

Policy Guide



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UMSU**



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Dear Fellow Students,

Like many of you, my university experience has included 30 hour work weeks, all nighters and plenty of coffee. I know how difficult it is to attend university, and how much of yourselves and your money you have invested to do so. But I also know how rewarding our time together on this campus can be. I have performed in plays, joined student groups and councils, made friends that will last life-times and completed initiatives that will make a real difference in students' lives.

This past year, I was elected Arts Student Body President, a role in which myself and my council increased our bursary fund by \$7,000, successfully advocated for a locker renovation including up to 200 more available lockers and initiated the Arts Student Body Council Wellness Committee devoted to providing information and resources for students regarding mental and physical wellbeing.

Now, my team, Elevate UMSU, and I want to create a student union that takes a more active role in advocating for affordable education and course materials, involves student voices in all our decisions and creates a true community on campus. We are five experienced student leaders committed to listening to your concerns and leading a union that makes you our priority.

On March 7th, 8th and 9th, vote for new voices to elevate UMSU to new heights.

Cheers,

Jakob

Jakob Sanderson

Presidential Candidate

Elevate UMSU





Jakob Sanderson **President**

Jakob Sanderson is an avid theatre enthusiast. Over the past several years he has performed in a number of roles for stage and screen, including three Black Hole Theatre Company productions on campus. Sanderson balances his flair for the dramatic with an honest desire to serve students. Over the past few years he has held a number of roles on the Arts Student Body Council; including Director of Finance where he brought the association back to a healthy financial position, and President where he was able to increase the bursary endowment fund by \$7000.

Sarah Bonner-Proulx **VP Advocacy**

Sarah Bonner-Proulx is a 4th year Science student studying Psychology and Biology. Born and raised in Northern Manitoba, her love for the outdoors, strong coffee and running, most notably her completion of the Manitoba half Marathon, has lead to the development of a strong work ethic as well as a calm demeanor in stressful situations. This has helped Bonner-Proulx with initiatives and roles she's held during her time at university. During her time in residence, Sarah worked as a Resident Advisor and also served as an UMSU representative for Arthur V. Mauro Students' Association.

Owen Black **VP External**

Owen Black, while actively involved on campus, has successfully branched out and is engaged within the surrounding community. He is a globally-minded individual, and is passionate about issues with impacts ranging from campus to international contexts. Owen has worked during school to be able to self-fund travel to 30 different countries, which has been integral to expanding his perspective. He's proud to have been a member of WUSC at UofM, and helped to sponsor refugee students to come to the university and otherwise support them in their transition into Canadian life.



Carly Mastromonaco **VP Student Services**

In her 4th year of Psychology, Carly Mastromonaco is passionate about promoting mental health awareness through the application of both her studies and personal experience. She currently serves as a Senator within the Science Students' Association, where she spearheaded the "Tree of Support" initiative. This seeks to create a campus free of stigma and to facilitate an open conversation about mental health.

Mbuli Matshe **VP Finance & Operations**

On and off the field Mbuli Matshe is avidly involved in soccer. He has competed, captained and cheered for the sport. Whenever Arsenal is playing it's a good bet he'll be watching the games. His desire to see his favorite team win translates into his desire to see everyone at UoM succeed however possible.

Mbuli helped to establish an international student representative position for RSAC, and he brought his commitment to integrity and inclusivity to the role and laid a solid foundation for the position for the years to come

policies



**Jakob
Sanderson**

President

Reduce Textbook costs through Open Educational Resources



We know how expensive being a student can be. That's why Elevate UMSU will work to reduce your textbook costs. Open educational resources (OER) are learning materials that are publicly accessible at no charge, and we will work with faculty and administration to implement OER into courses.

More Accessible Scholarships and Bursaries



In Canada, \$15million in student aid is left unclaimed each year. We want that money in your pocket, which is why we will implement a scholarship aggregation platform to connect students to awards they are eligible for. We will also host an UMSU funding week in which executives and councillors will help students fill out bursary applications. Finally, we will advocate to align the financial aid and awards office definition of a full time student to the rest of the university so more scholarships are available to students taking between 18-24 credit hours.

