



University
of Manitoba
**STUDENTS'
UNION**

TO: UMSU Board of Directors
FROM: VP Advocacy – Liam Pittman
DATE: September 26, 2023
RE: **Report to the Board, September 28, 2023**

Updates

The week of September 18th, I was out of the office for 4/5 days for an illness. As such, I was not able to complete as much as I would have liked to.

Senate Committee on Admission Appeals

As Vice President – Advocacy, I have the opportunity to sit on the Senate Committee for Admission Appeals, the committee reviews individuals who dispute their acceptance to a specific program they have applied for. The committee was able to meet on Friday and come to a consensus whether or not the committee had jurisdiction over the specific appeal and whether or not the program followed the correct and proper procedure and protocol.

Vice Provost Schnarr and UMSU

Tracy and I were able to meet with Vice Provost Schnarr. The meeting addressed some of the concerns that have relayed to us. Specifically, we were able to address some of the security concerns and will be following up with Vice Provost Schnarr, and head of Campus Safety Gordon Perrier. We will keep you updated on the discussions and results that come from these ongoing situations. We also had the opportunity to address the results of the Mental Health Working Group that was struck. We were able to go over each recommendation in detail with Vice Provost Schnarr and will continue to meet with her and discuss the potential viability of each point as well as what the implementation process would look like, in conjunction with the appropriate departments, specifically the Student Wellness Centre and the Counselling Centre.



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As such, we have scheduled a meeting with Arlana Vadnais, the Associate Director of Wellness & Prevention to discuss future collaborative efforts.

Research and Strategy Advisor

It has been our vision since the beginning of our terms to increase and bolster UMSU's advocacy efforts. As such, we have implemented an overhaul of the Research and Strategy Advisor position. The new position, Policy and Strategy Advisor, will be more focused towards the development of policy and government relations. It is our firm belief that this individual will be able to provide consistent and valuable insight into the political side of advocacy efforts for future executive teams. The requirements for this position have been increased and we are searching for an individual who has experience in the political sphere.

Meetings and Events Attended

- Finance and Infrastructure Committee Meeting: September 12
- Free Breakfast event – September 12
- Bison Bash market – September 12
- Bisons on the quad – September 12
- Free Breakfast Event – September 13
- Bison Bash Marker – September 13
- Free breakfast – September 14
- MAPSS meeting – September 14
- Free breakfast – September 15
- UMSU Street – September 15
- Senate Committee on Admission Appeals – September 22
- Meeting with Vice Provost Schnarr – September 25