1) Healthy Sexuality Week

This week we had programming focused on healthy relationships and healthy sex including a speaker engagement and a Q&A on consent with nurse and research specialist Margaret Ormond. As well, we had workshops on sexual and reproductive health with Klinic, birth control info booths and a UMSU Healthy Sexuality contest.

2) Mental Health Working Group

UMSU’s mental health working group met for the first time last week where we got familiar with the mandate of the group, discussed priorities for the upcoming year and the group put forward reconditions to Participatory Budget Committee for the $3000.00 allotted to mental health initiatives. Suggestions included: speakers, campaigns, resource awareness and mental health workshops (such as mental health first aid, peer support etc.).

3) Anti-Sexual Violence Work on Campus

Last week the University released an external report outlining 43 recommendations to better address sexual violence, discrimination and harassment on campus. From these recommendations, the need for a sexual violence resource centre and the need to have a policy that prohibits direct power imbalance relationship between students and faculty/staff was echoed — both major advocacy pushes from UMSU over the years. In light of this report UMSU issued a press release (full release found at umsu.ca/news) which attracted quite a bit of media attention. Moving forward into implementation, UMSU’s focus will be on ensuring that student voices are at the forefront of these conversations as we continue to push for a campus that is more safe and inclusive for all.

4) GOTV Federal Election /100 debates for the environment

Coming up on October 3rd UMSU has partnered with 100 Debates for the Environment to host a debate for the federal election here on campus at IQ’s. During this time there will be an opportunity for students questions to be asked – here is link to a survey https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FR6XHW7 where students can input their questions and the most popular questions will be selected as official student questions for the debate. At the same time, we are still running the GOTV pledge drive — go to www.getoutthevote.ca to pledge today! Reminder that student associations who get the most students to pledge will win a prize that involves FREE food! 😊
Notice: CCBR on campus:

Reminder to folks that the Canadian Centre for Bioethical Reform (CCBR), a non-UMSU affiliated anti-choice group, is scheduled to be on campus outside UC every Friday up until October 25th. The materials being displayed are highly graphic and may be disturbing and cause feelings of discomfort and distress to some students. The university will be placing placards up to give notice of the graphic nature of the materials. If you or anyone you know requires support during this time, please do not hesitate to reach out and we will connect with the proper resources available.
For the full statement visit umsu.ca/news.