Updates

1) UPASS PROGRAM CUTS

Last week the city of Winnipeg announced that it plans to cut funding for the UPASS program with no warning of consultation from UMSU or other key stakeholders. In light of this deeply troubling announcement, Jakob and I, along with the UMGSA, Red River College and UofW have banned together to push back on this in full force. As you all know, the UPASS is our most used service and recently passed a referendum to continue enrollment in the UPASS program, despite fee increases, sending the clear message that students WANT this successful service and are willing to do their part in addressing climate change. With this cut, Winnipeg would be the ONLY major city in Canada NOT to offer this program.

Right now we need YOUR help the City and Mayor Bowman why students will not stand for this!

How can you as a board member help?

That being said, if you would like to help in this UPass fight:

1) Call your city councillor
2) sign up to speak at public delegation on March 19th with the link in the @myumsu Instagram bio
3) Share UMSU’s “Save the UPASS posts” on Social Media
4) Sign the “Save the UPASS” Petition
5) GET LOUD: Inform and educate your friends, councils and colleagues about WHY it is essential that UPASS program NOT be cancelled
6) ATTEND the full budget council meeting on March 25th

2) University Budget Priorities Submission:

Over the last couple weeks, Jakob and I have been working on drafting budget priority proposal for submission to the University for the 2020/2021 cycle. Our recommendations include the following:

Recommendation 1 – The University of Manitoba budget $250,000 dedicated to sexual violence training and preventative education initiatives for students and for the expansion of the Sexual Violence Resource Centre to the Bannatyne and William-Norrie campuses.

Recommendation 2 – The University of Manitoba provide an increase of $300,000 in annual funding to the Student Counselling Centre (SCC) to help align it with recognized benchmark ratios of counsellors to students, as set by the International Accreditation of Counseling Services, and improve front-line capacity so more students can reliably access vital mental health support services on campus.
Recommendation 3 – The University of Manitoba renew the $500,000 allocated to undergraduate bursaries in its budget 2019/2020 earmarked for the International Student Health Insurance Relief Fund (ISHRF), to help offset what are now the highest health care costs for international students in any province in Canada.

Recommendation 4 – The University of Manitoba earmark $100,000 of funding to carry out a comprehensive planning and feasibility study on how to reach net-zero emissions as an institution by 2050, and commit to making that study publicly available when complete.

3) Senate/Student Senate Caucus

Last week SSC and Senate met- relevant items for discussion included the Statement from Senate on the Importance of Higher Education which have undergone minor revisions in attempt to strengthen language. Moving forward UMGSA and UMSU will be releasing a more strongly worded statement to this affect and addressing our opposition to the provincial government’s intent to implement further performance indicators that will be used in determining resource allocation for the University moving forward.

- Events/Meetings Attended
  (Internal events/meetings excluded)
  - March 2nd – Meeting with VP Students
  - March 2nd – Student Senate Caucus
  - March 3rd – Consultation with Registrar’s Office
  - March 4th – Senate
  - March 5th – Future of Indigenous Leaders Banquet
  - March 6th – City Budget Announcement/ UPASS Cuts
  - March 6th – Canadian Engineering Competition Welcome Banquet
  - March 6th – OSHA Ctc Mtg
  - March 9-11th Out of Office – Commission on Status of Women –Youth Forum
  - March 11th – Academic Integrity Committee
  - March 11th – Provincial Budget Release
  - March 12th – Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works Mtg
  - March 12th – Phone Day/Class Talks UPASS
  - March 12th – BOD Mtg
  - March 13th – Mtg with Sarah Guillemard
  - March 13th – Upass Debate
  - March 13th – University Budget Mtg w Admin
  - March 13th -14th Board of Governors Retreat