New Updates

1. **ConversACTION Race Matters Report**

On November 7 & 8, I had the pleasure of attending the ConversAction Race Matters conference, hosted by Renison University and the University of Waterloo, alongside a representative from UMGSA, and various members of our Administration.

These two days were packed with valuable, provoking, and heavy discussions surrounding Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion – with a sharp focus on Anti-Racism. Here, I had the opportunity to share the initiatives that were being implemented at the U of M and through UMSU, while learning more about steps that other Universities are taking that would be possible to bring back home. Being one of just under 30 student delegates, it was an empowering experience being able to relay student perspectives and priorities to various University Administrators from institutions all across Canada, eight of which were U15 institutions.

I have detailed notes on the following sessions. If you’d like access to them, please email me at vpsl@umsu.ca or come by my office hours, as I’d be happy to sit down and discuss the topics covered in-depth:

1. Keynote – Dr. Malinda Smith
2. Student Delegate Roundtable Discussion
3. Circle Discussion w/ Dr. Ciann Wilson, Dr. Christopher Taylor, and Laura Mae Lindo
4. Student/Administrator Session moderated by Dr. Kathy Hogarth
5. Anti-Racism Task Force Panel w/ Dr. Kofi Campbell, Lori Campbell, and Dr. Sobia Shaikh

2. **Canadian Federation of Students / Federation Canadienne Des Etudiants Fall AGM Report**

This November 23 to 26, I attended the 38th Fall Annual National General Meeting for the Canadian Federation of Students in Terminal 3 of the Toronto Pearson Airport.

The Canadian Federation of Students is an external organization that UMSU (Local 103) is a part of that consists of three components that cannot be separated: Provincial, National, and Services. As you may have seen in previous reports of the Executive, we have worked with the provincial component on Manitoba-based issues. In contrast, a big theme that I took away from my experiences as the delegate for Local 103 was that the national organization is heavily Ontario-centric in its lobbying priorities and programming, as illustrated in a couple of the motions I reference below. With each Local only receiving one vote in plenary regardless of how many individuals are part of a delegation or the size of the institution, it becomes profoundly restrictive to voice the needs of the student population that large institutions represent and expect to have those needs acknowledged.
This conference consisted of an opening and closing plenary, workshops, caucuses, and constituency meetings. There were four voting sub-committees of plenary: (1) Organizational and Services Development Committee, (2) Policy Review and Development Committee, (3) Budget Committee, and (4) the Campaigns & Government Relations Forum. I was elected to the OSD Committee to represent the Manitoba Provincial Component with Whitney from Brandon University.

There were a total of 78 motions that were discussed and brought back on the AGM table from the June AGM, one of which was submitted by UMSU (Local 103). The majority of the motions were procedural/house-keeping. However, noticeably Local 98 (UTSU) brought forward 55 motions that were submitted by members of their board, an interesting idea to consider in the future at UMSU. Below you will find a summary of motions that I either spoke to and/or are the most relevant to Local 103:

Please note: I don’t yet have access to the exact wording of the amendments, as minutes haven’t yet been sent out to member locals. However, the original motions being debated can be found below the headers.

2019/11:N18 MOTION – moved by Local 98 – *Monthly National Exec Reports AMENDED to Quarterly*

- Whereas the Federation needs to mobilize as many students as possible to combat recent detrimental changes to education, including but not limited to cuts to the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP), and the Student Choice Initiative;
- Whereas informing students about the activities National Executive Members are doing on a regular basis will inspire students to volunteer in the Federation’s campaigns;
- Whereas regular reports would allow National Executive Members to showcase their advocacy work and provide their perspectives to the students they represent;
- Whereas regular reports are a standard practice in many other student unions, Member Locals, and other student representative bodies at local, provincial, national, and international levels, not to mention many incorporated bodies;
- Whereas regular reports would bring an additional level of accountability to the Federation;

Be it resolved that the Operations Policy, “National Executive” be amended as follows:

National Executive
Constituency representatives on the National Executive shall submit full written reports to constituency members via constituency list-serves within two (2) weeks following the National Executive meeting. The report shall contain a copy of the agenda, a summary of the relevant discussion and all motions being recommended to the membership.

