Ongoing / Continuing Work

1. Board of Governors

BOG has not met since the last BOD meeting.

2. Sustainability

Thank you to everyone who participated in the campus cleanup on Friday October 25th! We had a blast helping out with this and we look forward to doing it again in the Spring. We are still in the midst of strategy plan consultations and I want to take one of our last two BOD meetings this term to host a consultation session with you folks on this matter. We will keep you posted!

We are in talks with UMFA and the UMGSA to make the same climate emergency declaration and demand that we did earlier this year and circulate a joint, open letter to administration from the three largest unions on campus.

3. Open Education Week

Open Education Week completed last week, and thank you to everyone who participated! We signed up hundreds of student pledge cards and had a faculty pop up as well to demonstrate the value of OER to students and instructors. We look forward to this effort continuing in a working group next term, so that we can make a concerted effort to save students money in the classroom.

New Updates

1. U-Pass Negotiations

This past week we were informed that the public service was recommending a $24.50 per term increase to the U-Pass fee to compensate for RRC joining the program. We were deeply concerned by this recommendation, given it offered no additional benefits.

Per the UMSU act, this level of increase necessitates a referendum, and we have real concerns that it would not pass as presented, thus terminating the U-Pass program at the UofM.

We submitted an alternate proposal to raise revenue and grow ridership by expanding the winter pass into the summer based on winter eligibility. After presenting this to the Public Works committee, they mandated the public service to study our proposal and bring it back within 90 days. In the meantime our goal is to work with transit to cost out the proposal more fully and ensure it’s a revenue neutral option.