TO: UMSU Board of Directors  
FROM: VP Advocacy, Sarah Bonner-Proulx  
DATE: August 29th, 2019  
RE: Report to the Board, August 2019

Updates:

1) Consent Culture/ Bringing in the Bystander Training for UMSU Staff

Over the past month I have been working with our HR manager alongside Justice for women and the University’s Health and Wellness Coordinator to facilitate consent culture training and bringing in the bystander training for UMSU full/part time staff at the our businesses. The purpose of these workshops/training sessions is to act as a prevention mechanism by helping equip our staff with the tools needed to spot suspicious behaviour when it occurs and teaches bystanders how to safely intervene in situations where an incident may be occurring or where there may be risk. The intent of the consent culture training will be to focus more specifically on debunking myths and stereotypes surrounding consent and educating staff on the impact that factors such as alcohol and drugs can have on the rate of occurrence of sexual violence.

2) GOTV/ Provincial Election Priorities

A couple weeks ago myself and UMSU President, Jakob Sanderson, attended a Get out The Vote (GOTV) conference in Ottawa where we established our GOTV plan to mobilize students to vote in the upcoming provincial and federal election. Over the coming weeks, we will be collecting pledges from students, both online and on paper, as a way to help educate students on party policy and encourage students to exercise their right to vote. For the provincial election on Sept.10th, we will be continuing to release info to educate students on pressing student issues such as international health care, Access program funding, and more (for the full list of recommendations and supporting briefs, visit umsu.ca/news).

As for the Federal Election, UMSU, alongside 100 Debates for the Environment will be hosting a debate on October 3rd to address candidates on environmental issues as well as overarching student issues. If you’re interested in getting involved and volunteering your time in the Federal GOTV campaign, please contact vpa@umsu.ca.

> SFCC Partnership

UMSU has partnered with Students for Consent Culture Canada to lobby for and adopt the recommendations SFCC has developed for the upcoming provincial election, specifically with respect to the ask relating to the commitment to calls for Justice put forward by the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and the mandate to update relevant provincial privacy legislation to allow for survivors to have access to the outcome of workplace and institutional investigations relating to sexual violence.
3) **Harm Reduction Strategies/ FROSH Safer Spaces**

I am in the process of finalizing details on FROSH safer spaces which will serve the purpose to create a safe and welcoming environment for all those to attend our FROSH event on Sept. 14th. We have partnered with Justice for women student group, Project Safe Audience and Redfrogs to help ensure the safety and comfort of folks during the concert.

4) **International Student Health Care**

Letter Signing: This past week we held the IHC letter signing event at Fools & Horses café; during this event students signed letters to their respective elected officials in support of international students and against the cut on healthcare. Poster Making: Today, August 29th, a poster making event for the upcoming IHC Rally on Sept 4th is happening in UMGSA lounge in University centre until 8:30 pm! Materials for poster making will be provided – all welcome! Rally: On September 4th, UMSU alongside many other stakeholders will be gathering at the Manitoba legislative building to rally against international student health care cuts and advocate for the reinstatement of this repeal. Rally will begin at 12 noon with bus pick up from the U of M at 11:00am in front of University Centre/Administration Building).

5) **Healthy Sexuality Campaign Week**

I am in final stages of planning UMSU’s upcoming Healthy Sexuality week the week of September 23rd. The week will comprise of 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. Once all graphics and schedule has been confirmed, I will be sending out to Senior Sticks and BOD members to help advertise in your respective faculties/associations.

6) **Conferences – SUDS & GOTV**

I attended SUDS (Student Union Development Summit) mid-August with the rest of the Executive team in Vancouver. During this 3 day conference I attended a variety of workshops and talks including one on Addressing Sexual Violence on campus, Utilizing the Media, Goals and Management and Public Relations. I also had the opportunity to hear David Suzuki give a keynote on Student Unions & Climate Action and engage in a variety of networking opportunities with student leaders from across the country. All in this was a great opportunity to learn from others and I feel it is valuable experience for future UMSU executives to attend.
Jakob and I also had the opportunity to attend CASA’s Get Out The Vote (GOTV) Conference in Ottawa immediately following SUDS. During this conference we solidified our GOTV Workplan and learned ways to best to mobilize students to vote in the upcoming federal election (focus on messaging, engagement and branding). We also had the chance to engage in media training and network with other CASA schools hosting the GOTV campaign at their institutions. Overall, this was an incredibly valuable conference that will allow us to run a successful GOTV campaign on our campus and get students out to the polls on September 10th and October 21st!

Meetings & Events -- (External Meeting Only)
July 29th – Meeting with NDP re: MB election priorities
July 30th – SFCC Election Mtg
July 30th – Sexual Violence Orientation Planning
July 30th – Mental Health/ Peer support training
August 2nd – UMFA Info Campaign Mtg
August 2nd – What is UMSU Presentation for incoming students
August 2nd – PEP-AH Phone Mtg
August 2nd – GOTV Workplan Mtg
August 6th – Int Health Care Hardship Relief Mtg
August 8th - UCRU Members Mtg
August 9th – 12th SUDS, Vancouver, BC
August 13th -15th –GOTV Conference, Ottawa, ON
August 18th – BOD Retreat
August 20th – RedFrogs Mtg
August 20th – Mtg with PSA
August 21st – IHC Letter Signing
August 21st – Terry Duguid Summer Jobs BBQ
August 22nd – Degrees Diner New Menu Tasting
August 22nd – Project Safe Audience Phone Mtg
August 23rd – Meeting with UMFA
August 26th – SPCC Senate
August 27th – Bannatyne Lunches
August 27th – BOG Exec
August 28th – Monthly Mtg w VP Students UofM
August 29th – International Student Tabling Event
August 29th – IHC Sign Making Event
August 30th – Residence Training
August 30th – Bison Home Opener