



**YOUR  
UMSU**

**Policy Guide**



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# YOUR UMSU

Dear Fellow Students,

I entered university as a socially anxious, overly lanky and confused 17 year old unsure of what this next step in my life would be. That being said, I was fairly sure I wouldn't spend my fifth year here as your student union president. Being your president has been the greatest experience of my life, being granted the privilege to serve and learn from students each day. It would only be a greater honour to have the opportunity to continue and progress our hard work this year.

As UMSU President, I implemented our first ever Financial Aid Awareness Week, connecting hundreds of students with access to thousands of dollars in scholarships and bursaries. I also worked with my team to secure a commitment from the provincial government to keep interest off our student loans.

Seeking re-election, I have surrounded myself with four innovative and experienced student leaders ready to lead UMSU through its' 100th year. We will elevate your voice on campus by taking on the provincial government with bold and tangible solutions, implementing programming and resources for all students to enhance our campus community, and committing ourselves to reconciliation, sustainability, transparency and accountability.

Your university experience can change your life, like it's changed mine, and our team can provide the leadership you need so you can experience all this place to offer.

Use your voice to make us your choice. On March 6th, 7th and 8th, Vote Your UMSU.

Sincerely,

*Jakob Sanderson*



# President



## Jakob Sanderson

Jakob is a fifth year Political Studies and Economics student passionate about student leadership. A former Arts Student Body President and Current UMSU President, Jakob began the first participatory budgeting project on campus which increased arts students' bursary fund by 50%. On UMSU, he hosted the organization's inaugural Financial Aid Awareness Week and successfully lobbied to keep interest off our student loans. This prospective environmental lawyer, passionate about a campus composting plan, cares about your money and the planet - but neither is the green closest to Jakob's heart. That spot will always be claimed by his beloved Boston Celtics.



## Demand Better and Give Students a Vote to Leave to CFS

Since joining the Canadian Federation of Students, UMSU members have paid them over \$4 million. For that price, students deserve an organization that is effective and accountable. Your UMSU believes you should choose where your money goes and that is why we will give students a vote on continued membership. If UMSU decertifies, we will present students with an opportunity to use that money to join another federal advocacy organization and work collaboratively with all provincial student unions - those in and out of CFS - to form a provincial lobbying organization including all Manitoba students for the first time.



## Increased Research Employment Opportunities for Students

Your UMSU is ready to take advocacy to the next level by employing our best resource; you! We will create a student research jobs program where you can apply for a student research grant through UMSU, where you will be paid a living wage, gain meaningful on-campus employment, and shape UMSU's advocacy priorities. We will also advocate the federal government to expand the Undergraduate Student Research Award program to social sciences and health research. Last but not least, we will highlight two student researchers each week on our TVs and social media, including at least one outstanding Indigenous student scholar.



## Make The University of Manitoba The Destination For Indigenous Education

Located on Treaty 1 Land and housing the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, the University of Manitoba should be the flagship University for Indigenous Scholarship. Your UMSU will create an Indigenous Scholar hiring fund, where UMSU's endowment fund will match contributions made by the University and the province to provide funding for Indigenous instructors. This will ensure that the UofM will offer an Indigenous Language major with streams in Anishinabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, Dene, Inuktitut and Michif. We will also lobby the University to increase Indigenous course content and Indigenous scholars in all programs.



## Make the UofM and UMSU Leaders in Environmental Sustainability

It is integral that the University of Manitoba takes a leadership role in promoting environmental sustainability. That is we will work with the University to implement a campus-wide composting program, and incorporate sustainability focused course options and work/study options in all programs. Looking internally, Your UMSU will Implement the recommendations of the UMSU Sustainability Working Group that your UMSU President founded this year, including a green events guide, and more accessible composting in our businesses.



## Fight for Affordable Education

It is no secret that University is getting more expensive. To fight back, we need experienced leaders with bold and tangible ideas. In addition to mobilizing students against a second straight year of maximum allowable tuition increases, Your UMSU will build upon this year's advancements such as increased Open Educational Resources (OERs) in classes and keeping interest off student loans. This year, we will lobby for increased upfront grants, while broadening the access pool to include part-time students. As well, we will continue to bring in more affordable classroom materials for students by starting a University-wide OER working group with faculty, administration and students, and lobby government to create grant funding for OER creators.



