UMSU Committee Reports

1. **Member Services Committee (Chair):** The MSC meets every second Thursday, opposite to BOD meetings. This committee oversees the services of the Union, student clubs, U-PASS, Health & Dental, & funding approvals.

2. **Finance Committee:** Finance meets every second Thursday, opposite to BOD meetings – immediately following MSC. On this committee, my role is to provide context on hardship, student club support, etc.

3. **Executive Committee:** Executive meets twice a week.

Ongoing and Completed Projects

1. **Community Initiative Funding**

   Implementation: Over the summer, along with the Services Coordinator, we reviewed the structure, logistics, and policies associated with the new Community Initiative Funding (CIF) model. This consisted of using this opportunity to revise/refresh the Student Club Policies & Procedures, working closely with UMSU Community Representatives to find meeting structures and spaces for their Town Halls, and briefing all parties involved in the process on the new funding cycles.

   **UMSU Community Representative Outreach:** This past month, with the first wave of CIF Town Halls coming to a close, we have been in conversations with the UMSU Community Representatives about their visibility on campus and improving connectivity with the members that they represent. Through the next month, we will be looking closely and fine-tuning promotions, office hours, contact lists, and office spaces. The goal for this term is to increase turn-out and dialogue within each UMSU Community Representative’s Town Hall meetings, so that members can count on this safe space to discuss their priorities.

2. **Indigenous Students’ Working Group**

   **Strategy Development:** The UMSU Indigenous Representative and I have been planning our collection of data for a potential strategy that will include recommendations from the Indigenous Students’ Working Group. The first meeting was held on November 4, 2019 and a report will follow at the next Board of Directors meeting I will be present at on November 21, 2019.

   **Indigenous Students’ Month & Indigenous Awareness Month:** With the news brought to our attention about the Indigenous Awareness Month being planned for March by the Indigenous Students’ Centre, we’ve renamed UMSU’s month long campaign to Indigenous Students’ Month, to avoid some of the confusion that may arise. While programming for this month has already been set (with an Indigenous Women in Leadership panel, Angelina Redsky film screenings, and more), I’m hoping to continue the activities of this working group into the
Winter Term, to open avenues of collaboration and student programming that will serve as the framework for future years.

3. Mental Health Working Group

University Strategy Consultation: This November, the Mental Health Working Group (MHWG) will be participating in a number of consultations with Arlana Vadnais, to assist in data collection for a new mental health strategy that the University has tasked her with. Through the MHWG, members will have the unique opportunity to offer suggestions and feedback first hand, with that chance that their comments get translated directly into the University’s strategy.

UMSU Strategy Development: Vice-President Advocacy, Sarah Bonner-Proulx, will likely have touched on this in her report. However, another project that we have for the year is the creation of UMSU’s own Mental Health Strategy for the next handful of years. This strategy will serve as a call to action for future executive committees to continue growing supports, services, inclusion, and programming within the organization.

Campaign Mobilization: With the wrap for the October Mental Health campaign, we’re now gearing up for the January campaign, where we’ll be diving deeper into hard-hitting topics of mental health such as the role of oppression, intersectionality, addictions, and further stigmatized mental illnesses (such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, etc.). We’ll be working closely with the MHWG in the development of January’s programming and projects that may evolve further from that week.

4. Campaigns

Here is a list of campaigns that I’ve worked on with fellow executives thus far:

Conscious Kindness Day (May 15)

On May 15, the United Way of Winnipeg launched this year’s Conscious Kindness day-long campaign, of which they call the entire city to action to spread kind acts and positivity in any way, whether that be big or small. Given that their youth leadership branch, Youth United, has tabled in UMSU University Centre for this campaign over the past few years, we took it into our hands to partner with them for the first time. The result of this is a day-long campaign where we gather non-perishable food donations to the UMSU food bank, open all year round on the 5th floor of University Centre. By collaborating with this campaign, we are raising up conversations concerning food insecurity on our campus, encouraging students to give back to their peers and hopefully motivating them to continue these acts of kindness long after this project is complete. This momentum was continued by Vice-President Community Engagement, Kyra Fanning, and her collaboration with Bison Sports for Foodbank Fridays.
Orientation Programming

New Student Orientation this year consisted of an online orientation module, three key events (What’s Next, Making the Grade, and Welcome Day) and workshops that were available to the incoming students through sign-up. UMSU took up a larger role this year, in order to support and connect with the incoming first-year students early on. The goal was to ensure that they are fully equipped to engage with their new environment and that they feel prepared to take on their post-secondary experience.

