



# UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA STUDENTS' UNION

Rm 101 University Centre - University of Manitoba - Winnipeg, MB - R3T 2N2  
Tel: 204.474.6822 - Fax: 204.269.1299 - E-Mail: [umsu@umsu.ca](mailto:umsu@umsu.ca)

*From the Office of the President*

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** UMSU Council  
**FROM:** Bilan Arte  
**DATE:** Monday, April 8, 2013  
**RE:** **President Report #18**

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### ***Campaigns***

#### **U-PASS**

Over the past week I have worked with our Campaigns Organizer to compile a final U-PASS report for the incoming UMSU Council. I look forward to presenting it at our last UMSU Council meeting of the year, on April 25.

#### **Gender Inclusive Washrooms Initiative**

I have been working with the Office of Human Rights and Advisory Services, and with both the outgoing and incoming UMSU LGBTT\* representatives, to establish a committee to report to the University of Manitoba on gender inclusive washroom signage and development. We are also working together to develop a planning and goals framework for all future Campus buildings development. UMSU's service groups, the Rainbow Pride Mosaic and the Womyn's Centre, will also provide free Ally training to students on April 25. To register, please contact either [rpm@umsu.ca](mailto:rpm@umsu.ca) or [womynscoordinator@umsu.ca](mailto:womynscoordinator@umsu.ca).

#### **Campaigns Guide**

The UMSU Campaigns Organizer and I have been working on the final formatting for the first ever UMSU Campaigns Guide! We are excited to share this new governance document with our membership before the end of April.

#### **CFS MB Campaigns Report and Guide**

As Deputy Chairperson for the Canadian Federation of Students-Manitoba, I have been working with the provincial office to compile a Campaigns and Government Relations Report for the entire membership, as well as to create the Campaigns Guide for the upcoming 2013-2014 year. This has provided me with an opportunity to reflect on the campaign successes we've had at Local 103, and also to connect with other locals from across the province for their input.



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## ***UMSU***

### **Meeting with University Auditor**

UMSU met with the University's auditing department to discuss removal of a University bylaw that currently requires all student associations to undergo external auditing. I have been working with our Accounting Manager to establish UMSU as the regulating body for the financial audits of UMSU recognized Student Councils. External audits cost Councils thousands of dollars each year, which they would be able to save through our proposal for UMSU as the auditor.

### **UMSU Congress**

Our entire office has been busy preparing transitions not only for the incoming Executive but also for many members of incoming councils. UMSU Congress is scheduled for April 24, and will include presentations on University Governance, Student Governance, Media and Communications, Campaigns, Finances and Event Planning. Please e-mail [vpa@umsu.ca](mailto:vpa@umsu.ca) for a registration form, and for more information on this upcoming event.

## ***University***

### **Off Campus Alcohol Events**

I recently met with the University Office of the Vice-President (Administration), Student Housing representatives, Residence Students' Association Council Representatives, and the Office of Risk Management to discuss finalizing a form authorizing transportation for off-campus events. We also emphasized how important it was that the University recognize the importance of providing off-campus transportation even for explicitly alcohol-related events. Administration seemed hesitate but willing to discuss the issue. We expressed a desire for an Alcohol Awareness Advisory Committee meeting before the end of April, and again between May and June, in order to reach a viable solution before the beginning of the Fall term.

### **Events Attended**

CFS Manitoba Provincial Executive Meeting (in Brandon, MB) – March 27  
Bill 18 Rally at Manitoba Legislature – March 30  
Winnipeg Transit Riders Association Meeting – April 3  
UMSU Semi-Annual Staff Party – April 5



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*From the Office of the Vice-President Internal*

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** UMSU Council  
**FROM:** Justin Paquin  
**DATE:** Monday, April 8, 2013  
**RE:** Vice-President Internal Report #18

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### UMSU FINANCES/Budget Consultations

I've continued to distribute budget consultation pamphlets to students and councils, encouraging everyone to give feedback in order to maximize the number of respondents. I've also sent a newsletter to students regarding the Endowment fund increase, allowing students the opportunity to provide feedback, and I've conducted an in-person petition with respect to the UMSU Operating Fee increase—giving students the opportunity to show support for or against the proposal.

I've attended various Faculty council meetings, including Science, Arts, U1 and RSAC and have met an extensive list of students to discuss three UMSU topics:

- 1) Draft 2013-2014 Operating Budget
- 2) Operating Fee increase
- 3) Endowment Fund Fee increase

I've taken a 1-on-1 approach with various students and councils in attempts to have a dialogue with students, rather than "talk at students," and I find this the most effective way of communicating such complex issues. Furthermore, there is no richer form of communication than taking the time to sit down and speak with students.

The results of my research and consultation and analysis of UMSUs budget and finances this year have been discussed in Finance Committee meetings at length, and ultimately resulted in two motions being brought forward with the recommendation to increase UMSUs Operating Fee and Endowment Fund Fee.

#### *Operating Fee*

Finance Committee discussed and passed a motion regarding an increase to the Operating Fee. It was unanimously decided that it is in the best interest of the Union and its members



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that this membership fee increase and that UMSU council approve the increase in order to ensure the long term financial stability of the Union, and ensure the long-term growth of the Union.

## *Endowment Fund Fee*

Finance Committee discussed and passed motion regarding an increase to the Scholarship and Endowment Fund fee. The motion to increase the Scholarship and Endowment Fund fee derives itself from the fact the Endowment Fund interest rate will be approximately half of the current interested rate of 5.15%, resulting in an approximate \$90,000 in funding for the Endowment Fund services budget. The additional funds from the proposed increase will go directly into the Endowment Fund to supplement the decrease in revenues caused by the lower interest rate.

## **UMSU Policy & Bylaws**

Some members from the Policy and Bylaws Committee have expressed interest in discussing bylaw changes and policy changes. A Committee meeting is scheduled for April 9, a 3:30 p.m.

## **Transition Report**

I've met will all members of the new Executive to discuss my position within the Union as well as the budget, finances, business, services and bylaws of the Union. My predecessor, Justin Quigley, VPI 2011-2012, provided me with a fantastic transition report in a hard copy form and I am creating the a similar binder for the incoming Vice President Internal, Amanda McMullin.



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*From the Office of the Vice-President External*

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** UMSU Council  
**FROM:** Kwesi Bruce  
**DATE:** Monday, April 8, 2013  
**RE:** Vice-President External Report #19

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### **Bison Sports & Active Living Council Meeting**

Council met last Thursday to wrap up what has been a great year in regards to meeting Council's goals. With renovations completed at the Frank Kennedy Gym, training sessions have smoothly continued and intramurals have had great participation with students, alumni, and staff. The Active Living Centre is to be completed and ready for use in 2015, with all students getting automatic access to the facility and its programs. The hope is for our future Bison Sport home games to be well attended by staff, community members, students, and athletes—a goal set to facilitate a level of school pride and involvement. At the beginning of the next academic year, there will be a 5% increase to the membership fee for our campus gym at the Fort Garry campus, as well as at the Bannatyne campus.

### **Volunteer Program**

As you have seen around Campus, UMSU is not only looking for a few new employees, but we are also looking for volunteers to cover the many areas in which students can get involved and dedicate their time to be a great asset to our programs, campaigns, events and committees. Feel free to sign up for the upcoming year's volunteering opportunities, as we have reviewed our program and are excited to move to an improved and better structured volunteer program. Program improvements will assist UMSU to manage the time and efforts of our volunteers more efficiently, as well as to direct focus on better demonstrating our volunteer appreciation. I'd like to thank all current volunteers for their support throughout this academic year.

### **Longer Library Hours / Coffee Runs**

After completing another successful *Long Night Against Procrastination* at the Elizabeth Dafoe Library last Thursday, students are still curious as to where they can study after regular library hours. St. John's College has once again made their library available for late night studying from April 8 until the 25, and is open Monday to Thursday from 8 p.m. until 2 a.m., and on Fridays from 5 p.m. until 2 a.m. As you may have noticed, the Multipurpose Room has been transformed into an exam hall. Until exams begin, this area is open for studying, as well as the little study room just opposite of the Graduate



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Students' Association Lounge. Coffee will be circulated around campus in the evenings, courtesy of the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee, to the main study areas around campus. During the coffee runs we will also promote the need for longer library hours on our campuses.

## **Transitional Meetings with Incoming Vice-President External**

Christian Pierce and I have begun our transitional process to look over the role of the Vice-President External to ensure that the new Executive term rolls over very smoothly and efficiently. This work will continue on throughout the month. Best of wishes go to Christian Pierce and the rest of the 2013/2014 UMSU executive.

## **Events Attended**

Long Night Against Procrastination  
UMSU Staff Party  
Bison Sports & Active Living Council



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*From the Office of the Vice-President Advocacy*

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** UMSU Council  
**FROM:** Jen Black  
**DATE:** Monday, April 8, 2013  
**RE:** Vice-President Advocacy Report #18

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### **Career Services Luncheon – March 25**

Career Services hosted a luncheon for several students who were invited to provide feedback on the role of Career Services on our campus. The luncheon included several students who work in the Career Services office, those who had used the services in the past, and me as an UMSU representative. We discussed ways to improve the services the office provides as well as ways to improve the visibility of the office to students.

### **Campaigns and Government Relations Committee Meeting – March 26**

At this meeting of CGR we discussed eight new campaign inserts for the campaigns guide and approved them to go forward to Council for the March 28th meeting. Many of these inserts were in regards to campaigns that UMSU has supported for many years, with a few campaigns specific to work done over the course of the past year.

### **CFS – MB Provincial Executive Meeting – March 27**

Bilan and I attended this final meeting of the CFS–MB 2012/2013 Provincial Executive in Brandon, with Justin and Ronnie participating via telephone. At this meeting we discussed the finalization of the collective bargaining that had taken place over the course of our term, and provided updates on the International Students' Symposium and the upcoming CFS–MB annual general meeting.

### **Senate – April 3**

At this meeting of Senate the discussion was primarily focused on a presentation given by the University Secretary, Jeff Leclerc. His presentation, titled Academic Senates and University Governance in Canada, reviewed the results of surveys administered to university academic senates across the country. The survey focused on senate structure, membership, and organization. Five key areas to address were identified: faculty engagement; power and roles of Senate and Administration; power and roles of Senate and the Board of Governors; perceived lack of relevance and power; and effective oversight of program quality, teaching, and learning. In the discussion around Senate structures, Mr. Leclerc pointed out that the University of Manitoba has slightly higher-than-average representation of faculty and students, with students representing 22% of our



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Senate make-up, over a 16% national average. The survey also questioned participants on their satisfaction with the operation of their university's Academic Senate, and whether or not they felt that their Senate performed a key role in decision making. While the University of Manitoba scored comparatively well when it came to satisfaction with the role of Senate, many surveyed expressed the belief that the Senate performs as more of a "rubber stamp", and that Senate's role in decision making could be more engaged and meaningful.