## Create more choice and opportunity with your UPass

This is our final year in our current UPass contract, and while many students have enjoyed this access to affordable transit service, it currently does not include the summer semester. Having led preliminary negotiations with Winnipeg Transit this year, your UMSU President will present students with the option of a summer UPass in our next contract. Additionally, we will ensure all students living outside the transit service area can opt out of the UPass program.



## Sarah Bonner-Proulx

Coming from a small town in northern Manitoba, Sarah knows how big of a transition University can be and challenges students face. From striving to improve your residence experience during her time as Resident Advisor, to using her platform as Active Minds co-president and to advocate for improved mental health supports and ensure that all students feel safe and welcomed here on campus- she has always been consistent in her desire for improving the lives of her fellow students. By re-electing her as VP Advocacy, she will take her extensive experience working with students and use it to elevate your voice and hear your concerns to ensure that your university experience is a positive one. When Sarah isn't in the boardroom fighting for students, you can find her in her natural habitat: kicking back somewhere in nature with her dogo, Sasha, or sipping on a cup of dark roast, rattling off bad dad-jokes.



## Expanded Campus Safety Initiatives:

Sexual violence is a pressing issue - especially here on campus, and we want to ensure that students feel safe and survivors are put first; this is why my team and I will work with the University to implement a Sexual Violence Support and Resource Centre that will act as central hub for both education and essential services. As well, we will advocate for our faculty and staff to have increased education and training in areas such as diversity and disclosure training, in order to better support our student body. Specifically, Your UMSU will push to ensure there is an increased focus on Indigenous education and having this embedded in any and all training offered. Moreover, our team will see to that more students, particularly new students, are trained in available supports, sexual violence basics and procedures via new student orientation.



## Improved Access to Mental Health Supports & Accommodations:

Five in five students have mental health, and with education costs rising, limited Financial Aid options alongside the everyday stress of being a University student, it's not surprising that students with mental health problems and illnesses have some of the highest non-completion rates of all post-secondary students. My team and I will ensure that students are getting timely and proper supports and accommodations by advocating to all levels of government to increase funding for existing and new mental health initiatives, supports and accessibility tools for students. Moreover, Your UMSU will lobby for changes to the Canadian Student Loans Program (CSLP) to ensure that its definition of 'permanent disabilities' reflects and responds to the diverse situations of students, including the accommodation needs of students with mental health problems and illnesses.



## Increase Safety & Reduce Costs of On-Campus Socials:

Your UMSU is committed to ensuring that students enjoy their University experience and stay safe while doing so - this is why our team will continue to work with the University to offset costs associated with the newly implemented Police Presence requirement by introducing incentivization mechanisms wherein the more proactive and preventive measures a student group or association has in place for their social, the less time (and money) spent, and the more time you can focus on having fun in a safe environment.



## Establish More Family Friendly Spaces on Bannatyne and Fort Garry Campuses

Students come from all walks of life and all face different challenges. No matter what your needs are, your UMSU should have the proper supports. That's why we will work with the University to implement a Daycare program on Bannatyne campus, with reserved spots for Indigenous students and accessible to inner-city students so all our members can access quality, accessible childcare. As well, we will increase the number of breastfeeding friendly spaces on all campuses to ensure that we are a family friendly University.



## Womyns Equity & Inclusion

Your UMSU wants to ensure that all students have access to an equitable and inclusive experience. Your UMSU is committed to increasing the number of gender-neutral washrooms on all campuses and ensuring that more washrooms have access to free sanitary products. Both on and off campus, womyn continue to be underrepresented in leadership roles - especially in male-dominated fields such as business, science and engineering. My team and I will prioritize investing in programs that help womyn find their voices, challenge gender stereotypes, and discover and celebrate their strength.



## Increased Pathways for International Students to Join the Workforce:

International students bring unique perspectives and culture to campus - even while paying 3x the tuition as domestic students. Your UMSU wants to make sure international students have the proper supports needed to thrive. In the past, UMSU has worked with student unions across Canada to bring a petition to the floor of the House of Commons and lobby legislators to fast track international students into the workforce by allowing co-op work hours to count towards permanent residency requirements. This year we will concert our efforts to have this regulation changed. In order to ensure this has the largest impact possible, we will work with government to eliminate red tape by making international study visas transferable to co-op terms.

