UMSU Board of Directors Meeting
January 16, 2020
UMSU Council Chambers, 176 Helen Glass
6:30pm

Attendance
Nina Lam, UMSU Chairperson
Carly Frey, Recording Secretary
Jakob Sanderson, UMSU President
Jelynn Dela Cruz, UMSU VP Student Life
Mbuli Matshe, UMSU VP Finance & Operations
Kyra Fanning, UMSU VP Community Engagement
Sarah Bonner-Proulx, UMSU VP Advocacy
Eliza Hydesmith, Accessibility Representative
Sharlene MacCoy, Mature Students’ Representative
Anika Khan, Arthur Mauro Students’ Association
Julius Chester, Arts Student Body Council
Jillian Boersch, Arts Student Body Council
Stephen Gatphoh, Arts Student Body Council
Zac Wronski, Arts Student Body Council
Lauren Slegers, Commerce Students’ Association
Amy Tran, Community Health Students’ Association
Shaylyn Maharaj-Poliah, Education Students’ Council
Shawn Williment, Faculty of Agriculture Students’ Organization
Ramesh Acharyn (proxy), Inner City Student Council
Silas Koulack, Manitoba Law Students’ Association
Arnav Sud, Manitoba Medical Students’ Association
Oluwatosin Daso, Nursing Students’ Association Council
Marianna Pozdirca, Pharmacy Students' Association
Vanessa Nguyen (proxy for UPass discussion/motions), Pharmacy Students' Association
Harry Singh, Physical Education Recreational Kinesiology Student Council
Bryan Kwak, Residence Students’ Association
Kailee Meakin (proxy), Students’ Architectural Society
Karlee Lemus, Society of Earth Sciences and Environmental Students’
Cory Frederickson, St. Paul’s College Students’ Association
Jasmine Tavares, St. Paul’s College Students’ Association
Dani Stackiw, Science Students’ Association
Chloe McElheron, Science Students’ Association
Brendan Scott, Science Students’ Association
Matt Rakar, Science Students’ Association
Jenny Peters, Social Work Students’ Association
1. Call to Order

UMSU chairperson, Nina Lam calls the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the reading of a statement of acknowledgement that the meeting is taking place on Treaty 1 Territory.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOTION – BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

Moved by Arts Student Body Council seconded by Nursing Students’ Association.

Motion carried.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

a. December 5, 2019

MOTION – BE IT RESOLVED THAT the draft minutes from the Board of Directors meeting on December 5, 2019 are approved as recorded.

Moved by Arts Student Body Council, seconded by St Paul’s College Students’ Association.

Motion carried.
4. Presentations

a. Sexual Violence Resource Centre

Bre Woligroski, Sexual Violence Resource Centre (SVRC) Coordinator addresses the board and announces the upcoming opening of the Sexual Violence Resource Centre on January 27th.

She reports that the University of Manitoba is pleased to open the Sexual Violence Resource Centre (SVRC) to the U of M community. The SVRC will provide students, faculty and staff access to a team of experts who will answer questions, provide information, and most importantly, offer a supportive and well-informed response to survivors of sexual violence. The SVRC is located at 537 UMSU University Centre and can be accessed via phone, email, on a drop-in basis, or by appointment by contacting svrc@umanitoba.ca or 204-474-6562. Students can learn more at www.umanitoba.ca/sexual-violence.

b. UPass Referendum Presentation

Jakob Sanderson, President, presents to the board on the upcoming UPass referendum. The presentation is attached to the minutes for reference.

MOTION – Be it resolved that the meeting enter into closed session of board members for slides 11 through 14 to review confidential survey results.

Moved by Jakob Sanderson, seconded by Mbuli Matshe.

Motion carried.

MOTION – Be it resolved that the meeting leave closed session and enter open session.

Moved by Jakob Sanderson, seconded by Arts Student Body Council.

Motion carried.

5. Current Business

a. MOTION 0462

Whereas the Elections and Referendum Manual (ERM) currently states that any referenda must happen on a Wednesday through Friday, Whereas the motion adopted at the previous board meeting was unintentionally out of order based on this policy, Be It Resolved That UMSU hold its U-Pass referendum on February 12-14, 2020 rather than February 10-12, 2020.

Moved by Executive Committee.

Motion carried.

b. MOTION 0464

Be It Resolved that UMSU hold a referendum commencing on February 12-14 continued enrolment in the U-Pass with the following question: ____________________________.

