

#WEAREFUTUREUMSU



Future
UMSU

Future UMSU Policy Guide

*Vote for the Future. **Vote Future UMSU.***



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Table of Contents

- 3.** Introductions
- 4.** Meet your Future President
- 5.** Meet your Future VP Advocacy
- 6.** Meet your Future VP External
- 7.** Meet your Future VP Finance & Operations.
- 8.** Meet your Future VP Student Services



Introduction

Almost 100 years ago, a group of students founded the University of Manitoba Students' Union in order to unite students to a common cause and represent student interests.

UMSU has been evolving since it was originally founded and there is still lots of work to be done.

Future UMSU wants to ensure that the Students' Union remains relevant and is continuously improving the experience of students at the University of Manitoba. Future goals are to collaboratively work with one another to strengthen on-the-ground support for students: putting out interactive service technology and support information delivery on campus, inclusion of healthier options at UMSU businesses like GPA's, and making alternate payment easier.

It is increasingly important for Future UMSU to be seen as a tool for the empowerment of our members with a greater lead focus on financial support and assistance to student faculty associations and clubs.

At the provincial level, Future UMSU will ensure that student voices are heard when it comes to accessible education and greater support for Mental Health.

Future UMSU's policies are realistic, pragmatic and ideas that the student community can get behind. The Future UMSU community should be a place students feel they can be supported, develop and make change.

Future UMSU looks forward to the next century of responsible student leadership, and to ringing it in with a centennial celebration that students can get behind.

Future UMSU Values

Responsibility
Respect
Transparency
Engagement



Jehan Moorthy

Your Future

President

For Jehan, the University of Manitoba is the greatest campus in the world and he wants to see student life get even better. Jehan has spent the last four years working towards a double major in Political Studies and Classical Studies with a minor in Anthropology. He is a veteran of campus life and has engaged in a fifth year, to continue what has already been a successful time in student leadership.

Jehan is experienced and knowledgeable about what can realistically happen in the next year. His involvement in student politics ranges from volunteering on UMSU campaigns, to his election as an UMSU Vice President in 2017. Jehan has had involvement with UMSU student groups and was president of the Undergraduate Political Studies Students' Association in 2015-2016. He has also worked for the Provincial Government of Manitoba and a local MLA, which provided community building and representation skills.

Jehan was the inaugural Vice President Finance and Operations, and ensured that student businesses maximised performance and engaged in great business practices. He made UMSU businesses a place students want to be, as opposed to being a place they had to be.

What is your future UMSU President doing for students next year?

Greater student community support

Jehan will ensure that student groups, community groups, residence councils and faculty associations are supported when it comes to planning on-campus events, while still ensuring their autonomy.

Implementing digital democracy

Jehan will improve day-to-day student engagement with UMSU by implementing a web desk where students can file concerns and questions. Future UMSU will also interact with students via e-townhalls on social media channels.

Lobbying for mental health legislation

Future UMSU is dedicated to the health and wellness of all University of Manitoba students. Jehan and his VP Advocacy, Athena Skarban, will lobby the Provincial Government to increase funding and mental health support for post-secondary students.

Completing the UMSU Strategic plan

As VPFO, Jehan led the UMSU Strategic Planning project, which identified how UMSU should support the changing needs of University of Manitoba students. Jehan will ensure these Strategic Goals are accomplished and begin implementing them during his term.

Renovating frontline services in UMSU

Jehan will ensure that the UMSU office and Answer's renovation is completed to make both spaces more accessible for students. Jehan will make the Executive Office an open-concept office, making it easier to seek UMSU assistance and synergizing the work of UMSU Executives.

Planning UMSU's Centennial Celebration

UMSU is one of the oldest student unions in Canada. Jehan plans to partner with University of Manitoba administrative supports and past UMSU Executives and Alumni to make the

Centennial Celebration an event that involves all students! These relationships will be leveraged to allow greater resource allocation for student bursaries, supports, and assistance.

Increasing UMSU's interactive presence

Introducing of interactive tech units on campus will help to answer student questions and concerns regarding UMSU services such as the health and dental plan, and meetings with UMSU Executives.

Establishing alternate payment methods

Jehan will work with the Future Vice President Finance & Operations, Jonah Wasylak, to implement cashless and alternative payment methods at UMSU Business for 2020.

Training future UMSU Council Representatives

Jehan will make sure that future UMSU Councils will consist of involved, engaged and informed representatives. He'll make sure that UMSU Council effectively communicates with their constituencies.

More Free food

Jehan will budget for more free food from UMSU Businesses for students during peak study times. Future UMSU will make sure that students are energized and nourished throughout their studies!



Athena Skarban

Your Future

VP Advocacy

Athena Skarban is a fourth year Psychology Honours student who hopes to pursue clinical psychology. Athena is a mental health advocate with the Jack.org student group and the Mood Disorders Association of Manitoba. She aspires to not only make others aware of mental health issues, but to be a voice of change for those living with mental illnesses. Athena is also a member on the UManitoba Bison Track & Field team, and published a book of mental-health oriented poetry in October 2017.

