

Manitoba PC Caucus



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Guillemard's bill for UMSU changes passes second reading

Amendment gives more autonomy to students' union and strengthens decision-making for members

A private member's bill moved by Sarah Guillemard, MLA for Fort Richmond proposing increased transparency and autonomy for the University of Manitoba Students' Union (UMSU), passed second reading today in the Legislative Assembly. Bill 300, the University of Manitoba Students' Union Amendment Act, would also strengthen decision-making abilities of UMSU members and ensure referendums for students on any fee increases.

"The current proposed amendments were initiated in order to update the act to reflect modern technologies as well as to provide the students, whom UMSU is elected to represent, with more say in certain decisions," Guillemard said in the legislative chamber. "In order to provide transparency, as well as accountability, the UMSU representatives felt the need to add into the act wording to guarantee students would always be included in decisions that impacted their fees and services provided through the students' union."

The amendments to the private UMSU Act were requested by the union's leadership as it petitioned the Progressive Conservative government for the changes, which would also make the legislation's language more inclusive and gender-neutral.

The passage of Bill 300 in second reading occurred despite the opposition NDP's initial efforts to stall the legislation against UMSU's wishes.

Our government is listening to post-secondary students and their elected representatives. By moving this petitioned legislation forward, we are following our mandate of increased democracy and accountability within unions.

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