



University
of Manitoba
STUDENTS'
UNION

TO: UMSU Board of Directors
FROM: VP Advocacy, Liam Pittman
DATE: December 12, 2023
RE: **Report to the Board, December 14, 2023**

Updates

1. Board of Governors:

Attendance at the Board of Governors meeting provided a platform for in-depth discussions surrounding the University of Manitoba's strategic plan. The session, accessible [here](#), enabled an examination of the strategic initiatives guiding the university's trajectory over the next few years.

2. Senate Assessor Seat for IHPSA:

I connected with Jeff Leclerc, the University Secretary, to finalize the steps required to secure a Senate Assessor seat for the IHPSA proposal will be submitted shortly to the Senate Committee on Rules and Procedures. Pending approval by the committee they should have an assessor seat shortly in the New Year. This is an important step towards student representation at the U of M.

3. VP Libraries - Lisa O'Hara:

Engaged with Lisa O'Hara, VP Libraries, to discuss the services provided to students and identify necessary supports at the library. Topics included the laptop loan program and upcoming upgrades at Dafoe Library in the next few years. We discussed how we can collaborate together to promote and facilitate student success on campus.



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4. Campus Issues Discussion with Laurie Schnarr:

Met with Laurie Schnarr to address ongoing issues on campus. The discussion covered various aspects contributing to the overall campus environment. Topics included: UMSU's Holiday Hamper program and the contribution from the administration. The Student Wellness Centre and its current operating spaces was also discussed. As well as the potential, now averted, Winnipeg Transit strike. The contingency plan for the potential strike and the plans for UMSU and Admin were also discussed on how to proceed should the strike occur.

5. Student Senate Caucus and Senate:

Hosted the Student Senate Caucus and attended the Senate meeting. Noted significant changes within various faculties, particularly in the courses being offered. A comprehensive list of changes can be found [here](#).

6. Onboarding of Policy and Strategy Advisor Teresa:

Continued the onboarding process for Teresa, our Policy and Strategy Advisor. Teresa has been briefed on provincial and federal advocacy initiatives, contributing to her smooth integration into our team. She has also attended meetings with the administration to build relationships and help transition in the new executive team.



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7. Meeting with MLA Jennifer Chen:

Met with MLA Jennifer Chen to discuss critical issues affecting students, including international student healthcare, Manitoba student aid, and student housing. MLA Chen expressed support for our initiatives, and we look forward to collaborating with her.

8. Student Outreach:

Conducted meetings with students at large to address their concerns on campus. We were able to discuss their concerns in detail and strategize how UMSU can support them and work collaboratively to address their ongoing needs and issues on campus.

Meetings and Events

- Indigenous Leaders Gala, 11/28
- UM Government Relations, 11/30
- Community Reps Meeting, 11/30
- Jeff Leclerc, 12/04
- Lisa O'Hara, 12/04
- Laurie Schnarr & Legal Counsel, 12/04
- Laurie Schnarr, 12/04
- Student Senate Caucus, 12/05
- Student Advocacy Meeting, 12/05
- Judicial Review, 12/05
- Board of Governors, 12/05
- Senate, 12/06
- MLA Chen, 12/08
- Student Advocacy Meeting, 12/11
- SVRC Meeting, 12/11