



TO: UMSU Board of Directors
FROM: VP Student Life, Christine Yasay
DATE: February 27, 2024
RE: **Report to the Board, February 29, 2024**

New Updates

Hardship

- Presented a case summary of hardship grants from May 1st, 2023 to February 5th, 2024 at the last Finance Committee meeting.
- The grants have been issued to students for the following reasons, and money is often issued for more than one of the following reasons:
 - Rent assistance (56 cases)
 - Grocery assistance (18 cases)
 - Healthcare costs (3 cases)
 - Other (1 case)

Bannatyne Lunch

- There will be another Bannatyne Lunch on Tuesday, April 9th at 12pm until supplies last.

Continuing Updates

Community Scholarships

- Continuing the conversation with the Financial Aid & Awards office, as well as Donor Relations to explore the process of implementing community scholarships, per the request of community representatives.
- Had a meeting with the Award Establishment Lead to discuss a selections committee and terms of reference.
- Will meet again with Donor Relations to establish the type of award (commitment and length of agreement).
- Once this is done, I will present the selections committee and the terms of reference with the Community Representatives if there is anything they would like to add, change, or remove.

Onyx Info Sessions

- Onyx Scholars Program offers: Free access to LinkedIn Learning courses, networking opportunities with esteemed corporate, education, and community partners, tailored job preparation sessions, personal and professional development coaching, mentorship opportunities, scholarships, etc.
- If you are a Black post-secondary student or recent graduate (within one year) OR if you know a Black post-secondary student or recent graduate, please go to www.onyxinitiative.org to apply.
- If you, or someone who is applying, want to know more about the program, you can register for one of the two Virtual Info Sessions:
 - Wednesday, March 6th, 2024 | 5:30 PM CST
 - Wednesday, March 27th, 2024 | 5:30 PM CST
- Deadline to apply to the Onyx Scholars Program is **March 31st, 2024**



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Student Group Drop-In Opportunities

- The Vice-Provost (Students) and Vice-Provost (Equity) are pleased to host bi-weekly office hours to provide opportunities for students to engage in dialogue about the student experience and to raise issues of concern. Dates, times and locations for additional drop-in opportunities for this term will be shared soon.
- The next one will be on Wednesday, March 13th at 10 am in Degrees.

External Events & Meetings Attended

- February 7th – Meeting with Bhakti Yoga Club
- February 7th FMSA x Healthy U Bingo
- February 8th – UMSU Elections Student Leader Job Fair
- February 8th – Student Engagement & Success Meeting with UM Student Affairs
- February 8th – RPC Cookie Decorating Event
- February 8th – International Community Assembly
- February 9th – Governance Committee Meeting
- February 9th – Meeting with Conference & Catering
- February 12th – Arts Collection Committee
- February 12th – Canadian Organization of Campus Activities (COCA) Showcase Meeting
- February 12th – Member Services Committee
- February 12th – Women's Community Assembly
- February 13th – Valentine's Day Card-Making
- February 14th – Valentines' Day Photos
- February 15th – Finance Committee Meeting
- February 15th – Black Soul & Poetry Night
- February 16th – Meeting with Award Establishment Lead, Financial Aid & Awards
- February 16th – ASBC February Flame
- February 26th – Member Services Committee