Moved by Executive Committee.
MOTION to amend to add:

The U-PASS (Universal Bus Pass) is a program offered by the City of Winnipeg in which all full-time students within the transit service area pay a subsidized bus pass fee and have unlimited access to transit through the months to which the program applies. It has been in existence since 2016 and the first contract expires at the end of this academic term.

Please fill out the following ballot concerning the U-PASS program, ranking at least two options in order of preference. If no option secures a majority of respondents support on the first count, the option receiving the least 1st place votes will be dropped from the ballot, and the next-preferred option on each of those ballots will receive those votes.

Q: Which of the following options regarding the U-Pass program would you most like to see implemented?

- O Continued enrollment in the U-Pass program at a rate of $160.75 per term (referring to the fall and winter terms)
- O Continued enrollment in the U-Pass program at a rate of $160.75 in the fall term, and a rate of $237.90 for the duration of the year including winter, spring and summer terms.
- O No further enrollment in the U-Pass program

Moved by Soussi Gounni, seconded by Silas Koulack.

Point of information - Does the Chief Returning Officer know if Simply Voting can accommodate this style of voting.

Chief Returning Officer, Karan Saxena, says yes it can accommodate a ranked ballot.

Cory Frederickson speaks in favour of the amendment, stating his support for a ranked ballot. But, he notes that the preamble does not say how much the UPass is currently costing. He suggests that the cost should be included.

MOTION to amend the amendment:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UMSU Board of Directors directs the Chief Returning Officer to include within the preamble information regarding the increase in cost proposed by the city and the cost of the post-secondary pass.

Moved by Jakob Sanderson, seconded by Shawn Williment.

Michael Catanese speaks against the amendment, noting that the preamble is too long.

Soussi Gounni, speaks against the amendment, saying that by adding this amendment it will not help promote the UPass due to students seeing more numbers.
Chimdi Chijioke, speaks against the amendment, saying that students will just scroll past the preamble and not read it.

Jakob Sanderson speaks in favour of the amendment saying that ultimately it is up to the Chief Returning Officer to finalize the preamble.

Zac Wronski, speaks against the amendment, saying that the preamble should include why this has been brought to a referendum.

Lauren Slegers, speaks against the amendment, saying the preamble should be shorter and there should be a page for unbiased information instead of including it in the preamble.

Michael Catanesi speaks against the amendment, stating that the Chief Returning Officer will decide what the preamble says.

Motion to amend the amendment carried.

Motion to amend carried.

MOTION AS AMENDED:
Be It Resolved that UMSU hold a referendum commencing on February 12-14 continued enrolment in the U-Pass with the following question:

The U-PASS (Universal Bus Pass) is a program offered by the City of Winnipeg in which all full-time students within the transit service area pay a subsidized bus pass fee and have unlimited access to transit through the months to which the program applies. It has been in existence since 2016 and the first contract expires at the end of this academic term.

Please fill out the following ballot concerning the U-PASS program, ranking at least two options in order of preference. If no option secures a majority of respondents support on the first count, the option receiving the least 1st place votes will be dropped from the ballot, and the next-preferred option on each of those ballots will receive those votes.

Q: Which of the following options regarding the U-Pass program would you most like to see implemented?

O Continued enrollment in the U-Pass program at a rate of $160.75 per term (referring to the fall and winter terms)

O Continued enrollment in the U-Pass program at a rate of $160.75 in the fall term, and a rate of $237.90 for the duration of the year including winter, spring and summer terms.

O No further enrollment in the U-Pass program

Motion carried.

c. MOTION 0463
Whereas the UPass is UMSU’s most used service and is of critical value to students requiring affordable transportation,
Whereas UMSU has declared a climate emergency, and has a position statement stating; "The University of Manitoba Students’ Union is committed to protecting and enhancing the social, economic, and ecological environment, and to promoting socially accountable and sustainable practices,”
Whereas the UPass plays an integral role in promoting sustainability at the University of Manitoba and across the city of Winnipeg, Be It Resolved that UMSU's Board of Directors take a stance in support of continued enrolment in the UPass, Be It Further Resolved that UMSU’s Board of Directors promote all options, if applicable, in a referendum that support continued enrolment, Be It Further Resolved that UMSU advertise the opportunity for students to form officially recognized ‘sides’ during the referendum campaign and provide all necessary resources as per the 'Elections and Referendum Manual' to a side advocating for the opposing view, Be it Further Resolved that UMSU’s Board of Directors’ members, including executives, take an active role in promoting the UPass Referendum and the side endorsed by the board.

