

Date: February 17th, 2022

Time: 6:33 PM - 7:20 PM

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

Reports from the Executives:

President's Report (Brendan Scott):

1. New Updates

- a. Returning to campus
 - i. All classes coming back to campus on February 28th
 - 1. All classes should be updated on Aurora
 - ii. Required to have KN95 on campus starting Monday, February 21st until Friday, March 11th from 7am to 3 pm
 - 1. Masks will be distributed in bundles of 10
 - 2. Specific stations will be University Centre, Fletcher Argue, Armes, Engineering, and Extended Education
 - a. Masks will be handed out from 7 AM - 3 PM
 - iii. All events that occur with under 100 people will not need approval unless alcohol will be involved (over 100 people will still need approval) by Student Affairs
 - iv. The gym capacity will increase to 75%
- b. UMSU Offices
 - Will be back in person starting this coming Tuesday, February 22nd, 2022
- c. Election Workshops
 - This entire week UMSU has been putting on election workshops to engage students in running for UMSU
 - At the time of this board meeting, the last one is the President's workshop, tomorrow February 18th at 12 PM
- d. UMSU Survey
 - Thank you to everyone who filled out the survey, UMSU Exec was able to pass along the results to administration and deans
 - All class information should be updated on Aurora now. Deans/Faculty have taken these results and made their decisions based upon
- e. International Student Health Care Petition
 - Working with MLA Jamie Moses to fill out petitions that will be read out when the house is sitting in March.
 - They can be found at the UMSU Service Centre
 - If on campus, please fill out a petition so that you can advocate for international students
- f. Women Only Gym Time Slot
 - Currently working with administration to implement some form of women only time slot

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- Whether it's a separate room, certain hour, certain day, we hope to implement some sort of program where women are allowed to exercise exclusively with other women
- This is being offered at many other educational institutions and we hope to have the same
- Currently 1 room booked 6 PM - 8 PM, Tuesday through Sunday in Frank Kennedy Centre Rm 303 (Circuit Studio), also a slot for Non-binary/Transgender/Ally session from 4 PM - 6 PM, Tuesday through Sunday also in Frank Kennedy Centre Rm 303 (Circuit Studio)
- Trying to advertise this because many students are not aware of this → Tracy (UMSU Women's Rep) will be looking into if we can get swimming space/time included in this

VP Advocacy's Report (Emily Kalo):

1. New Updates

a. Campus Advocacy

i. Winter Survey

- The 2022 Winter Survey was released with the intention of gauging membership opinion and to share findings with all stakeholders and university decision makers
 - The survey focused on gauging opinions on the return to campus, the on-going changes to academic scheduling, the efficacy of international students' health care, and knowing more about students with caregiving responsibilities
- The findings from the survey were compiled into a formal brief and shared with President Benarroch, Laurie Schnarr, Vice-Provost Students, as well as the Deans' and Directors' Council
- This summary has been utilized to inform UMSU's advocacy strategies for students and assist university decision makers as they navigate the gradual return to campus

ii. Student Senate Caucus

- Put forward a passionate tuition credit proposal. When students were asked, they expressed frustration towards financial needs such as that students during the strike and pandemic felt as if they were not getting what they were paying for.
- Students utilizing compassionate grading scheme as a way to boost GPA for application towards other programs. This doesn't work like that because all universities do not calculate GPA the same and some programs will not accept a compassionate grade (ie. will be rejected).

- Given that discussion, the student senate caucus would like to put forward a solution that actually benefits students and their future endeavours.
- As a result, any student who withdrew from a strike affected course will be able to apply for a compassionate financial need so that they can have that money back on aurora. This allows the student to use the money to retake the course. There are also compassionate VW/Retake policies; they will receive the highest grade, no “blocks”/time limits on when they can retake the course.
 - VW will not show up unless the course is not re-taken.

