TO: UMSU Board of Directors  
FROM: VP Advocacy, Sarah Bonner-Proulx  
DATE: July 25th, 2019  
RE: Report to the Board, July 2019

1) New Updates

➢ Get Out The Vote (GOTV) Campaigns (Provincial, Federal)

I have been working with President, Jakob Sanderson, to develop GOTV work plans for the Provincial (September 10th) and Federal (Mid to late October) election. This includes a briefing pack of five recommendations for all political parties to consider in order to ensure that postsecondary education in Manitoba remains affordable and accessible for all.

Recommendations include the following:
1- Reinstatement of Healthcare for International Students;
2- Reinstatement of funding for the province’s postsecondary institution operating grants to pre 2017-2018 level;
3- Reinstatement of funding and bursaries for Access programs at Manitoba postsecondary educations to pre 2018-2019 levels to enable more eligible northern, Indigenous and low-income students to overcome systemic barriers to postsecondary education;
4- Government of Manitoba maintain its policy of offering zero-interest student loans in recognition of how they help fulfill Manitoba’s Post-Secondary Education Strategy (2015) and;
5- Government of Manitoba provide a 50% increase in funding grants for Campus Manitoba to enhance its use of open education resources (OERs) in Manitoba curriculums, and to implement an online credit transfer database.

As for the federal election we have been working with both UCRU and CASA to determine election priorities and develop a unified and effective GOTV campaign with student unions across the country. Further to this, I recently met with SFCC (Students for Consent Culture) to discuss joint election priorities for both the provincial and federal election. Moving forward we will be working alongside SFCC to raise awareness and advocate for these important issues that affect students across Manitoba and Canada.

2) Ongoing Work/Projects

➢ Healthy Sexuality Campaign Week

I am in full swing planning UMSU’s upcoming Healthy Sexuality week for the week of September 23rd. We are organizing programing focused on anti-sexual violence education and awareness as well as healthy relationships and safe sex. Over the past weeks, I have reached out to community organizations such as Klinic, Rainbow Resource Centre, SERC (Sexual Education Resource Centre) as well as internal student groups and University Offices to plan for a full week of programming. If you have any questions about what will be going on that week or have any ideas of what you’d like to see happen, please let me know! 😊

➢ Alcohol Harms Reduction Strategies
Over the past few weeks I have been meeting with the Health and Wellness Office at the University to set out alcohol and drug harm reduction strategies for the year and I am excited for what’s to come! Further, I have been working to develop a safe socials plan that student groups and faculty associations can use when planning their events. As our biggest social event of the year approaches, I have been coordinating with Redfrogs, Project Safe Space and other organizations to help ensure that FROSH has the resources needed to be a safe and successful event.

3) Conference-Report

- PEP-AH: Calgary, AB, June 18th-20th, 2019

I attended the PEP-AH (Post-Secondary Partnership for Alcohol Harms) national AGM as incoming Western Region Rep. Myself and the rest of the Western Team (Calgary and BC) presented on the initiatives we had undertaken this past year, including the Western Regional Symposium that was held this past January, and our future objectives as a region. I also had the opportunity to hear updates and developments from all other regions in attendance, including Quebec, Atlantic region and Ontario. During this time a variety of innovative ideas were discussed such as Calgary’s new Post-Alcohol Support Room, Harm Reduction Strategy implementation, campaign concepts, social and educational programming ideas, etc.

Afterwards, a variety of sessions took place including an overview of the PEP-AH Guide: Assessment and strategic planning, Community Indicators and Action, Alcohol Brief Intervention Toolkit and an update on CPADS (Canadians Post-Secondary Education Alcohol and Drug Use survey). The CPADS survey was developed earlier this year by PEP-AH and Health Canada to measure alcohol and drug use among college and university students in Canada to help garner data to develop better health programs and gain insight into the respective University where the survey is administered. At the end of the conference, all delegates had the opportunity to participate in a Health Canada Consultation on Youth Interaction with Alcohol as part of the ongoing review of Best Practices from the Office of Alcohol Policy.

Overall, I found this conference to be extremely informative and valuable. My executive recommendation is that UMSU continue to send at least one delegate to this bi-annual meeting especially given that this conference comes as no cost to UMSU.
4) Meetings/Events

*Only external meetings included. Open Office Hours: 11:00-12:00pm every Thursday*

- June 25th – SSC Hiring Panel Interviews
- June 25th – Board of Governors
- June 25th – BOD BBQ
- June 26th – Senate
- June 27th – Health & Wellness Office Meeting
- June 27th – J4W Update Mtg
- June 27th – Renovation Tour
- July 3rd – UMSU/UMFA Shared Priorities Mtg SS
- July 4th – MH First Aid Peer Support Mtg
- July 4th – StudentCare Presentation
- July 5th – Meeting with Vice-Provost Students
- July 9th – External Advocacy Mtg
- July 11th – UCRU Phone Mtg
- July 16th – UMSU Hardship Mtg w External Relations
- July 16th – Indigenous Awareness Brainstorming Session
- July 17th – New Student Orientation Booth
- July 17th – Making the Grade –Orientation Presentation
- July 18th – SFCC X UMSU Election Priorities
- July 22nd – GOTV Workplan Mtg
- July 23rd – Meeting w Manitoba Liberal Party
- July 23rd – Retirement Party
- July 23rd – Youth Parliament Speaker Night
- July 24th – Staff BBQ
- July 25th – Health & Wellness Mtg
- July 25th – Project Safe Space Mtg