## **Environmental Sustainability Committee Meeting – April 4**

At this meeting of ESC the Committee reviewed and edited UMSU Policy #3003 Environmental Sustainability. Our edits broadened the policy to be inclusive of all major forms of sustainability, economic, ecological, and social, acknowledging their interconnectivity, and promoting a holistic approach to sustainability initiatives. The policy has been forwarded to the Policy and Bylaws Committee so that notice of the motion can be served at the April 11 meeting of UMSU Council.

## **Accessibility Committee Meeting – April 4**

The Committee met again to receive an update on the accessibility initiatives that will be pursued over the summer. Brian Rivers, Director of Physical Plant, informed the Committee that Physical Plant will be spending the summer months working on the elevator in Isbister, which is currently unsafe for students with mobility needs. Brian mentioned that the project is quite extensive, as they will need to raise the ceiling on the elevator column in order to proceed with construction. While the project will begin as soon as possible, it may not be completed by the start of the Fall 2013 term. All students with classes in Isbister who need elevator access will need to register with Student Accessibility Services to have classroom accommodations made.

## **Finance Meeting – April 5**

Finance Committee invited all outgoing and incoming UMSU executives to attend a meeting to determine the draft operating budget to forward to Council. This meeting failed to hit quorum and so, while no motions were on the floor, we took the opportunity to discuss the budget as drafted by the outgoing Executive.

## **Meeting with Jackie Gruber – April 5**

I met with Jackie Gruber, of the University's Human Rights and Advisory Services Office, to discuss a motion presented at the last meeting of UMSU Council which moved to ban a student group from UMSU spaces and revoke their student group status. Her office conducts confidential intakes and so we were not able to discuss any particular casework that may or may not exist around this student group, but we took the opportunity to review the motion and the claims made by the motion under the Manitoba Human Rights Code. I have requested that Jackie submit a letter to Council stating her opinion on the motion; she is currently seeking counsel from the University lawyer to ensure that her office can do this without a potential breach of confidentiality.





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## **Health and Dental Committee Meeting – April 5**

At this meeting we reviewed several appeals to either opt-in or opt-out of the UMSU Health and Dental Plan. We also discussed the University of Manitoba Graduate Students' Association referendum that took place several weeks ago, which asked if students were in favour of switching to a new plan with extended coverage. Although the referendum failed, the UMSU Services Administrator mentioned that the same extended coverage offered by the potential new plan could be offered by Green Shield at a much lower cost. A survey was conducted last year and asked students if they were in favour of certain expansions to the Green Shield plan. While last year's survey demonstrated that students were in favour of the expansions, we decided that it would be best to administer a new survey—with exact expansions and costs—to determine whether or not the membership is in favour of these expansions.

## **New Executive Transition**

I have been in the process of drafting several documents to assist the new Vice-President Advocacy in their transition. The documents drafted to date include each of the committees the VPA sits on, along with relevant committee documents and contact information; information on the Senate and the Board of Governors; and timelines for projects relevant to the VPA portfolio.

## **Events Attended**

UMSU Movie Night: Wreck It Ralph – March 25  
Amnesty International Poetry Slam and Coffee-House – March 26  
Womyn's Centre Wild Tales Storytelling – March 27  
Student Senate Caucus – April 1  
UMSU Part-Time Staff Party – April 5



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*From the Office of the Vice-President Student Services*

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** UMSU Council  
**FROM:** Ronnie Cruz  
**DATE:** Monday, April 8, 2013  
**RE:** Vice-President Student Services Report #18

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### **Student Group Office Space Re-allocation Process – March 25 – ongoing**

Every year there is a student group office space re-allocation process that is required to evaluate the use of the space and determine which groups are in need of an office space to improve the expansion of their group's activities and services. This year I received a total of 38 applications from student groups who want, and currently have, an office space. I am carefully reviewing all of the applications I have received by looking at the activities each student group has participated in throughout the 2012 – 2013 academic year; an up-to-date number of active members/membership report; services provided to the student community; reports on use of the office space for student groups who currently have an office space; and how an office space will help the student group to work more effectively to fulfill the mandate of the student group as described in their constitution. Lastly, I will bring my recommendations to the next SGPAC meeting on April 16 or 29 to further review, discuss, and make a final decision on the student group office space re-allocation.

### **Student Group Handbook – March 25 - ongoing**

The Student Group Handbook has not been updated since 2011. I have been editing the handbook by ensuring that all information is relevant and up-to-date; reorganizing the structure to make information easier to find; and adjusting the language to make the text easy to understand. I am working diligently on the handbook, and hope to get it done before my term ends.

### **Vice-President Student Services Transition – April 5 – ongoing**

The incoming VPSS and I met and started on our transition. I showed her where everything is located in the office, informed her on what committees she sits on, what committees she chairs, where to find useful information, etc. I am currently working on a transition document to help her with her position as VPSS.



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## **Student Group Appreciation Event Planning – April 5 – ongoing**

I am currently working on planning a student group appreciation event that will be held on April 15. The purpose of this event is to thank all student groups for successfully contributing to the political, intellectual, social, and cultural diversity on campus throughout the 2012 – 2013 academic year.

## **Student Group Promotions and Affairs Committee (SGPAC) – March 26, 2013**

The Student Group Promotion and Affairs Committee (SGPAC) carefully reviewed and approved new student groups: University of Manitoba Criminological Association, University of Manitoba Medical Marijuana Student Group, and African Students of University of Manitoba. SGPAC also discussed current issues with the Indian Students' Association regarding their constitution and how they are currently running their student group. We carefully reviewed, and approved approximately \$1,500 of funding towards student group events/conferences for the Nepali Student Association, Engineering Toastmasters Club, University of Manitoba Literary Society, Management Information Systems Association, and University of Manitoba Students for a Culture of Life. If you have any questions about the applications/requests SGPAC reviewed and approved, please don't hesitate to contact me at [vpss@umsu.ca](mailto:vpss@umsu.ca). Our next SGPAC meeting is on April 16, 2013, at 5 p.m., in the UMSU boardroom.

## **Meetings Attended**

Executive Committee Meetings – March 26, 28, April 2, & 4, 2013  
Campaigns and Government Relations (CGR) Committee Meeting – March 26, 2013  
Finance Committee Meeting – April 5, 2013

## **Events Attended**

Health and Wellness Expo at Bannatyne – March 25, 2013  
Long Night Against Procrastination – April 4, 2013  
CIS Women's National University Championship Team Presentation – April 4, 2013  
UMSU Staff Party – April 5, 2013

# UMSU COUNCIL MEETING

**April 11, 2013 – 6:00PM**

UMSU Council Chambers – 176 Helen Glass

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## **Attending:**

B. Arte – UMSU President  
J. Paquin – UMSU Vice-President Internal  
K. Bruce – UMSU Vice-President External  
J. Black – UMSU Vice-President Advocacy  
R. Cruz – UMSU Vice-President Student Services  
N. Loewen – Students' Architectural Society  
E. Snyder – Arthur V. Mauro Student Association  
C. Ramraj – Arts Student Body Council  
T. Diop – Arts Student Body Council  
M. Moffat – Arts Student Body Council  
T. Samec – Arts Student Body Council  
M. Gluskin – Commerce Students' Association  
J. Morry – Commerce Students' Association  
K. Michaels – U of M Engineering Society  
M. Riesmeyer – U of M Engineering Society  
B. Foley – Education Student Council  
F. Arfinengo – Student of Fine Arts Student Association  
K. Mclean – Faculty of Music Students' Association  
J. Boileau – Pharmacy Student Council  
J. Beaupre – Student Assoc. for Health, Phys Ed, & Rec Studies

E. Rosenthal – Residence Students' Association Council  
B. Turchyn – St. Andrew's College Students' Association  
S. Lakhi – St. John's College Students' Association  
T. Licharson – St. Paul's College Students' Association  
J. McPherson – St. Paul's College Students' Association  
J. Leung – Science Students' Association  
L. Gindy – Science Students' Association  
A. Dhalla – Science Students' Association  
S. Luprypa – Social Work Student's Association  
A. Noor – University 1 Student Council  
I. Kaur – University 1 Student Council  
J. Introito – University 1 Student Council  
R. Kunzman – University 1 Student Council  
K. Wilson – Aboriginal Students' Representative  
K. St. Godard – L.G.B.T.T. Representative  
S. Stairs – Students Living with Disabilities Representative  
I. Fubara – Manuel – Women's Representative  
M. Igweagu – International Students' Representative  
C. Lesperance – University of Manitoba Athletics Council  
B. Rach – UMSU Council Chair

## **Regrets:**

C. Kokonas – Human Ecology Students' Organization

O. Florescu – Manitoba Medical Students Association

## **Absent:**

G. Bartley – Faculty of Agriculture Student Organization  
S. Champagne – MB Dental Hygiene Students' Association  
M. McCoy – Education Student Council  
J. Kusyk – Manitoba Law Students' Association

A. Derosiers – Medical Rehabilitation Students' Association  
K. Johnson – University College residence Students' Association  
C. Cowie – Graduate Students' Association (NV)

## **Students-At-Large:**

Sarah-Marie Chaillot  
Sara McLaughlin  
Mark Stewart  
Courtney Kauk  
Daniel Sushko  
Alexander Tsibulski  
Michael Jordan  
Ezra Lazar

Tatum Lawlor  
Thuy Lam  
Thao Lam  
Dan Nenadov  
Reyna Olivares  
Leslie Berns  
Marlow Shore  
Elana Albaz

## **Guests:**

C. Dowd – UMSU Executive Director  
B. Usick

A. Dupont – UMSU Executive Assistant  
S. Loewen

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## **1. Call to Order: 6:13 p.m.**



# UMSU COUNCIL MEETING

## April 11, 2013 – 6:00PM

UMSU Council Chambers – 176 Helen Glass

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### 2. Approval of the Agenda: Stairs/Rosenthal

**Paquin** motioned to move the Finance Report on the Agenda to directly after the Presentation section.

*Paquin/Riesmeyer*

*Carried*

### 3. Approval of Minutes from Mach 28, 2013: Rosenthal/Arte

**Carried**

**Nenadov** made an amendment to the minutes from March 28., on Page 16 in the questions and comments section in regard to his first comment, to add that it is the Aramark monopoly on cleaning services on Campus that is not mentioned. The Chair ruled that this is to be a friendly amendment to the minutes.