b. Provincial Advocacy

- i. Manitoba Alliance of Post-Secondary Students (MAPSS)
 - 1. There will be a huge online campaign around advocating for international student health care.
 - *Shared Perspectives* is a joint report from 10 partners, representing over 570,000 students
 - The 2022 Publication topic will be “Financial Aid and Awareness” and will include contributions from:
 - The Alliance of BC Students (ABCS);
 - The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA);
 - The College Student Alliance (CSA);
 - The Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS);
 - The Manitoba Alliance of Post-Secondary Students (MAPSS);
 - The New Brunswick Student Alliance (NBSA);
 - The Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA);
 - Students Nova Scotia (StudentsNS);
 - l’Union étudiante du Québec (UEQ); and
 - The University of Prince Edward Island Student Union (UPEISU)
 - The *Shared Perspectives* publication identifies challenges and opportunities that exist in individual provinces, but also looks past provincial borders in order to highlight financial aid as a responsibility all jurisdictions need to share
 - *Shared Perspectives* provides an understanding of the issues students experience on campuses across our country, and highlights how we must work together to improve financial aid resources on post-secondary campuses across Canada

c. Federal Advocacy

- i. Super Conference (Advocacy Week) - Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA)

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- February 14th – February 18th, 2022, marks the virtual Advocacy Week for the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA)
 - Student leaders from across the country gather together to meet with Members of Parliaments (MPs), Ministers, Senators, public servants and stakeholders to press for improvements to Canada's post-secondary education system
 - CASA membership spent the past few months developing the policies and setting advocacy priorities to be presented during the week
- The 2022 Advocacy Week priorities include:
 - Expanding the Canada Student Grant to help improve access for those who need it most
 - The need for a Canadian post-secondary mental health strategy
 - Recognizing that graduate student scholarships must keep pace with overall Canada Research Granting Agency funding
 - Funding Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action 66 to help connect Indigenous students with support and educational opportunities
 - Help streamlining the co-op process for international students seeking Canadian work experience
- Emily has been scheduled to participate in the following meetings with federal decision makers:
 - MP Jamie Schmale
 - UNICAN - Paul Davidson
 - MP Niki Ashton
 - MP Greg Fergus
 - MP Leah Gazan
 - SEN Marc Gold
- Leading up to the official conference, CASA offered members lobby training sessions, as well as background information and research briefs
- Lack of Co-Op opportunities for international students due to their Student Visas not allowing them to → international students are facing additional barriers
 - Lobbying to get the Government of Canada to streamline the Co-op program for all students, specifically international students
 - Will receive more information next BOD meeting

VP Community Engagement (Tino Dogo):

1. New Updates

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- a. International Center Director Interviews
 - The UM International Center is currently going through the process of selecting an individual for the role of Director
 - Brandy Usick invited me to be a part of the committee that will be interviewing the candidates over this month
 - So far, 2/4 interviews have been completed
- b. Residence Demand & Market Analysis Stakeholder Session
 - Barry Stone, Director of Student Residences invited Savannah Book and Tino to participate in this session
 - As former residence students, the company conducting the session sought to collect feedback on potential improvements and areas of consideration when developing residence buildings in the near future

2. Continuing Updates

- a. Celebrating Black History
 - Black History Month events are ongoing as scheduled
 - Can confirm that the bake sale from this year was even better than last year!
 - If you missed out you can still get some from the baker on the @UMBSU Instagram page
 - Thursday is when the UMBA signature event will be happening, please share this through your channels
- b. Elections Forum: Breaking Down Barriers Workshop
 - The CRO hosted this workshop via Zoom to provide the opportunity for students to learn more about the portfolios of different executives
 - If you any questions on the elections please contact the CRO: cro@umsu.ca
- c. Sustainability/Green Team Updates
 - On the 1st of March, the team will kick off the events for this year's Sustainability Programming
 - March 2nd at 5:30 PM:
 - Will be hosting a workshop on the UN SDG's in partnership with IISD yet again. Registrants can sign up here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlvfuyvrT4uHdwLcPYs6Xu5faCGJNUZAghU>
 - March 3rd at 12 PM:
 - Will be hosting a virtual keynote with that Canadian broadcaster, look out for the announcement!
 - March 10th:
 - The University will be hosting the annual Sustainability Day
 - Further details are located here: <https://umanitoba.ca/sustainability/sustainability-day-2>

[022](#) and will be communicated in promotional materials

VP Finance and Operations (Brook Rivard):

