost was +\$100k more
 2. Underwent negotiations with the University to get the payment back to the original \$20k allotted and succeeded
 - iii. These renovations will start soon; on the current schedule, UMISA will have their new room when the full return to campus happens

3. IQ’s Drainage Changes

- a. The University has approached UMSU regarding the possibility of changing the drainage structure for IQ’s as there is currently a visible white pipe that comes down from the roof on the 200 level of UC outside of the MPR

UMSU Meeting Minutes

- b. In the spirit of good faith and working together, UMSU has worked with the University to structure a new drainage system
 - i. What was concluded is that the drainage will go further back in the business (below the back counter), and connect to another drainage line so the unsightly pipe can be removed
- c. The University has accepted to pay for this new system to be implemented and will take care of any maintenance needed due to the added complexity of the system

4. Corridors Proposal

- a. The University Space Development Team, acting under the direct wishes of President Benarroch reached out to UMSU for input on the space allocation for a new “corridors project”
 - i. This project is a cooperative working space where students can develop their own businesses
- b. Space in UC is at a premium so finding a suitable space is difficult
 - i. The development team sees the Fireside Lounge as one of the most suitable spaces for this project
 - 1. If placed in the Fireside Lounge, half of the space (the fireplace half) would be taken up by the project
 - 2. Currently, the development is hopefully to use non-permanent walls (security grating) so the space can still be used
 - ii. UMSU advocated for other spaces in UC, including using half of 215 UC (the second floor Tim Hortons), and for the space to be easily movable when no in operation so students can still use that space
- c. Corridors proposal is ongoing and more updates are expected to come in the future

5. UFMF Agreement

- a. As the UFMF is a separate entity and not directly under UMSU management anymore, and agreement has been created detailing the nature of the relationship and services provided by either party
- b. This contract has been accepted with minor alterations around the wording of UMSU’s position on their board - the VPFO is mandated, and UMSU selected a student to sit on the board for the year (if anyone is interested, contact Brook)

6. GPA’s and Service Centre

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

7. StudentCare Contract

- a. The StudentCare contract is still slowly making its way through revisions and will hopefully be completed very soon
 - i. The changes are generally limited to language changes, with the addition of tenants that were previously included in contract addendums
- b. Reaching out to the University around the implementation of the (fully opt-outable) legal protection fee are ongoing and should also wrap up soon
- c. “Angelot” Sexual Violence Training
 - i. Meetings with StudentCare have also been scheduled to see how we can implement their “Angelot” sexual violence training

UMSU Meeting Minutes

- ii. This is something fellow Executive member, Savannah, saw at a presentation and is keen to have it implemented at the HUB
- iii. The program sees expanded training for staff around how to address and deal with sexual violence
- iv. The training also establishes the “Angelot” drink, where a student can order this drink as code for seeking assistance from staff
- v. Expect more updates about this implementation after more meetings are held

8. Fire Redevelopment

- a. The fire redevelopment is ongoing, construction is starting to catch up to permitting levels, however it is also slowed by insurance hold ups
 - i. Currently, insurance seems to be the biggest hold up in this project; UMSU is hopeful that these delays will be corrected soon and further redevelopment can go forward

9. Financial Transparency

- a. One of the biggest things Brook is hoping to establish during his term at UMSU is that of greater financial transparency to students
- b. Meetings have been held with the relevant people to discuss how this has been done in the past, what is currently done, and how transparency can be increased in the future
- c. Currently, Brook sees the best plan to be a return to an annual report in which the Board is presenting the Union’s financials which will allow for greater oversight
 - i. Work is yet to be done on how this report will be structured and when it will be delivered (i.e. Fiscal vs. School year calendar and how that affects reporting)

10. Club Rooms

- a. 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
 - i. Renovations are ongoing and will see repairs to any present damage, new carpet, new paint, and a new Bluetooth/passcode locking system (scheduled through the Club rooms coordinator), and a new storage space for belongings
 - ii. Redevelopments are hopefully to be completed in the fall and ready to welcome students back ASAP

VP Student Life (Savannah Szocs):