### 4. Presentations –

- National Framework for Mental Health in PSE – B. Usick, S. Loewen: Usick is the director of Student Advocacy and Accessibility at the University of Manitoba. She is also Chair for the steering committee on the student mental health strategy being developed at the University of Manitoba. The University is participating in the creation of a national framework on mental health in post-secondary education and seeking student feedback. They hope to have this feedback by April 30.

Loewen has recently been hired as the mental health consultant at the University. She is looking to find out what people think about mental health, and this will impact the strategy developed. Loewen discussed mental health and how it affects students, as well as the stigma that still exists and the need to break down barriers and get people talking about it.

#### Questions/Comments:

**McLean** asked if Student Advocacy and Accessibility is related to Student Accessibility Services.

**Usick** responded that yes, Student Accessibility Services falls under Student Advocacy and Accessibility Services.

**Fubara-Manuel** asked if mental health for Women, L.G.B.T.T students, and international students, if all of the different communities on Campus are being factored into this mental health strategy.

**Loewen** responded that yes, there will be different priority groups, and all the groups have differing needs, differing risk factors, and differing perspectives.



# UMSU COUNCIL MEETING

**April 11, 2013 – 6:00PM**

UMSU Council Chambers – 176 Helen Glass

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**Igweagu** asked about groups of students, such as international students, who have the perspective that mental health isn't real.

**Loewen** part of it is creating a support system around the student. There are still people in this country who do not acknowledge mental illness. It's not just people coming from other countries that have that mentality towards mental illness. So for those people who work with international students in support roles, it's making them aware of the signs and services available so that students can get to the help they need. There is a lot of education and training that is needed. It's also about educating people themselves about mental illness and normalizing it.

**Arte** commented that she really did enjoy the *Scrawl on the Wall* that was done around campus, to get people's thoughts on mental health. One thing she would like to bring up is mental health and environmental design. She remembers her first year, and there was a space on the third floor of University College that had a lot of sofas and green space, with windows and sunlight. When she looks around the Campus now she sees the eradication of student space, so it is becoming harder and harder to find nice spaces on Campus for students to spend time. She would suggest considering environmental design and how it relates to mental health.

**Igweagu** commented that she took a class where the concept of mental health was introduced and coping methods were also discussed. Having these things introduced to professors would be helpful.

**Fubara-Manuel** commented she had a similar experience in a class one time. The professor had them all close their eyes, relax and calm, then slammed the table really loudly. She screamed, because where she comes from when you hear loud noises you run.

**Loewen** responded that that also touches on cultural sensitivity. Some people come from war-torn countries, and have had very traumatic experiences, and you want to avoid any triggers.

- **Finance Committee Report – Paquin** explained that there are two motions coming to Council—the first one is to increase the Operating Fee for UMSU. The fee increase being proposed is \$2.50 per semester. Paquin presented that the cost of running the organization continues to increase year-to-year, yet the fee continues to stay the same. There is a discrepancy between the inputs and outputs of the organization.

## **Motion # 1 – UMSU Operating Fee**

WHEREAS the UMSU Operating Fee is the most consistent, predictable, reliable, and primary source of revenue for the Union; and,

WHEREAS the UMSU Operating Fee has not increased since 2006; and,



# UMSU COUNCIL MEETING

**April 11, 2013 – 6:00PM**

UMSU Council Chambers – 176 Helen Glass

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WHEREAS UMSU is a non-profit organization that generally operates at a break even; and,

WHEREAS there are no funds available to add or expand programs and services; and,

WHEREAS the cost of operating services and businesses increase annually; and,

WHEREAS student enrollment is projected by the University to plateau and decrease in the upcoming years, resulting in a decrease in revenue to the UMSU Operating Budget; and,

WHEREAS in order to sustain current operations, and grow as an effective lobby organization and student service provider, UMSU would greatly benefit from an increase in the Operating Fee; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that UMSU council approve an increase in the Operating Fee by \$2.50 per semester; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the total amount received from the increase be put into the Retained Earnings line until UMSU council approves otherwise.

## **Questions/Comments:**

**Foley** asked if the fee was going up by \$2.50 or by 2.5%, and that the paper says \$8.

**Paquin** responded that it is by \$2.50, and that the \$8 was recommended by the Accounting staff, and they met in the middle with the \$2.50 per semester.

**Michaels** asked what defines benefits in the section cost per Executive, as well why did the cost go down?

**Paquin** responded that it is things like parking or bus passes, and the health and dental plan. This past January the UMSU executive made a decision to take themselves off the Blue Cross plan, and put themselves onto the student health plan to save money.

**Olivares** asked why the service group funding was \$18,000 when it was previously \$50,000. It's on Page 1.

**Paquin** responded that that shouldn't be there. The service group funding was moved to the Endowment Fund and that line should read UMSU Vision/Arts. Earlier this year UMSU council approved moving the service group funding into the Endowment Fund in exchange for the UMSU Vision and the Collaboration to Promote Art and Music (CPAM).

**Nenadov** noted the slide that shows the money that was lost in the businesses and the depreciation of the retained earnings. It looks to him as if those numbers are in the same ballpark; basically the money that is taken out of the retained earnings is approximately the same as the amount that comes out of the businesses. He is not opposed to



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increasing fees, but it looks to him as if UMSU is asking students to pick up the slack for mismanagement. He wonders what has been looked at in terms of trimming staff and becoming more efficient, and dropping things that may cost a lot of money and that may not have a net benefit.

**Paquin** responded in terms of decreasing costs, one thing this year that has gone down considerably in cost is the UMSU daytimer, from \$32000 to \$4000 due to work done by UMSU staff to gain sponsorship for the daytimer. Another way that UMSU has been saving costs is with UMSU Vision and CPAM.

**Nenadov** clarified, he was speaking in terms of trimming costs in the business. They're losing a certain amount of money a year, why is that? What the businesses are losing is what is being taken out of the retained earnings. Everything else appears to be a break-even regardless of how you juggle it around in the budget, specifically with fixing the loss in the businesses instead of proposing a fee increase.

**Paquin** responded that basically what is being said is fix the businesses and we'll be okay. Paquin would hate to disagree with that, but the reality is that it's not a quick fix. Specifically for the Hub, there are various changes that have been happening. The Hub's last day for the summer will be April 27. It's closing down for a little bit to make changes to the menu, branding—everything will be looked at. There is a new manager that came on at the end of November. We have changed the cabaret licence to a private bar licence to save on the cost of live entertainment every night. In regards to Degrees, prices are going to be re-evaluated. Degrees may not meet its target this year, but the reality is that we still want to offer the same service we have been with Degrees—most meals are under \$10. There is an adjustment to make and you can do one of two things – decrease the quality of the product or significantly increase prices.

**Wilson (P)** noted that when looking at this budget, his main concern on The Hub page is the almost doubling of the salaries line, and the massive loss. It's hard to justify students having to pay for that loss. He is not opposed to a fee increase, but why do students have to pay for the loss.

**Paquin** responded that almost every single business loses money in its first year. Most businesses like a pub or restaurant lose money in their second year, and half of businesses lose money their third year. But a few years down the road they will actually start making money. The point of this presentation is not to say let's raise fees because our businesses are losing money; it's to say that all these other costs are going up as well. The fact that the businesses are losing money doesn't negate the facts that in every other aspect of the Union costs are going up. Salaries are going up, minimum wage is going up. The costs of the inputs to the organization are going up. Hypothetically, if we go forward with the fee increase now and it helps the Union now, in a few years when things turn around it will help bring in more funding for the Union. He is not saying let's index the fee—he is saying let's catch ourselves up. A bar has the ability to bring in a lot of revenue, and then we don't need to increase fees because we have been able to set ourselves up with a sustainable service.





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**Igweagu** thought that UMSU had a policy against increasing fees, doesn't this violate that policy.

**Paquin** responded that UMSU has a policy against increasing tuition fees. This is a membership fee increase of \$2.50, not a tuition fee increase of \$1000. They are two very, very different things. When the Canadian Federation of Students gets asked why the fees go up every year, the answer is because the cost of running the organization goes up every year. Eventually, if fees didn't go up the organization would dissolve into itself. Unless you are able to provide additional revenues somewhere, the fees need to go up.

**Beaupre** noted that if fees were indexed, and they probably should be, we would be paying more than we are with the proposed \$2.50 increase. When minimum wage goes up costs go up. It's just the way it goes.

**Paquin** commented that if fees were indexed, UMSU would never have to have a conversation like this. The fee would go up every year, and they would be at \$47.30 this year. So that was the reason behind the \$2.50, as it brings us to \$47 to catch us up to inflation.

**Michaels** obviously the big loss this year is The Hub, but there have been losses around \$100,000 every year for past few years. What is the business that is causing that loss every year?

**Paquin** responded that it has been The Hub for the past year. Their operations started before it was open. Also, Degrees did not hit their target budget for the past couple of years.

**Dowd** noted that Degrees was also under renovations a couple of years ago, with delays in reopening, which also accounts for some of the loss.

**Lesperance (P)** noticing that the losses are kind of cyclical, when was the last time there was a fee increase?

**Paquin** in the year 2005-2006, there was a proposed increase to bring us to the \$42. Before that the fees were \$37. The reason for that increase was because insurance premiums went up across Canada for student unions. That same year, the Graduate Students' Association separated from UMSU, taking \$120,000 in membership fees with them. So, that increase basically just covered that loss.

**Lesperance (P)** assuming it's cyclical, would it not make more sense to index the fees then? This will just end up back on the table again.

**Paquin** responded that we were prepared to catch up to inflation but they would like to hear people's opinions before proposing indexing the fees. It was discussed at Finance Committee, and it would be his recommendation that next year's UMSU council also look at indexing fees. If you start indexing now it doesn't fix the current situation. We still need to catch up to what fees should be.

**Wilson (P)** if you look at the chart, indexing would make sense instead of these big jumps every few years. We need to make an increase now though.

**Paquin** commented for next year's Council to please take that into consideration—indexing fees.

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**Ramraj** commented that any time there is a proposed fee increase she would rather there be a discussion like what is happening now. She believes that would be the benefit of not indexing, so that every time an increase is proposed there gets to be a discussion, and to look at things as opposed to every year when it just goes up.

**Paquin** added that if changes get made, and in a few years the businesses are making money, the revenue can actually supplement UMSU fees. The Students' Union could actually sustain itself, and that would be an amazing example to other unions and the University. But in order to get to that point you need to fix the current situation.

**Berns** noted that The Hub looks to be projected to have the same loss next year as this year. How is this viable for UMSU?

