New Updates:

Transit Subsidy Program

This is a program we are initiating due to the absence of the UPASS this fall, because we understand the extra financial strain that paying for a transit pass might add to the lives of some students who are already struggling to pay tuition costs and other finances. This will be a $78 subsidy, and will act as a reimbursement after students pay the initial price for the transit pass. Students will need to apply for the subsidy program and submit the receipts from their original purchase, as well as provide financial information that will help to demonstrate their financial need. This will be similar to the hardship fund, but more specifically directed towards transit passes. This will be a first come first serve initiative and will be granted to those who are required to be on campus at least 3 or more days per week, and do not live on or near the U of M campus. Students will need to prove that their classes require them to be in person on campus and that they cannot be attended remotely. Applications will be open after the add/drop deadline later in September, and anyone who is considering applying and feel they meet the criteria should keep the receipt from their transit pass purchase for later submission.

Campaign Planning

Get Involved:

The Get Involved campaign has been taking place this week and has been going very well, thank you very much to everyone who participated and interacted with our Instagram posts, and make sure to stay tuned for the last poll question that will go up tomorrow if you’re interested in winning one of two $100 gift cards to the U of M bookstore!

Healthy Sexuality Month:

I’ve reached out to over 25 different groups and organizations across campus and the city of Winnipeg since I last reported on the progress of this campaign, and I’ve heard back from a good handful of people, but going to try and postpone finalizing the list of participants in hopes that we’ll get some more responses within the next couple weeks. Progress on the interactive website has been good, and we’re looking at how to best incorporate the theme of healthy sexuality into the program.

Continuing Updates:

Holiday Hampers

We’ve decided to begin looking into the different methods of fundraising we decided on for holiday hampers this year, such as a raffle and bingo. We’ve run into some issues with the planning and execution of these as the organizations we need to get permits from require that we be a not for profit organization, and claim that
student unions do not fit into that category. We’re still working on ways to work around this, and will give more updates as we move forward.

**Hardship:**

Just a reminder to any students who are struggling financially, please apply to the hardship fund and spread the word to your councils and any students you know. Though we have had quite a few applicants, we want to get the word out about this fund because we know that students may be struggling this year more than normal when it comes to financial difficulties as a result of the pandemic. The hardship application can be found online, and if anyone has any questions, concerns, or struggles surrounding hardship, please send me an email at vpsl@umsu.ca.

**Projects:**

**REES**

The subcommittee of SVSC is meeting next week to discuss the future of REES on the U of M campus and put forward an official recommendation to the SVSC, who will then adopt that recommendation and put it forward to the University, who will then make a final decision about the program. Obviously, myself and the rest of the executive are strongly in favour of the REES program, and I will be reflecting that in the subcommittee meeting that will take place within the next few days.

**External Events and Meetings Attended:**

*This excludes all meetings internal to the organization

July 21 – 23: Executive Transition
July 24: Meeting w/ Student Affairs RE: Welcome Packages
July 24: Meeting w/ Health and Wellness Office
July 28: Meeting w/ Taking it Global RE: Micro Grants
July 28: PEP-AH Western Region Follow Up
July 29: Meeting w/ Student Affairs RE: Welcome Packages
July 29: COCA Western Regional Meeting
August 4: SVRC Meeting RE: REES and BITB
August 6: Meeting w/ Student Affairs RE: Prep Week
August 10 – 13: Virtual COCA Conference
  Sessions Attended:
  August 10: Engaging Club Leaders
  August 10: International Clubs
  August 11: Club Leadership Training
  August 12: Club Conflict
  August 12: Clubs in a Virtual World
  August 13: Online Harassment and Discrimination
August 11: Student Hardship Meeting
TO: UMSU Board of Directors
FROM: VP Student Life, Savannah Szocs
DATE: August 27th, 2020
RE: Report to the Board, August 2020

August 12: Meeting w/ Student Affairs RE: Prep Week
August 13: Meeting w/ Student Life RE: Leadership Sessions
August 13: COCA Annual General Meeting
August 18: Student Hardship Meeting
August 19: Student Hardship Meeting
August 19: Sexual Violence Steering Committee Meeting
August 19: Indigenous Students’ Month Preliminary Planning Meeting
August 20: Meeting w/ Spiritual Care
August 20: Meeting w/ Student Affairs RE: Prep Week
August 20: Finance Committee Meeting
August 25: Meeting w/ Student Affairs RE: Tutor Registry
August 26: Contract Discussion Meeting w/ JFW