Moved by Executive Committee.

Michael Catanese speaks against the motion, saying UMSU should not take a side.

Silas Koulack, speaks in favour of the motion, saying the board are elected leaders and should be taking an initiative as representatives.

Cory Frederickson speaks against the motion, saying the board has lots of influence on other students and taking a side may look like tampering.

Julius Chester speaks in favour of the motion, saying that the UPass promotes sustainability.

Jakob Sanderson speaks in favour of the motion, saying the UMSU’s job is to advocate for services for students. He also notes that the UPass is UMSU’s most utilized service. He also advises the board that other student unions across the country have taken sides in similar referendums.

Chimdi Chijioke asks if there is a backup plan to the referendum.

Jakob Sanderson responds that UMSU would accept the students vote and there would be no UPass.

Soussi Gounni, speaks in favour of the motion, says that the board is here to represent the students and they cannot argue that this service is not a good one for the students.

Erin Thomas, speaks against the motion, saying that it’s inappropriate for the board to decide which side to support. She also notes that the board hasn’t had time to consult their constituents on how to vote.
Mbuli Matshe responds to Erin Thomas, saying that it sounds like there are assumptions being made that the UPass hasn’t been discussed prior to this meeting. He asks if it’s more time that is needed for board members to consult their constituents.

Zac Wronski, speaks in favour of the motion, stating that the UMSU position statements reflect that the board should support the UPass.

Eric Schillberg, speaks against the motion, saying from a governance perspective it is not correct for UMSU to take a position on this.

MOTION to amend and strike “Be it Further Resolved that UMSU’s Board of Directors’ members, including executives, take an active role in promoting the UPass Referendum and the side endorsed by the board.”

Moved by Jakob Sanderson, seconded by Sharlene MacCoy.

Soussi Gounni speaks against the amendment, saying he would recommend the motion be divided instead of striking a clause.

Motion to amend carried.

Soussi Gounni requests opposition of amendment to be noted.

Kyra Fanning, notes that it’s frustrating to hear board members say they haven’t had time to consult their students as we have been speaking on the UPass for months.

Mbuli Matshe, says it’s important to remember that all the board members are voted in by their community to vote on their behalf.

Silas Koulack, says the board needs to make an informed decision, and hope the students trust the decision of the board.

Motion carried.

d. MOTION 0467

MOTION 0467 ruled as an emergency motion by the chair.

WHEREAS USMU’s responsibility is to promote the best interests of the students in the Union.
WHEREAS the recent escalating tensions between Iran and the United States have already had catastrophic consequences, including the deaths of nine Winnipeggers and 57 Canadians.
WHEREAS young people are in a unique position to be the harmed by this conflict should it further escalate, as young people will bear both the physical cost of serving in the Canadian Armed Forces, and the economic cost of any trade conflict.
WHEREAS this conflict drastically increases the danger for Canadian soldiers currently stationed in Iraq.
BE IT RESOLVED that UMSU calls upon the Canadian government to seek de-escalation in the Middle East, especially regarding Iran.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UMSU calls upon the Canadian government to condemn the killing of Iranian General Qassem Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis by the United States, the destruction of Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752 by Iran, and any further escalation in the ongoing conflict from either side.

Moved by Silas Koulack, seconded by Julius Chester.

Silas Koulack speaks in favour of the motion, saying that the board represents a large voter population.

Motion for secret ballot. Moved by Tyrese Gibbes.

Julius Chester speaks in favour of the motion, stating that lots of people affected by this conflict are students.

Motion to amend and strike “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UMSU calls upon the Canadian government to condemn the killing of Iranian General Qassim Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis by the United States, the destruction of Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752 by Iran, and any further escalation in the ongoing conflict from either side.

Moved by Tyrese Gibbes, seconded by Marianna Pozdirca.

Tyrese Gibbes speaks in favour of the amendment, stating that it’s not UMSU’s place to get involved in international politics.

Marianna Pozdirca speaks in favour of the amendment.

Motion to amend carried.

Soussi Gounni abstains.

Erin Thomas speaks against the motion, saying that foreign policy is not UMSU’s business to get involved in.