**Paquin** responded that if UMSU wanted to, it could take out a ten million dollar loan. That's what happened when it built the Nursing Annex, which includes this Council Chamber room when it entered into an agreement with the University. UMSU has a lot of assets, and with the Endowment Fund, it can borrow against itself. UMSU's fund structure has a lot of assets, so quite frankly it will be okay if UMSU does lose some money.

**Morry** asked if a retained earnings requirement has been looked at.

**Paquin** responded that if you look at the actual motion, it will take the entire fee increase and put that into the retained earnings. It mandates that it go into the retained earnings until Council decides otherwise.

**Samec** asked if there is anything that stops it from getting eaten up in the retained earnings column.

**Paquin** essentially the retained earnings column is the net result of the gains and losses each year.

**Black** noted that she understands the justification for why ultimately the operating fee needs to go up. Personally she will be abstaining from this motion because she does not believe that there has been adequate student consultation done for this. She does not feel comfortable going forward with something like this when there is no concrete proof that students are in favour of this.

**Paquin** commented on the student consultation issue. From the conversations that he has had with students and faculty councils, there are also 350 signatures of students on a petition of those in favour of the fee increase. He feels like the current situation is the result of not making a decision. Everyone here represents a community, a faculty, a college—our role here is to represent the students. It is very hard to get a lot of detail with these discussions and have everyone understand. The hope is that for those who have the privilege to be in this room, to make the decision in the best interest of their students and the sustainability of the Union.

**Beaupre** in response to the comments on not enough student consultation, everyone here is voted by their councils to represent their councils. Ideally, how this Council is supposed to work is that we would take this motion and ask our councils about it, and vote on it. Not every decision we make here has to go to a referendum. The Committee sent out e-mails for input and got very little feedback.



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**Paquin** added that we sent an e-mail out to the entire membership about the Endowment Fund increase, and only got about 40 responses. The feedback that was received though was undeniable—people understand it and why it needs to go up. **Black** added that she is not saying that we cannot make a decision here, but a fee increase is absolutely something that we need to consult with students on, it's not something that should be dealt with just in this room. UMSU does a lot of business via campaigning, and she believes that it could have been very beneficial to be out in University Centre for months talking to students, and asking them about how they feel about fee increases. We have been talking to them about a lot of work that UMSU has been doing. It has been very effective—we saw that during the Referendum. This doesn't necessarily have to go to referendum, but there should be considerable campaign work done to consult with students. This is an issue that came up early in the year, and there has been plenty of time to consult with students, and she does not believe there has been adequate work done around it. Also, there seems to be a sense of urgency around the issue. Fees are administered on a semester basis, and there is time to still do work around this, and if students are in favour then they can be increased for the Winter term.

**Cruz** noted that personally she does not have anything against fees increasing, but she feels the same way as Black, that there has not been enough student consultation done around the issue. Even though everyone has been voted in to be here by the students in their faculties, a lot of the students in those faculties are aware of this potential increase. Not all the information gets passed along to the students in the faculty. There needs to be more work done with tabling, class talks, maybe an all-day event so that the information is getting to students. It's not enough to just talk about it in this room, and she will also abstain from the vote.

**Diop** is wondering why UMSU is willing to have a referendum on hypothetical fee increases, a hypothetical U-PASS, but when there is an actual fee increase on the table we don't go to such lengths to talk to students and get their feedback. It's hard to claim apathy among the students considering the turnout for the Referendum in the Fall.

**Paquin** responded that it is in the UMSU bylaws that UMSU council has the authority to raise or decrease any student organization fees it sees fit. There was a need to have a U-PASS referendum, and it was a good way to go about it, considering it was a \$170 fee increase. This is a fee that every member already pays, and it's an increase to that. Therein lies the distinction between going to the length of having a referendum or not.

**Olivares** understands everyone's concerns about taking this back to their councils. She is an elected member of her council, and it is kind of weird that she has not heard of this yet. She also understands that it would be good to make a decision here and now, but what if after the decision is made a lot of students are against it. How is it going to be handled if there is a huge uproar from students? It may only be \$2.50 per student but there are 27,000 members. That is a huge number they are going to visually see. How is it going to be addressed when students ask what else has been done to cut costs? There are places in UMSU that could be more efficiently run.



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**Paquin** asked for examples of what could be more efficiently run by UMSU. The only reason he asks for examples is because it is extremely difficult to have an informed and educated conversation with 27,000 students. The only way to truly understand what has been going on for the past seven years, and to understand how it operates within itself, is to get into the grind of it. That is why there is a Finance Committee to talk about these issues. The Committee has been talking about this the entire year—this is not something that just came out. It has been talked about for the entire year.

**Olivares** asked if anyone has come in and looked at the business operations and noted “This is where you can be more efficient.”

**Paquin** responded that yes, he has spoken with the auditors about this.

**Olivares** responded that she does not mean auditors. There are people that will go into your business and evaluate where you can more efficient.

**Paquin** asked if she was referring to the businesses or to UMSU operations.

**Olivares** responded UMSU businesses. Revenue from the businesses should offset the fees, and then there wouldn't be a need to increase them.

**Paquin** arguably yes, and hopefully that will happen when The Hub gets turned around. But we cannot bank the success of one business in one year to change the financial situation of the Union. Businesses are risky—some years they make money and some years they don't. UMSU used to own a bar on campus before Wise Guys, and it shut down. We should not bank on the success of a business; it's nice if the additional revenue can be there for additional programs and services, but it should not be relied on as a fundamental stream right now.

**Stewart** addressed the claims that there has not been enough student consultation. He knows for a fact that the incoming and outgoing Arts council has been engaged in this discussion. As has been said, this is not like this discussion is coming out of the dark. The point is UMSU cannot keep operating at a flat line. We can't postpone it and talk to people and find out how many are against it and how many are for it. He believes that that is what has happened in the past; people go out looking for a firm answer and then don't get it, so the decision gets put off. Stewart asked on average how many budget consultations get submitted.

**Paquin** noted that this year there were around 2000 sent out, and about 80 were filled in and returned to the office. When you start talking about the budget people start nit-picking at the services, which is not usable feedback. The reality is costs are going up across the board and revenue is going down.

**Beaupre** was curious as to how Council members may suggest getting the information out to students more. The Committee did table, and in any situation like this you need to look at the risk versus the reward and do we want to spend more money and resources for such low returns. Or we could get the implementation now. He does not think the work would be worth the response that we get back.

**Wilson (P)** with regards to consultation, he thinks that sufficient consultation was done, the e-mail was sent out and as Paquin said, there was hardly any response back. With regards to the question of how UMSU will deal with the potential upset of students who



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are opposed to the increase if they are not consulted, coming from a student-at-large point of view, tell them why. He is certain that if you told the students-at-large that we haven't increased our fees in five years, and we need to look at what other fees that are operating beneath the standard. That should be an easy deflection. If we were increasing every year because we need more money all the time, it might be a little more difficult. Add \$2.50 to have a safety net that pretty much isn't there. At the beginning he was opposed to increasing fees but now that he has read the motion and knows that the money is going back in to save the safety net that UMSU needs. We need that safety net. This whole "let's spend more money," to find out if we need to talk about it to save more money isn't working. He believes that everyone elected here has been trusted with their council's opinions.

**Riesmeyer (P)** asked a point of clarification. Asked when they can interject with motions. Normally it's in between every speaker, motions to end debate, or limit speaking time.

**Rach** responded that yes, that is correct.

**Fubara –Manuel** noted that UMSU is a non-profit organization, and most non-profit organizations fundraise. Has UMSU thought of fundraising?

**Paquin** fundraising kind of falls into the sponsorship that UMSU receives at different times of the year, for example, for the Daytimer, Orientation, and Celebration Week.. It is also not a sustainable source of funding.

**Lesperance (P)** commented that as elected officials we have the notion of political authority to make decisions like this. There are a lot of students-at-large at the meeting. Student consultation was done.

**Dhalla** called the question.

*Dhalla/Foley*

*Carried*

The Chair called for the vote:

*Motion#1*

*Carried*

**Note:** Those abstaining from the vote include, Arte, Black, Cruz, St. Godard - L.G.B.T.T. Representative, and Luprypa-Social Work.

**Paquin** continued with the second motion from Finance Committee—the Endowment Fund. We can do one of two things cut \$90,000 from the budget or we increase the fee. Over the past couple of years we have been able to have a high interest rate for the endowment fund of 5.15%. Unfortunately, those interest rates do not exist anymore. There is \$195,000 in fees or revenue, and the interest is \$180,000. Three and a half million dollars Endowment Fund was locked into a five-year Guaranteed Investment Certificate at 5.15%. This GIC will reach its maturity in the Fall. We either cut \$90,000, or eat into the principal amount of the



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Endowment Fund, or increase the fees. If we want to sustain the Endowment Fund, and continue to offer services to students, we need to increase funding to the Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund is a charitable organization, just so everyone knows. Also, the numbers in the motion are not exact because we don't know what some of them will be, and we don't know what the interest rate is going to be.

**Rach** interjected and asked for a motion to approve Nenadov as the Proxy for Riesmeyer from Engineering.

*Arte/Rosenthal*

*Carried*

### **Motion #2 – Endowment Fund Fee**

WHEREAS the UMSU Endowment Fund is currently held within a Guaranteed Investment Certificate that began in 2008, and ends in Fall 2013; and,

WHEREAS the interest rate which the Endowment Fund received over the last five years is 5.15%, and is estimated to decrease by half; and,

WHEREAS the new interest rate could result in a \$90,000 decrease in funds per year to the Endowment Fund; and,

WHEREAS an increase of \$2.50 per semester could result in an increase of the Fund of approximately \$75,000 per year; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that UMSU Council approves a \$2.50 per semester fee increase to the Scholarship and Endowment Fund.

### **Questions/Comments:**

**Riesmeyer (P)** asked why only 10% of the fees are put into the Endowment Fund. His experience with Endowment Funds is that 100% gets put in and then you work off the interest. That way you grow the fund faster and have more money to take out of it. Whereas this Endowment Fund fee is not so much an Endowment Fund fee as usually defined but more of a Service fee.

**Paquin** can give various examples of different endowment fund fees. The faculty of Commerce has an Endowment Fund fee of \$17 per credit hour. Basically, that entire fee is spent as more of service fee throughout the year. This was a decision made by the Board of Trustees, not UMSU council, and he believes that it is that way simply to offer more services to students.

**Wilson (P)** asked if there is any idea of where the \$90,000 will come from if this motion does not pass.





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**Paquin** responded that hypothetically speaking if this does not pass, the first thing that would get cut is the Student Group Resource Centre. Paquin would suggest to the Board of Trustees not to have a grow fund that year.