UMSU collaborated with the First Year Centre for the following:

- **Making the Grade July 17:**
  There were a total of 893 incoming students registered for the event. We saw a great turn out and had the opportunity to talk with so many new students. The UMSU Presents: Your Students’ Union session was a success. We had some energetic, enthusiastic, and engaged participants who were more than ready to learn about the work that we do at UMSU. At the session, we addressed the five pillars of the organization and let those who attended know exactly how they can get involved upon their arrival in the Fall. A special thank you to the UMSU volunteers: the night couldn’t have been nearly as awesome without you folks!

- **Welcome Day September 3:**
  We had the opportunity to collaborate with many of the largest direct-entry faculties, some of UMSU’s sponsors, and the University to create cohesive and inclusive programming for the entire first-year student body. This programming included a free lunch, live music on the Quad, games, photo booths, free refreshments, and contests. At UMSU’s station, we featured Get Out the Vote materials and Frosh outreach. Throughout the Quad, new students also had the opportunity to get acquainted with groups on campus which support and endorse a safe environment at socials and various events; like Justice for Women and Red Frogs (Segue). While the weather wasn’t in our favour, we still developed a good working relationship and a valuable framework for future orientations that will be built on for years to come.

Health Has No Borders

The President and Vice-President Advocacy will likely have gone into detail during their AGM reports. On my end, I oversaw involvement from student clubs who signed on to the open letter and updated ACE & BOSS on developments of the campaign that was hosted just prior to the provincial elections.

**Clubs Fest (September 9 to 13)**

Over the summer I worked closely with our student clubs and services team to revamp Fall 2019’s Clubs Fest, formerly known as Student Club Recruitment Week. Last
September, we hosted the following: (1) student clubs tabling Monday to Friday morning; (2) student associations tabling on the Friday afternoon; and (3) ending off the week of recruitment with a Student Club Appreciation Ceremony on Friday afternoon. At the recognition ceremony on September 20th, all clubs in attendance were recognized and a select few (nominated by their peers and determined by the Member Services Committee) were highlighted through Awards of Excellence & Recognition. Here are this year’s Award of Excellence recipients:

- **Academic** – UM BioMedical Engineering Design
- **Advocacy** – World University Services of Canada (WUSC) U of M
- **Athletic** – Nearu Martial Arts Club
- **Cultural** – Pakistani Students’ Association
- **Social** – UM Anime Club

**Financial Aid (September 9 to 13):** With Jakob and Mbuli at the lead, this week featured tabling from various organizations, banks, and companies that offer diverse programs and resources that are tailored to assist students with their financial need.

**Healthy Sexuality (September 23 to 27):** With Sarah at the lead, this week had a variety of programming from tabling in the UC resource fair to Margaret Ormond’s talk at IQ’s Café & Billiards.

**Mental Health (October 7 to 11):** This campaign served as an introduction to mental health and methods that you can use to self-soothe and self-care. During the Fall week, we focused on “soft topics” with regards to mental health and illness, while finding the chance for collaboration with incredible student groups such as Peace of Mind U of M, Jack.org x uManitoba, and Active Minds uManitoba. We also reworked the new display case in order to showcase art as submitted from students from all different faculties.

**GOTV (October 15 to 18):** With Jakob and Sarah at the lead, this week consisted of collecting vote pledges and educating students on their eligibility to vote. Throughout this week, we also featured a video campaign that starred passionate student leaders who wanted to urge the campus to make their voices heard in the Federal Election.

**Open Educational Resources (October 30 to November 1):** With Jakob and Kyle (Research & Strategy) at the lead, this short campaign collaborated with organizations like Campus Manitoba, UMFA, and UM Libraries to educate students and faculty alike on Open Educational Resources and the convenience it would offer our campuses. This week consisted of a book fair, online campaign, events, and pledge collecting.

**Wellness Week (November 4 to 8):** With Kyra at the lead, Wellness Week focused on the 8 dimensions of wellness. This week brought forth everything from mindful meditations to self-defense classes, partnered with student clubs.
5. Student Clubs

Assembly of Club Executives (ACE): Since August, I have been working closely with the Services Coordinator to continue hosting a series of monthly meetings that give UMSU recognized student clubs the chance to learn about changes in the club/funding policies, interesting opportunities available for them on campus, enhance their leadership skills, share the strengths and activities of their student clubs, and collaborate amongst clubs with similar mandates.

