

**UMGSA Council Meeting Minutes  
November 26, 2014, 5pm UMGSA Lounge**

**APPROVED**  
Jan 28/15

**1. Call to Order: 5:03pm**

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

**MOTION:** BIRT the agenda for the November 26, 2014 UMGSA Council meeting be approved.

Joey Lussier, *Chemistry*/ Joseph Dipple, *Native Studies*  
*Carried.*

**2.1. Unanimous Consent Agenda**

**MOTION:** BIRT all executive reports, the Elections Committee Referendum Report are accepted omnibus.

Travis Hrubeniuk, *Kinesiology and Recreation Management*/ Gagandip Sidhu, *Plant Sciences*  
*Carried.*

**3. Approval of Minutes**

**3.1. MOTION:** BIRT the minutes from the October 22, 2014 UMGSA Council Meeting and the November 13, 2014 UMGSA Emergency Council Meeting be approved.

Joey Lussier, *Chemistry*/ Michael Gaudry, *Biological Sciences*  
*Carried.*

**4. Business Arising from the Minutes**

Cora Dupuis from Student Life announced that the new version of Jump was launched (an upgraded 2.0 type of thing).

**5. UMFM Campus Radio presentation – Jared McKetiak**

UMGSA contributes to the radio station so graduate students should utilize the available services such as public service announcements, pitch a show idea, inter-media transfer capabilities (formats: cassette, mini-disc, record, etc. and update it to a usable digital format), listen to cd's, etc. UMFM structure has changed. They now have a Board of Directors that UMGSA has a seat on. They transferred the ownership license; USMU held the license previously. [www.umfm.com/](http://www.umfm.com/)

*JR* *R.FG*

## 6. University Budget Cuts Update and Feedback

The University has recently proposed cutbacks of 4% for the 2015-16 academic year and additional cuts for the next two years after that. Faculties and units submitted their budgets in October responding to this request for cuts to be considered by the University. This information will then go to Board of Governors meeting in May 2015. Some groups on campus held an "anti-cuts" meeting to disseminate information about the U of M's budget and financial status.

### **An Anti-cuts Information Session- November 26**

Summary: Professor Robert Chernomas (Economics) provided a broad overview of a political context of budget cuts and austerity trend happening throughout Canada. U of S was used as an example (Transform US), involving budget cuts and program prioritization, and people were fired/re-hired for criticism of various cuts. Students mobilized and were able to influence the process.

After analyzing the University's accounting practices for the last few years Professor Cameron Morrill (Accounting) discussed the current financial state of the University, trends over time, prioritization of those funds and compared this to how the University is presenting the information. Priorities appear to be focused on capital projects (e.g. constructing new buildings, infrastructure), investments and external relations (e.g. donors, fundraising, and advertising). UMGSA will invite Prof Morrill to make this presentation in January. From attendance at the meeting there seemed strong support from faculty, support staff and students to oppose the cuts.

Council members discussed the topic and questions were raised related to partnership in the anti-cuts organizing with other groups on campus, impact of deregulating tuition fees were proposed to try and balance the budget, impact of increased class sizes, larger workload, therefore less pay for the work, layoffs, the suggestion for direct lobbying the government for more support. There was the suggestion that more information was needed before getting actively involved in the organizing efforts.

Additional information:

University of Manitoba Press Release: [www.umanitoba.ca/admin/budget\\_2015-16/message.html](http://www.umanitoba.ca/admin/budget_2015-16/message.html)

Q&A with David Barnard: [www.umanitoba.ca/admin/budget\\_2015-16/faqs-and-answers.html](http://www.umanitoba.ca/admin/budget_2015-16/faqs-and-answers.html)

The Manitoban November 18, 2014: <http://www.themanitoban.com/2014/11/budget-cuts-university-of-manitoba/21622/>

The Manitoban November 25, 2014: <http://www.themanitoban.com/2014/11/politicians-faculty-members-respond-u-m-budget-cuts/21722/>

### **BIRT UMGSA support an anti-cuts movement on campus**

Laura Rempel, *President*/ Joseph Dipple, *Native Studies*

Rationale for motion is the ability to get started on these issues prior to the January Council

meeting so we can prepare, get more information for January, and build partnerships.

