

**TO:** UMSU Board of Directors  
**FROM:** 2SLGBTQIA+ Representative, Alex Rana  
**DATE:** December 11, 2023  
**RE:** Report to the Board, December 14, 2023



### **Continuing Updates**

- Home for the Holidays Workshop was held Monday, and facilitated by Danna from SCC. This focused on dealing with unsupportive families and home environments, and developing some ways to get through time there in a safe way. Participants expressed they may like this to become a monthly meeting, so I am meeting to discuss this with Danna soon!
- All comm reps met with Laurie and Tina, and went over the needs of our community and what we've done this term. We will potentially be meeting regularly with them next term. Some things I brought up were the need to have a specific staff person on the administrative/University level who can advocate for the queer community, not just leaving it up to volunteer roles like my position, other faculty reps, or the UMQueer chair. I also mentioned some of the buildings that are in need of gender-inclusive washrooms, and checked in about how ensuring that the faculties are using students' preferred names.
- Holiday Hamper apps close on Friday, so far we've had over 20 applicants.
- Another SCC workshop called Queerly Beloved will be starting next term, for queer students who want to discuss their relationship with their faith communities, whether they are no longer part of that or wish to stay in it. Students can register by contacting the SCC Reception desk at 204-474-8592 (select 4) or by emailing [karla.penner@umanitoba.ca](mailto:karla.penner@umanitoba.ca). Interested group members will be contacted in early January for their availability.
- We completed our Nine Circles STBBI Testing initiative with the focus group I attended a couple weeks ago. I sent over the final invoice and the feedback forms they requested, so we should be getting our grant from that in a couple of weeks. Overall, while we ran into a lot of challenges getting the healthcare professional on campus to do the testing and had to switch to a different event, I would still like to offer drop-in testing for students and maybe would like to plan an event in the winter term, taking what we learned from this one and from the other groups participating.
- I will be having a follow up meeting with the OHRCM regarding conversation topics in the lounge and resources they shared around making updates to our guidelines and making times for quiet study hours, discussion, etc. I'm hoping to bring this up at our Jan assembly and get member feedback, and also that more visible advertising of the SVRC staff we have in the lounge 3 hours/week and the upcoming SCC groups might help.
- I met the Minister of Advanced Education and Training at the WAGE event last week, and she invited me to set up a meeting regarding advocacy needs of queer students at the U of M. I will be reaching out to her over break, and connecting with the Board of Faculty Queer Reps to pass along any additional concerns they might have.

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**Events & Meetings Attended**

- December 4th - MSC Meeting
- December 6th - Culture Appreciation Days Meeting
- December 6th - Social Stride Digital Literacy Conference
- December 6th - WAGE Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women
- December 7th - UISC President Transition Meeting
- December 8th - Meeting with Community Reps, Laurie, and Tina
- December 7th - Governance Committee
- December 12th - Enchante Networking
- December 13th - EGALÉ UniSphere Meeting
- December 14th - RPC Study Session
- December 14th - It Gets Better Canada Video
- December 15th - Meeting with Vaibhav and student
- December 15th - RPC Study Session