Ongoing / Continuing Work

1. **Board of Governors**

BOG meets on April 21st and the open session will be reported on orally.

2. **UPass**

I have reached out to Winnipeg Transit and we received assurances that the opt-out criteria previously endorsed by Winnipeg Transit would be followed up on. They said we could likely meet in two to three weeks and so I will leave it to Jelynn and her team to close this deal and ensure we sign a contract that works for all students.

3. **COVID-19**

Here is the latest update on COVID-19 and how it is affecting our advocacy spheres in each level of government and in the university.

(i) **Alternative Grading**

There is no further update on this item. The following three options still apply to all students:

(i) Keep your Grade
(ii) Exclude your grade from GPA
(iii) Pass/Fail

A full breakdown of these options was included in my last report and we have been sharing graphics relating to this on our Instagram and Facebook accounts featuring a full breakdown of the ramifications of each choice as well as case-specific examples. Please check these out and share them with your followers!

(ii) **Relief Fund**

There is no further update at this time, but the hope remains that the fund will re-open when there is a sufficient funding level established once again.

(iii) **Provincial Government**

UMSU, UMFA and the University were all quite blindsided to see the government’s recent decisions to cut back funding by up to 30% over the summer months to universities. It is our belief that this is a regressive approach that will cut deeply into student services at a time when statistically we should be expecting higher enrolment in spring and summer classes and students have an outsized need for counselling and accessibility services during a period of academic uncertainty and social distress.
While we did achieve our goal on the suspension of student loan repayments which was an extremely positive move from the government, this is moving backwards and will have quite negative ramifications for students and for the employees of the university. UMFA President Janet Morrill and I will be coordinating a joint letter condemning this decision and requesting that post-secondary education be considered an essential service by the provincial and federal governments.

(iv) Federal Government

The Federal Government continues expansions of its CERB program and we are moving closer towards students being further and further integrated. Statistics Canada is also commissioning a survey asking students what further supports they require from the federal government and the link to this is available in our Instagram bio.

(v) Student Recreation Fees

It has been brought to our attention by several students that the university is currently still charging the sport and recreations fee even while the active living centre remains closed. This is on our radar and we will be advocating for a reversal on this decision.

4. University Budget

At this time I am not at liberty to speak on the contents of the draft budget, however the budget advisory period did conclude. I will say that UMSU was extremely pleased with the attention given to our student priorities in the draft budget but that we are anticipating the possibility of further cuts in relation to the province’s decision to enact further cuts. I ask students to stay patient and keep their hopes high that the university is trying very hard to incorporate our asks into the budget during a difficult financial period.

5. Sustainability

The sustainability mandate is now complete and has been provided to you all or consideration at this meeting. I want to thank all those who collaborated on it and I’m so excited to see how this progresses over the coming years if it is approved today.