**Vice President External proposed an amendment to delay the motion until January but was not seconded therefore it was dissolved.**

Rationale for amendment was that students are busy, the university will be shutting down for the holidays. Concern about not enough information or time to move forward with this.

Some concerns were raised regarding being in a coalition with CFS-MB. Although CFS did initiate this, there are a lot of other coalition partners taking leadership and working together to share the work. The coalition's message is information sharing as a priority and asking the University for budget transparency. We can work with CFS-MB on anti-cuts activities we are comfortable with and not "be with them"; it doesn't mean we are compromising our position with CFS on other issues, etc.

**BIRT the UMGSA conduct a fact-finding mission before supporting the "anti-cuts" movement.**

Valery Agbor, *Vice President Internal*/ Mario Solis Nepote, *Biomedical Engineering*

**BIRT UMGSA takes an anti-cuts stance (against cuts to Faculty, Staff, students that will have a negative impact) but a fact-finding mission on participating in the coalition.**

Joseph Dipple, *Native Studies*/ Gagandip Sidhu, *Plant Science*

Amendment carried: 2 opposed (Chemistry and Biomedical Engineering)

**Carried.**

**7. GU15 Request for UMGSA Support on National level (attached)**

7.1.1. Indirect Costs of Research

7.1.2. Student Representation on the Tri-Council Agencies funding body (CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC)

Whereas the UMGSA/HSGSA attends the GU15 conference each year

Whereas the GU15 consists of graduate student association representatives from the top 15 research based universities

Whereas the goal of the network is to share information on our structure and issues and potentially asking for institutional support- sharing information to assist each other.

Whereas this conference would like to become more involved in lobbying both Federal and Provincial governments

Whereas the request for support came from a GU15 partner, the Federation Des Associations Etudiantes du Campus de l'Université de Montreal ([faecum.qc.ca](http://faecum.qc.ca)).

**MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA support the positions as presented in relation to Indirect Costs of Research (i.e. increase the Indirect Cost Program direct cost level to 40% as promised by the government when the program was created) and Student**

**Representation on the Tri Council Agencies, by signing our association's name to these GU15 proposals.**

Laura Rempel, *President*/ Travis Hrubeniuk, *Kinesiology and Recreation Management Carried*.

#### **8. Request for Feedback- FGS PhD Examiner Process**

- A few concerns were raised regarding PhD students being delayed in completing their degrees (and having to pay for an additional term) due to the recent changes in the FGS process in selection of an external examiner.
- PhD process changed about a year and a half ago. In the past, the internal committee had a say on the external examiner but now, it has to go through the FGS. They chose 1 examiner from a list of 3 submitted by the internal examiner and student. These changes were made to be in line with other U15 graduate programs and to reduce potential bias or influence of internal advisors as the thesis goes out blind to examiner.
- We have heard from a few students that the new process is lengthy and make them stay longer and pay extra tuition fee.
- General process expected of the External Examiner is about a 1 month turn around for feedback. There is little in the way of FGS holding the examiner accountable to this timeline. They send weekly reminders and if it has been a month, they send an email to the Department Head to see if there are any contextual factors for the delay. If not they as the Head to send an email to the examiner.

Please let us know how widespread delays are for PhD students, if you heard of any issues within your department or if you have any recommendations for improving the process.

#### **9. Bi-Annual Budget Report**

##### **9.1. Budget vs Actual- May to October 2014**

We are doing well in terms of our budget. We have received student membership fees \$415,000 collected by the U of M, \$216,000 of which has gone to the operating budget, etc. In terms of the budget for the year we have not exceeded the budget except for some design expenditures such as printing. A question was asked regarding how fees were allocated for the Canadian Federation of Student fees were dealt with. We continue to collect the fees until the end of the 2017-18 academic year and hold them in trust in an External Relations Fund.

##### **9.2. Fall 2014 Allocation of Fees**

For your information- no further discussion.

#### **10. Verbal Committee Reports**

##### **10.1. Executive Committee Report**

Holiday hampers will be provided this year but identifying students in need will be done through Financial Aid and Awards Bursary recipient lists.

