



## UPDATES

### 1. Meeting with Community Representatives:

During the past month, UMSU representatives engaged with three community leaders to discuss advocacy issues affecting their respective communities. These meetings aimed to strengthen our connections with local communities, understand their unique challenges, and identify potential areas of collaboration. The insights gained from these discussions will help inform our advocacy efforts going forward.

### 2. University of Manitoba Board of Governors Meeting:

Tracy and I participated in the University of Manitoba's Board of Governors meeting. Key highlights from this meeting include:

**Undergraduate Enrollment Increase:** The University has witnessed a 3.2% increase in undergraduate enrollment.

**International Students:** U of M has observed a notable 6.3% increase in the number of international students joining our university.

**Indigenous Enrollment:** Indigenous enrollment showed significant growth, with a 5.1% increase.

These enrollment trends are a positive reflection of the University's growing appeal and ability to attract new prospective students.

### 3. AI Awareness Campaign Planning:

I was able to complete the initial planning phase of UMSU's AI awareness campaign. This initiative will serve as an informational mini-campaign designed to educate students about the



University  
of Manitoba  
**STUDENTS'  
UNION**

**TO:** UMSU Board of Directors  
**FROM:** VP Advocacy, Liam Pittman  
**DATE:** October 24, 2023  
**RE:** **Report to the Board, October 26, 2023**

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potential risks associated with unauthorized AI use. We recognize the importance of ensuring that our student body is informed about the ethical use of AI technology, in an effort to curtail the increasingly alarming inappropriate use of AI in the classroom.

#### 4. Procedural Change:

Continued to provide support and assistance to multiple students with advocacy concerns throughout the last two weeks. These efforts included addressing a privacy concern related to the sharing of student names and research awards with faculty members and students without consent. This issue has caused undue harm to a student(s) and the administration was able to recognize this and as such, has implemented new procedures. Any student will now be asked if they consent to being publicized and the information will then be forwarded to the appropriate departments.

#### 5. MAPSS Organization Registration:

The Manitoba Alliance of Post-Secondary Students (MAPSS) remains a priority for UMSU. We are actively working towards registering as an official organization. This move will enhance our advocacy efforts and further solidify our commitment to representing the interests of Manitoba's post-secondary students to the newly formed government.

#### 6. Ongoing Advocacy Cases:

Throughout the month, I have continued to handle multiple advocacy cases on behalf of a broad range of students. These cases covered a wide array of concerns, and I have worked to ensure that they are assisted with their issues, concerns, and situations, and assisted them with find the correct resources needed.



## 7. Provincial Election & Strategy

We, as an organization, recognize the need for strong relations between UMSU and those in government. As such, it is imperative that the work UMSU does to build relations with the new government is done in a timely, professional, and effective manner. We have partnered with a government relations and public relations firm, First Lake Solutions, to assist us in our initial contacts and ongoing communications and strategies with the new provincial government. First Lake Solutions is also used by the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations to lobby to the federal government on behalf of 365,000 + students in Canada. The work they do is exceptional and it is our firm belief that it will benefit UMSU well beyond our terms.

### **Meetings and Events Attended**

- Student Advocacy Meeting – Oct. 10
- Board of Governors – Oct. 10
- Indigenous Learning Session – Oct. 11
- Meeting with Witta – Oct. 11
- Meeting with Andrea – Oct. 12
- Student Wellness Centre Meeting – Oct. 12
- Student Advocacy Meeting – Oct. 12
- Meeting with First Lake Solutions – Oct 16
- National Advocacy Committee Canadian Alliance Student Associations – Oct 18
- Student Advocacy Meeting – Oct. 18
- Indigenous Student's Working Group – Oct. 18
- Senate Executive Committee – Oct. 19
- Office Hours – Oct. 19
- Accessibility for Manitobans Act (AMA) Steering Committee – Oct. 24
- Student Advocacy Meeting – Oct. 24
- Meeting With Vice Provost Schnarr – Oct. 24