

UMSU Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday October 21st, 2021

Time: 6:30 PM - 8:49 PM

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

General Notes:

- Presentations from UM Vice-Provost (Students) Re: Labour Negotiations (Closed Session)
- Presentation from UM Faculty Association (UMFA) Re: Labour Negotiations
 - Salary remains an issue when bargaining with the UofM; wages frozen since 2016 when Uni let gov come in and disrupt bargaining
 - Believe that we should exercise autonomy from government
 - Not paid well comparably to other institutions across the country which causes staff leaving and failed search communities
 - Admin up against mandate from the government, unacceptable, question of priorities
 - Surplus of 94 million dollars
 - Would love an endorsement of support from UMSU and students
 - Bargaining deadline with come soon
 - Behind a cost of living increase of 8%
 - Priorities have been placed elsewhere
- Emergency motion presented by Dario in regards for UMSU issuing a statement Re: supporting UMFA
 - Referral to Executive committee was discharged, moved into debateMotion - Passed

Current Business:

Motions:

- Motion 0522: To Stand in Solidarity with UMFA and Students Supporting UMFA
 - BE IT RESOLVED that the University of Manitoba Students' Union unconditionally stands in solidarity with the University of Manitoba Faculty Association by putting forward an immediate press release in support of UMFA's cause
 - BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Manitoba Students' Union ally itself with Students Supporting UMFA to present a unified front supporting the struggles of UMFA in their ongoing labour dispute

Reports from the Executives:

President's Report (Brendan Scott):

New Updates:

1. New Updates

a. CRSC

- i. One month left to upload proof of vaccination
- ii. Brook has details on CRSC as he attended CRSC

b. President Benarroch Meeting

- i. Emily and Brendan, met with Michael Benarroch to discuss incentives and penalties for uploading vaccine status
- ii. Reminder to upload proof of vaccination even if you are not currently going to campus
- iii. Discussions of un-enrolling students who haven't uploaded are currently occurring
- iv. Gave preliminary numbers on our UMSU annual member survey
- v. In terms of Labour Negotiations - please stay up to date with all the information here: <https://umanitoba.ca/bargaining/>, this want to be included in the most recent newsletter
- vi. Discussed the return to campus, survey results showed that students are in favor of social distancing and lean more towards the removal of masks, the opposite would be necessary to come back to campus
- vii. Classes are scheduled to be in person this Winter Term and we believe that on November 1st an announcement on the Winter Term will come forward

c. Newsletter

- i. Last Wednesday, released our biweekly newsletter which included important information
- ii. there is information about the Strike
- iii. information about the upcoming OER campaign
- iv. and information on The HUB rebrand, and statements of solidarity

d. Chancellor Anne Mahon

- i. The executive team had the pleasure of meeting the University of Manitoba Chancellor Anne Mahon.
- ii. UMSU execs were able to formally introduce and get to know each other. We brought up student concerns and look forward to the future relationship.

e. SUDS

- i. Last weekend, the executive team attend the Student Union Development Summit
- ii. Had the ability to meet with other student union execs from around Canada has proved to be invaluable. We were able to talk about many different subjects related to student unions and learn how other unions operate.
- iii. Brendan's biggest takeaways were:
 - 1. The need for a better board structure
 - 2. Other universities never deal with faculty strikes
 - 3. The services we provide are top tier
 - 4. Our advocacy work is unmatched
 - 5. Our financial standing
 - 6. The standard are execs are held too
 - 7. Overall standing UMSU finds itself in

UMSU Meeting Minutes

- iv. Brendan would also like to note how proud he is of this exec team in their ability to mingle, attend every session, carry themselves, and overall represent UMSU. Brendan believes they left that conference with everyone talking about “Manitoba” (in a good way).

VP Advocacy's Report (Emily Kalo):

1. New Updates:

a. Campus Advocacy Update

i. COVID Recovery Steering Committee - Academic

1. The Academic Covid Recovery Steering Committee met on September 28th, 2021, to discuss potential procedures and consequences for unvaccinated students, unvaccinated staff, and those unwilling to provide proof of vaccination. Topics of conversation included improving policy awareness, streamlining communication, and sector equity.
2. Will not be providing GPA adjustments this term (correct me if i misheard)

b. Provincial Advocacy Update

i. MAPSS

1. MLA Jamie Moses has contacted MAPSS requesting a meeting to discuss how he, as the Official Opposition Critic of Economic Development and Training, can assist and advocate for students further.
2. MAPSS met with MLA Jamie Moses earlier this term to discuss party platforms and student needs. The meeting is currently being scheduled.

c. Federal Advocacy Updates

i. Student Union Development Summit 2021

1. The entire UMSU executive team had the opportunity to attend the SUDS conference at the University of British Columbia between October 15th and October 17th, 2021.
2. The conference aims to bring together student union executives and provide them with a platform to share union experiences, political strategies, and best practices for running student-oriented services and programs.
3. More than 100 delegates from across the country attended the conference.
4. The conference included 10 different workshops to help enhance student union sustainability, leadership, and strategy.