Athena will increase the visibility of mental health advocacy groups and campaigns such as Speak Up U of M, and further womyn's safety and health initiatives such as the Our Turn campaign by creating a support network for those affected by mental illness and trauma. Connecting students through conversation and support will positively impact our campus. Athena will establish supports for students who have experienced abuse, mood disorders, anxiety, and other disorders, while bolstering the Student Hardship Fund. Athena will campaign for long-run provincial and administrative support for students. She will also re-new the University Policies Working Group and the Academic Policies Sub-Group to ensure that students are given a fair chance in their studies by modifying the GPA Calculation and Limited Access policies.

What can you expect from your Future VP Advocacy?

Increasing mental health awareness and support

Athena will make mental health awareness week and Bell Let's Talk events more visible on campus, and will work with the Vice President External to market mental health awareness and support. Athena will create support groups for those affected with mental illness, broadcasting coping strategies and helping those who cannot afford therapy.

Working for womyn's safety

Athena will organize for womyn's health and safety by working with the Womyn's Center and other groups on campus to increase distribution and knowledge of feminine hygiene products, sexual consent and birth control information, and self-defense education. Athena will communicate student safety concerns to Security Services and ensure that safety measures on all campuses are made a priority.

Growing advocacy

Athena will increase the profile and visibility of advocacy groups on campus and work closely with the UMSU Community Services Coordinator and Community Representatives to discuss and implement initiatives and strategies.

Fundraising toward the Hardship Fund

Athena will work with the VPFO to enhance the Hardship Fund by fundraising and increasing awareness of how the Fund helps both domestic and international students.

Revising the University's GPA & VW policy.

Athena will renew the University Policies Working Group for another year and lobby for the revision of the GPA policy, so students can take up to 15 credits' worth of the same class and only have their highest grade counted, with no time-access limitations. She will also look into revising the Limited Access Clause to allow students to retake a class for a second time without penalty.

Growing and establishing new advocacy weeks

Athena will work with your future UMSU VP External Brooklynn Krul to grow and expand week-long programs dedicated to mental health and healthy sexuality, as well as introduce new programming around multi faith dialogue, spiritual and racial equity, and financial literacy.



Jonah Wasylak

Your Future

VP Finance & Operations

Jonah Wasylak is from Calgary, but the University of Manitoba has been his home since he arrived in 2014. Jonah's experience in student athletics helped him to develop leadership, character and community building. When he's not on the ice as a Bison Men's Hockey team member, Jonah is in the Asper School of Business studying and working toward a double major in Finance and Marketing. Jonah's mission is to promote UMSU operations in order to improve the student experience and build student community inside and outside of the classroom.

Trust is critical when it comes to how student fees are invested and spent. Jonah will be meticulous with finances when helping other UMSU executives achieve their goals. He'll re-evaluate major UMSU expenditures like Frosh Fest, while enhancing UMSU and Bison branding, to make the U of M a community that goes beyond campus. Jonah will institute on-campus delivery options for UMSU businesses and increase student employment opportunities. Jonah will ensure that Future UMSU puts money where it's needed, and that students always know where their fees are going.

What can you expect from your Future VP Finance & Operations?

Evaluating spending and the UMSU budget

Jonah will re-evaluate UMSU's spending on events such as Frosh Fest and Block Parties to see if money can be freed up and used in better ways for the student groups, while looking into ways to outsource the Frosh Fest and orientation brand.

GPA's renovation project.

This year, your Future President Jehan Moorthy worked to bring new items to GPA's Convenience Store, such as more cultural food options and products for residence students. Jonah will work with your Future President Jehan Moorthy to renovate and expand GPA's Convenience Store, offering healthier products and options while providing more essential items for residence students so they don't have to leave campus to shop.

Improving the UMSU & Bison Sports relationship

Jonah will enhance the Bison Brand in UMSU by connecting students with Bison Sports offers, getting students in the stands at Bison events, and promoting the Bisons across campus and across the city.

Growing the operational efficiency of the Future UMSU team.

Jonah will set firm timelines and deadlines while tracking progress for Future UMSU initiatives, and ensure that Executives work together smoothly and efficiently.

Establishing on-campus delivery services

Jonah will implement an on-campus delivery system from all UMSU and on-campus businesses to ensure students have what they need when they need it. This will include food, supplies from the Bookstore and the Digital Print and Design Centre, and will create new jobs for students.

Building public trust and transparency.

Jonah will foster and maintain a culture of trust and transparency, ensuring that students know that the UMSU budget is getting properly managed and spent on initiatives that will benefit them. Informational graphics on UMSU expenditures will be placed in central locations throughout campus and online through UMSU's website and social media platforms.