# VP Finance & Operations



## Mboli Matshe

When Mboli is not playing Fifa, or watching his favorite soccer team (Arsenal, of course) you can find him immersed in all things finance. As the Finance Director (ASBC), current VP of Finance & Operations for UMSU, and by serving on multiple other budgetary committees, he has gained invaluable experience in balancing budgets, and managing finances to enable you - the student body - to have access to the best services and programming possible. He wants to continue to serve behind the scenes, like Batman, to enable you to have the best year yet.



## Rebrand and Refresh the UMSU Businesses

Being an international student that has stayed in residence, I know that students deserve a place to feel comfortable on campus. Degrees and The HUB have been that place for many students, and as your VP Finance and Operations, I want to refresh these spaces by renovating the interior and revamping systems by implementing an autonomous system which will enhance your ordering experience.



## Implement and Expand Participatory Budgeting

Students want a say in how their money is spent. Want Proof? Check out the hundreds of submissions you sent our way this fall as to how UMSU should spend \$20,000 of our budget in our inaugural participatory budgeting initiative. Your UMSU will complete the implementation of this year's Participatory Budgeting project, and raise the amount available to students to \$50,000, which includes a \$20,000 participatory budget for Bannatyne Students.



## Budget Funding to Bannatyne and Inner City Support Programming System

We've heard from our members at Bannatyne that they would like more than a few weeks of wraps and pasta from UMSU executives. This year, we are promising to step up our game. We will implement a support program budget for our Bannatyne and Inner City campus students, where we will provide resources, programming and even more food. All UMSU members deserve the same level of support and we will make this a reality.



## Advocate For Better International Healthcare Policy For The Upcoming Year

After the provincial government removed international healthcare at the end of the last academic year, the University stepped in to subsidize the cost for the first year of transition. However, international students are facing the highest fee increase with the cap set at 5% + C.P.I (last year C.P.I was 1.6%) Students are facing a higher tuition increase and Your UMSU will lobby the University to extend the subsidy period for another year to help international students during consecutive max tuition increases.



## Advocate For A More Affordable UMSU Healthcare Plan

This is our final year in our current extended healthcare contract, and many students have enjoyed the access to affordable secondary healthcare the program provides, but we can do better. I will lead negotiations with our current healthcare provider and initiate an RFP to determine the best value contract. I know that being a student is strenuous and I will make the student experience more affordable.



## Establish A Multi-Faith Space On Campus

It is evident that at this University, year after year, diversity within the demographic continues to grow. In a multicultural community, it is important to have spaces and places where everyone feels safe and supported. For many students, that means we need a place where students can practice their faith on campus. That is why I will work in tandem with the University to bring a multi-faith space to campus. So no matter where you're from or how you practice your faith, you can be assured that you have a home at this University.

# VP Community Engagement



## Kyra Fanning

Kyra has spent the last four years working towards a double major in marketing and supply chain. As this year's Business Banquet Co-Chair, on the Commerce Students' Association, through innovative thinking and leadership she had the fastest sell out in history and doubled profits from the previous year. Kyra has also successfully increased membership by 430% and corporate sponsorship by 200% through her vice presidency of the University of Manitoba Supply Chain Organization. Passionate about the community, Kyra has volunteered for the Shinerama and 5 Days campaigns to offer support and raise awareness. In this new role, Kyra will be an asset to help every student take full advantage of the programming UMSU has to offer. In her spare time, Kyra loves to golf and whether it's on or off the course, she always brings her A-game.



## Implement Professional Development Workshops For Student Leaders

Your UMSU understands that leadership opportunities are important for your time on campus and beyond. We will implement professional development workshops on event planning, marketing strategy and sponsorship for leaders across campus to ensure all groups are providing the highest quality programming possible to our students at the University of Manitoba.



## Re-Invent Frosh and Welcome Week

In our centennial year, students deserve a memorable celebration. Your UMSU will move Frosh to a better off-campus venue and bring in big names so that it is an experience for all students. Your UMSU is committed to enriching your student experience which is why welcome week will be filled with giveaways, contests, information sessions and a speed-mentorship event to connect incoming students with leaders across campus. Welcome Week will leave students feeling prepared and excited for what the year has in store.



## Centennial Speaker Series

The Union is steeped in tradition and history, and this year it's commemorating its 100th anniversary. Your UMSU is committed to celebrating that milestone with organizing a centennial speaker series to highlight leaders from our community and across the world. We will provide a series that features female leaders, indigenous leaders and University of Manitoba alumni, as well as global leaders such as Colin Kaepernick.