**Turchyn (P)** asked if we will need to increase the fees again if we lock it in at 2.5% to sustain what we have budgeted.

**Paquin** responded that no, we won't. He explained that the \$1.50 increase will solve the problem of the lower interest rates.

**Beaupre** responded that in the Finance Committee meeting it was fairly obvious that this needs to happen. You don't want to lose any returns on investment.

**Riesmeyer (P)** wanted to comment that he believes it is irresponsible to base an annual budget on something that's affected by risk. In terms of interest rates and having to renew them, and them changing. You are going with a concrete amount that isn't true dynamic—those to him don't line up. Looks like slight mismanagement for how this type of thing should be dealt with.

The Chair called for the vote:

**Motion #2**

*Carried*

**Note:** Abstaining from the vote are, Arte, Black, Cruz, St. Godard–L.G.B.T.T. Representative.

**Paquin** presented notice that a motion to approve the UMSU Operating Budget will be coming to Council at the next meeting on April 25.

### 5. Reports of Officers

- **President – Arte** reported that there was information received that in the Provincial budget the 5% funding promise from the government for post-secondary institutions could be cut to 2.5%. There has been a mass scramble to redo budgets for the University because of this. There is also some fear in regards to what will happen to make up for that loss in funding.

#### Questions/Comments:

**Michaels** asked what is going on with the auditing, right off the bat it seems like a really bad idea.

**Arte** responded that the University requires all student association to pay for an external audit. The idea that is currently being discussed with the University is that UMSU already goes through all the books for student associations. An external auditor costs up to \$4000-5000 for an active student association, so the idea is that UMSU can do them internally to save those costs. The auditing process will still happen, so it will still have



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to prove that there has been due process. The external auditing fees can be particularly difficult for some of the smaller student associations.

**Beaupre** asked who would be doing the auditing, the Vice-President Internal?

**Paquin** responded that the answer to that is no. On that note though, there is the opportunity to hire students to help with this. This doesn't dictate that you have to have UMSU perform the audit; it gives councils the choice, which can be beneficial for a lot of the smaller faculties.

**Beaupre** responded that in that model he sees a lot of opportunity for corruption. If a council decides to go to Mexico, and they know the person doing the audit, they can cover it up and no one will ever know.

**Arte** explained the role of an auditor. If there are minutes that note that a trip to Mexico has been approved by the council, then there's really nothing they can do. . The only responsibility that an auditor has is to make sure there was quorum at that meeting, and were there members at that meeting, was there a motion and was there an agreement to carry that motion? This has happened, unfortunately, in the past, but an auditor doesn't stop that from happening. Their role is to make sure that councils receiving funding have documented everything.

**Stewart** finds it quite concerning with the comments about adequate student consultation; this is something that no one seems to have heard of. He has spoken with other councils, and no one seems to know what this is. There are a lot of faculty councils that value the external audit. Were councils going to be consulted on this, or is there a two-tiered system here?

**Paquin** explained that the audit can give you a false sense of security. You think that the auditors are going to stop you from mismanaging your money, but that's not actually what they do. Currently, the UMSU accounting manager goes through everything before sending it to the auditor, and if things aren't in order he won't even send it to the auditor, so he is already acting as a safe-guard. The auditor then gives an official statement on what UMSUs accounting manager has already looked at and charges councils money.

**Dhalla** with her council, she values the external audit. There was an issue even this year with meeting minutes reflecting one thing and Council not agreeing with it from last year. Having that external person saying "this is what your minutes say" is important **Ramraj** as far as she knows for the Arts council, there is no external audit—UMSU's accounting manager does them.

**Arte** responded that there is.

**Dowd** noted that there is a University of Manitoba bylaw that everyone be audited by an external auditor—appointed through the Board of Governors. UMSU administers this process. Everyone who gets fees remitted to them through UMSU is required to do an audit every year. In order to get your fees the following year you have to have passed your audit.

**Lesperance (P)** just to clarify, there is a choice here. To negate perhaps some of the argument, but there is a choice.





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**Dowd** added that the University has also recognized that this is a huge cost for student associations. If we can do it internally, through our accounting department, it could save a lot of money for student associations. For faculties such as Commerce who do a lot of transactions, they will likely still be required to have an external audit because we cannot monitor all their transaction in their books, but for smaller faculty councils with minimal transactions, this is a good thing and a huge cost savings for those councils.

**Wilson (P)** with an external audit there is a certain quality. Why would a Commerce student take the time to do audits for UMSU, what are they getting out of it?

**Paquin** retracted the example he used about hiring students to assist with audits. That was an idea; it is not what is going to happen. Audits will be done by UMSU accounting staff.

**Stewart** wanted to ask his question again. Will there be student consultation on this matter?

**Ramraj** has been hearing a general sentiment about the importance if talking to students and getting their input, and then start talking about not trusting students. She is wondering where Council's sense of community is, and supporting students.

**Carvell** noted that last year the Arts council had a lot of money stolen from it. How do the auditors help get that back? Do the auditors catch that?

**Dowd** explained that technically they could have caught a level of it, but as it is not a forensic audit, they would not have gone into that much detail unless they really thought they had to.

**Rosenthal** noted in response to comments made earlier by Stewart, the RSAC president did know about this, and it was reported to their council. RSAC is in favour because it will save them quite a bit of money.

**Riesmeyer (P)** as a point of information, when people get speaking rights, is it for the topic at hand, not for whatever you are thinking about at the time? He asked the Chair if he could call people out of order when they are off topic.

- **Vice-President Internal – Paquin** provided the Finance report earlier in the meeting.

**Questions/Comments:** None

- **Vice-President External – Bruce** reported on the UMSU volunteer program. UMSU has been working on revamping our volunteer program, and has already started to recruit and set up training sessions for volunteers.

**Questions/Comments:**

**Diop** asked what that date for the training sessions are.

**Turchyn (P)** responded that he had the dates, and read out the dates of volunteer training. April 15, at 12 p.m., April 16, at 12 p.m., and 3 p.m., and April 17, at 12 p.m.



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- **Vice-President Advocacy – Black** has been working on transition documents for the VPA Portfolio. Also, she reminded everyone to sign up for CommunityLink. If you are not signed up on CommunityLink you won't be able to get Co-Curricular Record Recognition.

**Questions/Comments:** None

- **Vice-President Student Services – Cruz** reported that she was currently going through the student group office space applications that we received, and SGPAC will meet next week to decide.

**Questions/Comments:** None

## 6. Reports of Councillors

**Dhalla – Science:** reported that the Science grad social is on April 30. Dinner tickets are \$20, and social tickets are \$5, at the Fairmont.

**Beaupre – SAHPER:** SAHPER council had their PYG Event; it was quite successful, except for breaking two nets. All the proceeds were donated to Kid Sport.

**Licharson – St. Paul's College:** St. Paul's College is going ahead with their renovations in their cafeteria. Their elections have wrapped up and Licharson will be Senior Stick for the coming year.

## 7. Reports and Motions of Standing and Ad-Hoc Committees

- **Selections Committee – Arte** reported that the committee has not met.

**Questions/Comments:** None

- **Executive Committee – Arte** expressed that if anyone would like a list of sponsorships approved by the Committee to please e-mail her. Arte moved on to the motion from Executive Committee—the motion is coming back to Council without a recommendation from the Executive Committee. Arte added that she has received feedback from UMSU legal counsel, and the lawyer has asked the Executive not to circulate the document, and to share it with the directors of the organization only.

**Michaels** motioned for a five minute recess.

*Michaels/Lesperance (P)*

*Carried*

**Rach** recalled the meeting to order after the recess.



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**Arte** moved for Council to go into closed session.

**Arte/Dhalla**

### Questions/Comments:

**Michaels** asked if the motion is to keep certain people in the room during closed session.

**Arte** explained she meant to move into In Camera session. The reason being is the legal counsel asked to not have this opinion distributed to the public, and that it only be shared with directors of the organization. If there are questions they can be answered, and then come back from the In Camera session and have a broader debate on this.

**Arte** moved for Council to go into In Camera session.

**Arte/Black**

### Questions/Comments:

**Beaupre** noted he doesn't see any harm in letting the public be part of this discussion, unless we want to hide from this issue. It's not very fair to the people who have come out to see this debate.

**Arte** responded that that was the condition that was given by the legal counsel—it is not really her preference but it was the condition given.

**Rach** added for clarification sake that In Camera cannot have any motions passed because there are no minutes taken. Council would have to move out of In Camera to substantially deal with the motion.

**Paquin** asked if it was the intention to go In Camera for the entire discussion or just the discussion around the legal opinion.

**Arte** responded that it just to talk about the legal opinion.

**Morry** asked if there is a letter from the legal counsel that says not share the opinion with the public.

**Arte** responded that no, it was asked of them in an e-mail.

**Morry** asked for the e-mail to be read out please.

**Dowd** read out the e-mail from the legal counsel.

**Morry** commented that the e-mail says it is a suggestion.

**Dowd** added that the lawyer verbally advised that the opinion must not be shared with the public.

**Morry** reiterated that it is a suggestion, not a condition.

**Stewart** asked if this was an ultimatum from legal counsel or not. There seems to be discrepancy in what was said and what was read.

**Beaupre** noted that transparency is important to this organization. He does not believe that the legal opinion should be withheld from the public. Once you lose transparency people stop trusting you.



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**Morry** the legal counsel suggested it and the Executive made a decision. Why did the Executive make that decision?

**Rach** reminded everyone that the motion on the floor is whether or not we are going to go In Camera or not—that is the topic of the debate right now.

**Riesmeyer (P)** asked if we can motion to suspend minute taking and leave everyone in the room.

**Rach** noted that the issue with the sharing of the legal opinion is that there seems to be some confidentiality issues.

**Stewart** commented that the Executives take an Oath of Office but the Councillors and Proxy's do not, so there is nothing holding them to a different standard than the students—at-large.

**Rach** added that it is the responsibility of each Councillor, if we go into In Camera, to keep that information confidential.

**Paquin** the e-mail from the legal counsel said distributing the information; it didn't say not to talk about it. He sees that as a big difference.

**Arte** responded that the recommendation came verbally from the legal counsel because they wish to have the information treated sensitively. There is also a different standard set between students—at-large and the directors of an organization. At the end of the day it is the directors that are responsible for the actions of an organization, they are held legally responsible. The In Camera session would just be a discussion on the legal opinion, not on the motion.

**Stewart** the legal opinion is extremely important to the context of this motion, and it is expected that a number of people in this room who are here to listen to the discussion do so without any context. It's probably that the legal counsel doesn't want the opinion published in the Free Press, not that they don't want it shared with the students in the room.

