

**UMGSA Council Meeting Minutes**  
**March 25, 2015**

**APPROVED**  
Apr. 22 / 15

1. **Call to Order** at 5:03pm
2. **Approval of the Agenda**

**MOTION: BIRT the agenda for the March 25, 2015 UMGSA Council meeting be approved.**

Brett Mallon (Peace and Conflict Studies) / Joseph Dipple (Native Studies)  
**Carried.**

**2.1. Unanimous consent agenda**

2.1.1. Any item that has a  beside it denotes unanimous consent agenda

*Any member who wishes to debate an item that is listed below may have it removed from the consent agenda by contacting the Chair prior to the meeting or by asking that it be removed before the Chair calls for a mover and seconder for the following motions.*

**MOTION: BIRT all Executive Reports (excluding the VPME's report), and Senate Report are accepted omnibus.**

Ji Zhou (Management PhD and MSc) / Karalyn Dokurno/ Katelyn Dykstra Dykerman (English, Film and Theatre)  
**Carried.**

3. **Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION: BIRT the minutes from the February 25, 2015 UMGSA Council Meeting be approved.**

Jody Daniel (Natural Resource Institute) / Travis Hrubeniuk (Kinesiology and Recreation Management)  
**Carried.**

4. **Special Project Grant Presentation**

4.1. Medical Microbiology- \$500- Andrew Mcdermid, HSGSA

They are bringing together a panel of experts to speak to students about collaboration. Last year we did a similar event regarding manuscript writing. This is not just prudent but essential. To get grants people should be collaborating. This topic isn't covered by any other grad student workshops, etc. This year's event will be modeled like Visionary conversations. They will provide a small lunch such as cheese, crackers, and fruit. Also, \$200 will go

*JR*  
R.F.

towards theatre rental and IT tech. The topic is mainly applicable to health sciences but this information can be useful for everyone and is open to the public.

**Motion to approve the \$500 special project grant to Medical Microbiology.**

Joey Lussier (Chemistry) / Joseph Dipple (Native Studies)

**Carried.**

**5. Business Arising from the Minutes**

**5.1. U-Pass Update**

Laura discussed some background of her recent presentations at the City's Public Works Committee and informed everyone that the UPASS has approved through city council earlier today. Questions were raised about the total cost going forward in the future and whether the summer months are covered by this pass. The yearly fee of \$260 will just increase with inflation and it doesn't cover summer months.

**5.2. University Budget Cuts Update**

**5.2.1. Rally at Senate, April 1, 12:30 meet in the Engineering Atrium EITC**

Laura gave an overview of the rally. She covered the when, where to meet, and the fact that the UMGSA has anti-cuts materials available for students. It was mentioned there is an online petition that people can share with their friends and colleagues.

A question was put forward asking how effective these measures actually are. The reply is that there will be further information in item 7.5 of this agenda and that we will need a multi-pronged approach. For now, it appears that there is not genuine interest in the administration for our voiced concerns.

**5.2.2. Student Action Network Online Petition**

<https://www.change.org/p/the-university-of-manitoba-administration-stop-the-cuts>

**5.3. Active Living Centre Update/Feedback**

This was put back on the agenda in case there was some additional feedback to provide. One update is that ~4000 more memberships have been activated compared to this time last year and the Grand Opening will take place on April 7 and it is open to the public. There are lab spaces in the facility being made available for Kin & Rec graduate students to conduct research. English Film and Theatre (Karalyn Dokurno) rep mentioned that for graduate students the membership goes all year around.

**5.4. UMGSA Tax Workshops**

5.4.1. March 26, 12-2pm Fort Garry (UMGSA Lounge 217 UC)

5.4.2. March 31, 12-2pm Bannatyne (Room 164, Apotex Centre)

Laura explained that Timi would be the facilitator of these two sessions. There has been a lot of interest so the Fort Garry session is currently overbooked.

**6. New Business**

**6.1. Department Grants** (with a financial report from March 1, 2014- February 28, 2015) are due in the GSA Office by 4pm on Wednesday, April 1, 2015. Any applications received later will be subject to penalties.

Valery explained that the deadline for reports, role of attendance and the numbers of graduate students in each department. Details and forms are available online.

## **7. Verbal Committee Reports**

### **7.1. Executive Committee Report**

Only one executive meeting was held due to several members running in the election and unable to work for UMGSA. In the meeting we talked about budget cuts, tax seminars, a proposal for the divestment of GSA's investments from fossil fuels. Also, there have been changes with the Gradzette, the editor recently resigned and we are hunting for a new editor. Lastly, we discussed transitioning for the new UMGSA executives.