Motion to amend “BE IT RESOLVED that UMSU calls upon the Canadian government to seek de-escalation in the Middle East, especially regarding Iran.” to BE IT RESOLVED that UMSU calls upon the Canadian government to seek de-escalation in the United States and Iran.”

Moved by Julius Chester, seconded by Soussi Gounni.

Chimdi Chijioke, asks is passing this motion will set a precedent for future board to take a stance on foreign policy.

Jakob Sanderson, responds by saying structurally no, as each board is under their purview to review motions.
Motion to amend carried.

Lauren Slegers, speaks against the motion, saying that the student union should not be taking stances on political issues that do not directly affect post-secondary students or the student experience.

Cory Frederickson speaks against the motion, saying students can write to their elected officials if they feel strongly on the topic.

Soussi Gounni, speaks against the motion, saying that this isn’t the board’s place to weigh in on foreign policy.

Julius Chester, notes that UMSU is part of national organizations that they could work with to help prevent these types on tragedies.

Marianna Pozdirca reiterates that UMSU is part of national organizations that can work on advocacy.

Motion carried.

6. New Business

a. MOTION 0465

*MOTION 0465 ruled as an emergency motion by the chair.*

Whereas the current voting period places undue anxiety and stress on candidates and slates; and

Whereas voting on the third day of voting has a minimal impact on results;

Therefore, be it resolved that Section III, Subsection 1 clause (e) be struck and replaced with, “Week 5 (Voting Week): Voting shall be open a minimum of two days this week on a schedule set by the CRO.”, with part i and ii retained, of the Elections and Referendum Manual.

Moved by Governance Committee.

Motion carried.

b. MOTION 0466

*MOTION 0466 ruled as an emergency motion by the chair.*

Whereas the current practice outlined in Section VI, Subsection 1, clause (b) of the Elections and Referendum Manual, permits candidates to be nominated using a reasonable derivative, rather than a legal name; and

Whereas there is precedent for candidates to publish their preferred names in favour of their legal name;

Therefore, be it resolved that Section V, Subsection 4 of the Elections and Referendum Manual
be struck and replaced with “Within 36 hours of the closing of nominations, the CRO shall post the legal name, reasonable derivative thereof, or the name of everyday use of all candidates, and shall publish the same in the next issue of the Manitoban newspaper.”; and

Be it further resolved that Section VI, Subsection 1, clause (b) of the Elections and Referendum Manual be struck and replaced with “be nominated under their legal name, name of everyday use, or a reasonable derivative thereof.”; and

Be it further resolved that Section VI, Subsection 1, clause (e), part vi of the Elections and Referendum Manual be struck and replaced with “a signed document indicating the name which each candidate wishes to appear on the ballot, and an indication of whether they consider this name to be a reasonable derivative or everyday use of their legal name.”

Moved by Governance Committee.

Motion carried.

7. Reports of the Executive
   a. President

   UMSU President, Jakob Sanderson, provides a summation of his written report, submitted to the Board of Directors as part of the January 16, 2020 board package.

   b. VP Advocacy

   UMSU VP Advocacy, Sarah Bonner-Proulx, provides a summation of her written report, submitted to the Board of Directors as part of the January 16, 2020 board package.

   c. VP Community Engagement

   UMSU VP Community Engagement, Kyra Fanning, provides a summation of her written report, submitted to the Board of Directors as part of the January 16, 2020 board package.

   d. VP Finance & Operations

   UMSU VP Finance & Operations, Mbuli Matshe, provides a summation of his written report, submitted to the Board of Directors as part of the January 16, 2020 board package.

   e. VP Student Life

   UMSU VP Student Life, Jelynn Dela Cruz, provides a summation of her written report, submitted to the Board of Directors as part of the January 16, 2020 board package.

8. Reports of the Committees
   a. Executive
No report.

b. Finance
No report.

c. Governance
No report.

d. Member Services
No report.

e. Selections Committee
No report.

f. Judicial Board
No report.

9. Reports of Board Members

Oluwatosin Daso reports that the NSA welcomed new 2020 students in December. She also reports that the NSA is having a social on January 25th at The Hub.

Michael Catanese reports that tomorrow is the Hub Manager’s last day.

Brendan Scott reports that St Paul’s has a social on January 24th.

10. Announcements

No announcements.

11. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:01pm.