**Morry** asked if it is possible to debate the issue first and then hear the legal opinion.

**Arte** responded that if that is what people would like to do, that can be done.

The vote:

***Motion to move to In Camera***

***Fails***

**Morry** moved to have the legal opinion read after the discussion on the motion.

Morry/Beaupre

The vote:

***Motion to the have the legal opinion read after the discussion***

***Carried***

**Riesmeyer (P)** moved to limit individual speaking time to 45 seconds per person.

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**Riesmeyer (P)/Dhalla**

### Questions/Comments:

**Riesmeyer (P)** when the sentence starts with “I agree with so and so,” it’s irrelevant to the debate. You need to get to the point you are going to make, and speak to the issue directly. If everyone gives a preamble we’ll be here until midnight.

**Morry** asked if as the proposer of the motion he will be allowed to provide an introduction to the motion.

**Rach** responded that that the motion is on the table from Executive Committee, and they will be given a five minute introduction.

**Morry** asked that as the original proposer of the motion, can he have time to speak on the motion.

**Rach** responded that the five minute introduction can go to Morry.

**Diop** asked that when there is a motion isn’t the discussion time already limited.

**Rach** responded that the entire debate time is limited to 30 minutes and prior to that there is a 15 minute question period. Speaking times are five minutes, and we are changing that to 45 seconds.

**Diop** responded that considering that there are already limits she does not see why we need to limit that more.

**Beaupre** if someone has an intelligent opinion to voice they should be allowed. He agrees we need to cut down on the “I agree with so and so.” We are also taking up valuable time talking about this.

**Introito (P)** for a motion as important as this, 45 seconds is not enough time for people to speak. He would recommend that perhaps two minutes is a reasonable amount of time to speak.

**Michaels** wanted to point out that the half an hour rule for debate period on a motion has not been followed at all this year.

**Stewart** would recommend enforcing the one go around of the speakers list. If you have something else to say after everyone else has spoken on the list, you can speak again.

**Paquin** commented that let’s not change something we have been doing all year. We have just spent ten minutes talking about how we are going to talk. Paquin added that everyone is conscious of people’s time, so let’s make an effort to be respectful of that.

The vote:

***Motion to limit speaking time***

***Fails***

**Morry** motivated the motion and thanked everyone for staying this long for the motion. This is extremely important to students who identify as Jewish or Zionist on campus. This debate is not about the Israeli-Arab conflict, it is not about what is going in the Middle East right now. It is about how a student group on Campus



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makes another group of students feel incredibly uncomfortable and unsafe during this week. What he intends to prove to you today is that this Council has a proud history of sticking to its policies. UMSU Policy 2009 states that UMSU does not condone behaviour that is likely to undermine the dignity or the self-respect of any of its members—behaviour that is likely to undermine the dignity or self-respect of any of its members. Furthermore, UMSU prohibits any form of discrimination or harassment and, therefore, UMSU is committed to an inclusive and respectful learning environment free from harassment on the basis of nationality or ethnic background. You cannot discriminate against someone because of their nationality or their ethnic background. According to the motion, the definition of a Zionist, he himself along with many other Jewish students on campus self-identify as Zionists. That is someone who believes in the state of Israel, and believes in the legitimacy of the state of Israel. Israeli Apartheid Week on its website—and he has seen—the website says the Israel is an irredeemably racist and apartheid state. That means that Morry, along with other Zionist students on this campus are themselves racists for supporting a racist state. By using such inflammatory language, and its self-identified actually as using provocative language. By using that provocative language they are putting Morry in a position where he is at risk. They are literally putting a target on his back. The minute they start telling students, and they have been telling students, that he as a Jew is a racist. People then think it's okay, and are encouraged to speak out against a racist. They are entitled to act out against racists, because that's what we do we do not suffer. The second he is called by an organized student group a racist, that puts a target on his back. As a result, according to UMSU Policy 2009, this undermines his dignity and self-esteem as an UMSU member, and it constitutes harassment and discrimination. Morry and Gluskin are not the only students on Campus who feel this way. Morry has list of 62 Jewish and Zionist students on this campus and the University of Winnipeg campus, who signed a petition saying "I feel that Israeli Apartheid Week has undermined my dignity or self-respect as a Jew or Zionist," which is someone who believes in the legitimacy of the state of Israel. Sixty-two students have said this. He asks does this council act for students and minority groups who say they feel threatened. Have we not acted in the past for women who have told us that they feel threatened, or other minority groups such as international students? Morry is standing before Council, as a Jew telling Council there is a target on his back that a student group has put there. Would people rather he wear a yellow star, would that make it easier to identify him as a Jew? There is a target on his back that a student group has put there and this Council does not stand for that. UMSU Policy 2009 explicitly states that this Council does not stand for that. Israeli Apartheid Week is a giant franchise that operates across North America and Europe, and the local chapter is just one of many Israeli Apartheid Week chapters. What happened at other Canadian campuses during Israeli Apartheid Week is a lot of violence and

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possible hate crimes. Morry read an article depicting what happened on the York University campus during this week, as well as another article describing posters that were up on the University of Manitoba campus during Israeli Apartheid Week. If anyone else was facing this kind of situation because of their ethnicity, they would act as he is acting now. All he asks is that Council support this motion.

## **Motion #3 – Derecognizing & Banning SAIA**

Whereas UMSU Policy 2009 states that "UMSU does not condone behaviour that is likely to undermine the dignity [or] self-esteem ... of any of its members"; and

Whereas the Policy further states that: 1.) UMSU "prohibits any form of discrimination or harassment whether it occurs on UMSU property or in conjunction with UMSU-related activities," and 2.) "Therefore, UMSU is committed to an inclusive and respectful work and learning environment free from discrimination or harassment as prohibited in the Manitoba Human Rights Code (the "Code") and

Whereas section 9(2) of the Code defines discrimination as "a differential treatment of an individual on the basis of the individual's actual or presumed membership in or association with some class or group of persons, rather than on the basis of personal merit", such applicable characteristics including: 1.) Nationality or national origin; 2.) Ethnic background or origin; and

Whereas the Code defines harassment as "a course of abusive and unwelcome conduct or comment undertaken or made on the basis of any characteristic referred to in subsection 9(2)." and

Whereas The IAW official website describes the name "Israeli Apartheid" as being "extremely provocative," and Zionism as a "racist" doctrine, which has inexorably led to incidents of violence, and harassment in universities across Canada; and

Whereas most Jewish and Israeli members of UMSU are Zionists, which according to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary are supporters of Zionism, an international movement for the support of Israel; and

Whereas Zionists are a "group of persons" with national characteristics, Israel being a nation-state, in which such Zionist UMSU members have a presumed membership; and





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Whereas such UMSU members are discriminated against as a result of such national characteristics, and are subject to harassment, being a course of abusive and unwelcome conduct or comment undertaken or made on the basis of such national characteristics; and

Whereas such treatment of UMSU members is likely to undermine the dignity [and] self esteem of [such] members; and

Whereas such members of UMSU, being Zionists, experience fear for their safety during "Israeli Apartheid Week"; and

Whereas the UMSU policies state that complaints of this nature are to be taken to the Executive Committee; and

Whereas because a number of Executive Committee members have a history of participation as organizers and strong supporters of IAW, this motion should be dealt with directly by UMSU council without consideration by Executive Committee; therefore

Be it resolved that UMSU council remove Students Against Israeli Apartheid's student group status, and ban it from operating in UMSU spaces.

### Questions/Comments:

**Wilson (P)** asked in regard to the posters that were up on Campus during Israeli Apartheid Week, were they stamped by Israeli Apartheid Week, or did they happen to be up at the same time? Is the association with that group clear?

**Morry** he is not aware if they were stamped with the Israeli Apartheid logo. What's relevant here is that it occurred during Israeli Apartheid Week. Is it coincidence that more anti-Semitic events happen in the first week of March, or is it because the group is making it okay to act out against Jewish Students by labelling them as racists? The group is legitimizing them.

**Beaupre** believes that Morry has presented Council with a very simple and straightforward argument. We should feel thankful that someone had the courage to stand and say something, because this is something that has been an issue for people for a very long time. He sees it as quite simple, as per the Human Rights Code what has been happening is harassment. It's simple because it is a student coming forward and telling Council that they feel threatened. He doesn't believe that this student group should exist in the first place; we shouldn't have to have this discussion. We have to ask ourselves a few important questions at this point. Number one being, would we approve the student group Students in Support of Israeli Apartheid, would we endorse a student group that undermines the dignity and self-respect of women or Christian groups? He thinks we should do this no differently than any other issue where someone has come





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forward that has been discriminated against or harassed. Through the UMSU policy it has been proven that this student group is in violation. There is also the perception of it, and the perception of this group is that it is racist towards Jewish, Zionist, and Israeli students on campus. We need to be cognizant of that, and if we do not pass this motion, do we really want this organization to be seen and anti-Semitic? He has confidence that the student body will support a student who has come forward with these drastic measures.

**Introito (P)** hate and racism has no place on Campus or anywhere in the world. At the same time, however, UMSU council has a responsibility to UMSU groups, by protecting their rights if they are following UMSU bylaws. What we need to be presented with is this group violating any UMSU bylaws, and what we need to take into account is that this group is not just some random group on Campus—it is an international movement. They are not hateful of the Jewish people—it is critical of Israeli government politics, and that is what we need to recognize as a group today. For that reason, unless it is proven today that the group has violated any UMSU bylaws, other than that this shouldn't really go through. As far as he has seen, is that this group has not spread any hate during this week. What it is trying to do is provide critique to Israeli government policy. For that reason, he believes Council needs to reconsider this motion.

**Michaels** asked if the previous speaker could please introduce himself and any affiliation with the group.

**Introito (P)** responded that he is the Proxy for Jared Introito, U1 UMSU Representative, and he is not associated with the student group.

**Wilson (P)** commented that if this discussion were about any other minority group, be it women, Aborigines or anyone else being made to feel the way the Jewish, Zionist and Israeli students are being made to feel, we wouldn't be having this discussion, it would be automatic. He thinks that case has been presented quite well, and with regards to Israeli Apartheid Week being an international organization, he doesn't think that that protects it from making people feel oppressed or targeted.

**Cruz** wanted to explain how student groups receive recognition from UMSU. When student groups apply for recognition, they have to hand in three things—a membership list of at least ten members, two thirds of which must be UMSU members. They also hand in a student group constitution detailing how the group will operate, and they also have to submit an online application form that provides basic information about the group for the website. The applications are carefully reviewed, and they look to see if they groups have broken any UMSU policies or bylaws, or University policies. The groups are approved as either open or closed. Open groups do not restrict their membership in any way. Closed group restrict their membership in one form or another. Students Against Israeli Apartheid is an open group and do not break any current SGPAC policies, so there were no grounds to deny the group recognition. Cruz also noted that when the group had their event at The Hub, there is no way to stop that because in the lease agreement with the University, The Hub is a community pub.