10.2. **Finance Committee Report**  
One final meeting of the year is November 27. The investment policy is an up and coming issue.

10.3. **Bylaws and Policy Committee Report**  
The committee has been working hard on updating policy manuals. VPI thanks them for their ongoing participation.

10.4. **Events Committee Report**  
The committee has met twice this month. We had a movie night yesterday and it had a great turnout, we are partnered with UMSU but 90% of the turnout was graduate students. The holiday social event will be in the Hub, which will be a good cooperation with on-campus services.

10.5. **Proposed Working Group- topics arising GU15 and continuing fee proposals**

10.6. **Campaigns Committee Report**  
The Committee has a meeting at the end of November.

10.7. **Elections Committee Report- Co-CROs**  
The Co-CROs discussed the future election time periods according to student needs and co-ordinating with UMSU to avoid overlap of the campaign period where possible. One suggested change to the process is an additional time between campaigning and voting so more preparation can occur. A reminder that all campaign materials have to be taken down the weekend before voting starts. More information will be asked of UMSU to finalize the dates and will be brought back to Council in January. The option below appeared to be the best of those provided.

February 2 - 13: Nominations  
February 13: All Candidates Meeting  
February 14 - March 1: Planning  
March 2 - 13: Campaigning  
March 16-18: Voting

10.7.1.  Elections Committee Written Report

10.7.2. UMGSA General Election Dates for Feedback

10.8. **Internal Development and Review Sub-Committee – Chair- Mario Solis**

The Sub-Committee has met four times in the short timeframe. We have been able to get guidance regarding process from previous IDRC members which has been very helpful. We received documentation from the executives, conducted a survey of students on performance of the UMGSA executives and beginning to review it. The outcome of a special meeting on Nov 13, 2014 was that IDRSC will review

an ongoing conflict and present to council in January 6, 2015.

## 11. Executive Reports

- President
- Vice President Internal
- Vice President Academic
- Vice President Health Sciences
- Vice President External
- Vice President Marketing and Events
- Executive at Large
- Senator 1
- Senator 2
- Senator 3

## 12. Department Reports

### 13. Other Business/Announcements

#### 13.1. Active Living Centre Update

Laura: There hasn't been a lot of information distributed about what's happening, the tentative opening date in February, 2015. There are mandatory fees associated with this (\$75 for full time students, per 4 month term). The fee will be pro-rated as the facility is anticipated to open February 2, 2015. UMGSA was asked for a letter of support for the pro-rating fees and feedback from Councilors was requested but it appeared that there weren't any alternatives presented by the University prior to the meeting.

#### 13.2. UMGSA Annual General Meeting

Tentative Date- Tuesday, January 20, 2015. Please inform students of the AGM as it is open to all members. We will inform you if this date changes. This meeting occurs once per year where larger decisions may be made not suitable for council.

#### 13.3. Parking appeals committee

Laura: We are looking for two student representatives to sit on this committee. The meetings are the third Friday of each month.

## 14. Adjournment

**MOTION:** BIRT the UMGSA Council meeting be adjourned.

Andres Fabian Herrera, *Entomology*/ Yunqiao Wang, *Psychology*

Next Meeting is on Wednesday, January 28, 2015 at 5 pm in the UMGSA Lounge.