1. COCA Student Life Summit

- Few of the Executives and some UMSU staff attended a conference a couple weeks ago by COCA (Canadian Organization of Campus Activities)
- Session topics from the conference were relatively similar from year to year but the presenters change so there’s always something new to learn
- Savannah attended 6 sessions and a special presentation over the course of 5 days
 - Topics were usually about student clubs and community engagement
 - The presentation Savannah attended was in regards to sexual violence prevention on post-secondary campuses

UMSU Meeting Minutes

- Some of the useful programs are listed below (Savannah has already starting working on two of these so far):
 - a. Order an Angelot
 - i. A program that campus bars can adopt that gives any students who might be in trouble or need help while out at a club or bar
 - ii. A student in need can simply go to any bartender and ask for an Angelot, and that will be a signal to the bartender that the student needs help, and will be able to assist them properly with whatever they might need.
 - iii. This is something that lots of bars have taken on recently, and our plan is to adopt this program within the Hub, have all staff trained on it, and launch it with the bar's reopening.
 - iv. *Notes:* all bar staff will be trained/ will learn about this so that way students who are in trouble/feel unsafe can get the help that they need so that way they feel safe
 - b. Legal Representation Services
 - i. Student Care provides free legal representation services to students faced with sexual harassment cases and would like to make an official report or file charges against their perpetrator
 - ii. Also offer services in cases w/ regards to defamation defence, civil action taken for damages, and others
 - iii. Important service for students b/c legal help can be expensive and unaffordable to students who might require it
 - iv. In instances of sexual violence - we should work to eliminate & decrease all barriers between survivors, getting the help they need, and making a report - if that is what they choose to do
 - c. Online *What Were You Wearing?* Exhibit
 - i. Online art exhibit featuring poetry and images submitted by survivors
 - ii. Survivors of Sexual Violence have submitted images and descriptions of what they were wearing during their assault in order to help break the stigma and raise awareness about clothing being irrelevant to whether or not someone is a subject to any kind of sexual violence
 - iii. Can be a great resource for survivors who are looking for healing and also very educational to anyone who might not be aware of the stigma around women and what they were wearing when they were assaulted
 - 1. Exhibit is targeted towards raising awareness and breaking the stigma that clothing is not relevant to someone being subject to sexual violence
 - iv. *Notes:* You can engage with this exhibit online, there are ~13 testimonies by Sexual violence survivors - there are trigger warnings prior to each testimony, as well as numerous amounts of resources for individuals
 - 1. Savannah will be listing this as a resource in the Survivor project book as well and will send this resource to any group working on similar projects (Justice for Women, etc.)

2. Campaigns

- a. Savannah has organized all the UMSU campaigns into a calendar schedule for the upcoming year and sent that schedule to all relevant UMSU staff and external

UMSU Meeting Minutes

partners both internal and external to the university so that they are able to collaborate w/ us on upcoming programming and events

- b. Next Umsu campaign will be Campus Safety - this will take place in late July
 - i. The campaign will explain all of the safety services and supports on campus for students and all relevant information associated with campus safety
 1. Infographics explaining all of the safety services available on campus (ex. security services, residence security, Safe Walk program, blue buttons in the tunnels, etc.)
 - ii. Savannah is ready to plan this campaign and will keep us in the loop
- 3. Survivor Poetry Project**
- a. Savannah has received a lot of submissions since she has partnered with UMISA and UMISO with the promotion of this project as well
 - i. Intersectionality is a big focus with this project to make sure all voices are heard and represented
 - b. Savannah will also be collaborating with the Umsu Women's Representative and the Women's Centre for the book launch in September
 - c. The submission deadline is the end of the month (June), so there's just under a week left to submit any content
 - d. *Notes:* partnered with these two groups (UMISA and UMISO) to collaborate with them and to hear their voices as well
 - i. If any other students want to submit they can contact Savannah and send their submissions there as well

Committee Reports:

1. Selections Committee has met up and chosen all members for each Umsu committee; the only current vacancies are on the Judicial Committee and the Director of Bannatyne Operations (DBO)

Announcements:

1. Carly will send out an email regarding our faculty association's treasurers