Each provincial representative on the National Executive shall submit full written reports to member local associations in their province within two (2) weeks following the National Executive meeting. The report shall contain a copy of the agenda, a
summary of the relevant discussion and all motions being recommended to the membership.

Each National Executive Member shall also submit at least one (1) full written report each month to member local associations in their province or constituency via the appropriate official communication channels. These monthly reports shall be made publicly available on the Federation website. These reports shall include, but are not limited to the following:
- A summary of the activities the respective National Executive Member engaged with over the past month;
- A list of meetings the respective National Executive Member attended with member locals of the Federation, stakeholder groups, politicians.

2019/11:N22 MOTION – moved by Local 98 – Notice of AGMs, Quorum, & Proportional Representation
AMENDED without PR

Whereas the Student Choice Initiative (SCI) in Ontario has caused a considerable decrease in the Federation’s revenue;
Whereas the Federation’s Ontario Component has opted to no longer hold semiannual general meetings in order to save money;
Whereas there should be proportional representation to encourage larger student unions to join the Federation, and have their decisions feel valued;

Be it resolved that Bylaw II.2.a be amended as follows:

2. Notice of General Meetings
   a. Notice of each general meeting will be sent to each member of the Federation at least twenty-eight (28) to sixty (60) days prior to the date of the meeting.

Be it further resolved that Bylaw II.4 be amended as follows:

4. Quorum at General Meetings
   A quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of members shall consist of not less than one-half plus one (1/2 + 1) of the members of the Federation having voting rights at the time in person or by proxy.

Be it further resolved that Bylaw II be amended to include:

8. Proportional Representation
   a. Each member local student association shall be allotted a number of votes based on the amount of individual members it has in accordance with the following categories:
   i. Member local student associations with ten thousand (10,000) individual student members or less shall have one (1) vote.
   ii. Member local student associations with a population of individual student members between ten thousand and one (10,001) and twenty thousand (20,000) shall have two (2) votes.
iii. Member local student associations with a population of individual student members greater than or equal to twenty thousand and one (20,001) shall have three (3) votes.
iv. Member local student associations with a population of individual student members greater than or equal to ten thousand and one (10,001) who wish to proxy their vote are only entitled to proxy one (1) vote rather than the amount they would be allotted if they were present at the meeting.

2019/11:N37 MOTION – moved by Local 98 – Speaking Limitations
AMENDED to give national CFS staff speaking rights

Whereas the grammar and language of Standing Resolution 3 can be improved;
Whereas section 4 does not reflect the true range of gender identities and expressions;
Be it resolved that Standing Resolution 3.2 be amended as follows:

2. Speaking Limitations
   a. On each plenary motion there will be no more than three speakers in favour and three speakers against the motion unless the speakers list is extended by a procedural motion.
   b. A delegate shall not speak more than twice to the same question on the same motion. The spokesperson of the committee, who introduced a report, may also close debate.
   c. Delegates will be limited in speaking time to five minutes.
   d. A delegate shall not interrupt another, except on a point of order or a point of privilege.
   e. If a point of order or a point of privilege is called, the floor shall be yielded to the Chair until the question of order/privilege has been decided. The Chair will cease timing the speaker until a ruling has been made.
   f. If a member calls a point of information, the Chair will address the speaker and the speaker has the right to refuse interruption. However, if the point of information is allowed, the timer will not be stopped and the speaker will be limited by the time remaining.

Be it further resolved that Standing Resolution 3.3 be amended as follows:

3. Speaker Priority on Plenary Motions
   a. First Priority Delegates from member local associations and provincial components
   b. Second Priority National Executive members and national caucus representatives

Be it further resolved that Standing Resolution 3.5 be amended as follows:

5. New Business Motions
   Any motion to be considered for new business may be submitted for translation by the deadline as outlined on the general meeting agenda.

