Conferences Reports
In the last month I’ve attended three conferences. Studentcare, {May 22nd – 26th} in Montreal, I attended with Jakob and Kyra. (Report below). CASA Foundations, {May 27th – June 1st} in Ottawa I attended with Jakob. (Jakob will provide CASA report at the next meeting). CFS June AGM, {June 7th -12th} all 5 executives went to this conference along with 3 of our board members, Alicia, Victoria & Brendan. (I will provide this report next meeting).

Student Care Stakeholder Conference
Towards the end of May, Jakob, Kyra and myself attended the Studentcare stakeholder conference held yearly in Montreal. This conference does not cost UMSU any money as Studentcare covers all expenses. Studentcare is UMSU’s health and dental broker for extended healthcare as well as oversees the international students’ healthcare plan for the University of Manitoba.

Throughout the three day conference there was a wide array of sessions and seminars targeted at the development of the services Studentcare provides to student unions country wide. We had the opportunity to learn more about the Health and Dental plan, tour the Studentcare facilities and attend lots of important sessions such as, Digital Health, Union Branding, Leading Student Health and many more.

The objective of the conference is to help student leaders that interact with the health and dental plan to better understand how it works, how to maximize its benefits for our students, and to educate student leaders on the services that they provide that our union hasn’t yet implemented, such as Legal Protection. Through a partner law firm, student members of a Plan administered by Studentcare have access to a legal assistance helpline that allows them to consult a lawyer or a notary. This program could significantly help our students within Canada allowing them access to legal help if they so need. Especially international students who are about to graduate and need legal help to file for work permits or permanent residence status. Moving forward we will investigates the cost benefit analysis of implementing such programs in years to come.

While at the Studentcare offices they gave a presentation on the website and how to interact with it efficiently, as well as a presentation on EmpowerMe which is a Mental Health resource which (with more advertising to our students) can be a really valuable resource.

My evaluation of the conference on the whole was positive. It was an extremely beneficial conference and we got to network with a lot of student union executives from around the country. At the end of this academic year we will be up for our first of three renewable years with Studentcare. Moving forward I’d recommend we continue to allow the executives that interact with the plan the most to attend the stakeholder conference especially as we near the end of the contract.
Participatory Budget

The Participatory Budgeting working group was formed at the May 16th UMSU Board of Directors meeting, and will start working on the referendum proposals from the previous year 2018/19, as well as maintain the trajectory outlined to complete the process by April 30, 2020.

Summary of process:
- Presentation of Terms of Reference (completed)
- Formation of working group (in progress)
- Schedule for the PB process (TBD)
- Tabling throughout the year (Bannatyne – August 26th – 30th) (Fort Garry – Nov 4th – 8th) more dates pending

GPA’s and UMSU Offices Renovations

As most of you are aware the renovations to the UMSU offices as well as GPA’s are well underway. We are slightly behind schedule with the renovations starting on April 1st and running till mid-August for both GPA’s and the UMSU offices. Closer to the date we will announce the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Events & Meetings Attended

Open Office Hours: Wednesdays at 2:30pm

- May 16th – General Manager Businesses Weekly Meeting
- May 16th – UMSU OAC progress Meeting
- May 21st – Health & Dental Decision Meeting w/ Gordon & Leeandra
- May 21st – Community Celebration for Chancellor Secter
- May 21st – General Manager Businesses Weekly Meeting
- May 22nd – Student Care Stakeholder Meeting starts w/ Kyra & Jakob
- May 26th – Student Care Stakeholder Meeting ends
- May 27th – CASA Foundations starts w/Jakob
- June 1st – CASA Foundations ends
- June 3rd – Studentcare Handbill Meeting w/ Gordon & Leeandra
- June 3rd – General Manager Business Weekly Meeting
- June 4th – CFS Meeting w/ Elizabeth (MB)
- June 5th – BSA, PSA, MSA BBQ Meeting
- June 5th – Research & Advocacy Meeting
- June 5th – Convocation
- June 7th – CFS June AGM starts
- June 12th – CFS June AGM ends
- June 13th – Indigenous Educational Day
- June 13th – Event Calendar Meeting