2. Continuing Updates:

a. Open Access Week

- i. UMSU's Open Access Campaign has officially begun. From Monday, October 18th, to Friday, October 22nd, content regarding

- open educational resources and affordable education will be available on the @myumsu Instagram page.
- ii. Use your voice and show the University that accessibility and affordability are priorities for our student body! Visit the linktree in the @myumsu Instagram page bio between October 18th and October 29th to sign up and send your faculty a letter in support of Open Educational Resources.
 - iii. This email lobbying initiative aims to incentivize faculty at our University to utilize and develop more open educational resources
- b. International Day Against Contract Cheating, International Center for Academic Integrity**
- i. To mark the International Day against Contract Cheating, the steering committee has created a number of promotional videos which feature students from around the globe speaking to the importance of academic integrity. Additionally, the committee is hosting two special events.
 - 1. A special live broadcast at 10 a.m. EST with a global group of students. Students can register for the webinar here https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1k-SOB6ET66uXFCPCovAiw
 - 2. An expert presentation and panel featuring Thomas Lancaster (UK), Billy Kelly (Ireland), Zeenath Khan (UAE), Rowena Harper (AUS), and Sarah Eaton (Canada) starting at 11 a.m. EST. Students can register for the webinar here https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2ARKmgsbSOzrllZ_IleEQ
 - ii. NOTE: The International Day against Contract Cheating is being run in a collaborate spirit alongside Open Access Week and Student Success month
- c. Annual Member Survey**
- i. 2021-2022 Annual Member Survey was released by UMSU's research and advocacy team on September 22nd, 2021 and closed on October 10th, 2021. Preliminary results were shared with President Benarroch and Laurie Schnarr during the October 7th meeting, and a summary report is currently being compiled.

VP Community Engagement (Tino Dogo):

1. New Updates

a. Students Union Development Summit (SUDs)

- i. We spent the weekend at the 2021 SUDS conference that was hosted by the Alma Mater Society (AMS) at the University of British Columbia. The 4 day conference had the goal of bringing student union leaders from across the country together with the goal of learning from one another and creating relationships between

student's unions. Shout out to AMS for their hospitality and for providing a platform that allowed us to develop professionally. For that reason, I recommend future executives attend this conference to develop themselves as well. Below is a brief account of the sessions I attended and a few pointers I was able to pick up.

ii. **Day 1: Opening Ceremony: David Robert Patrick Eby, Q.C., M.L.A. BC Legislature. Attorney General and Minister responsible for Housing.**

1. David spoke of his history in politics and the time he spent as an activist in an effort to encourage the government to increase their action on Indigenous issues. He became a lawyer because he believed that the court system would serve as a means to keep the Government accountable to the mandates they received from the electorate. Finally however, he ran for office, losing a few times before he was elected because he came to the conclusion that working within government would be the approach with the least amount of friction. He encouraged a hopeful approach and the importance of focusing on nonpartisan issues that affect us all. E.g. Climate change and Indigenous issues.

iii. **Day 2: Keynote Address: Lev Bukhman, Founder, CEO, Student Care.**

1. After spending time as a student union exec in the 90s, Lev attended Law school and founded his company that has now grown to serve more than 1 million students in Canada with healthcare services.
2. His insight comes from his experiences interacting with SU execs over the past 15+ years. Lev's speech was focused on "The Role of the Individual".
3. Despite the title, this was not a self-help/organization speech. He steered away from time management and other such self-help topics.
4. As a former student executive himself, he spoke to us about the ongoing issues of engagement and apathy that student unions consistently have to deal with.
5. He encouraged us to examine our own stake when it comes to student engagement and reminded us that students can only care if we lead them to care.
6. He emphasized the importance of us taking care of ourselves so that we can sustain the effort that's required of all student leaders. In speaking with other SU execs in his network, he shared 3 key summarizations from their feedback.
7. Have Big Goals. Build Alliances. Avoid Petty Politics.