### **7.2. Finance Committee Report**

The meeting was moved to a later date.

### **7.3. Bylaws and Policy Committee Report**

If we have time we will hold one more meeting, the next meeting is this Monday at 5pm.

### **7.4. Events Committee Report**

The meeting did not occur due to the election but the upcoming social will be April 22<sup>nd</sup> in the HUB. It is the hello-goodbye social and will be right after the next council meeting. Please email me with any feedback about social events.

### **7.5. Campaigns Committee Report**

There has been a lot happening, mainly focused around the budget cuts. A form letter has been drafted to send out to graduate students and President Barnard. A pamphlet has been in the works as promotional material for the anti-cuts rally. We will also be advertising the upcoming rally on UFMF amongst other mediums.

### **7.6. Awards Committee**

We have finished most of the tasks for the year, reviewing Article IV, IV. A GU15 update is that we will be sending 4 people to the April 6-8 conference in Calgary.

### **7.7. Elections Committee**

The campaign and election period went well. The all candidates forum drew about 50 people. There was a snag in the initial voting having to do with the senator position outlined in the election report.

There was a question about the \$800 paid to Tom Kaminski for his services running the online election. Timi provided information that this is the cheapest option that we are aware of, as Tom Kaminski has been providing this service for the last 4 years and it is a secure and efficient process. A recommendation was suggested about having a graduate student in

computer science look into just how secure and cost effective our current setup is.

#### 7.7.1. General Election Report

**MOTION: BIRT Council ratifies the results of the UMGSA 2015-16 elections and approves the Elections Committee Report.**

Brett Mallon (Peace and Conflict) / Hayley Chartrand (Psychology)

**Carried.**

#### 7.8. Internal Development and Review Sub-Committee Report

Meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015 discussed the final review of the UMGSA executives. The final report will be available in the April council package. No report will be conducted on the VPE position.

##### 7.8.1. 2015-16 IDRSC Chair Nominations at April 22 Council meeting

As issues can arise quickly within the UMGSA, it is recommended that the IDRSC chair be elected sooner than in previous years in order to be available to the executive. This is only a preliminary mention of this recommendation, as a formal change to the policy manual is being considered at the Bylaws and Policy Committee.

##### 7.8.2. Co-curricular record reminder for participation in UMGSA

Councilors that would like their participation in the UMGSA noted in co-curricular record is being investigated. As long as there is more than 10 hours spent as a councilor with the UMGSA then this is valid for recognition.

#### 8. Verbal Senate Report

Senate Report March

#### 9. Executive Committee 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

#### 10. Department Reports

- In May, Human Nutritional Sciences is hosting a conference at the RBC convention centre. Medical, nursing, pharmaceutical sciences may be interested in attending and presenting their research.
- The result of HSGSA election for 2015-2016 were shared by Andrew Mcdermid.
  - President: Colin Graydon (Medical Microbiology)
  - VP Academics: Chuwunonso Onyilagha (Aka Nonso) (Immunology)
  - VP Internal: Deepak Upreti (Immunology)
  - VP External: Mohammad Fazle Rabbi (Immunology)
  - VP St Boniface: Crystal Acosta (Pharmacology and Therapeutics)
  - VP Marketing Events: Michelle Perner (Medical Microbiology)
  - HSGSA Senator: Hadeesha Piyadasa (Immunology)

## 11. Other Business/Announcements

11.1. **The Dr. Patrick Choy Distinguished Lectureship** Dr. Lap-Chee Tsui, March 30, 12-1pm, Frederic Gaspard Theatre, Basic Medical Sciences Building Bannatyne Campus, Simulcast in Senate Chambers Building EITC E3 Room 262 Fort Garry. HSGSA will be hosting Dr. Lap Chee Tsui, world renowned scientist, Canada's most famous geneticist.