Be it further resolved that Standing Resolution 3.6 be amended as follows:

6. Allocation of Plenary Time
a. Each committee, constituency group, the Circle of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Students, the Black Students’ Caucus and the National Graduate Caucus shall be allocated a minimum of fifteen (15) consecutive and uninterrupted minutes of time in all national general meeting closing plenary sessions to present a report and motions, provided that the report and motions were submitted by the deadline for translation.
b. The plenary of each general meeting shall include thirty (30) minutes in which members may ask questions of the National Executive.

Be it further resolved that Standing Resolution 3, section 4 (“Affirmative Action Speaking Procedure”) be reviewed and updated by the next Annual General Meeting by the National Executive.

2019/11:N44 MOTION – moved by Local 98 – Content of National Exec Reports

Whereas National Executive Reports can benefit from being made more comprehensive and transparent;
Be it resolved that Standing Resolution 25 be amended as follows:

Standing Resolution 25

CONTENT OF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE REPORTS
The National Executive Report shall be produced and distributed to the membership before the annual national general meetings.
The Report shall contain, but not be limited to, information on:
1. campaign activities and the goals achieved;
2. an identification of membership issues and how they are being dealt with;
3. a breakdown of current budget status (i.e. actuals compared to the budget);
4. a record of all decisions made at National Executive meetings;
5. an identification of goals and priorities for the remainder of the term of office;
6. Federation internal affairs;
7. social justice and anti-oppression work;
8. coalition building;
9. a services review including details about partnerships and the implementation of operations policies related to the purchase of products and services and the impact of operations;
10. any goals that were not achieved or any opportunities that were missed; and
11. any other information which is pertinent to members.

2019/11:N57 MOTION – OSD: moved by 98, Closing: moved by 103 – NGM Locations

Whereas the Federation is a national student organization;
Whereas the Federation represents many student unions outside of Ontario, specifically the Ottawa/Gatineau area;
 Whereas the current Bylaw II.3.a already gives the National Executive the ability to change locations of a General Meeting under undefined “extenuating circumstances”;
 Whereas the General Meetings of the past have been located in cities such as Victoria - British Columbia (Nov 1982), Thunder Bay - Ontario (May 1994), North York - Ontario (May 1998), Renfrew - Ontario (Nov 1998);
 Whereas the costs and expenses of General Meetings can vary depending on location;
 Whereas the Members pay a fee that is equal to everyone else, regardless of distance travelled;

Be it resolved that Bylaw II.2.b, II.2.c and II.2.e be amended as follows:

b. Each member will be asked to indicate its intention to attend or not to attend each general meeting. If one-half (1/2) or more of the members, not including prospective members, indicate that they will not attend, the National Executive will cancel the meeting.

c. The Notice will include all positions that are to be elected at the general meeting, including descriptions of these positions.

e. Notice of any meeting where special business will be transacted shall state the nature of that business in sufficient detail to permit a member to form a reasoned judgment on the business and state the text of any resolution requiring approval by two-thirds (2/3) of the members to be submitted to the meeting. All business transacted at a meeting of members, except for consideration of the financial statements, public accountant’s report, election of directors and re-appointment of the incumbent public accountant, is “special business”.