1. New Updates

a. Sustainability Hub

- Work has started to realize a new department of UMSU, an area dedicated to improving sustainability within UMSU, offering an area for different sustainability focused student groups to connect, and act as an oversight body for the Universities sustainability goals
- This sustainability hub will act to ensure the continuity of sustainable thoughts within the Union, should a new Executive team not have a member passionate about sustainability
- With this being a larger project, we are aiming to have this complete by the summer so connections between student groups can begin, and the hub will be able to begin “normal operations” starting in the fall

b. Third Floor UC Washroom

- Work is starting on the third floor UC washrooms outside of Degrees → these washrooms will not be accessible for a bit
- This renovation will see a change to the general layout of the washrooms, and further work to the custodial space between the men's and women's washrooms
- While this construction will mean that the only available washrooms in UC will be those on the west end, by the cashier's office; increased signage will be going up soon

c. Electronic Fund Transfers (EFT's)

- UMSU is now reaching the final stages of being able to offer EFT's instead of the currently used cheques
- More work is in the way to ensure flexibility of signing authorities (between the 4 authorized to do so)
- This change will drastically reduce UMSU's paper usage, and should be more convenient for students and student councils → students should be able to get their money faster too

2. Continuing Updates

a. Businesses

- With announcements coming in from each faculty stating how many of their classes will be returning in person, the numbers are just not quite what we would have hoped to pursue the opening of more of our businesses
- As such, Degrees, GPA's, and the Service Centre are the only UMSU businesses currently open, and will remain so until numbers justify the opening of other spaces
 - On February 28th, Degrees will reopen the sit-down dining area

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- If councils are looking to host a social, you can certainly still reach out and see the availability of the HUB as a venue, if there is enough interest we can look at opening the HUB occasionally to host these events
 - Inquiries into HUB events would need to be made about 2 weeks in advance, ideally 3-4 weeks in advance
 - Prices should be expected to remain about the same as previous years' venue costs
- b. Dental Space
 - The RFP process is nearing its end, with the Universities legal team drafting the proposal that will be put to market soon
 - With current timelines, we expect a dental professional in the space for the fall term, in which they will be able to begin offering services to students in UC

VP Student Life (Savannah Szocs):

1. New Updates

- a. Residence Stakeholders Meeting
 - Brook, Tino, and Savannah met to discuss some of their input about the new residence building(s) possibly being built in the near future
 - Some of the input they gave based on their own experiences:
 - Building Design:
 - Large lounge areas for socializing and studying
 - Larger community kitchen area
 - Savannah suggested more of a dorm style set up for first years looking for the "traditional residence experience" similar to Speechly or UCR
 - Tino suggested more of an apartment style setup similar to AVM
 - Bathrooms shared between two or three residents instead of one communal bathroom for the whole floor
 - All agreed to steer clear of a "hotel setup" similar to Pembina Hall
 - Other Aspects:
 - Food needs to be more affordable or higher quality or both
 - Security needs to be better trained and trauma-informed
 - Food committees that actually take feedback from students and act on it
- b. REES Manitoba Partners Meeting
 - Savannah was asked by REES to act as the representative from the University of Manitoba campus on a board of representatives

from all the Manitoban post-secondary institutions that REES is partnered with

- Savannah attended the first meeting since REES partnered with UMSU and it went really well
 - It's very valuable to be able to communicate and collaborate with other institutions on aspects of sexual violence prevention
- Savannah was the only student among administrators from all the other institutions because the partnership exists between UMSU and REES, not REES and the U of M, but she thinks it was beneficial to be able to share a student perspective on why the tool is so important on campus rather than just an outside view of why students would benefit from it

2. Continuing Updates

a. Healthy Sexuality

- Thanks to everyone who attended the healthy sexuality expo, as well as the drag queen bingo and the healthy sexuality trivia
 - All the events went very well and we received lots of good feedback
- If you won a prize at the healthy sexuality trivia, you can come to the Service Centre anytime starting next week to pick out a prize, and there are still lots of healthy sexuality grab bags for anyone who would like to pick one up

b. REES

- The REES platform has been officially launched now, thanks so much to everyone who was supportive of us throughout this process; very glad we finally have this resource available to the students!
- If anyone ever has any questions or feedback about the REES tool please always feel free to message Savannah or send her an email