



The year so far:

Parking

Noting the results of Participatory budgeting last year, and the incoming team's platforms, UMSU began looking into possibilities to reduce parking fees for students or offer alternative parking options. Gryd Park is a company which bulk purchases, and rents out parking stalls. This renting out comes at a rather large discount to students (advertised at ~30%), and allows for options that currently parking services may not provide. Meetings with Gryd Park led to implementation of some spaces at the Bannatyne campus to aid in student parking needs there. Further on parking, the office of sustainability and parking services teamed up on the Fort Gary campus to create 40 new carpool parking spaces, helping to promote efforts to cut down on carbon emissions, and get more students to school while using less spaces.

Studentcare

There have been many meetings with Studentcare this year to see what is being used on our plan, what can be improved on our plan, how we fund the plan and more. Discussions for plan additions have covered topics like 'Console', the improved version of the previous 'Empower Me' service, a service that allows for students to draw upon professional mental healthcare specialists online. The new Console program offers a more robust catalog of supports, on a tiered model, ranging from moderated chat rooms to one on one appointments with registered psychologist and therapists. Prepaid psychology was another service pitched by Studentcare, this would see a onetime (larger) payment from all those on the plan, giving access to unlimited mental health support through one on one sessions with mental health experts, and would replace the current mental health component of the plan. After discussion, it was decided that Console would be the best path this year, with the ability to review the services usage, and see if prepaid psychology would be the better path forward based on how much mental health services have been used. Beyond mental health supports, there have been further discussions on the Legal Protection Plan (LPP), and possible expansions of coverage for it. Currently, the LPP fully covers matters pertaining to housing disputes, academic disputes, employment disputes, notary services, and a general legal help line where students can receive assistance with general legal questions over the phone. Expansions into sexual violence based incidents have been pitched, and are currently being considered as sadly these matters are a reality in our institution. Should this addition go forward, it will go through a referendum process, similar to the introduction for the standard LPP as it would pose a new cost to students.

Compass

More partnerships with external mental health support organisations were considered this year. One of these organisations was Compass, a mental health resource that focused on "natural wellbeing". After learning having meetings with their reps, and seeing what they could offer UMSU students, the decision was ultimately made not to pursue their services due to the cost associated, and the improvement to Console already established.



TO: UMSU Membership
FROM: VP Finance & Operations, Brook Rivard
DATE: December 2022
RE: **AGM Report, Fall 2022**

My Student Wellbeing

Another mental health support that approached UMSU this year was My Student Wellbeing (MSW). Their service aims to decrease student wait times and barriers in meeting with psychiatrists/ therapists. Its services act to match students with clinical professionals online, and allows for recurrent bookings with the same professional, or others should you choose. All actions undertaken with MSW are covered under the mental health components of the current Health and Dental plan (100% of costs up to \$1250 for the year). Tyler, the founder of MSW tables in UC quite often, so if you have any questions, keep your eyes peeled for him. You can access the MSW services at MyStudentWellbeing.ca. I encourage all UMSU members to take advantage of this service as it poses no cost to you, and makes scheduling appointments very accessible.

SPC

SPC, the Student Price Card approached UMSU at the start of Fall, offering bulk purchasing costs of their cards. After some discussion with the SPC reps, and seeing the services that they were able to provide, the expanse of offers available in Winnipeg, and believed student uptake of the program, the decision was made not to pursue a partnership due to the cost.

Treasurers meeting

UMSU's Finance manager and I met with most of the Faculty association Treasurers to go over their role expectations, what documentation they should be filling out, best practices, and changes happening this year. As presented in this meeting, any/ all withheld funding from years prior will be consolidated with the Associations standard funding this year, and distributed following the standard payment schedule. This action is an attempt to address some longstanding issues in reporting which has caused some Associations to go without funding from many years ago. Going forward from this "clean slate", the standard procedures of receiving funding will be followed (completion/ submission of the register, and the completion of Consent culture training/ bringing in the bystander training). Going from this, channels of communication have been opened to offer assistance whenever needed, and provide more information when funds are received. Going forward, more training will be provided to Faculty Association Treasurers on budgeting, insurance coverage, and more as requested by the Treasurers.

FA Funding

All Faculty Association funding was distributed in October, as soon as the funds were received from the University. The funds (50% initial payment) were distributed to all FA's regardless of their current status of completion for register or sexual violence training, to ensure funds were available to get things going , and to aid in the knowledge lost during the pandemic. Any funds that FA's had withheld due to missing documentation/ incomplete components of training have been pooled with the standard funding this year, and will be distributed following the normal 50/25/25 payment schedule. For subsequent payments, the completion of all required components will be expected.



TO: UMSU Membership
FROM: VP Finance & Operations, Brook Rivard
DATE: December 2022
RE: **AGM Report, Fall 2022**

Bannatyne spaces

UMSU has been looking at ways to increase our representation on the Bannatyne campus. Earlier this summer, we completed a face lift of the Answers desk in the Brodie atrium. To further our footprint on the downtown campus, we have been speaking with the campus space planning committee to explore possible spaces. The leading idea currently is to find a way to add a service similar to Fort Garry's GPA's Convenience store as to address the needs of students that aren't currently being met. Work on this project has been slow as the University has not come to a solid decision of what they want to see done in the vacant bookstore space. Possibilities of a daycare, and a registrar kiosk have been presented, and concrete decisions are yet to be made.