Promoting Sustainability on Campus



We believe campuses should lead the way in promoting environmental sustainability for future generations. We will set up a sustainability working group to explore how our union and our campus can be more environmentally conscious, with projects including campus-wide composting and more water bottle refill stations.

Advocating for Affordable Education



Elevate UMSU will stand up against the implementation of Bill 31 and significant tuition hikes, and advocate for a cap on international tuition increases. But we also recognize that if students are going to pay higher tuition, they should at least receive a higher quality of education. We will advocate to the provincial government to not compound tuition raises with budget cuts, so our tuition doesn't go to paying off the government's debt.

Explore More Co-op Opportunities in all Faculties



As much as we want you to enjoy your time on campus, we know that you're here to find meaningful employment when you leave. Elevate UMSU will work with faculty, administration and the private sector to generate more co-op opportunities on campus. This includes creating co-op programs in faculties where they do not exist, and diversifying options in faculties with existing programs.

Accessible Office Hours



We want more students to know about UMSU and know where to find us. That is why we will implement once-monthly office hours on Bannatyne and Inner City campuses and have executives more present in all faculties at Fort Garry campus. We will also host a monthly 'Ask UMSU' Facebook Live where we can take in student questions and answer them for all to see.

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Owen
Black

VP External

100th Anniversary TEDx conference



The Union is steeped in tradition and history, and will commemorate its 100th anniversary in 2019. Elevate UMSU is committed to celebrate that milestone with organizing a TEDx event to highlight the ideals that the union upholds. We will connect members with leaders who are involved in the issues that affect union and student education as a whole.

Opt-in Spring/Summer U-Pass



We know that the academic year does not necessarily end in April for many students. Thousands of undergraduate students take courses during the summer months from May to August. We want to work with Winnipeg Transit to provide students the option of extending the U-Pass Program during the summer months on an opt-in basis.

Expanded Support for International Students



We know that for many students their studies continue into the summer months from May to August. Yet currently the U-Pass only works during the fall and winter term. We want to negotiate an opt-in summer U-Pass that will continue the cost saving measure that the fall and winter U-Pass provide to students.

Connect Students With All Levels of Government



Students face a litany of issues that fall under the jurisdiction of varying levels of government. This includes the frequency of buses handled on the municipal level, tuition caps determined provincially, and the regulation of student loans and financial aid by the federal government. Elevate UMSU wants you to have direct access to decision makers through the coordination of Lobby Week. We will invite local politicians to campus in order to facilitate meaningful discussions around the issues that matter most to you, and use this as a call-to-action in support of students.

Flexible Parking Options



With the majority of students not living on campus, Elevate UMSU knows that students face many obstacles when trying to commute to the university. With the added expense of a full year parking pass, this only adds to the stress that students endure. We want to work with Parking Services to bring in a new parking pass that will allow students to select certain days to park on campus. This will allow students to cater their schedule more for what works for them, while also saving students their hard earned money.

policies



**Mbuli
Matshe**

VP Finance & Operations

Removing ATM Fees and Service Fees at Answers



UMSU business should aim to heighten the student experience by providing affordable services and food options. Elevate UMSU will take this mandate seriously by removing ATM fees in The HUB, and removing service fees for student groups selling event tickets and answers.

Bring Back the Residence Grocery Bus



As a residence student, myself and my team have heard your concerns and will bring back the residence grocery run. We will partner with Residence student associations to deliver a weekly bus service to take residence students without vehicles to grocery stores to make it as easy as possible to get the products you need.

Expanded GPA's



We will expand GPA's into a more fulsome store by increasing fresh food options and bringing in necessity items such as toilet paper and other hygiene products. We will also make international students feel more at home on campus by increasing the amount of cultural food options available.

More Support for Cultural Groups on Campus.



Elevate UMSU knows the type of community our diverse campus creates. We will increase awareness for cultural and social events, displaying them on the TVs and selling their tickets at Answers at no charge. We will work with the Muslim student association for an expanded campus mosque, and work with all other community groups to ensure they have the spaces, funding and support they need.

Participatory Budgeting



My team and I believe you should have more of a say in how your money is spent. We will enact a participatory budgeting initiative whereby we will ask students to submit their ideas for an initiative they would like us to allocate a portion of our budget towards. We will then evaluate the costs of your suggestions and allow students to pick from a list of 3-5 of your best options. We will ensure your final choice will be implemented by the end of our term.