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Therefore, even if they weren't a student group with UMSU they would still be able to book that space to hold an event. Also, just because UMSU approves groups with strong political views, this does not mean that these are the views of UMSU. There are over 120 student groups. As an example, there are groups that make other students feel uncomfortable, such as the Falun Dafa group and Students for a Culture of Life.

**Rosenthal** personally she is not in favour of removing status from student groups because of conflicting beliefs. However, as a Jewish student and as Zionist she feels uncomfortable during that week. If this was an L.G.B.T.T student or a female student, we would jump on it.

**McLaughlin** clarified that she is not associated with the Students Against Israeli Apartheid student group. Zionism is not essential to the Jewish tradition—there are many Jews that do not associate with Zionism because of the current conflict with the state of Israel.

**Loewen** there are other groups on Campus that have controversial beliefs. Hate speech should not be allowed, but there is not enough proof of hate speech.

**Michaels** does not believe it is appropriate to cite the conflict between Falun Dafa and other Chinese student groups. It is not associated with identity, just religion.

**Gluskin** there are many examples of groups with conflicting beliefs. As a Jew, as an Israeli, and as woman, she is saying that she feels unsafe walking in University Centre during Israeli Apartheid Week. A few years ago during this week she was given a flyer with the state of Israel crossed out, and told that she was taking the place of a Palestinian female student. In regards to hate speech, you may not think it is, but she has copies of different Israeli Apartheid Week posters. There is a picture on one with Israel and the Nazi logo. This is comparing Jewish, Israeli and Zionist students to Nazis. She passed the copies of the posters around.

**Samec** asked if these posters were from their student group or if they were just general posters.

**Gluskin** responded that they are Israeli Apartheid Week Posters, and asked if the group was a franchise or not.

**Samec** responded that no, they are not part of a franchise. They are an independent student organization.

**Ramraj** responded that it upsets her to hear of any discrimination or harassment of people who are not part of SAIA, and she is not okay with that. In actuality, it wants to transform and dispel that kind of thinking, which leads her to criticize state policy, whether it is Israel, whether it's Canada, or whether it's South Africa. She does not discriminate within the state that she criticizes. Ramraj commented she is also uncomfortable that Michaels mentioned earlier the Falun Dafa student group is not a good comparison, as it is homogenous group of people and it is not a homogenous group of people.

**Michaels** called a point of order, as for Ramraj's comments, as it was not what he meant.

**Rach** asked if Michaels would like to clarify his comments.

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**Michaels** meant that the Falun Dafa student group is a different issue. The Chinese Students and Scholars Association is made up of Chinese students on Campus, and Falun Dafa is made up of people who identify as Falun Dafa on Campus. Whereas this situation is one group who identify as Jewish students on Campus and another group is saying that a country or state is committing apartheid on a group of people. The SAIA members do not identify together as a culture or as a religion—they identify as a group of people. The group is just themselves under SAIA. It's not really the same thing.

**Ramraj** they identify together as a group of people who share the same political belief. What she is afraid of is that this is being framed as SAIA being against Jewish people, because it is not. Not all Jewish people are Zionist or support a Jewish state, as someone said earlier. Why do people feel it's necessary to form this as a religious debate, when this is a discussion about a state policy? There was support for those who wanted to talk about South Africa as an Apartheid state, and that continues today for those who want to talk about Israel as an Apartheid state. At every SAIA event there is someone from the Human Rights office there because of this tone, and SAIA welcomes them to be there because they do not want to be on trial for their beliefs. President Barnard, as well, has come out and said that he supports free speech and that is why, even if UMSU votes to ban the student group, because of the decision of President Barnard the group will still be able to operate. The official constitution of the group does not condone racism, or anti-Semitism. Councillors need to ask themselves if they think it is okay to take away someone's ability to have a political belief based on a state policy that is apartheid. If people are not allowed to discuss state policies, then you are essentially narrowing the ability to discuss things like *Idle No More*, and others.

**Rach** noted that debate time has expired.

**Morry** motioned to extend debate time for another 20 minutes.

**Morry/Beaupre**

**Carried**

**Beaupre** thinks that some people may be confused as to the debate at hand here and would like to clarify. Some people are saying they don't see how this is an act of discrimination, the motion clearly goes through how it is a discrimination. People think you have freedom of speech, but you don't unless that opinion is congruent with the policy. We've all heard the Policy and the Human Rights Code, and there is example after example of them being violated. There is discussion about all the conflicting religious views of groups on Campus, and it's not saying that that is right either. If we let this conflict blow up and get bigger, we have students who are voicing their opinions now, and feel quite strongly about it, and we are able to stop it now. Let's stop this now before it blows up in the media. Gluskin experienced racism and harassment, and it is being argued that that is not what the group is about but it is how the group is perceived. He does not believe that UMSU should support religious or deeply rooted governmental stances, because it does blow up like this people have very strong opinions.



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**Lesperance (P)** said we should try to avoid circular arguments. The minutes have noted the examples of acts of discrimination as well. Let's focus on how these students feel and 62 people that signed the petition, and the actual wording of the motion. Otherwise, we could debate here other examples, and it's going to extend the conversation. He would like to focus on the motion.

**Shore** introduced herself. She is also a Jewish Zionist student. People are asking for evidence, and Cruz discussed the SGPAC Policies. You can go to the Israeli Apartheid Winnipeg website and click on the posters and you will see a Star of David on one of the posters. To her that says anti-Semitism; this is so hurtful and heart breaking when she sees that poster. She is a past UMSU executive and she doesn't even feel like she can walk into the office knowing that there are a couple people on the current Executive that support IAW.

**Lesperance (P)** called a point of order, to keep the conversation on topic

**Beaupre** said not to jump all over Shore because that was a very heartfelt personal comment to make.

**Rach** noted that the comments are well taken, and everyone should keep their comments on topic, but let's not go so far as to say what acceptable debate is or not.

**Dhalla** commented that the student group may not be breaking any policies or bylaws but if a group is making other students feel uncomfortable in the learning environment, that isn't fair. They are here to learn and gain knowledge and it's not fair for them to feel unsafe at school.

**Stewart** commented that the open student group status is a big concern. SGPAC has very string policies relating to strong political beliefs. People in this room are fearful of the group and as they qualify for \$1000 of UMSU funding, that fact is concerning. Even if UMSU council doesn't want to ban the group, to have them move to the closed group status, which UMSU has the discretion to do at any time. UMSU approved the SGPAC policies; it had to get approved through the Council. They have given SGPAC the authority to be the first line of defence for student groups, with the option that it can always be brought to Council. With that in mind, UMSU should consider holding itself to the same standards, especially in the case of conflict of interest when dealing with student groups. Stewart quoted the SGPAC policies in regards to conflict of interest. To summarize, if a member of student group participates in the vote and has not declared their affiliation with a group, the motion for approval can be rescinded. The rescinding clause does not come into play often, but it means that UMSU has taken a strong stance on keeping voting rights and membership separate. That should be taken into consideration, especially when there are members around this table that speak for the student group. In regards to Dr. Barnard endorsing freedom of speech, it is not the University giving legitimacy to these groups, it is UMSU. Keep in mind that you are voting on whether a student group should exist that makes another group of students feel unsafe and uncomfortable.



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**Fubara-Manuel** wanted to ask a question of both groups of students involved in the issue. Is there a way to come up with compromise here; have an agreement to not harass either side, or cross anyone's boundaries?

**Morry** thinks that that is fantastic suggestion and in fact at the last meeting he proposed that if this motion was passed he would be willing to work on that. He is for Palestinian rights, and he believes that the situation in the Middle East needs to be critiqued and needs to be discussed. What he is against is Zionism being called a racist doctrine. If this motion passes tonight he would start an Arab–Jewish dialogue, like what his father runs.

**Moffat** had comments in regards to earlier comments about the students with SAIA not being connected to the situation. As Canadians, the Canadian government is in full support of Israel, and they accept that. This is part of the reason that the power relationships in the Middle East are unbalanced. If taxpaying citizens cannot critique where their tax dollars are going then what can they do? If people can't have opinions and can't express those opinions, that is horrible. Also the comment that was made about the Star of David that was on material. The Star of David is the symbol of the Israeli state, so the group is critiquing the Israeli state.

**Arte** made reference to the legal opinion to Council, and recommended that Council practice due diligence and listen to what our legal counsel has pointed out. In particular, she highlighted the following points: it is advised that there is not sufficient basis for revoking the student group status for SAIA. Doing so could actually discriminate against SAIA on the basis of their political beliefs. It is their understanding that SAIA does not break any University policies or laws, nor does it violate the Human Rights Code, and conducts itself in an appropriate manner. UMSU legal counsel has spoken with the legal counsel for the University of Manitoba, and they have been instructed by the University President to allow the SAIA group to operate on campus. There is nothing in the groups' constitution that violates any UMSU or University policies. It has been advised that in order for the motion to succeed the proponents of the motion must establish that the student group violates an UMSU policy, rule or law, or is so blatantly discriminatory that it warrants the student group status being revoked. Based on the motion and the information provided to the legal counsel, the proponents of the motion have established that SAIA is a group that promotes one side of debatable political issue. Ultimately it is up to Council to decide, but by revoking the student group status solely on the basis of their political beliefs could open UMSU up to a claim for SAIA that UMSU Council decision constitutes discrimination. It is recommended that UMSU use an independent third party at the University to attempt to investigate the allegations being brought by the students to see if legitimate concerns exist in regards to SAIA's conduct.

**Morry** motioned to extend the debate.



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*Morry/Beaupre*

*Carried*

**Stewart** asked if the legal counsel contacted the initiators of the motion.

**Wilson (P)** asked what evidence was sent to the legal counsel.

**Arte** responded that there was no evidence—they sent the motion to legal counsel.

**Samec** does feel a great deal of sympathy for the incidences of harassment that were mentioned from a few years back. He doesn't believe the student group can retroactively do anything about the incident. They do not wish to have any of their membership to behave that way. He respects the fact that difference in opinions can make it hard to come to the student group and ask to police their members. There is a non-partisan institution, the Human Rights department, where you can file a complaint. To his knowledge, for the entire time that IAW has been operating on this campus, not one of the complaints has been substantiated. He believes that this is something Council should consider. Secondly, in regards to the comments about feeling unsafe in the learning environment, a learning environment and an academic environment should be a place of protection for critical thinking. For the discussion of how this could escalate, things like this, one-sided attempts to really censor a political perspective are far more likely to lead to escalation than open debate. There have been people who have come to the events openly spoken against the speakers at the event and they leave without harm. There have people who have attended the events and threatened the organizers, and they also left without harm. Censorship is more likely the way that will escalate this argument.