Fire redevelopment

The hallway that had been affected by the fire in March of 2020 has finally completed its redevelopment. This redevelopment saw UMSU and the UofM switching sides in the hallway for our room allocations. This swap has allowed the University to develop a health services office, hosting 8 patient rooms, a space for a psychologist to drop in, and multiple health care professionals to be present through the day. This will serve as the permanent spot for the health services that were found in the trailer in B parking lot the past years. Our side of the hallway includes the Studentcare office, which will house Studentcare representatives well versed in all aspects of the UMSU Health and Dental plan, and will be ready to answer any and all questions about the plan. Two flex use spaces have also been developed in the UMSU side, these will be used for a variety of events through the year, and will also be usable by the student body as a whole (most recently used to house the mental health artworks).

VW Social Club

VW Social club has reopened!! After a long Covid closure, the campus bar has reopened with a new name, new back bar, new menu, new tables and chairs, fresh paint, and a myriad of other changes. The bar is open Monday and Tuesday from 11am-12am, Wednesday to Friday from 11Am-2Am, open Saturdays for events (please message Jack Jonasson at JJonasson@umsu.ca for booking), and closed on Sundays. Wednesday evenings host the continued parties, now dubbed "VWednesdays" (or "Dub Night" if you're resistant to change ;)). While being a standard campus bar, VW also offers a robust selection of vegan options, be sure to stop by and try the vegan mac and cheese, I fully think it's the best meal on campus.

IQ's

IQ's has reopened, and welcomes students to come study, play pool, hang out, or get their favourite Starbucks drinks. Pool tournaments are ramping up in the space, with its inaugural tournament having a bracket of 32, and the winners walking away with the big bucks and prestige. Tournaments, and casual play will continue to be offered through the year, with the idea of having community specific evenings for students to be able to connect with their peers.

Degrees

Degrees has returned to bless our palates. Degrees boasts a great menu filled with some fan favourites from before its closing, and some new treats you need to try out! Specialty hot beverages, and constant specials has Degrees stand out amongst the other food service locations on campus. The most recent specials, and those yet to come this term are acting as testers for the viability of adding them onto the normal menu next term, so be sure to let us know what you're wanting to see return.



TO: UMSU Membership
FROM: VP Finance & Operations, Brook Rivard
DATE: December 2022
RE: **AGM Report, Fall 2022**

UMCycle

UMCycle reopened at the end of summer and continued with limited hours of operations up to early November. Much work was done in cleaning up the bike storage, organising the space, and getting things in line for its reopening in spring. The space while having limited operations this term partnered with the Office of Sustainability to provide bicycles for students to use in the fall during the bike tour event. In spring, we look forward to a return of UMCycles previous level of operation.

RSAC

RSAC, the Residence Students Association Council has been nonexistent through Covid, and that is something I want to change. Unfortunately the original desire to have the council in place this fall term was unable to be met due to time requirements for other projects. The current hope is to have a presentation at the start of winter term to explain RSAC to current residence students, and give them the ability to elect a council for the remainder of the year.

Foodbucks

Prior to Covid, UMSU's restaurants had limited funds dedicated to it through the Foodbucks/ declining balance system on campus. Unfortunately Aramark has changed the systems they use when processing Foodbucks payments, posing a barrier in our ability to readily offer this as a service to students. We are looking into what it would take to change our systems to have this be a possibility again, and what type of agreement may be possible with Aramark.

Sustainability Committee

Discussion in Sustainability Committee this year has been focused on the Climate Action Plan, and the East lands development. As of last update, staff have been hired to manage the CAP but proper next steps are yet to begin. Developers seem eager to go on the East lands development, the plan which would see new buildings be constructed to the north of Q lot, where there used to be a golf course.

U-Pass Experiences

The return to campus has come with some growing pains as Transit shakes off the rust of offering services to students across the city again. Difficulties in busses reaching maximum capacity, leaving students to wait for the next or change plans to get to campus. To see areas of issue, a survey was put out to students to hear what had been seen. With these results, we have been able to speak with Transit and have some of the problems addressed to improve the service for students.

3rd Floor Art

Now that we are in the (brief) gap between midterms and exams, work will proceed with the call for student artwork on the third floor hallways. This project will see 4 students selected to paint murals on the 3rd floor to liven up the hall way as it is currently fully white. Materials will be covered, and the artists will be compensated for their work, more information to come out soon. The general schedule currently is to have the call for submissions/ marketing of this project before winter break, collect submissions in January, Select those works that will be commissioned, and have everything in place for them to start painting for winter reading week so they have the least obstacles in their space. This project is being undertaken with the assistance of the Society of Fine arts Students Association, and will be open to all students.



University
of Manitoba
**STUDENTS'
UNION**

TO: UMSU Membership
FROM: VP Finance & Operations, Brook Rivard
DATE: December 2022
RE: **AGM Report, Fall 2022**

Understanding UMSU Fees

To give students a better understanding of where their fees are going, UMSU has engaged with the registrars office to see what options are available in having the UMSU fee breakdown be more apparent in Aurora. The hope is to have the UMSU fee display in two parts, with one acting similar to how residence fees are currently displayed, a hyperlink that brings students to a separate page offering a breakdown of the fees that comprise the larger fee, as currently many things like the Manitoban, UMFM, Bursaries and more are included under the umbrella fee of UMSU. The registrars office have informed us that they are in the process of updating the Aurora fee display system, a 2 year long project that will require much attention from its staff, limiting the ability for changes to how UMSU's fee is displayed to happen soon. Of course, the full break down of fees can be found on the UMSU website under About -> Finances. To further spread this understanding, a small informational campaign on understanding the UMSU fee will take place before the fee payment deadline next term.