Be it further resolved that Bylaw II.3 be amended as follows:

3. Location of General Meetings

a. Each general meeting of the Federation will be held in a location determined by the National Executive. The National Executive shall attempt to select locations that reflect the diversity of provinces that the Federation represents.

b. The cost of travel to a general meeting for delegates of each member will be equalized, taking into account members’ ability to pay, by such a system of pooling travel costs as may be determined from time to time by the National Executive.

c. The Federation shall not have meetings in the same region more than once every two (2) years. The regions for consideration are as follows:

   i. Atlantic Provinces
   ii. Quebec
   iii. Ontario
   iv. Manitoba and Saskatchewan
   v. Alberta and British Columbia

Be it resolved that Bylaw II.6 be amended as follows:

6. Travel Pool Each member local student association having representation in a general meeting will participate in the general meeting travel pool. In the event that member locals are located within one hundred sixty (160) kilometers of the location of the Federation’s Annual General Meeting, these member locals shall pay eighty percent (80%) of the travel pool cost.
2019/11:N75 MOTION – National Executive – Student-led campus publications at General Meetings

AMENDED the final bullet point to reflect interviewee names published with consent

Be it resolved that the Federation’s Operations Policy titled National General Meetings be amended to include the following sub-section:

**Media**

The Federation shall allow one English and one French representative from the Canadian University Press and recognized student-led campus publications to attend and observe General Meetings upon agreement to the following conditions:

- Media shall be allowed to observe plenary sessions and workshops, but shall not have speaking rights during such sessions;
- Media shall be allowed to cover plenary sessions of the Federation in any manner with the exception of audio or video recordings;
- Media shall not be permitted to cover meetings of caucuses, constituency groups, nor sub-committees; and
- Media shall be allowed to interview willing delegates in a way that does not distract from delegate participation (i.e. not during active plenary sessions or workshops).

Media shall not print the name of delegates interviewed.

The rights and conditions will be made explicit in resultant agreements between the Federation and the Canadian University Press.

None of the rights of the media supersede the Rules of Order utilized by the Federation or any other policy of the Federation.

Be it resolved that Standing Resolution 35: Media Presence at General Meetings be amended to read:

The National Executive shall have the authority to extend invitations to the media to attend workshops and/or plenary sessions at national general meetings. Members of the media shall not have speaking privileges in any of the sessions at which they are permitted to attend, as detailed in the Federation’s Operations Policy on National General Meetings.

2019/06:007 MOTION – moved by Local 103 at Spring AGM, referred to National Executive, recommended to budget committee for defeat – conference subsidies for racialized and Indigenous students

**PASSED**

Be it resolved that member locals may request the Canadian Federation of Students’ National office to supplement costs of delegates to the National General Meetings and that the Canadian Federation of Students update its governing bodies accordingly.

Be it further resolved that the NE amend the budget prior to the next NGM to include a minimum of $10,000 to support further subsidies for racialized and Indigenous delegates not sitting on student union executives;

Be it further resolved that member locals may submit applications to the Federation by the NGM registration deadline for an additional delegate subsidy;
Be it further resolved that the amount given to subsidize each delegate be divided equally among all applicants or cover the total cost of each applicant, should the total cost not exceed $10,000;

Be it further resolved that the National Executive encourages provincial components to follow the same practice; Be it further resolved that the Federation encourages member locals to think critically about how they may best prioritize the voices of BIPOC students in all spaces.

At closing plenary, there were also four emergency motions that extended closing plenary beginning at 1 PM, into 9:30 PM. All four were passed:

i. Critical Dialogue Toolkit
ii. Creation of a Woman’s, Trans, and Non-Binary Circle Representative
iii. Action on Hong Kong
iv. Food Safety and Security Motion – resulting from an incident at the conference (non-Halal food)

Should you have any questions or should you like to review copy of the emergency motions, please e-mail vpsl@umsu.ca.

Continuing Updates

1. Mental Health
   **Success Through Wellness Strategy Consultation**
   December 4th at 4 PM in UMSU Council Chambers
   All interested students are welcome to attend and contribute to the student feedback.

   **Preparing for the Winter Term campaign week**
   Any names of organizations of interest (re: tabling, events, etc.) should be forwarded to vpsl@umsu.ca before Monday next week.

   **UMSU Mental Health Strategy**
   Development will begin at the first MHWG meeting. If you’d like to be notified, please e-mail cfrey@umsu.ca to be added directly to the list. An email has been sent out to the MHWG.