**Black** read the response she received from the Human Rights Advisory Office at the University; it is very brief, and they did not provide any comments, as it is UMSU business. If there are individuals that have concerns about violations of the Respectful Learning Environment Policy to please contact the office. She stressed that if people are feeling harassed on Campus to please contact the Human Rights and Advisory Office.

**Riesmeyer (P)** noted that in light of the legal opinion, UMSU needs to have something in the SGPAC policies in terms of dealing with something like this. It seems like a fairly glaring oversight. We are bound by what it says in the motion and UMSU Policy 2009—it's written there explicitly. There is also nothing saying that it's the cause that is getting banned or anything. They could come back and reconstitute and come back in a different manifestation, or operate in a different manner as has been mentioned, a more collaborative manner. With all this debate he does not think that a lot of opinions have been changed. To see if there is a point in continuing this debate can we do a straw poll to see if people have made up their minds on how they are going to vote.

**Rach** responded that he is going to say no to that because it is getting too far away from regulation, and he doesn't want people to feel like what they say here might have an effect on the actual vote.





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**Turchyn (P)** motioned to have a secret ballot vote for the motion.

**Turchyn (P)/Lesperance (P)**

*Carried*

**Albaz** when talking about freedom of speech, it is an issue when you are dealing with a week that specifically avoids one side of the story. By getting rid of a group that promotes only one side of the story, why not have a panel that discusses both sides of the issues. Israeli Apartheid Week, by giving just one side of the story, in itself is not freedom of speech. Getting rid of IAW and setting up something like Middle East Week would be far more beneficial and educational.

**Introito (P)** believes that there is honestly a difference between feeling unsafe and feeling uncomfortable. There haven't been any incidences of violence on the U of M campus because of this student group. A common theme that is reoccurring in this debate is that there is no one group that is going to satisfy every member of UMSU. We need to consider what message we are giving students if we do pass this motion.

**Morry** noted in regards to the legal opinion, that is just what it is. A lawyer is not a judge, and a lawyer only offers a qualified opinion. As the lawyer states in the letter, the opinion was only based on the information given to him, and the information given to him as evidence by the Executive was only his motion, and the motion was not the evidence of the problem—it was the solution. The evidence is what he has been saying here today, which is the way the Jewish and Zionist students on the Campus are intimidated, and a climate of fear is created on this campus. That violates Policy 2009, you don't have to agree with Policy 2009, but the fact is it has been violated.

Furthermore, Morry would like to point out that in his opinion it was correctly pointed out that "In order for the motion to succeed, and in the absence of any other guidelines or rules, the proponents need to establish that SAIA conduct is in violation of some law or policy or rule that justifies revocation of their student group status, or that it is so offensive to UMSU members that revocation would be justified." For example, it would need to be established that SAIA conducted themselves in a manner that violates the policies of UMSU. What we have debated here for the last hour is that it violates Policy 2009. Come up with whatever opinion you want about Policy 2009, but the fact is that he has 62 names of people who all state that they feel that Policy 2009 has been violated. How people feel about Jews and whether or not they are acting ridiculously, it's irrelevant. They have come up here and said that this group, this week, makes them feel threatened. Have the decency to support them when they say it.

**Gluskin** commented that she has a lot of experience organizing events, and doing charity work. She is very much for starting a group that combines both sides. She knows there is an issue, and is more than willing to discuss it. She has real life experience on how to start these groups, how to raise funds, and how to get community involvement. They are saying they feel uncomfortable and unsafe, please respect that.



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**Ramraj** feels that yes, a discussion should happen. But she does not believe that censoring the group will make that happen. When you censor a group how are you supposed to have a discussion when the premise of that discussion is based on them being censored? That won't be a fair discussion when that happens. Voting to not ban SAIA is not violating Policy 2009, as there has been no evidence that that has happened. They do not support anti-Semitism, and they do not condone it. Also, to not allow them to use the word apartheid in a discussion is limiting.

**Lesperance (P)** called to question

*Lesperance (P)/Kelly*

*Carried*

**Stewart**, under the right of participation, moved to have the SGPAC policies be used as the parameters for this vote.

**Rach** ruled the motion out of order, because Council is not governed by SGPAC policies. There is already a conflict of interest policy for UMSU council.

**Michaels** challenged the Chair's decision, to rule the motion out of order.

**Michaels/Wilson (P)**

## Questions/Comments:

**Wilson (P)** when a member of a student group is involved they are swayed more to vote in their personal interests, as opposed in the best interests of the council body they are elected to. With the potential of conflict of interest, he believes it is fair.

**Stewart** if UMSU council is going to deal with something that is normally dealt with by the SGPAC committee they should consider the policies that SGPAC is governed by for conflict of interest issues.

**Samec** noted that this is about the third time that someone has tried to remove the ability for them to represent themselves. The Arts council has already decided to let them represent themselves.

**Stewart** responded that the motion that went through Arts was for whether or not the Council was going to take a stance in the issue. Councillors are here to represent the organization on the card in front of them.

**Beaupre** asked a point of clarification, who would actually be removed from the vote?

**Rach** anyone on the membership list of the student group. He does not know who is a member where this conflict would arise.

**Stewart** commented that UMSU has a membership list of student groups.

**Paquin** noted his understanding is that if a member of the basketball group, for example, was on SGPAC he wouldn't participate in the vote. So that has nothing to do with UMSU council.





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**Beaupre** responded that that is the point of the motion, to make that the rule for this motion so that anyone who is a part of SAIA would have to remove themselves from the vote.

**Introito (P)** called to question.

The Chair called for the vote:

*Motion to have SGPAC policies applied to the vote*

*Fails*

Note: SAHPER Representative abstained from the vote.

**Rosenthal** called to question in the motion to Derecognizing and Banning SAIA.

*Motion to call to question*

*Carried*

**Rach** reminded everyone that it will be a secret ballot vote.

The Chair called for the vote:

**Rach** read out the results, 19 votes in favour of passing the motion, and 16 votes against.

*Motion #3*

*Carried*

- **Policy and Bylaws Committee – Paquin** provided notice of motion for the Racilaized Representative on UMSU council. As well, there are three other motions for the Committee.

### **Motion #4 – Updating the Campaign Materials Approval Process**

WHEREAS the Bylaws of UMSU inhibit online campaigning in UMSU Elections & Referenda; and,

WHEREAS making our elections & referenda more accessible could have positive benefits for membership involvement in our elections & referenda; and,  
WHEREAS UMSU Council adopted a motion to have Policy & Bylaws review and recommend amendments as appropriate; and,

WHEREAS the Policy and Bylaws Committee has proposed Bylaw Amendment Package #6 (Updating the Campaign Materials Approval Process); therefore,



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BE IT RESOLVED THAT UMSU Council amend the Bylaws of UMSU according to the 2012-2013 Bylaw Amendment Package #6 (Updating the Campaign Materials Approval Process) attached, to take effect immediately.

**Questions/Comments:** None

The Chair called for the vote:

***Motion #4***

***Carried***

### **Motion #5 – Amending Policy #3001**

WHEREAS Policy and Bylaws Committee has reviewed and approved amendments to the UMSU Tuition Fee policy (Policy #3001 - Tuition) to create an up-to-date policy on accessibility that provides direction on modern developments (such as Bill 2 and the explosion of differential fees); therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Policy #3001 be adopted as attached.

**Questions/Comments:**

**Stewart** noted the last time this was discussed there was concern around lobbying to move away from the tax credit and have more grants. We're taking away from the systems that do work.

**Riesmeyer (P)** noted that Engineering is against this motion, especially, the UMSU opposition to the differential tuition fees. They accept the fact that it takes more to educate them than a lot of other programs.

The Chair called for the vote:

***Motion #5***

***Carried***

**Note:** Both Engineering representatives are opposed to the motion.

### **Motion #6 – Amending Policy #3003**

WHEREAS the Environmental Sustainability Committee has amended Policy #3003 - Environmental to reflect a holistic approach to Sustainability; and

WHEREAS Policy and Bylaws Committee has reviewed and approved the changes recommended by the Environmental Sustainability Committee; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Policy #3003 be adopted as attached.



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### Questions/Comments:

**Riesmeyer (P)** Engineering supports sustainability.

The Chair called for the vote:

### *Motion #6*

*Carried*

**Lesperance (P)** motioned to table the rest of the Agenda for the next Council meeting.

*Lesperance (P)/Igweagu*

*Fails*

- **Health and Dental Plan Committee – Paquin** reported that the Committee did meet. The Committee is looking into additions to the plan for students

### Questions/Comments:

**Beaupre** asked if orthodontics is included in the upgrades that are being looked at.

**Paquin** responded that it can be talked about later.

- **Campaigns and Government Relations Committee – Bruce** reported that the Committee has met and is discussing the motions that were tabled back to the Committee from the last meeting in March.

### Questions/Comments: None

- **Environmental Sustainability Committee – Black** noted that the report is in her Executive Report.

### Questions/Comments: None

- **SGPAC – Cruz** noted that her SGPAC report is also in her Executive Report.

### Questions/Comments: None

8. **Report from the University of Manitoba Senate – Black** noted that there is a report from Senate included in her Executive report.

### Questions/Comments: None

9. **Report from the University of Manitoba Board of Governors – Arte** reported that the Board of Governors has not met.



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**Questions/Comments:** None

**10. Report of the Canadian Federation of Students-Manitoba – Cruz** reported that the CFS provincial AGM will be April 27 and 28.

**Questions/Comments:**

**Lesperance (P)** asked what time on Monday April 15<sup>th</sup> the applications are due.

**Cruz** responded they are due at the provincial office by 4:30 p.m.

**11. Motions – None**

**12. Announcements/Question Period/Other Business –**

**Arte** commented that a few Council meetings ago she referenced a report on the Universal Bus Pass, and she noted it was over a decade old. It is actually from 2005, so about six years old. She wanted to make that correction. Also, UMSU Awards have a deadline of April 19, 2013, so everyone should apply.

**13. Important Dates to Note:**

- Next UMSU Council Meeting – April 25, 2013, at 6 p.m, UMSU Council Chambers

**14. Adjournment:** Rosenthal/Gluskin

**Carried**

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**Brett Rach**, Chair

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**Bilan Arte**, President

