



TO: UMSU Board of Directors
FROM: VP Finance and Operations, Brook Rivard
DATE: January 26th, 2023
RE: **Report to the Board, January 2023**

New Updates

Fair trade, and Direct trade

UMSU met with Aramark, campuses main food supplier along with the Office of Sustainability to continue the talk about Fairtrade certification on campus. As it stands, the Bannatyne campus is considered a fair trade campus, but For Garry is not. This difference is caused by UMSU's own adherence to "direct trade", a separate form of ensuring equitable payment for those producing products (direct trade = purchasing from a supplier, Fairtrade = purchasing through a certified network). Both have their separate merits and possible shortcomings. As UMSU, we stick to direct trade, as it does not impose the costly certification for the producers that Fairtrade does, allowing for us to purchase from smaller suppliers. Due to this, and the certification for a campus being based also on food service from student union businesses, the FG campus has been unable to get certified for some time. Discussions ended with the OoS seeing if there is any wiggle room in that rule, as UMSU operates wholly separately from the University, something that is unique to our existence under the UMSU act. UMSU also pushed for Aramark to continue to develop their internal standards, and move towards more direct trade partnerships.

Student Wellness Centre

The University is looking for space to house a student wellness center "storefront" that would allow for quick consultations, answer questions, and direction to other services as they feel students are discouraged from going to the fourth floor, or if they do make it upstairs they are unable to find the room. Unfortunately, UMSU does not have the space to share immediately, as the spaces recently developed in the East hallway of UC has started programming discussions and developments with external partners to mold our rooms into a mix of student organised rooms, and student supports that are currently not readily available campus.

Continuing Updates

3rd Floor art project

We have collected a good amount of responses as of the original closed date for applications (~a dozen). The applications have been extended another week to allow for more people to apply should they desire, this should have no impact on the selection/ painting timeline.

UMSU Audit

The UMSU audit has been approved, sent to the finance committee, and has been slotted to be placed on the website shortly.

External Events & Meetings Attended

Jan 13th – Residence Event
Jan 17th – Karaoke night
Jan 18th – Student Wellness Centre re: Flex Space
Jan 18th – Aramark re: Direct trade
Jan 19th – Governance committee
Jan 19th – Finance committee
Jan 20th – Headphone disco