Review Process for External Fee Levies



To increase financial transparency and democracy on UMSU, we will initiate a formal review process for all external fee levies paid through UMSU. Each levy will be reviewed by UMSU finance committee to determine any potentially necessary revisions, and will ultimately be put to students in a referendum to ask whether they want to continue paying the fee.

policies



**Sarah
Bonner-Proulx**

VP Advocacy

Advocate for a Fair Voluntary Withdrawal and Limited Access Policy



Elevate UMSU wants students to succeed in the classroom. We know the overly punitive voluntary withdrawal and limited access policy is not the best way to do that. We will advocate to re-negotiate this policy to stipulate that each student is given one attempt to retake a course before being placed on limited access in order to ensure all students are receiving an equitable education.

Increased Mental Health Supports and Resources



We know how important it is for students to have access to proper mental health resources. Elevate UMSU will establish a campus-wide mental health steering committee composed of representatives from faculties and student groups. This group will increase accessibility and awareness of both reactive and proactive mental health supports, double the amount of mental health first aid training sessions and advocate for profs to include list of mental health resources in course syllabi.

Expand Campus Safety Initiatives



Elevate UMSU wants every student to feel safe on campus. We will create a mobile campus safety app that will feature a Safety Resources Guide and immediate access to security services. We will also work with administration to adopt a survivor centred sexual violence policy and cover the fee for self-defence classes offered through security services. Finally, we will extend the safewalk for both the Bannatyne and William Norrie campuses so that all members of UMSU feel safe.

Increased Campaign Collaboration With Community Groups



We are proud to have 5 community groups that are an integral part of UMSU. We will work with all of the UMSU community groups to support the campaigns they want to see implemented and integrate their voices in UMSU initiatives for a more safe and equal campus for everyone, regardless of who you are or where you come from.

International Student Tuition Deadline Revision



University is incredibly expensive for all students but we know international students in particular pay the highest tuition fees. We will continue UMSU's advocacy work for an extended fee payment deadline for international students.

Expanded Food Bank Services



UMSU's food bank is one of the great ways we can support our students right here on campus, but not enough is known about the program. We will Increase promotion and funding for the food bank, and partner with outside organizations such as Praxis, as well as as community groups, to expand service and provide more fresh food options for students in need.

policies



**Carly
Mastromonaco**

VP Student Services

Peer-To-Peer Tutoring Platform



Service-sharing platforms are becoming increasingly more common, as seen with the advent of SkipTheDishes, Uber, and Airbnb. Using this model, we want to help students academically through the creation of a platform where UofM students can monetize their skills, while others can seek localized assistance.

A Year-End Student Gala



UofM students are amazing, and we want to celebrate your achievements! This gala will serve to recognize the champions of social justice, philanthropy, and community development across faculties. We believe this to be one of many steps to help foster community at the university, and better enhance communication channels between the union and faculty associations.

Medicinal Marijuana Health Plan Coverage



With federal and provincial regulations shifting over the next year regarding medicinal marijuana, we want to make sure your student health plan is the most up-to-date. We will work with our provider, StudentCare, to make sure that your coverage is in align with these regulations, and that all your pharmaceutical needs are met.

Increased Study Resources During Finals



Elevate UMSU is dedicated to encouraging and supporting students during their most stressful times of the year. This includes more free snacks for study periods, as well as more frequent “Exam Cram” nights for students.

Creating Incentives For Engaging With Bison Athletics



Bison Pride is very important to Elevate UMSU, and we want to work to continue to grow and expand the network of support for Bison Athletes. We want to create a point-based incentive for students from each faculty to get rewarded at the end of the year based on which faculty has attended the most Bison events.

Summer Jobs Portal



Summer employment can be an uncertain and unsettling venture for students. Elevate UMSU is dedicated to ensuring that students don't have to worry about paying next years tuition by helping them gain financial stability through amazing summer employment opportunities. We want to be the medium that connects you to the endless variety of summer job opportunities that ensure you gain valuable work experience for your future endeavours.

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