



New Updates:

Campus Advocacy Update

Board of Governors

Board of Governors met for the first in-person meeting in two years on March 22nd, 2022. The following should be noted from the meeting discussion:

Mental Health and Wellness

- All 65 recommendations provided to the University of Manitoba in 2019 have been satisfied
- SCC and the University of Manitoba will therefore be relaunching with a pan-institutional strategy
- Inclusive approach will focus on
 - o Accessibility
 - o Psychological and cultural safety
 - o Programming and outreach
 - Racialized trauma services
 - Multi-faith programming and center
 - Increased counselling and programming at Migizii Agamik
 - Vigils and community gatherings
 - o Employee and family assistance programs
- SCC achieved a 9-% satisfaction rate in reception, intake, group counselling, and individual therapy in 2021
- MacLean's' 2022 Student Satisfaction Survey ranked the University of Manitoba
 - o 2nd in Mental Health Services
 - o 3rd in Sexual Violence Prevention and Services

Convocations is being planned to be held in person between June 7th -11th, as well as the President installation on June 7th

Labour Relations, Arbitration Decision

Following 35 days of Labour Dispute, UMFA and the University of Manitoba Administration agreed to enter binding arbitration. On March 29th, 2022, the arbitrators' ruling was made. Please note that terms of the arbitration stated that the arbitrator would ignore any government mandates, and was to be guided by salaries paid at Canada's top research universities. The ruling awarded UMFA and its 1200 members a general salary increase of 2.25%, 2.25%, and 2.25% over a three year period (2021 – 2024)

Open Educational Resource Working Group

On March 23rd, 2022, the OER Working met to discuss current action items as well as update the UM OER Dashboard. Current projects of the working group include an environmental scan of Open Education Resource use at academic institutions across the country as well as developing a taxonomy



for common open education terminology. The following updates were made to the UM OER Dashboard based on reported Open Educational Resources:

- \$1,424,189 total savings earned
- \$203,275 savings in 2021
- 16 OER adaptations since 2016
- 3 OER adaptations made in 2021

Accessibility Audit Steering Committee

The Accessibility Audit Steering Committee met for its first official meeting on March 22nd, 2022. The meeting included all steering committee members, student and staff accessibility community members, as well as the Accessibility Agency *Level Playing Field*. *Level Playing Field* is a consulting agency which provides a wide range of consultation services to architects, designers, engineers, builders, managers, and implement universal principles and accessible best practices. This agency will be providing UM with an assessment of guidance, accessibility education, as well as master planning documents. The first meeting was spent discussing personal experiences on UM campuses as well as evident accessibility gaps on our physical campuses and within our campus culture. *Level Playing Field* will be visiting the UM Fort Garry and Bannatyne Campuses later this term to complete a full audit. Following this visit at our next meeting, *Level Playing Field* will present their review draft and conduct a matrix review.

Mask Protocol on Practicum, Faculty of Education

On March 21st, UM Bachelor of Education students began their winter term practicum blocks. Leading up to this, Dr. Koch, the faculty's Associate Dean, Undergraduate & Partnerships, announced that students "are required to continue wearing a KN-95 mask in all indoor settings where practicum activities are taking place". This announcement, while necessary to ensure the safety and protection of all UM students, did raise an accessibility issue. Due to the nature of the education program - the fact that practicums can occur all over the province and for full work weeks - many education students did not have access to KN-95 masks. In response to this, the Education Students' Council requested the faculty reimburse students who purchase KN-95 masks. This response to this request outlined the faculties hope to accommodate students through COVID-related student bursaries which can be used to help offset the cost of KN-95 masks. Following discussion with the Education Students' Council, UMSU recognized the need for education students to be able to pick up a sufficient mask supply for the remainder of their practicum block. We have since connected with Associate Vice President Raman who has agreed to arrange a specific time for Education students to receive the sufficient mask supplies.

Meeting with Taylor Macleod, UMSU Indigenous Students Community Representative, and students

On March 31st, Taylor, the UMSU Indigenous Students Community Representative, arranged a meeting between herself, a number of community members, the President and I. This meeting was held to address current gaps in Indigenous student support and converse on tools and techniques which can be used to create stronger community relations moving forward. During the meeting vulnerable



testimonies were shared and specific avenues for progress were address. In an effort to continue such fruitful and productive conversations, the following meetings have been arranged.

- April 13th, 2022 at 3:30 PM
- April 27th, 2022 at 3:30 PM

2022/2023 UMSU Elections

Congratulations to all candidates and thank you to all students who voted! The official transition process has been prepared, and will begin in the coming weeks.

Provincial Advocacy Update

Please see continuing updates.

Federal Advocacy Update

Annual General Meeting, Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA)

The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) held there official annual general meeting (AGM) virtually between Tuesday, March 29th and Wednesday, March 30th, 2022. This AGM included an opening plenary, political climate update, board update, financials presentation, and closing plenary. During the AGM the University of Calgary successfully made a bid to host the 2022 Policy and Strategy Conference for all CASA members.

Continuing Updates

Manitoba Alliance of Post-Secondary Students (MAPSS)

Upcoming Meetings

- Meeting of General membership, 4:30 PM ,April 11th, 2022
- Meeting with Cindy Lamoureux, MLA for Tyndall Park and Independent Liberal 10:30 AM, April 13th, 2022 RE: #HealthHasNoBorders Campaign

Other updates:

- Membership Expansion
 - Met with Brandon University Students Union (BUSU) on April 4th, 2022
 - BUSU Executive has approved membership and will be presenting the motion to their board on Friday, April 8th
- Provincial Allies



- Debrief of Tuition Consultation with President Benarroch and the University of Manitoba Board of Governors
- Pleased to report that both administration and student leaders presented a united front on the following consultation matters
 - International student healthcare
 - Increased accessibility tools
 - Need for minimal government intervention re: post-secondary policies and fees
 - Independence of student fees
- Request was made to the province to provide wider consultation RE: Bill 33 with faculty and staff
- We await the release of the Provincial Budget later this spring
- MAPSS will be featured in the annual Shared Perspectives publication organized by the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA) Union
- MAPSS continues to prepare transition documents and develop its working constitution to provide further structure to future boards.

Events and Meetings Attended:

*Please note: This excludes all meetings internal to the organization.

March 28th – Meeting with Laurie Schnarr, Vice-Provost Students

March 28th – Board of Governors, Small Group Meeting with Dr. Digvir Jayas

March 29th – Annual General Meeting, Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA)

March 29th – VPA Office Hours

March 30th – Annual General Meeting, Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA)

March 30th – Meeting with Taylor Macleod, UMSU Indigenous Students Community Representative, and students

March 31st – Student Senate Caucus

April 1st – Meeting with President Benarroch and Laurie Schnarr, Vice-Provost Students

April 4th – Board of Governors Budget Primer Session

April 4th – Meeting with Brandon University Students Union (BUSU), MAPSS

April 5th – Meeting with Laurie Schnarr, Vice-Provost Students, and Brandy Usick, Executive Director, Student Engagement and Success

April 5th – Academic Integrity Advisory Committee

April 6th – Senate Committee of Election

April 6th – Senate

April 7th – Federal Budget Announcement