



TO: UMSU Board of Directors
FROM: President, Jaron Rykiss
DATE: April 13th 2023
RE: **Report to the Board, April 2023**

New Updates

- Meeting with Minister Sarah Guillimard
 - o Victoria and I were able to sit down with the Honourable Minister Sarah Guillimard, the Manitoba Minister for Advanced Education on Tuesday, April 11th.
 - o The conversation touched on the reinstatement of international students' healthcare, Performance Based funding (and PSAF), the Provincial Budget and UM budget, and more.
 - o We are excited to continue working with the minister to advocate for the needs of PSE students. Especially those at UM!
- Appointee Removal Process
 - o As promised during my campaign, alongside governance and Sophie, we have created a new appointee removal process for UMSU members.
 - o This will increase accountability at our board level and make it easier to remove those who are not doing their job or are causing other issues at the board level.
 - o Sophie and I had several meetings about this over the past couple of weeks, and after months of preparation, we believe it is ready to come to the board!
- UMSU Volunteer Appreciation event
 - o This past week, UMSU held an event recognizing our amazing volunteers. I was honoured to come and thank all of them for their hard work and dedication this year. Volunteers are a critical piece in the UMSU machine and without them we simply would not be able to do what we do as an organization!
 - o Big thank you to Sam, UMSU's volunteer coordinator for putting in an insane amount of work for this program!
- UM Heart and Stroke Research Chair Announcement
 - o Last week, on Thursday the 6th I was honoured to attend an event at Bannatyne campus announcing the new UM Heart and Stroke Research Chair.
 - o In a release, UM said the following:
 - Heart & Stroke, Research Manitoba and the University of Manitoba have partnered to fund a new UM research chair in neurological stroke.
 - Dr. Nishita Singh, an accomplished neurologist and research scientist who comes to UM from the University of Calgary, has been appointed to the new position, called the Heart & Stroke & Research Manitoba Chair in Clinical Stroke Research.
 - o Congratulations Dr. Singh, and I am excited to see what developments this brings our province and the field of medicine in the future!
- Turban Day Event @ the Ledge
 - o I was invited by MLA Diljeet Brar (Burrows), to attend an event at the Legislative building in honour of Manitoba's first official Turban Day.
 - o Thank you to MLA Brar for the invitation and warm welcome!

Continuing Updates

- UMSU x UMGSA Conversation: Food Costs on Campus
 - o This past week, Victoria and I were honoured to sit down with Sylvia and Uche, members of the UMGSA team to discuss the cost of food on campus. We noted specifically that Aramark, a



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distributor on campus, charges extremely high markups for food. This is something that we would love to see go down in the near future.

- UMSU student guide Update
 - o Finishing touches are being placed on the guide as we speak!!
 - o It will be available on the UMSU website as soon as possible!
 - o More details to come soon.
- “Intro to Harm Reduction” Training
 - o Our UMSU team was honoured to participate in the Intro to Harm Reduction training session on Wednesday.
 - o This is part of the work that we are doing this year on making UMSU more EDI focused, more accessible and safer for all.
- ISAP Update
 - o We will be auctioning off the artwork we received for ISAP this coming week!! The proceeds of the artwork will be going to Ka Ni Kanichihk, a local organization supporting, advocating for, and more, for Indigenous peoples in Manitoba.
 - o The artwork will be in the Marketing Display in UC, and I encourage all of you to stop by, and potentially bid on the work!!!
 - o Thank you to Kayla Thomas for submitting her work! We are honoured to have you participate in the inaugural ISAP!!
- 2022-23 UMSU Wins
 - o We are currently putting the finishing touches on an UMSU wins release, outlining some of the awesome work that this year's Executive team and BOD put in!!!
 - o This will be released later this month!
- Final MHWG Report
 - o We are putting some final touches on this report to present it at our final BOD meeting of the year in two weeks!
 - o I cannot wait for all of you to see it! There are some really awesome recommendations and ideas in the document. I hope that the MHWG is something that continues in coming years!
- Executive Transition meetings
 - o I had my first transition meeting with Tracy and we began discussing the long list of things that She will need to know as the next UMSU President!
 - o I will also be meeting with each incoming executive to discuss some other key pieces of the President x VP relationships!

External Events & Meetings Attended

- Friday March 31st
 - o Meeting with Victoria, UMSU VPA
- Monday, April 3rd
 - o Appointee Removal process meeting
 - o Office hours
 - o UMSU Volunteer appreciation event
- Tuesday, April 4th



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- Research and Advocacy meeting
 - UMSU President Transition meeting
- Wednesday, April 5th
 - Governance Committee Conversation (Internal)
 - Community Rep Vacancy Conversation (Internal)
 - UM Senate
- Thursday, April 6th
 - Heart and Stroke x UM Announcement (@ Bannatyne Campus)
 - UMSU x UMGSA meeting
 - UMSU Governance Committee
 - UMSU Finance Committee
- Monday, April 10th
 - UMSU offices closed, Office hours held in Dafoe
- Tuesday, April 11th
 - Meeting with Minister Sarah Guillimard
 - UMSU Student Guide meeting
- Wednesday April 12th
 - Introduction to Harm Reduction Training
 - UMSU President Transition meeting
- Thursday April 13th
 - Turban Day Event @ Legislative building
 - UMSU BOD Meeting