## 12. Adjournment

**MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council meeting be adjourned at 6:04pm.**

Joey Lussier (Chemistry) / Michael Gaudry (Biological Sciences)

**Carried.**

Next Meeting is on Wednesday, April 22, 2015 at 5pm 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	Present
VP External	Position Not Filled	Resigned Jan 16/15
VP Marketing & Events	Beibei Lu	Present
VP Health Science	Melissa Rabb                      Proxy:	Andrew McDermid
Exec-At-Large (Non-voting)	E. RoTimi Ojo	Present
Senator	Chido Uchime	Present
Senator	Diba Vafabakhsh	Regrets (sick leave)
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	Absent
Animal Science	Elnaz Azad (Co-Councilors) Gustavo Mejicanos	Elnaz Present
Biosystems Engineering	Missed four meetings	No Rep
Entomology	Megan Colwell	Present
Food Science	Xinyang (Sheyna) Sun	Present
Human Nutritional Sciences	Lena Hong Proxy:	Ifeanyi Nwachukwu
Plant Science	Cassandra Tkachuk Gagandip Sidhu (Co-councilors)	Gagan Present
Soil Science	Nicholson Jeke	Absent
<b><i>Architecture</i></b>		
Architecture	David Anderson(Co-Council) Julia Evancio	David Present
City Planning	Evan Allan (Co-Councilors) Andrew Macauley	Both Present
Interior Design	Stephanie Prouse	Absent
Landscape Architecture	Meaghan Pauls	Present
<b><i>Arts</i></b>		
Anthropology	Anureet Lotay	Present LE 5:25pm
Economics	Missed three meetings	No Rep
English, Film & Theatre	Karalyn Dokurno (Co-Councilors) Katelyn Dykstra Dykerman	Both Present
History	Nicole Courier	Present
Linguistics	Hai Tran Proxy:	Owen Campbell
Native Studies	Joseph Dipple	Present
Political Studies & Public Admin	Missed three meetings	No Rep
Psychology	Yunqiao Wang (Co-Council) Hayley Chartrand	Hayley Present
Sociology	Joseph Asomah (Co-Council) Matthew Sanscartier	Joseph Present
<b><i>Management</i></b>		
Management – PhD and MSc	Ji Zhou	Present

Management – MBA	Mike DeLuca	Absent
<b>Education</b>		
Education – PhD – Ad hoc	Mehdi Rahimian	Present LE 5:50pm
<b>Engineering</b>		
Civil Engineering	Sam Esfandianpour Proxy:	Bahador Barbod
Electrical & Computer Engineering	Ahmad Byagowi (co-councilors) Hamid Reza Nasrinpour	Hamid Present
Mechanical & Manufacturing Eng.	Masoud Nasiri Sarvi	Present
<b>Environment, Earth &amp; Resources</b>		
Environment & Geography	Darcy McDougall	Present
Geological Sciences	Olivier Gagne	Present
Natural Resources Institute	Jody Daniel	Present
<b>Graduate Studies</b>		
Applied Health Sciences	Navjot Pachu (Co-Councilors) Scott Kehler	Scott Present
Biomedical Engineering	Mario Solis Nepote	Present
Peace and Conflict Studies	Brett Mallon (Co-Councilors) Shorsh Palani	Brett Present
<b>Human Ecology</b>		
Family Social Sciences	Missed four meeting	No Rep
Kinesiology & Recreation Mgmt.		
Kinesiology & Recreation Mgmt.	Travis Hrubeniuk (Co-Council) Ramesh Dutta	Travis Present
Nursing		
Nursing	Alexa Barrett	Absent
<b>Science</b>		
Biological Sciences	Michael Gaudry	Present
Chemistry	Joey Lussier	Present
Microbiology	Mac Kohlmeier	Present
Physics & Astronomy	Mohammad Hussein	Present LE 5:53pm
Statistics	Missed Four Meetings	No Rep

Social Work		
Social Work	Kaladhar Battepati	Absent
UMSU (Non-Voting)		
President or Designate	Christian Pierce	Absent
CUPE 3909 (Non-Voting)		
President or Designate	Jen Black	Absent
FGS Rep (Non-Voting)		
Dean or Designate	Jay Doering	Absent
Student Life (Non-Voting)		
Office of Student Life	Cora Dupuis	Absent
Guests		
Jacqueline Cordova	Possible Anthropology Rep	Present LE 5:25pm

*Lana Rempel*

Apr. 23 / 15

President

Date

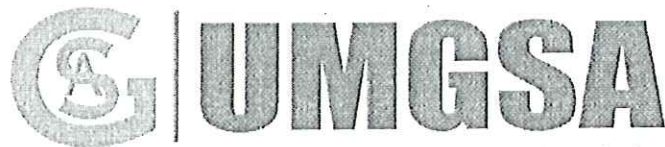
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Apr. 27 / 15

Senator 3

Date





University of Manitoba Graduate Students' Association

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## Elections Committee Report – General Election, Winter Semester 2015

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### Members of the Elections Committee

Joseph Dipple (CRO)  
Karalyn Dokurno (CRO)  
Dave Anderson/Julia Evancio  
Jyoti Balhara (HSGSA CRO)  
Meaghan Pauls  
Laura Rempel  
Paul Sarte  
Deepak Velayudehan

### Meetings

January 19, 2015: Planning for General Election.

