



TO: UMSU Board of Directors
FROM: VPSS, Carly Mastromonaco
DATE: August 28, 2018
RE: **Report to the Board, August 2018**

New Updates

1. Financial Aid and Student Club Recruitment Week

Jakob, Sarah and I recently met with Jane Lastra from the Financial Aid & Awards Department (FAA) at the University to discuss the implementation of a 'Financial Aid and Awareness Week' this coming Fall semester

- This week will coincide with Student Club Recruitment Week (September 17-21).
- Student clubs will display their club activities in UC to recruit new members.
- Alongside them, FAA will and external entities offering financial aid will also set up in UC to educate and assist in financial aid awareness.

2. Medicinal Marijuana Implementation

I recently reached out to UMSU's StudentCare point person, Alex Golovko, to discuss the inclusion of medical marijuana into health plan coverage. The first step is research – Alex will be in contact with MBC to discuss how we make this work

The goal is for implementation in the September 2019 cycle of the health plan.

3. International Student Healthcare & StudentCare Kiosk Relocation

The University has partnered with StudentCare to take on the health insurance plans for international students, the Manitoba International Student Insurance Plan (MISIP). International students with questions/concerns should be directed to www.misip.ca for more information.

StudentCare will now be hiring a new full-time employee to help with MISIP, therefore the current kiosk (located across from CAMPO – 108A) posed serious size restrictions – it is very small and can barely fit three people. Therefore StudentCare has taken on the renovation of 150 UMSU University Centre (formerly the location of PEERS student group) as their front-line service desk.

4. UM Cycle Expansion to Bannatyne

UMCycle Manager, Anna Weir, has been in contact with the Director of Bannatyne Operations (DBO), Joseph Darcel, to discuss ways to create an UMCycle presence on Bannatyne campus. Potential ideas include UMCycle skills workshops located on Bannatyne Campus – earliest one would be coming this September – and the potential for UMCycle to participate in Bannatyne Orientation.

Ongoing/Continuing Work

5. Peer Tutoring



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Implementation of peer tutoring is continuing smoothly. UMSU has begun recruiting tutors and hope to have around 30 secured by the end of September. If you know of any interested tutors, please have them email tutors@umsu.ca.

The recruitment of tutees will begin in mid-September – the most prominent time for students needing a tutor is anticipated to be likely be around or just after the first round of midterm exams.

Any faculty associations that wish to take on their own vetting of tutors, please contact me at vpss@umsu.ca.

6. **Study Snack Application Sheet**

Currently working out the logistics/cost and format of student groups renting the cart. The form is in the process of being made and should be up and ready for early September for student associations/groups to use once all logistics are figured out.

Events & Meetings Attended

- *Executive Committee meetings occur every Monday and Thursday
- *Standing meetings every Thursday with Services Manager Gordon Chandler

July 24 – Member Services Committee Meeting
July 27 – Tutoring app call (Nimbus tutoring)
July 28 – Council retreat
July 31 – Governance Executive Assistant panel discussion
August 7 – Marketing meeting (videographer discussion)
August 8 – University (Tannis Campbell)
August 8 – Financial Aid & Awards (Jane Lastra)
August 8 – Peer tutoring (Nimbus tutoring)
August 13 – Orientation (NSOC)
August 14 – Member Services Committee meeting
August 16 – 20th – SUDS (Vancouver)
August 21 – Marketing (videographer discussion)
August 27 – Peer tutoring (Nimbus tutoring)

Travel Report

Student Union Development Summit (SUDS) 2018

All five executive members attended the SUDS conference from August 16-20 in Vancouver. SUDS is a conference that brings together student union execs/ reps from all over Canada with a focus on providing educational and informative seminars that relate to running a successful student organization.



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Executives participated in different seminars throughout the two days of the conference. I participated in a sexual violence campaign, where a representative from the Our Turn movement (which UMSU is a part of) discussed ways to address issues of sexual violence on campus. I also attended a public relations seminar, as well as some keynote speakers. I was also involved in a breakout discussion with student leaders in the same or similar position as mine. This session addressed common issues we all face in our position, such as student club issues (eg. space, funding) and governance issues.

The only negative experience I had while attending SUDS occurred during the “nightlife” activities session at the end of the night, where the organizers of the conference arrange for social networking at bars around the city. During the first night, I was unfortunately drugged by someone at the bar, and had to be taken to the hospital. Although I am completely healthy and safe, this incident came as a scary reminder of just how quickly things can go wrong at these types of social events. I want to share this experience to advise any and all student groups or associations who host socials or events where alcohol will be consumed that you **MUST** have resources in place to handle situations like these. Some important tips for handling these cases include:

- Becoming aware of signs and symptoms of abnormal behavior
- Educating your councils on these signs
- Making sure you have sober volunteers watching for people who may be in trouble
- Ensuring those who attend your socials know who to go to if they find themselves in an emergency situation
- Bringing in an external party to supervise and assist in ensuring the safety of the attendees (i.e. Red Frogs, an UMSU student group)

Overall I found the conference to be a highly beneficial experience and would recommend UMSU’s continued attendance. I found the social networking to be extremely beneficial, as well as I thoroughly enjoyed and felt that I really had learned something from the sessions I attended.