<i>Position/Department</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Signature</i>
President	Laura Rempel	Present
VP Internal	Valery Agbor	Present
VP Academic	Kristjan Mann	Regrets
VP External	Faizan Khan	Present
VP Marketing & Events	Beibei Lu	Present
VP Health Science	Melissa Rabb	Present
Exec-At-Large (Non-voting)	E. RoTimi Ojo	Present
Senator	Chido Uchime	Present
Senator	Diba Vafabakhsh	Regrets
Senator	Richard From	Present
Council Chairperson (Non-voting)	E. RoTimi Ojo	Present
Office Manager (Non-voting)	Ruth Prokesch	Present
<b><i>Agric &amp; Food Science</i></b>		
Agribusiness & Agric. Economics	Clement Adomah	Present
Animal Science	Elnaz Azad (Co-Councilors) Gustavo Mejicanos	Elnaz Present LE6:40
Biosystems Engineering	Missed four meetings	No Rep
Entomology	Andres Fabian Herrera	Present
Food Science	Xinyang (Sheyna) Sun	Present LE6:30
Human Nutritional Sciences	Lena Hong	Present
Plant Science	Cassandra Tkachuk Gagandip Sidhu (Co-councilors)	Gagandip Present LE6:10
Soil Science	Nicholson Jeke	Absent
<b><i>Architecture</i></b>		
Architecture	David Anderson(Co-Council) Julia Evancio	Julia Present
City Planning	Evan Allan (Co-Councilors) Andrew Macauley	Both Present
Interior Design	Stephanie Prouse	Absent
Landscape Architecture	Meaghan Pauls	Present LE6:35
<b><i>Arts</i></b>		
Anthropology	Anu Lotay	Absent
Economics	Dennis K. Nasfoah	Absent


English, Film & Theatre	Karalyn Dokurno (Co-Councilors) Katelyn Dykstra Dykerman	Both Present
History	Nicole Courier Proxy: Danna Slessor-Cobb	Proxy Present LE6:30
Linguistics	Hai Tran	Present
Native Studies	Joseph Dipple	Present
Political Studies and Public Administration	Missed three meetings	No Rep
Psychology	Yunqiao Wang (Co-Council) Hayley Chartrand	Present
Sociology	Craig Adolphe (Co-Council) Matthew Sanscartier	Craig Present
<b>Management</b>		
Management – PhD and MSc	Ji Zhou	Present
Management – MBA	Amanda Gebhardt	Absent
<b>Education</b>		
Education – PhD – Ad hoc	Mehdi Rahimian	Regrets
<b>Engineering</b>		
Civil Engineering	Sam Esfandianpour	Present
Electrical & Computer Engineering	Ahmad Byagowi (co-councilors) Dan Lockery	Dan Present
Mechanical & Manufacturing Eng.	Masoud Nasiri Sarvi	Present
<b>Environment, Earth &amp; Resources</b>		
Environment & Geography	Darcy McDougall	Present
Geological Sciences	Olivier Gagne	Absent
Natural Resources Institute	Jody Daniel Proxy: Tosan Okorosobo	Proxy Present LE5:22
<b>Graduate Studies</b>		
Applied Health Sciences	Navjot Pachu Scott Kehler	Navjot Present
Biomedical Engineering	Mario Solis Nepote	Present
Peace and Conflict Studies	Brett Mallon (Co-Councilors) Shorsh Palani	Shorsh Present LE6:08
<b>Human Ecology</b>		
Family Social Sciences	Missed four meeting	No Rep

R. E. JR



<b><i>Kinesiology &amp; Recreation Mgmt.</i></b>		
Kinesiology & Recreation Mgmt.	Travis Hrubeniuk Ramesh Dutta	Travis Present
<b><i>Nursing</i></b>		
Nursing	Alexa Barrett	Present LE6:25
<b><i>Science</i></b>		
Biological Sciences	Michael Gaudry	Present
Chemistry	Joey Lussier	Present
Microbiology	Mac Kohlmeier	Present LE6:20
Physics & Astronomy	Mohammad Hussein	LE6:30
Statistics	Missed Four Meetings	No Rep
<b><i>Social Work</i></b>		
Social Work	Kaladhar Battepati	Present LE6:30
<b><i>UMSU (Non-Voting)</i></b>		
President or Designate	Christian Pierce	Absent
<b><i>CUPE 3909 (Non-Voting)</i></b>		
President or Designate	Jen Black	Present
<b><i>FGS Rep (Non-Voting)</i></b>		
Dean or Designate	Jay Doering	Absent
<b><i>Student Life (Non-Voting)</i></b>		
Office of Student Life	Cora Dupuis	Present LE6:07
<b><i>Guests</i></b>		
Jared McKetiak	UMFM Presentation	

  
 President \_\_\_\_\_ Date Jan 19, 2015

  
 Senator 3 \_\_\_\_\_ Date Jan 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015