8. He encouraged us to avoid self-absorption so we can appreciate the full picture of the issues we face as Student Unions.
9. He left it off by reminding us the importance of Enthusiasm once again, because if we lead with that, students are likely to follow.
10. Books Recommended: The Opposite of Loneliness: Essays and Stories by Marina Keegan and The Truth Will Set You Free But First It Will Piss You Off! by Gloria Steinem

iv. Workshop Session: Jackie Asante, Senior Vice-President at Fleishman Hillard HighRoad (FHR), Communications Specialist and PR Consultant.

1. Jackie facilitated a very interactive workshop on PR and Media engagements. She began by sharing the importance of message delivery and communication when talking to the media followed by questions that the room had to respond to. Her message was focused on us viewing communications differently from that point forward. Not as questions from the media but as platforms for us to share our organizations messaging. She provided pointers on relationship building with media and insight into what Media is looking for when they reach out to our organizations. She also touched on the role of the Spokesperson and tips on the best way to form professional relationships. Finally, she finished the workshop off by giving breakaway groups a scenario that led into a mock interview for us to apply the knowledge she shared.
2. Full transparency: I did not attend the second workshop of the afternoon as the one session offered was targeted specifically towards womyn. The other session offered was focused on sexual violence and this is a very sensitive topic for myself and I communicated my absence with the rest of the exec team and they were able to attend and learn from that session so UMSU was not missing out. I made this time up by requesting a tour from the AMS VP Admin on the processes and structure of the AMS Nest Building (think University Center) Sustainability practices. (A very enlightening experience for both Brook and I).

v. Presentation: Peter Guo, MNP Enterprise Risk Services

1. Peter has experience working as a SU Exec most notably as President of the University of Toronto Students Union (UTSU). He spoke of his time at UTSU and the experiences he's had auditing and assessing the risks within non-profit and for profit organizations. He encouraged the importance of solid internal control structures and board engagement for

accountability purposes. This session had interactive components where breakaway groups answered questions posed by Peter and his team that fleshed out some of the issues faced by SU's across the country. This session provided us with the opportunity to share ideas on what works across the country and also feedback on how we can improve our governance structures. Peter has been working in the space for 20+ years.

vi. **Day 3: Speaker: John Bailey, Regina Foodbank**

1. John Bailey spoke about his time leading a Food Bank during the pandemic. His key takeaway message was that Food Insecurity can only be addressed if Financial Insecurity is addressed. The role of SU's is to make sure financial accessibility remains a top priority in our advocacy as that greatly helps with Food Insecurity. As well, financial education plays a key role in tackling this growing issue. Shameless plug: Check out our Financial Education Webinars hosted by CIBC to aid in spreading this vital knowledge.

vii. **Closing Keynote: Peng Fong, Journalist and Educator. Host of Alone Together Podcast.**

1. Dr. Fong was encouraged to start her podcast because she knew that the pandemic meant the end of many of her student's educational careers. She wanted to talk to her students and others about how they weren't alone and that there were ways to interact even during isolation. Her speech highlighted loneliness as a growing problem around the world. She showed us the steps taken by some governments which include creating Ministries of Loneliness and how SU's can help in addressing this endemic issue.

viii. **Gala Presentation: On Resilience by Dr. Amita Kuttner.**

1. Dr. Kuttner shared their moving story on dealing with years of emotional trauma and gender dysphoria. Having lost their parents at a young age, they had to go through the grueling stages of learning who they were and even after losing both their dogs in the same week as the speech, they came to share their message and encouraged us all to remember the importance of staying resilient through the toughest of experiences. They used memes as a mode of delivery for their talk.

b. **Marketing/Engagement**

i. **Trivia**

1. Brook will be hosting another trivia Oct 27th

ii. Winter Orientation

1. We're expecting to learn the winter term structure on Nov 1st. Like I mentioned in my previous report, this information will help greatly with planning welcome back activities.

c. JDC West Not For Profit Team Practice

- i. I was invited to attend the NFP team practice by our very own JDC Team Toba!
- ii. The practices allow students to present a case to a group of seasoned professionals in each respective field and it was my pleasure to provide some insight into the thought processes that NFP senior leadership has.
- iii. I'm very glad to report that although it is early days, our NFP team is already looking very solid. I'm confident that the team is only going to improve going forward and I can't wait to see them compete in January.
- iv. JDC West is the most prestigious undergraduate business competition in Western Canada, hosting 1,300 attendees and uniting over 650 delegates from twelve premier post-secondary institutions each year.

d. Sustainability into Action

- i. Brook and I had the pleasure of touring the Sustainability into Action facility on campus.
- ii. This building is probably the coolest place on campus and I really do not say that lightly.
- iii. They have a multitude of sustainability focused projects from solar, passive building heating, building materials, indoor growing. You name it!
- iv. This snippet does no justice to what Joe and his team are doing in SmartPark which is why they're working on developing a tour for students that UMSU will help with promoting.
- v. Keep an eye out for that.

