



TO: UMSU Annual General Meeting
FROM: VP Community Engagement, Elishia Ratel
DATE: March 30, 2023
RE: **Report to the AGM, March 2023**

Introduction

Hello everyone! My name is Elishia Ratel (she/her) and I'm very honoured to have served as your UMSU Vice President Community Engagement this year! The Winter Term has flown by and I could not be more grateful for this experience. As the year comes to a close, we still have a lot of projects on the go and I'm excited to continue to bring you some novel experiences on campus. The priorities I have been focusing on this year include putting on a variety of events and campaigns to create a holistic and fun student lifestyle, supporting student associations in events and initiatives that engage their communities through mentorship, sponsorship, and marketing, and connecting with local partners to provide students with connections across the city. If you have any questions about my report or upcoming projects, please feel free to contact me at vpce@umsu.ca.

Completed Projects

Winter Orientation

- Winter Orientation took place from January 9-20, 2023. Below is the timeline and description of the series of events planned.
 - o January 9-13 – Free Breakfasts
 - We will be serving free hot breakfast on the 1st floor of UC courtesy of Degrees. Breakfast will begin at 9:30am and will continue until supplies last.
 - o January 9-13 – Snow Sculpting Competition
 - We hosted a Snow Sculpting Competition on Buller Lawn. Students had the opportunity to build anything they want out of snow, take a picture of it, and send it to @studentsofumsu, where it went student voting at the end of the week. The best snowman chosen by students won an iPad and Apple Pencil!
 - o January 17 – Karaoke Night
 - Our first karaoke night of the year was on January 17th at 8pm at VW Social Club! Subsequent karaoke nights are still being held throughout the rest of the term every Tuesday night.
 - o January 20 – Silent Headphone Disco
 - Back by popular demand, we hosted a Silent Headphone Disco on January 20th from 9pm-1am in the MPR. We featured 3 DJs playing a variety of music from House, EDM, Bollywood, and Pop Hits. We had free pizza, drinks, and a door prize for Sony Headphones. Our overall attendance was approximately 300 participants. I would like to thank our marketing staff and volunteers for all their hard work to make this evening possible.

Skating Rink

- In collaboration with UMSU and departments in the UM Administration, the Quad has been turned into an ice rink for the remainder of the winter season. The rink is currently open and free for all students to use. Bring your own skates and skate at your own risk.

Wellness Week



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- In collaboration with VPSL, Tracy, planned our Winter Term Wellness Week from February 6-10. We shared information about building healthy routines, physical health, eating, sleep, and meditation and mindfulness.

Mental Health Week

- Mental Health Week took place from March 13-17. We shared some information on mental health tools and resources on social media and tabled on the 1st floor of UC doing pet therapy!

UMSU Super Clinic

- In partnership with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and Service Canada, we provided students with help filing their taxes for free. The super clinic was held on March 16th from 8am to 6pm in the UMSU Flex Space across from the UMSU Service Centre. Overall, this pop-up tax clinic was a success and provided aid to students with questions about filing taxes and other issues relating to government financial documents.

Ongoing Projects

Mental Health Working Group

- This has been an ongoing project throughout the year in which a team of students have now created a list of recommendations to the University Administration to implement in future years. This includes more training for professors and instructors to be more observant of and adaptive to mental health issues affecting students, mental health liaison positions, UM Learn modules for students, and more!

Justice for Women Colouring Book

- In collaboration with Justice for Women, we are supporting their "Your Voice Matters" Colouring Book. This is a partnership project that has been in the works for several years, which we are continuing to foster this year. Students have submitted artwork to be featured in the colouring book. It will contain several pages of student submissions as well as information and support resources. We are currently in the process of putting the book together and exploring sustainable production options.

Clothing Drive

- We will be hosting a pop-up thrift shop for our Sustainability Week from April 3-7 in the UMSU Flex Space across from the Service Centre. The shop will be open from 11am-2pm daily and will feature a variety of items ranging from \$1-\$5. All proceeds will go to the UMSU Holiday Hampers Program. This is a fantastic way to shop sustainably and affordably and to give back to our community.
- We are continuing to accept donations for the thrift shop at the Service Centre this week. Refresh your wardrobe by getting rid of clothes you no longer wear and give them a new life through our pop-up shop!

Indigenous Film Screening



University
of Manitoba
**STUDENTS'
UNION**

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- In partnership with Planet in Focus, we are hosting a free film screening featuring “Beyond Extinction: Sinixt Resurgence”. This film is a documentary that traces through generations to find out how the Indian Act, colonialism, residential schools, and borders led to the Canadian government declaring the Sinixt people to be “extinct.”
- This free, educational event is taking place on April 5th at 4:30pm, location TBD. There will be a Q+A with the director to follow!

Reuse, Rewind, Remix Social

- As part of our Sustainability Week, we are hosting a Reuse, Rewind, Remix Social! On April 6th, join us at 9pm in VW Social Club re-using an old Halloween costume, grad outfit, or sports jersey. This is a great way to get another wear out of a fun outfit you thought you could only wear once! We'll be featuring DJ Timur spinning throwbacks all night long. Tickets are \$5 at the door, 18+ only, and no intoxicated entry.

Bisons Walk-a-Thon for Childhood Cancer

- In collaboration with SSA, we are hosting the 2nd annual Bisons Walk-a-Thon for Childhood Cancer at the end of May. This fun event features a walk around campus, food, music, games, and prizes for all to enjoy. More details will be released soon!

Summary

Thank you for all your feedback and engagement this past year! It's been a busy term filled with many learning experiences and I'm always looking for ways to improve and better connect with communities on campus. If you have any questions or are looking for support from UMSU, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at vpce@umsu.ca.