



TO: UMSU Board of Directors
FROM: VP Finance and Operations, Brook Rivard
DATE: March 30, 2023
RE: **AGM Report Winter 2023**

New Updates

Residence Councils

Restarting residence councils has been a focus this term. Looking through their old constitution and editing it to be in line with UMSUs current expectations, thinking of new structures that better suit residence life, and creating informational packages for the positions have been the first steps. A town hall has been planned and scheduled to give residence students a chance to see what residence councils are, ask questions about them, and provide next steps for how to get involved. Residence councils should be returning next year as long as residence buy in is there, and students are wanting to take up these positions. A change that these new councils will have to deal with is the lack of a dedicated space. In previous years, each council had a room in the basement of their buildings for events, council meetings, and more. UM Residences has moved to reclaim these spaces and develop them into more mixed use spaces for residence student with the hope it will make the spaces more used by the general residence population.

Budget

The UMSU general budget for 2023-24 has been created and gone through the Finance committee, Executive committee, and Board of Trustees. The first notice of motion will come March 30th, and the budget will be voted on in the following BOD meeting. This budget sees reallocation of funds to some of the more drawn upon lines, specifically those in the marketing department as they are treated as a “catch all” when it comes to anything events frequently. The budget also makes room for capital upgrades for each of the businesses to ensure they are able to continue to offer quality service.

Financial aid campaign

The financial aid campaign has been planned and graphics have been created. Instead of one set week for this, information will be coming out sporadically. Topics will cover UMSU supports, University supports, and Government supports. This information and some extra bits that didn't quite fit in these three sections will be able to be used in the coming year, and help to let student know of important date and resources available to them.

Participatory budgeting

Participatory budgeting is running the same way it did last year, students are able to suggest where they would like to see \$10k or \$15 (dependant on which campus) to be spent in the next fiscal year. From these suggestions, the five most common answers will be put into the actual vote for where PB money should be going.



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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. Unfortunately, the certifying body does not see UMSU and the universities relationship as separate, and we have been unable to get the campus Fairtrade certified because of this. The incoming team will be able to work with Aramark and the OOS to see what changes can be made to UMSU's offerings to further explore getting the campus certified.

Student Wellness Centre

The student wellness center had reached out to UMSU for the use of some of our spaces to create a "storefront" in which students would more easily be exposed to their service offerings, and allow for a form of intake service. The desire was to use one of our recently developed spaces in the East hall of UC. Unfortunately, UMSU has been unable to give these spaces as other planning and agreements had already been established for these spaces. There still exists the possibility that one of the yet developed spaces, a smaller room attached to what was the print center to be molded into this, but that will be a discussion for the incoming team once that area has been developed more.

3rd Floor art project

To help have student feel more connected to campus, they were invited to make their mark on UMSU Street". This project saw four walls on the third floor of UC be opened up to mural commissions. We received +20 applications for the spots available, and a committee of students selected the pieces to be commissioned. The hope for this project is to happen each degree cycle, meaning that every 3-4 years the walls are reopened for commission, and a new set of students can leave their mark.

UMSU Audit

The UMSU audit has been finalised before the winter break and is was approved. The audit can now be found on the UMSU website along with the previous years.

Association funding

Faculty association went out with minimal hiccups this term, there were a few bounce backs from associations changing their banking information without notifying UMSU fo their new account details, but those were sorted easily.



Understanding your Fees

An informational campaign was held to inform UMSU members of where their funding is actually going, helping student to understand what they are paying under “student organisation fees”. The information for the breakdown of each fee levied by UMSU can be found on the UMSU website, where the amount and a brief description can be read. Of course, should there be further questions about where funding is being directed, students are more than welcome to reach out.

Businesses

IQ's:

- Hosted regular pool tournaments through the term
- Introduced boba to its drink menu
- Expanded their grab and go options
- Held many student events
- Completed budgeting for capital upgrades

Degrees:

- Started the term with a revamped menu
- Had a rotating suite of specials to help do menu planning and testing for the summer and next fall
- Started to display student artworks once again
- Expanded their grab and go options
- Relaunched their catering menu
- Completed budgeting for capital upgrades

VW's:

- Started the term with a revamped menu for food and some drink choices
- Consistently had fully booked weeks for events
- Reconnected with Faculty Associations on creating a FA special drink list
- Completed budgeting for capital upgrades

GPA's:

- Continued to expand selections by making more deals with local partners
- Audited prices to see where prices may be straying from the norm for students
- Began looking into the costs of a new refrigerator for the fresh food options
- Completed budgeting for capital upgrades

UMCycle:

- Began the hiring process for the UMCycle coordinator
 - With them hired, UMCycle is expected to reopen this summer and stay open through the fall to service students bikes, and offer bikes for sale.



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CRA Super Clinic

To put the newly developed flex spaces on the east side of UC to use, we partnered with the CRA and services Canada to host a super center in which students were able to get help with their taxes, getting their SIN and more. While the super clinic this year was shorter than originally planned, connections have been made which will allow for this to be a recurring service for students, in both terms going forward to help with the questions that pop up not only during tax season, but at the start of term also.

Bannatyne spaces

In hopes of expanding UMSU's involvement on the Bannatyne campus, UMSU has been engaging with the University to see what avenues might be available. The most probable of options is that of the book store in their atrium. This book store closed as it was not performing to the level that justified its continued operation, and has sit vacant for this academic year. Nothing has been set in stone, but we are hopeful that over summer a proper deal can be struck with the University to take over that space. UMSU's desire is to put a service similar to GPA's in this space as currently the food options on the Bannatyne campus are quite limited, and have early closing times. A convenience store like GPA's would be able to supply students with fresh local foods in a convenient grab and go form.

Fort Garry spaces

With the University developing the North lands (old golf course), UMSU has been interacted with for ideas and input on the planning of these spaces. Some of these conversations have been around the idea that perhaps UMSU would be interested in having their own building in this new development as it will be "the new center of campus". The new development will see mixed use spaces of businesses and residence buildings, along with the rerouted bus stops being located there. While this development pulls the true geographic center of the University further north, it is UMSU's belief that UC will continue to be the heart of campus as it is in the center of the academic buildings. With this understanding, UMSU has begun the very preliminary planning and researching into creating a business case around purchasing more spaces within UC/ purchasing the rights to the full building.

UofM Sustainability Committee

The UofM sustainability committee has seen some unfortunate changes this term. The equal representation seen in the make up before where there was an equal split between faculty, students, and administration has been replaced by one that is more weighted towards administration spots, with student involvement being limited to one spot for UMGSA, and one for UMSU. This change in structure also comes with a change in direction, the sustainability committee will have its main focus devoted to the UofM Climate Action Plan for the next half decade, helping to ensure that the targets laid out are being met. Projects separate to this will be handled by smaller sub committees. There was also the idea of changing the carbon emission baselines from when the report was originally created pre-covid, to the emission values seen this past year. UMSU spoke against both of these changes, but they are already set in stone.