2. Indigenous Students’ Month
   Thank you for all of the support. The Indigenous Women in Leadership Panel and Angelina Mcleod Film Screening were phenomenal. The ISWG will be meeting in early January to begin programming for the March, corresponding with the ISC’s Indigenous Awareness Month. Alicia, UMSU Indigenous Students’ Rep, may be reporting in further detail at this meeting.

3. Clubs Fest
   **Tabling**
   The ACE mailing list will be receiving a form soon for Clubs Fest tabling from January 13th to 17th. The deadline for applications is December 8th!

   **Awards**
This next term, award nominations will be launched during Clubs Fest and presented at an end-of-year ceremony.

**Advertising Recruitment Activities**

If you have any events planned between the 13th and 17th that you would like specifically promoted in conjunction with Clubs Fest, please let me know ASAP. As well, if you plan to do a take-over on @studentsofumsu, please request at the earliest possible opportunity, to ensure that your spot is held. Instructions can be found in the Instagram account’s link tree in the bio.

**External Events & Meetings Attended**

Office Hours: Mondays @ 12:30 PM in Degree’s Diner

October 25, 2019 – Accessibility CIF ToR Meeting
October 25, 2019 – Campus Clean Up
October 25, 2019 – Indigenous Students’ Month (ISM) Planning Meeting
October 25, 2019 – UMFSA Halloween Night
October 26, 2019 – Malpractice
October 28 & 29, 2019 – Community Assemblies (formerly known as Town Halls)
October 30, 2019 – Student Life Meeting re: Programming & Collaboration
October 30 to November 4, 2019 – Study Snack Cart Resource Run
October 30, 2019 – Housekeeping Meeting re: Com. Rep Offices
October 31, 2019 – EDI Task Force Inaugural Meeting
November 1, 2019 – Bison Basketball Games
November 4, 2019 – Com. Rep Meeting w/ Vicky & Eliza
November 4, 2019 – Nearu Self-Defense Workshop
November 4, 2019 – Indigenous Students’ Working Group
November 5, 2019 – Justice for Women Meeting
November 6, 2019 – Fall AGM (Fort Garry)
November 6, 2019 – Student Club Priorities Meeting
November 6 to 8, 2019 – ConversACTION Race Matters Conference
November 12, 2019 – UMGSA x UMSU Campaigns Meeting
November 12, 2019 – Meeting w/ Vice-Provost Students re: External Groups
November 12, 2019 – Call w/ Alicia re: ISM Events
November 12, 2019 – UMBSA: Goonjon
November 15, 2019 – Kailinawan 2019 (Filipino Mental Health Forum)
November 15, 2019 – Call w/ Alicia re: ISM Events
November 18, 2019 – RPM Display Case Set-up (Trans Day of Remembrance)
November 18, 2019 – Peer Tutoring Meeting w/ Patrick & Leeandra
November 18, 2019 – Red Frogs Feature
November 18, 2019 – ISA Meet & Greet
November 19, 2019 – Indigenous Women in Leadership Panel
November 20, 2019 – Assembly of Club Executives
November 20, 2019 – Board of Senior Sticks
November 20, 2019 – Call w/ RRRA re: Tutoring and Campaigns
November 20, 2019 – Call w/ CUSA & UTSU re: CFS Conference Package Review
November 21, 2019 – Accessibility Centre Walk Through w/ Eliza
November 22 to 27, 2019 – Canadian Federation of Students AGM
November 28, 2019 – Angelina Mcleod: Freedom Road Screening
November 29, 2019 – Movies for Mental Health Call
November 29, 2019 – Shabbat Dinner
November 29, 2019 – ASBC Let’s Get It StARTed
December 3, 2019 – EDI Baseline Data Working Group
December 4, 2019 – EDI Community Consultation Working Group
December 4, 2019 – Mental Health Working Group