



University  
of Manitoba  
**STUDENTS'  
UNION**

**TO:** UMSU Board of Directors  
**FROM:** VP Advocacy, Liam Pittman  
**DATE:** March 12, 2024  
**RE:** **Report to the Board, March 14, 2024**

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## New Updates

### **UMSU Processes**

A significant portion of my recent responsibilities has involved overseeing the ongoing investigatory process mandated by the board. These tasks have comprised meetings with association members, club executives and administrative tasks such as timeline compilation and evidence compilation.

I have conducted meetings with members of the association to continue gathering information, and to understand different perspectives, and to maintain transparency throughout the process. Further meetings are currently scheduled.

The evidence-gathering aspect of the investigation is a constant focus. This includes staying informed about developments, tracking the current status of involved parties, and documenting their future plans. Updates from those on the association are crucial for maintaining an accurate overview of the situation.

In addition to the council investigation, I have been assigned to gather information regarding a student club. This involves creating a detailed timeline and collecting evidence related to potential or alleged breaches of UMSU policies by the club.

Meetings have been held with both the complainant and respondent groups involved in the student club matter. This ensures that all perspectives are considered and allows for a fair and thorough examination of the situation.



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Both investigatory processes related to the association's council and the student club are ongoing matters.

Looking ahead, the investigatory processes will continue, and additional steps will be taken as necessary. This may include further interviews, evidence collection, and collaboration with relevant parties to ensure a comprehensive and fair understanding of the issues at hand.

### **Political Advocacy**

UMSU was able to meet with Member of Parliament Leah Gazan, we were able to discuss the imperativeness of advocating for robust support systems for students. A central theme of the discussion was the need for the government to actively collaborate with students, recognizing the unique challenges they face in their academic journey.

MP Leah Gazan took the opportunity to present a bill that she intends to sponsor, seeking consultation with the UMSU. The proposed legislation revolves around the concept of a guaranteed basic income for students.

The core belief behind the bill is that providing a guaranteed basic income to students will alleviate financial pressures, allowing them to concentrate more on their post-secondary education. MP Gazan emphasized the potential positive impact, enabling students to prioritize their academic pursuits rather than being compelled to work solely to meet basic survival needs.

This effort aims to ensure that the perspectives and needs of the student community are thoroughly considered in the legislative process.



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**Student Advocacy:**

Ongoing student advocacy cases with students, meeting with them regarding their concerns and corresponding with the appropriate internal UM resources and departments.

**Leave**

I have begun to take my leave as required contractually. As such, I may be off work intermittently throughout the next few weeks. However, I may still be responding to urgent emails or working on urgent matters as my schedule allows me.



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### **External Events & Meetings Attended**

- Presidential Candidate Forum – Feb 27
- OER Committee – Feb 27
- Advocacy Meeting – Feb 28
- Senate Committee on Rules and Procedures – Feb 28
- Community Rep Meeting – Feb 28
- Student Wellness Centre Committee – Feb 29
- Meeting with MP Gazan – March 4
- Meeting with Deputy Minister Jan Forster – March 5
- Meeting with Laurie Schnarr – March 5
- Student Club Meeting – March 6
- Senate – March 6,
- CASA Membership Check-In – March 7
- Meeting with Student Association – March 7