



TO: UMSU Board of Directors
FROM: VP Advocacy, Victoria Romero
DATE: March 30th, 2023
RE: **Report to the Board, March 2023**

New Updates

CASA AGM

This past week, I, along UMSU President Jaron, attended the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations Annual General Meeting in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The purpose of the AGM is to create, amend, and approve operating, advocacy & political policy for the coming year (s).

On the first day of AGM, the CASA membership heard a variety of presentations from the CASA BOD, National Indigenous Advocacy Committee, and CASA home office staff. These presentations included:

- Board Action Plan Updates
- CASA's EDI Report
- CASA Financial Updates
- Federal Government Relations Review
- Recap of the 2022/2023 advocacy year
- Report of NIAC

At the conference, we spent much of our time in consultation with the membership, discussing concerns and praises of the draft policies. Some of the things that were discussed, and later voted on (and approved!) are:

- Student Financial Aid
- CASA's environmental sustainability plan
- CASA Non-partisanship policy
- CASA financial statements & audit of most recent (previous) fiscal year
- Housing Security
- Food Security
- 2022-2023 CASA Board of Directors Action Plan

Transit, Taxi and Rideshare safety

Transit, Taxi and Rideshare focus groups will be happening in April 2023.

- The focus groups will bring together students to share their experiences with public transit and rideshare companies in Winnipeg.
- You can sign up for the focus group here!
<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=uTBWRTdlgEi0cHu0Sji8A6ihLEWmJdhHofF8N2dXMIZlUODczNjE4S0gwTDFXWEdXMDRRMIM1UkyYWi4u>
- ***Everyone who registers for the focus group will be entered to win 1 of 2 \$25 UMSU gift cards*** (can be used at any UMSU business – Degree's, GPA's, IQ's, VW Social Club, or UMCycle)
- The purpose of these focus groups with students is to gather data in order to create policy recommendations that will be presented to the (City of Winnipeg) Human Rights Committee of Council.



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- The goal of these UMSU focus groups is to provide recommendations to the council in the hopes of increasing safety and comfortability in transportation in the city of Winnipeg; in particular, how we can work to improve safety for Indigenous, Black, Racialized, women + woman identifying, gender diverse & 2SLGBTQIA* identifying [individuals] on transit.
- During our meeting with Deputy-Mayor Markus Chambers, we spoke about safety on transit and rideshares in Winnipeg. Using transit or rideshare in Winnipeg has not been known for being a particularly safe mode of travel – women / women identifying people, especially Indigenous women and girls, have seen elevated rates of harassment, assault and abduction on transit, by taxi drivers in particular.
- We want to do what we can to help all students feel safer getting to-and-from campus; our first step is to collect data so we can create meaningful policy, and work alongside the City of Winnipeg to implement it.

Sexual Violence Awareness Campaign & Rally

- Currently planning a mini campaign with UMSU VPSL to raise awareness about sexual violence
- This mini-campaign will highlight SV resources and supports available to students
- We will be tabling in University Centre on Monday April 3rd, 2023
- On April 4th, 2023, at 12:30pm, we will be hosting a rally on the front steps outside of University Centre. The purpose of this rally will be to support survivors and raise awareness of sexual violence.

Continuing updates

Food Insecurity

Throughout the year we have been meeting with UMGSA to discuss the issue of food insecurity, and how we can take steps to address this on our campuses.

Food insecurity has been on the rise throughout Canada and has only been exacerbated by rising cost of living & inflation.

There has been a survey created by UMGSA (for all UM students) to gather more data on how food insecurity is impacting UM students

A similar survey conducted in 2015/2016 at the UM uncovered that over 35% of students were struggling with food insecurity

If you would like to fill out the survey, please do! Survey can be found at this link:

<https://forms.gle/PwqmJTjwXekBKBna8>

(all students can take the survey! undergraduate/graduate - Masters/PhD)



University
of Manitoba
**STUDENTS'
UNION**

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The survey will close on March 31st 2023. After this, we will undertake a review of the data collected and present it to the University of Manitoba Administration and the Provincial Government of Manitoba, alongside workable policy solutions, for consideration.

SWSA Menstrual Product Donation Drive:

The Social Work Students' Association is collecting menstrual products to help combat period poverty.

According to a survey by Plan Canada, released May 25th, 2022, 1 in 5 women-identifying people struggle to afford menstrual products for themselves.

Pads, tampons, liners, menstrual cups, new underwear (any size) & monetary donations are being accepted until March 31st. The last day to donate is this Friday!

Donation bins are located at:

Social Work Student Lounge - 508 Tier

Faculty of Arts Student lounge - 200 Fletcher Argue

University 1 Student Lounge - 1st floor Tier

Women's Centre - 190 Helen Glass

Elizabeth Dafoe Library - 25 Chancellors Circle

External meetings and events attended

March 21 – March 25th CASA AGM

March 22nd – Student Senate Caucus

March 22nd – Meeting with Office of Human Rights and Conflict Management

March 27th – Meeting with Vice-Provost Students Laurie Schnarr

March 28th- Meeting with ACCESS Program staff @ Migizii Agamik

March 29th – Bannatyne lunches

March 29th – UMSU AGM

March 29th – UMSU BOD Meeting

March 31st – Meeting with UMGSA re: food insecurity