## Advocate for Virtual Student Cards

Your UMSU understands that students have enough to worry about as is. This is why we will work with the University to implement virtual student cards for your mobile devices. They will allow students access to the Active Living Centre, pay for food on campus using foodbucks and provide discounts at UMSU businesses using their mobile device. These cards will provide ease and convenience to students all across campus.



## Provide a Prep-book Rental System Through UMSU

Your UMSU wants all students to pursue their academic dreams without worrying about financial barriers. This is why we will provide a professional program prep-book rental system through the UMSU front desk. Students will have access to MCAT, LSAT & GMAT books free of charge. We will also work with faculties to partner on information sessions for professional programs



## Improve the Hamper Program

Every year the demand for our Christmas hampers increase and we want to ensure all students have access to this program. Your UMSU will adopt a new sponsorship strategy to include the wider business community to be involved with this campaign. We will also implement an improved sign-up, sponsorship, and volunteer forum to ensure the community is aware and involved with this great cause!



## Jelynn Dela Cruz

While Jelynn isn't belting Celine Dion on karaoke, her heart still goes on exploring the many sides that our campus has to offer. In her experience, and despite her cyborg left knee, she has helped students from different walks of life through her presidencies for both the revamped Sociology and Criminology Association and the U of M's founding Peace of Mind chapter. By her extensive volunteering she has had the opportunity to work with the city-wide community - and hopes to bring her creativity and compassionate heart to the role of VP Student Life. As she's done for underprivileged classrooms in both the Philippines and Winnipeg's inner city, Jelynn wants to ensure that you have the proper resources and supports to help you find your calling within the U of M community - in order to have the best and most enjoyable experience possible!



## Mental Health Peer Support Call For Action

Your UMSU believes that the safety of students is a priority and on campus, you deserve to feel secure in the face of crisis. This is why we will implement a call to action for our student-faculty leaders to receive peer support training and encourage their student bodies to participate in Mental Health First Aid sessions facilitated by UMSU's partnership with the Mood Disorders Association of Manitoba, available during campaign weeks. Your UMSU will also provide spaces and resources for these classes all year round, to ensure that our campus can become even more conscious in terms of support, crisis and response.



## Student Group Spotlight Program & Year-End Recognition Gala

Student leaders put in endless hours into initiatives that benefit the social, academic and cultural well-being of our campus. Your UMSU wants to acknowledge their hard work by utilizing ACE meetings to vote on student group projects that deserve recognition. These groups will receive a prize, a feature on UMSU social media and a month-long slide on the University Centre televisions to help promote their accomplishments. We also want to give back to members of student-faculty associations by hosting a Year-End gala to honour the amazing work that they do for our campus and provide awards to acknowledge their work.



## Improved Accessibility to Student Counselling

Your UMSU understands that when you are waiting to receive mental health support, the last thing that you need is a long wait time. This is why we will work with the Student Counselling Centre to decrease wait times so that students can receive the help that they deserve when they need it most and to advocate for a more efficient, effective and personalized system for students.



## International Student Canadian Tours During Reading Week

With family so far away, it is often tough to travel back home when you are only given a few days during breaks in the school year. This is why Your UMSU wants to improve the international student experience by partnering with travel companies to create an affordable option for you to not only explore Canada and to see what our beautiful country has to offer, but to strengthen the bonds within our intentional community more than ever.



## Enhanced Peer Tutoring

Your UMSU understands that keeping up with never-ending course material can be overwhelming. This is why we will enhance your peer tutoring experience so that you don't have to bear the burden alone. Your UMSU plans to do this by implementing Nimbus campaign days to educate students on what the service offers, through hosting pop-up speed-tutoring events as well as incentives such as contests for free sessions and a peer tutor spotlight. We will also vet and employ more students by making applications more streamlined and accessible for all.



## Expanded Indigenous Awareness Campaign

Being an educational institution on Treaty 1 territory, Your UMSU believes that reconciliation and the proper informative campaigns for indigenous issues should be a priority. Working in collaboration with indigenous student groups, student leaders and the Indigenous Centre, we would provide support and resources to grow the month-long awareness campaign. Your UMSU wants to strengthen the impact made by devoting resources, promotional work and outreach to these important initiatives across your campus.

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