

FINAL EXECUTIVE REPORTS AND FAREWELLS

PRESIDENT – KIRATVEER HAYER

I came into student governance to provide tangible, relevant and responsive service to the students. Throughout my term, I have engaged in many projects that seek to provide students with a more enriching, productive, and stress-free university experience. In this report, I will go through the major projects and advocacy efforts that I have engaged in to give students an update on what has been accomplished over the course of my term. Progress on many projects has been slow or halted due to the pandemic.

Alumni Association Council:

This year, I have worked closely with the Alumni Association Council. I was the first UWSA executive to sit on an Alumni Association Council sub-committee. I obtained the position of co-chair of the mentorship sub-committee along with the UWSA Graduate Students Director. I have been working to create an Alumni Mentorship Program with this subcommittee. This program will match current students with Alumni mentors. Students will benefit from this program by getting more opportunities for internships, job shadowing, building references and obtaining general knowledge about careers that interest them. The Alumni Mentorship Program is still a work in progress. I will continue working on this over the summer and this program will be ready later this year. Another project that I have engaged in with the Alumni Association Council is hosting a speaker series. A list of potential alumni speakers has been compiled and we will be working to finalize it and implement the speaker series later this year. The Alumni Association council has also shown the desire to partner with the UWSA to host events. Unfortunately, this was not able to happen in the past year due to the pandemic, but we are currently working on planning a lawn bowling tournament for September.

Volunteer Program with Co-Curricular Credit:

The Idea for this program is to have a centralized campus volunteering program. Participating in this program will be rewarded with a co-curricular credit that shows up on students' transcripts. I approached Administration with this idea in January. They were very receptive and were willing to work with me to create this. We have not started working on creating this program just yet due to other priorities. Work on this program will commence in the coming months and be ready later this year.

Promoting Open-Source Educational Resources:

The UWSA executive worked with Breanne Selman from the library to promote the use of open-source educational resources. Open-source educational resources (OERs) are free to access textbooks. Promoting the use of OERs will contribute to making the cost of education more affordable to students. We are currently administering a survey to faculty to get a

baseline of OER use. After this survey is completed, we will be working with the registrar and UWinnipeg Library to figure out a system of indicating sessions with zero textbook costs for the 22/23 school calendar. This initiative will need years of work to continuously further the use of open-source educational resources by UWinnipeg Faculty.

ACEs (All Clubs Executives) Board:

I have created a new structure within the UWSA called the All Clubs Executives Board. This is a group that is open to all student group executives. The purpose of this group is to create a channel of communication and collaboration between various student groups and the UWSA. The first few ACES board meetings occurred in fall term. These initial meetings were successful and had high participation. In these first few meetings, many problems facing student groups and the university more broadly were raised. Some of the problems that student group executives brought to my attention included misleading wording and inefficiencies in the UWSA student group application, creating a student group guide to better orient student groups, loud noises coming from the heater in fourth floor of Manitoba Hall, the desire for Student Group Events to be displayed on the UWSA calendar and inadequate involvement of student groups in UWSA event planning process, among other issues. I was able to successfully fix all of the issues that were raised, and the ACES board proved successful in bringing student concerns to the UWSA executive's attention. Unfortunately, participation dropped drastically after the switch to online learning in the winter term. I have decided to suspend this initiative until classes are back in person due to this low participation. After the return to in person learning, I plan to have in person ACES board meetings and events in order to increase participation.

Introducing Cricket to UWinnipeg:

I have been working to introduce the sport of Cricket to the University of Winnipeg. A meeting took place in December between the Manitoba Cricket association, the UWSA and UWinnipeg administration to discuss the possibility of introducing Cricket to the University of Winnipeg. The outcome of this meeting was positive and initial plans are underway to introduce this sport to our university. A Cricket student group has been created and currently we are waiting for the Manitoba Cricket Association to determine what equipment will be needed and associated costs. After this is determined, we will work with both the Manitoba Cricket Association and UWinnipeg Administration to determine funding and buy the necessary equipment.