Student Club Appreciation Ceremony: In September, we hosted a student club appreciation ceremony, as mentioned briefly earlier. The turn-out was incredible and we received some very touching feedback from many club executives.

Transition Dinner: Towards the end of March, we plan to host an evening where club executives will be passing the torch on to their successors and UMSU will be providing them with the instructions and tools they need for a smooth transition. Similar to the club appreciation ceremony, the event will serve as a token of appreciation for all of the volunteer work that student leaders do at the U of M.

6. Student Organizations

Board of Directors & Senior Sticks Retreat: Back in August, we decided to merge the two UMSU trainings/retreats. At the retreat, we found ourselves at the Inn at the Forks for a day full of workshops from UMSU 101 to Mental Health to GOTV to Community Engagement. Overall, feedback told us that it boosted morale among the student leaders supported by UMSU and provided clarity moving forward into the Fall term.

Board of Senior Sticks (BOSS): BOSS meetings have been held directly following ACE meetings, making scheduling easier for folks. This year, BOSS has been utilized mainly as a collaborative body that gives senior sticks the opportunity to hear from UMSU, report on strengths and weaknesses, report on events that they have coming up, and discuss ways that they can work together. BOSS also usually features presentations from Execs on campaigns for direct collaboration and faculty/residence/organization integration.

Consent Culture Training: As of today, all student organizations have either completed their scheduled CCWs with Justice for Women, a part from one or two amid scheduling conflicts that are being sorted out.

7. Peer Tutoring

New Contract
We signed the 2019/20 agreement with Nimbus Peer Tutoring back in August. The new agreement included add-ons; such as custom in-app branding (with distinction between tutor and tutee interfaces), assistance with upcoming Fall programming & outreach, better pricing
for tutees, and news/poll functions. Seeing great numbers within the pilot semester, myself and the Member Services Committee were optimistic to grow this service on our campus even further.

Fall Launch
With the study snack cart, I’ve been doing rounds of study spaces (libraries, lounges, tunnels) with some student volunteers handing out energy drinks, fruit, granola bars, resources, and peer tutoring activation cards. UMSU’s peer tutoring coordinator and myself have also met with tutors for class talk training, as they’ll be going around letting students know about the program all through to finals.

Winter Programming
For the Winter term, UMSU’s peer tutoring coordinator and I will be working to take advantage of the peak engagement present during the January orientation month to do a second launch of the program. This will consist of e-blasts and weekly events during the month of January.

8. Hardship
UMSU x External Relations Fundraising
Early in July, individuals from external relations reached out to discuss the possibility of fundraising to contribute to the available hardship funds. Working closely with Sarah, as this is a project that she oversaw during her first term, we’ve provided external relations with insight into the spirit of the fund and why it would be worthwhile for contributions from young alumni. Ultimately, we welcome growth of the hardship fund, that provides many students in need with the supports to get them through difficult times within their undergraduate degrees, and this is a great opportunity for such. We’re still currently in the process of implementing the fundraising strategy and look forward to where this new partnership takes us.

9. University Partnerships
   a. Community Service Learning & Alternative Reading Week – Discussing working relationship in the spirit of Equity Diversity & Inclusion programming
   b. Student Life – Co-Curricular record application feedback & Leadership workshop development for ACE & BOSS
   c. First Year Center & Orientation – building framework for future years and getting UMSU more involved in new student onboarding

Conferences Attended or Scheduled to Attend
- Canadian Federation of Students (CFS Spring) – June 7 to 12
- Canadian Organization of Campus Activities (COCA) – June 16 to 21
- Student Union Development Summit (SUDS) – August 9 to 12
- ConversAction – November 7 & 8
- Kalinawan: Filipino Mental Wellness – November 15
- Canadian Federation of Students (CFS Fall) – November 22 to 27
Committee & Board Assignments

- Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion (EDI) Task Force
  - Data Collection & Community Consultation Working Groups
- Summer Term Academic Schedule Review Committee
- Student Experience Committee
- Co-Curricular Review Committee
- Interfaith Student Coalition
- Champions for Mental Health
- Senate Planning & Priorities Committee
- Senate Committee on Appeals
- Arthur V. Mauro Senior Student Award Committee