



TO: UMSU Board of Directors
FROM: Owen Black, Vice President External
DATE: July 16, 2018
RE: **Report to the Board, July 2018**

New Updates

1. Tagging of UMSU Businesses

I've begun working with our marketing department on tagging the businesses with signage that makes it clear that our businesses are owned and run by UMSU. We find a lot of students aren't aware of what businesses we operate which is partly due to the lack of connection between our businesses and the UMSU brand. We hope this will increase awareness of what UMSU offers on campus.

2. Canadian Federation of Students National General Meeting

- a. From June 9-13th the executives, our service manager Gordon Chandler and student Andy Fenwick attended the National General Meeting in Gatineau Quebec. The Canadian Federation of Students is an interprovincial organization that seeks to represent student interests to the federal government and provide services to its members. The University of Manitoba Students' Union is a member of this organization, and twice a year they have national meetings to make decisions on the governance and objectives of the organization. Every undergraduate student pays \$15.22 to this organization as a result of UMSU's membership, culminating in about \$365,000 worth of fees annually. The executives attended this national meeting to represent the interests of UMSU due to our membership in the organization.
- b. Our experience at this meeting has left us questioning and re-evaluating the purpose of UMSU's membership. The governing system of the organization favors students that go to smaller schools, as each school is given one vote, regardless of how many students attend the institution. This results in decisions being made that disproportionately represent only smaller institution's needs, and does not address the needs of larger institution's that represent a much larger number of students. For example, many of the services that are offered by the Canadian Federation of Students are not useful for UMSU, as we are able to offer those services at reduced costs already due to our size, and can tailor them to our institution.
- c. Furthermore, the culture of the organization is not helpful in achieving the stated goals of the organization as other members seek to shut down the voice of UMSU. For example, when our executives would nominate ourselves to be able to be on committees that review motions, I would see group Whatsapp texts on other members phones that read "block local 103." Local 103 is the membership name for UMSU. In this instance I was blocked from being on a committee not because of my ideas or what I have to say, but only because of what school I represent. It is unfortunate that a large contingent of other members of the organization feel that my voice, and the 24,000 members that I represent, is not worth hearing. Furthermore it's frustrating because other members of the organization do not view myself and my other current executives as a new executive – but seemingly a continuation of past executives that have had poor relations with the organization and thus do not give us an opportunity to evolve the relationship that UMSU has with the Canadian Federation of Students.



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- d. I attended the budget committee on both relevant days of the conference and represented the larger institutions constituency. The benefit of the conference is that we were able to represent UMSU and our members, despite many other members attempt to quell our voices. I would recommend attending future meetings for as long as UMSU is a member, largely due to the fact that our members pay a lot of money into the organization, and UMSU needs to keep the organization accountable and hear our students concerns.

3. Canadian Organization of Campus Activities

From June 13-16th, Jakob, Sarah and I attended the Canadian Organization of Campus Activities Conference in Fredericton to examine alternative programming opportunities. This was a result of our evolution of our Frosh Music Festival and wanting to see what other schools are doing in terms of campus planning. I went to numerous sessions on campus planning events as well as roundtables in which we discussed various issues relevant to our university. I would recommend this conference for future staff members, particularly our marketing department as it is a great setting to learn what other student unions are doing and what successes and failures they have experienced. We learned of some amazing ideas that we are excited to bring to and share with you all over the next year.

4. Post-Secondary Education Partnership – Alcohol Harms

From June 19-21st, I attended the Post-Secondary Education Partnership Annual Meeting in Charlottetown. This conference was to go over different methods and strategies on how to reduce the harms of alcohol on campus. This trip was completely funded by the organization and no expense came to UMSU. It was valuable meeting with other student unions, as well as staff from universities across Canada and discussing the failures and successes that they experienced and how we can use that information to affect how we put on campus events here on our campus. I would recommend future attendance at other meetings, as it is completely covered and discusses important and pertinent experiences that many of our students experience, especially first year residence students.

Ongoing/Continuing Work

1. Civic Election

Jakob and I have been in contact with the elections officer to determine on whether there are specific regulations we have to follow in hosting a public forum. In good news, there are no specific regulations which gives us a lot of flexibility. Jakob, myself and our marketing manager will be meeting with media partners in effort to expand the scope of the event to try and include as many students as possible.

2. The Evolution of Frosh

Our Marketing team is now drawing up designs and looking into what talent should be brought in. Were also gathering information on whether or not we should bring in a type of Bluetooth



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headphones as those types of parties are seeing continued success, and having it in a section of the event might be successful. We're waiting to hear back about pricing.

Events & Meetings attended since June 21 Board meeting

- June 22 - Phone call with UMSU Lawyer
- June 25 - Senate Appeals Teleconference
- June 27 - GPA Designer's Meeting
- June 28 - AISEC Meeting
- July 3 - UMSU Food Bank Golf Tournament
- July 5 - CSA Meeting
- July 17 - GPA Designer's Meeting
- July 18 - Sustainability Meeting with the Director of Sustainability
- July 19 - Pizza Hotline Meeting
- July 19 - UCRU teleconference