MAPSS Membership:

This year, I brought forward a proposal for the UWSA to become a member of the Manitoba Alliance of Post-Secondary Students, otherwise known as MAPSS. This is a provincial advocacy organization that amplifies +61,000 student voices to government. This proposal was brought to the UWSA board of directors and was passed successfully, allowing the UWSA to become full member of MAPSS. I have been working closely with this group to engage in provincial advocacy efforts. Some provincial advocacy priorities of MAPSS include international student healthcare, ACCESS programs and Indigenous student support, Labour Relations, Government Intervention, Tuition increases and institutional defunding. A concrete proposal is being formulated to switch international student health coverage from the private provider Blue

Cross to directly through Manitoba Health. Though the current provincial government has not been receptive to free international student healthcare, they have been more receptive to the idea of this proposal. This proposal has the potential to save international students roughly \$400 yearly in health coverage fees. We will be working in the coming months to draft this proposal and bring it forward to government.

Bill-33:

Initial meetings took place between the UWSA and the Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Immigration in the fall semester. Consultations were planned but later cancelled due to a cabinet shuffle. Consultations are scheduled to proceed on March 9. The UWSA executive will be advocating diligently along with CFS-MB and MAPSS to protect student interests throughout the consultation process.

Improving Tutoring Services:

The UWSA executive investigated buying an external subscription tutoring service over summer. After multiple meetings with the external provider and consulting with other student unions in the province, we learned that this service would not be as much of a benefit as initially thought. We then refocused our efforts on improving the internal tutoring service provided by the UWinnipeg Tutoring Centre. One way we sought to improve tutoring services was to increase tutor recruitment efforts. We proposed to administration that all students with a GPA above 3.0 should be sent a tutoring recruitment email and that the tutoring center should engage in tabling efforts. We also proposed that tutoring services provided by student groups and service centers external to the UWinnipeg Tutoring Center be compiled and organized into a document. After this information has been compiled, the UWinnipeg Tutoring Center will be able to redirect students to more specific tutoring services upon request.

Advocating on Behalf of UWinnipeg PACE Students:

Throughout the course of my term, I was contacted repeatedly by PACE students about various issues regarding the PACE program. Though many of these issues have yet to be resolved, I have advocated extensively throughout my term on behalf of PACE students in the attempt to resolve their many issues. The most pressing issue was the fact that international students applying to PACE must pay tuition fees in advance before they are allocated a seat in their respective programs. Some students take out loans to pay the tuition in advance, only to find out later that they were not accepted into the program. I have been trying very hard to correct this issue on behalf of PACE student. Another issue was that PACE was steadfast in their decision of returning to in-person learning for the winter term. I advocated successfully in December for this program to be offered in remote learning format due to the threat of the Omicron COVID-19 variant. I have also been advocating on behalf of PACE students for more online course options in PACE programs.

UWSA Directors Lounge:

I led the initiative to convert the UWSA staff lunchroom into a lounge for UWSA Directors. This was another project that was paused due to the pandemic as the remote working environment

means that UWSA spaces remained closed, and no directors were on campus to use this space. My hope is that creating more perks for UWSA Directors to enjoy will help increase participation in the UWSA. Currently, this lounge contains a fridge, sofas, tables, and kitchen area with appliances. My plan is to first conduct consultations with the UWSA board of directors to determine their vision for the space and then renovate it according to their needs.

Flex Parking Pass:

We continued the work of the 2020-2021 executive team in implementing a flex parking pass. This pass allows students to buy parking for only Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays or for Tuesdays and Thursdays at a reduced cost. This will allow students to buy parking passes for a cheaper price and for the specific days that they will need to be on campus.

Campus Safety:

Reports were brought to us by the Student Living Director that students in the Balmoral Student Houses felt unsafe. We successfully advocated to administration to install more cameras at these residences to increase safety.

Safe Study Spaces with Key Card Access:

We have advocated to the University of Winnipeg Administration to allow students to use classrooms as safe study spaces. The idea is that students should be able to book and access classrooms with a key card so that the door locks behind them, keeping them safe. The administration agreed to our request and this program was supposed to commence in winter term. Unfortunately, the switch to remote learning in the winter term postponed this project. This project will be implemented once the university returns to in person learning.

Course Syllabi Improvements:

The UWSA executive successfully advocated for a section on mental health to be added to course syllabi. We have also advocated successfully for course syllabi to have a standard location in the nexus course contents sidebar, so that the course syllabus is easier to find for students.

Owl Camera:

I made a proposal to the UWSA to buy an owl camera which allows for hybrid in person and online zoom meetings.