



Students' Association Representative Meeting

March 16, 2021, Zoom

MINUTES

12:00 – 12:10 Welcome

Door Prize winner: **Georgia Dalke**

12:10 – 12:15 Elections Update

12:15 – 12:45 Candidate Speeches (*see our webpage for the link*)

<https://rrcsa.ca/elections/>

- President
 - Avery Halldorson
<https://youtu.be/THP8-zF1m20>
 - Juliana Samking
<https://youtu.be/Giga3xlAjnQ>
- VP Internal
 - Mandeep Sidhu
<https://youtu.be/oljBuPbVVqk>
- VP External Affairs
 - ⊖ Austin Burtniak
<https://youtu.be/8SevCSSZkJI>
- SAB
 - Katie Ellis
<https://youtu.be/uVQckKNQSrc>

- Jahnavi Jahnavi
<https://youtu.be/GHoF2dzH8B0>

12:45 – 12:55 Important SA Updates

- Upcoming Events

March 22 @ 8:30AM – March 25 @ 3PM:

SA Election Voting

- Go to our SA website www.rrcsa.ca
- Student clicks on vote here link > that page tells them to click the log in tab on our menu bar > student will then be directed to login to the rrc website > after successful login they will be auto directed to the ballot page where they can cast their vote.

March 24 – 7PM-8PM: Music Workshop: Songsharing.
<https://rrcsa.ca/events/music-workshop-song-sharing/>

March 24 – All Day: National Co-op and WIL Day
<https://rrcsa.ca/events/cewil-national-co-op-wil-day/>

March 26 @ 12PM: Election Results

- #StudentsSpeakUp Campaign

See below**

- Bill #33

** here is some information from our VP External Affairs, Melissa Ghidoni, regarding the #StudentsSpeakUp Campaign as well as for Bill #33.

From VP External Affairs, Melissa Ghidoni

Bill 33

Bill 33, also known as “*The Advanced Education Administration Amendment Act*” is a piece of legislation introduced by our current government that is designed to provide more oversight to publicly funded post-secondary in Manitoba by allowing the Minister of Advanced Education (Hon. Wayne Ewasko) to set guidelines on tuition and student fees, including what fees (if any) are compulsory. While at face value this may seem like a good thing, this could put programming and services funded by student fees at risk should the Minister decide they are not needed, as he would have sole decision making power over those guidelines.

Our biggest concern with Bill 33 is the lack of clarity in the definition of a student fee as “*a fee set by a board that is payable by a student to a university or college*”. Since November, the Manitoba Alliance of Post-Secondary Students (MAPSS) has been engaged in dialogue with MLA’s from across all parties regarding this matter, and we were recently invited by Minister Ewasko’s office to a technical bill briefing at the Manitoba Legislative Building. During the brief we were informed that Bill 33 is not applicable to student union/association fees as the Act defines a board as “*the board of governors, board of regents or governing council of a university or college*”, it does not include student government boards/councils. This was later confirmed in a formal letter from the Minister, however the language in the bill is still too vague when it comes to “setting” versus “approving” and the collection of student fees, and how that may affect student organizations. For example: Our fees are collected by RRC and then remitted to us, and UMSU’s fees are set by them, but approved by the university.

Regarding the lack of clarity Minister Ewasko has assured us that it is not his intent for Bill 33 to affect student union/association fees. However, understanding that he will not always be the Minister of Advanced Education and to protect the future autonomy of student governments, MAPSS has been advocating for an amendment to the definition of student fee that reads “*...excluding fees collected by a representative student government, or by a university or college on behalf of and distributed to a representative student government.*”

Bill 33 went to Second Reading on Tuesday and during question period Minister Ewasko admitted that the bill needs amendments, however none were presented at that time. The bill will now go to committee, which is the public’s opportunity to voice their opinions concerning the bill. At this point it’s unrealistic to think that this bill won’t pass, so we’re urging students to register to speak at committee or provide a written submission regarding amendments. To register students can call the Office of the Clerk at (204) 945-3636.

If any of you are interested in watching the question and debate periods of the Seconding Reading here is the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5KHgBS3jMaU>. Bill 33 is from 1:28:00 – 2:10:00 and 2:38:00 – 2:54:00 (there was a break for technical issues).

Here are some more relevant links:

Bill 33 (proposed legislation): <https://web2.gov.mb.ca/bills/42-3/b033e.php>

The Advanced Education Administration Act (current legislation):

<https://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/ccsm/a006-3e.php>

How laws are made: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/legislature/business/bills.html>

#StudentsSpeakUp Campaign

Both well before and throughout the COVID-19 pandemic in Manitoba, universities and colleges have had their operating budgets consecutively slashed, with students seeing tuition rise exponentially. International student healthcare has been revoked. Bargaining uncertainty has threatened academic disruption. As a culmination of MAPSS advocacy efforts over the last year, we’re launching **#StudentsSpeakUp** – a two-week campaign focusing on these issues.

To stand for access, affordability, and a just experience, join us and the Manitoba Alliance of Post-Secondary Students (MAPSS) in amplifying student, faculty, and community voices to government. Get involved in the following ways, available on <https://linktr.ee/mapss/>, and with a single click:

BEGINNING TODAY:

- Sign the petition and have your stories sent to Minister Ewasko, Premier Pallister, and Colleagues.
- Download the email signature and virtual meeting background to use on WebEx, Microsoft Teams, and Zoom.
- Share this movement with your classes, friends, and instructors! We are in this together.

LATER THIS MONTH:

- **Send a letter to local news editors** to urge the narrative on fair, open bargaining.
- Direct a **fax** to your MLA in favour of affordable international student healthcare.
- **Phone** your MLA to **end the cuts to operating grants**.
- **FINALLY: Get loud. Get a sign. Get ready to honk.** We will be announcing details on a honk-a-thon and sign garden in the coming weeks. As well, for those who are unable to purchase supplies or attend, stay tuned to @mapsstudents on social media to learn about our arrangements.

We will be posting and sharing quite a bit over social media in the next couple weeks, so if you have social media accounts please feel free to follow the RRCSA (@rrcsa) and MAPSS (@mapsstudents) and interact with the campaign!

Any questions about either Bill 33 or the #StudentsSpeakUp campaign can be directed to:

Melissa Ghidoni
Vice President External Affairs
Sa_external@rrc.ca

Next SA Rep meeting:

Tuesday, April 6th, 2021

12:00 – 12:50pm

Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82238715834?pwd=cE05VkpEc2ZJaldlUTBkbDA4RGZMUT09>