



TO: UMSU Board of Directors
FROM: Jakob Sanderson, UMSU President
DATE: June 18, 2018
RE: Work Activity Update, May/June 2018

New Updates

1. Board of Governors

The Board of Governors last met on May 22 and next meets June 26. At the May 22 meeting the operating budget for the 2018-19 year was set. This budget includes a 6.6% tuition increase which is the largest allowable given the amendment to provincial law last fall.

- VPA Sarah Bonner-Proulx and I both voted against the tuition increase – as well as the budget overall – on the basis that it was funded through the tuition increase which we found unacceptable.
- We proposed a more modest increase, respecting the need for increased funding in the face of operating grant cuts by the provincial government, while balancing that with the need to keep our education affordable given the fact that the approved increase was the highest from any province in Western Canada since 2012.
- Also included in the budget were changes to the course fee structure which is now based on how many terms a student is registered in.
- As minutes are produced I will be happy to share them with you, but the budget is included in the open agenda which can be found here:
http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/media/2018_05_22_BOG_Open_Agenda.pdf

2. International Student Healthcare

The University is currently in the midst of deciding upon a provider for international student healthcare in response to it no longer being provincially funded beginning September 1st.

- While details remain confidential, I can report to you that I am serving on the working group alongside Services Manager Gordon Chandler and that we are working with the administration to ensure the new plan is as affordable as possible while meeting a high standard of care.
- The University has pledged \$2.1 million towards covering first year transitional costs and UMSU will continue to advocate for full coverage in year one.

3. Peer Tutoring

In partnership with VPSS, Carly Mastromonaco, I have been working to contract an online peer tutoring database. Our goal is to have a system ready for September 1, 2018 that will allow for us to connect tutors to faculties where peer tutoring is needed, and to allow for faculty associations which already run peer tutoring systems to integrate with our database to make it easier for students to access and tutors to find students.



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- The system we are looking at is currently available as a mobile app where you can input courses you need tutoring in, or want to tutor in, and find matches. We have the option of establishing paid and unpaid tutors and payment can be done in app
- When we establish the exact cost it will be reported back to the Board, but based on current negotiations we are confident we can find a high quality system at an affordable cost.
- We will be meeting with your faculty associations to work on how best to integrate and would love to hear board members' feedback as to where your faculty association is at for peer tutoring currently, or who would be the best contact person to provide that information.

Ongoing/Continuing Work

1. Accessible Education Working Group

I have presented a motion on behalf of the executive committee to formally strike an ad hoc 'Accessible Education Working Group' for the 2018-19 year with the terms of reference attached in this package. This group has already drawn significant interest from students after the result of the previous Board of Governors meeting and will be further addressed in new business. Please e-mail me if you wish to take part.

2. UMSU Act

The UMSU Act amendments have officially received royal assent and are now entrenched in provincial law. As directors, we are now mandated to vote on our membership in any external organization within the next two years.

Events & Meetings Attended

May 22: Meeting with Transit Union regarding transit priorities in 2018/19
May 22: Board of Governors Meeting
May 22: Meeting with CSA regarding The Commerce Week Beverage Gardens
May 23 - 26: Student Care / ASEQ Stake Holders Meeting (Report Below)
May 28: Pride Flag Raising Ceremony
May 30: Pride Week Drag show @ Bannatyne Campus
June 1: Open Office Hours
June 2: Rise Above Scholarship gala dinner
June 3: Winnipeg Pride Parade
June 4: International Health Care Working Group
June 4: Sustainability Education Workshop
June 5: Senate Executive Committee
June 5: Meeting with Canadian Federation of Students - MB



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June 5: Convocation
June 6: Student Experience Committee Agenda Meeting
June 6: Meeting with 'Taking it Global'
June 7: UMSU Selections Committee
June 9-12: CFS-FCEE AGM
June 13-16: Canadian organization of Campus Activities (COCA) Conference
June 18: Ribbon Cutting for UMCycle Kiosk
June 18: BOG Finance Committee
June 19: Student Experience Committee
June 19: Monthly Meeting with University Ancillary Services
June 21: National Indigenous Day Events @ Bannatyne Campus

Conference Reports

UMSU Executives are mandated to give reports on any conferences attended. Since the previous meeting I have attended the StudentCare/ASEQ stakeholders meeting, CFS-FCEE AGM and the COCA Conference. I will attach my report regarding CFS-FCEE and COCA at the next UMSU meeting, but have provided a brief report regarding StudentCare.

- I attended the stakeholders meeting from May 23-26 in Montreal along with VPSS Carly Mastromonaco and VPE Owen Black.
- The cost to UMSU was \$0 as all expenses were covered by StudentCare.
- StudentCare is the broker for our health and dental plan, with whom we are currently in year six of a seven year contract.
- The stakeholders meeting is designed to give student executives who work with the plan a greater understanding of the health and dental plan, StudentCare as a company, and an opportunity to network with other student union executives that are partners with StudentCare.
- While at the conference, we were given a tour of StudentCare's office space, and while there a tutorial of their website, opt out process and privacy policy, as well as a chance to give feedback on their informative material that we distribute to students at our office.
- We were also given presentations on ancillary services provided by StudentCare such as Empower Me - a counselling service hotline - and legal insurance. UMSU will be moving into its second year using Empower Me and has no plan to implement legal insurance at this time.
- We were also given presentations by guest speakers on the sharing economy, mental health on campus and interactions with media. I feel that there was useful information in each of these talks that we can utilize on our campus going forward.



University
of Manitoba
STUDENTS'
UNION

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On the whole, I would say that our experience at the stakeholders meeting was positive. With just less than two years remaining on our contract we have no plans to make significant changes related to our broker at this time, and look forward to working with StudentCare this year on improving our plan incrementally.

That being said, I would strongly recommend any UMSU executive or director to conduct an RFP ahead of the next contract, and mandate that the next contract be significantly shorter. This is not a reflection of a negative attitude on my part towards StudentCare, but rather what I believe gives UMSU the highest level of bargaining power in future negotiations.