2. Continuing Updates

a. Dialogue Consulting - Community Wellbeing Workshop

- i. We have received a compilation of the feedback gathered from this workshop. If there is interest in this feedback, Tino can send it your way.

b. Marketing/Engagement

i. Financial Webinars

1. These continue as scheduled.

ii. Mental Health Month/ Wellness Week

1. Wellness week proceeded smoothly with us sharing infographics. Please keep an eye out on the Zoom Talk with Wellness Resource facilitators in early November!

UMSU Meeting Minutes

VP Finance and Operations (Brooke Rivard):

1. New Updates:

a. SUDs

- i. The other Executives and I attended the Student Union Development Summit from October 15th until
- ii. October 18th. This summit saw us meet with student union executives from around the country,
- iii. allowing for ideas to be shared, new skills to be developed, and connections to be made. Coming out
- iv. of the summit, I feel that I have learned a lot. Sessions spanned topics including media relations,
- v. reconnecting campus, governance operations, sexual violence support and more.

2. Continuing Updates:

a. UPASS

- i. The UPass agreement has been signed and we are good to go for winter term. The University has let us know that by November 1st, we will know if classes are in person or not for winter. Should the decision be made by the University to decide that we are online once again, we have until December 1st to delay the start of the UPass agreement to when classes will once again be in person.

b. Frosh

- i. Discussions around frosh are still underway, the Exec have toured the spaces that can be used, and we have been in active discussions with talent management companies to ensure that the acts we get will be quality. Ensuring that Frosh is fiscally sound is my greatest focus for this project, ensuring that we get a good deal on any venue and staffing costs, that the talent provides good “bang for buck”, and that we are able to bring in alternative streams of funding to supplement our contribution.

VP Student Life (Savannah Zocs):

1. New Updates:

a. Student Union Development Summit (SUDS)

- i. The executive team was in Vancouver for the weekend to attend a conference created specifically for student union executives. We spent a few days at UBC attending sessions and presentations and networking with other student union executives. Here are my biggest takeaways from the conference:
 1. Sexual Violence Presentation by UBC SVPO:
 - a. The sexual violence prevention office at UBC did a presentation at the conference and it was extremely informative. I had the opportunity to speak with other

unions about what their schools are doing to prevent sexual violence on their campus.

- b. Compared to other unions, we are doing a lot more, but the consensus among executives I spoke to was that they were very disappointed with their schools' progress and that even U of M wasn't up to par with where we should be.

2. Student Life Networking:

- a. It was really valuable to speak with other SL execs about what they're doing at their universities and colleges to help and engage students. We had the opportunity to share similar experiences and talk about the common challenges we're facing, and it was really useful to hear about how others are navigating the semi post-pandemic university environment.

3. Student Union Governance and Board Structure:

- a. It seems that all student unions in the country have a board of under 20 students, and their structure works a lot better than ours. It was concerning to realize that we are behind in updating our board structure to be more efficient and productive. Other student unions audibly gasped when we told them we have a 56 person board, so I really think it's important to focus on implementing a new and improved governance structure this year.

b. Indigenous Month - November Campaign

- i. I'll be having a meeting soon with indigenous groups and students on campus to discuss how UMSU can best support and provide programming for Indigenous Students' Month coming up in a couple weeks.
- ii. The plan is to organize a campaign that focuses on indigenous needs, history, intersectionality, and culture.

c. Take Back the Night

- i. I was asked to speak at an event centred around sexual violence prevention and experiences, I was able to share my own experience and had the privilege of connecting and listening to other survivor voices. We had great feedback from students vocalizing that the event was very inclusive and supportive to the community, more so than in any past years. It was a privilege to be involved and take part.

2. Continuing Updates:

a. Healthy Sexuality Month

UMSU Meeting Minutes

- i. I've had lots of positive responses from groups I've reached out to partner with and as of right now I have over 30 groups I'll be working with both internal and external to the university.
- ii. We have booked the MPR for February, 9th and 10th and the tabling will take place from 10 AM – 3 PM both days.

Governance Committee:

- Update given from the committee re: board reform
- An updated proposal and report will be given on November 4th
- Any comments, questions, or concerns regarding changes to the board can be forwarded to the committee