Brooklynn Krul

Your Future

VP External

Like most students, Brooklynn's first few years involved finding out what program best suited her. Brooklynn found her interests in a myriad of classes offered in Biology, Psychology, Political Studies and International Business. Brooklynn has now refined her field of study to the Faculty of Science. Brooklynn knows that there can be a greater way that students can be united into a stronger student body, beyond faculty and departmental borders.

Brooklynn understands the need for a responsive, open, accessible, and inclusive Union. She is a member of the UMSU Strategic Planning Working Group, which addresses the changing needs of U of M students, and is passionate about representing students beyond campus. She'll prioritize marketing U of M speaker and community events as well as Bison games, while representing multiple languages and communities in UMSU branding.

What can you expect from your Future VP External?

Better UMSU sponsorship and marketing for campus events

Brooklynn will work with the UMSU Marketing Department to ensure students are engaged and are able participate in UMSU events. She'll take the lead on the UMFM 101.5 FM show and provide a bi-weekly article to The Manitoban with progress reports and updates on work being done by Future UMSU Executives.

Growing jobs

Brooklynn will increase job offers and networking on campus, working with Career services to create an UMSU network that connects employers with students throughout the semester.

Community presence

Brooklynn will work to improve the stature of UMSU as a community stakeholder, establishing links with non-profit organisations, charities and foundations. It is her goal to make UMSU members more aware of opportunities to volunteer in.

Active health and wellness

Brooklynn will work with your Future UMSU executive team to provide free day-events and programming which promote activity and wellness. She will also pursue partnerships with local entrepreneurs in the fitness business and the Active Living Centre.

Green Events

Brooklynn looks forward to creating and advocating for more events with a sustainable and green theme. Brook will push for the adoption of environmental and sustainability position statements in Student Associations, and will push for student groups and Student Association executives to endorse and implement an UMSU Sustainability Strategy.

Enhancing the image of Bison Sports at UMSU

Brooklynn will make sure that the Bison sports brand is visible in UMSU marketing and promotions, and will ensure that televisions at IQ's Billiards & Cafe and The Hub Social Club feature Bison Sports game streams. Additionally, Brooklynn will enhance the role and presence of UMSU at Bison games.



Brandon Barratt

Your Future

VP Student Services

Brandon has consistently demonstrated the hard work it requires to be successful in both athletics and academics. Moving from a farm in Chilliwack to Winnipeg for Bison football, Brandon has spent the last five years at the University of Manitoba. Outside of training and preparing for the regular season, Brandon is pursuing a degree in Economics and hopes to complete a MBA. He understands the realities of being a student away from home and has utilized the opportunity to involve himself in the social side of the student experience. Brandon is a leader on and off the field.

Brandon understands that UMSU must responsibly deliver activities, services and resources, while making the University equitable for all. Brandon was a participant in the UMSU Strategic Planning Working Group this year, and found that the Student Union should use more student feedback in making decisions. Brandon will collaborate with the Future UMSU executive team to ensure that their goals are accomplished in accordance with student wishes, so that students can focus on thriving - not simply surviving. He'll make sure that the contract between UMSU and the City of Winnipeg provides transport options that are reasonably priced, and will also examine the possibility of a Summer U-Pass. Student feedback will be consistently sourced for information on what students need and when they need it.

What can you expect from your Future VP Students?

Implementing a FlexPass parking system

This year, your Future UMSU President Jehan Moorthy worked alongside the current executive team to solidify a Flex Parking Pass for future years. Brandon will work to ensure that the FlexPass is implemented for the upcoming year, providing students with a modern alternative to the restrictive parking system currently in place. A FlexPass will allow students to purchase a pass for only certain days of the week, and provide other flexible options such as the ability to purchase a reloadable card that can be managed online. This will free up students by providing discounts relative to the current parking rates.

Utilizing student feedback

UMSU exists to serve students by catering to their evolving needs, desires, and concerns. Brandon will communicate with students and utilize their feedback by increasing the frequency of email updates and surveys which will provide students the opportunity to have their voices heard. Brandon will use this feedback to collaborate with the VPFO in the growth and development of current and future UMSU businesses and initiatives.

Providing information and services on harm reduction

Brandon will address the dangers of substance use and abuse and how to mitigate the harms they cause. There is no current UMSU information on drug related harm reduction. UMSU will work alongside Health and Wellness to advertise and promote Naloxone kits, as well as training on harm-prevention. If a single life can be saved by providing services such as anonymous drug testing kits, free information and resources, and support groups for those struggling with addiction, they must be made available to students.

Re-evaluating the current UMSU & City of Winnipeg contract

Students have expressed that the current U-Pass contract does not provide enough frequency of buses on campus nor number of bus routes. With contract re-negotiations approaching, Brandon will ensure that the City of Winnipeg does more to meet the needs of students through transportation services.

Patent Frosh Brand

Frosh Fest has been an unprofitable venture and students aren't happy seeing the UMSU budget reflect this. Brandon will outsource the brand, which will be a win for all parties involved. UMSU will profit from the sale of the brand, and fees paid by students can be put to better use - while still allowing students to attend an amazing back-to-school party managed by professionals.