February 27, 2015: Review of election to-date; discussion of campaign material; review of candidate requests; planning for All Candidates Forum

March 20, 2015: Review of election and results; discussion of report; concerns regarding campaigning and voting.

### Nomination Period

The nomination period for the UMGSA General Election began on Monday, February 2 and ran until 4:00 pm on Friday, February 13.

As of 4:00 pm on Friday, February 13, eleven candidates had been established as valid nominees. One student wished to submit a nomination form late, but the CROs had to reject the application because of its lateness and because the CROs did not have the means to verify the nominating students. The 11 candidates were as follows:

President: Junhui Gong, Kristjan Mann  
Vice President Academic: Aida Adlimoghaddam, David Terrazas  
Vice President External: Enoch A-iyeh  
Vice President Internal: Valery Agbor  
Vice President Marketing & Events: Beibei Lu  
Senator: Richard From, Kathryn Marcynuk, Gustavo Mejicanos, Gagan Siddhu

The All Candidates Meeting was held at 4:30 pm on Friday, February 13 in the UMGSA office. All candidates were in attendance.

## **Campaign Preparation**

Candidates were given 2 weeks in which to plan their campaigns, beginning February 14 and ending March 1. During this time, candidates formed into 2 slates, with one candidate remaining independent. The slates were as follows:

**Graduate Student Action Slate:** Kristjan Mann, David Terrazas, Enoch A-iyeh, Valery Agbor, Beibei Lu, Richard From, Gagan Siddhu

**Choice Matters:** Junhui Gong, Aida Adlimoghaddam, Gustavo Mejicanos

**Independent:** Kathryn Marcynuk

During this time frame, candidates were expected to prepare their campaign material, including posters and handouts, and submit them to the CROs for approval and ordering as per the Elections Policy Manual. While the CROs were available to approve the content for the posters, no material was sent to print until Monday, March 2 to ensure that no candidate could obtain an unfair advantage through early campaigning.

## **Campaign Period**

The campaign period for the UMGSA General Election began at 9:00 am on Monday, March 2 and ended at 4:00 pm on Friday, March 13.

On Monday, March 2, the CROs were in the UMGSA office from 9:00 am until 3:30 pm arranging for campaign material to be printed and uploading candidate information to the UMGSA website. Profiles on the candidates were also published in the Gradzette.

On Friday, March 6 and Friday, March 13, the CROs emailed all graduate students with messages from the 2 slates and 1 independent candidate. The messages were combined into one email according to the Election Policy Manual. The first email had a 100 word maximum per slate/independent candidate in an attempt to encourage a wider readership. The maximum for the second email was increased to 500 words to provide more detailed information from the slates/independent candidate.

On Tuesday, March 10, the CROs hosted an All Candidates Forum in the UMGSA Lounge from 12:00 pm until 1:00 pm. The forum was audio recorded. All candidates were given three minutes to address the audience, followed by a question period, moderated by the CROs, which lasted approximately 15 minutes. There were approximately 50 audience members. Lunch was provided.

All current executives running in the election were required to take a paid leave of absence during the campaign and voting periods. However, one exception was made as the Vice President Academic had made a commitment to speak on behalf of the UMGSA at the Faculty of Education Graduate Student Symposium on Friday, March 6. The Elections Committee ruled that it would be detrimental to the image of the UMGSA to cancel; therefore, the VPA was allowed to speak at the symposium, with both CROs in attendance to ensure that the speech was not used as an unfair campaigning opportunity.

## **Budget**

All Candidates Forum: **\$368.56**

Breakdown: \$156.08 for 15 XL pizzas from Pizza Hotline  
\$212.48 for 2 fruit platters and 2 vegetable platters from Degrees

Tomkorp Computer Solutions Inc: **\$800**

Breakdown: \$400 base price  
\$400 for improvements (detailed in the Voting Period section)

Candidate Campaigning Budget: **\$673.07**

Breakdown: \$421.90 Graduate Student Action. (\$27.35 was in taxes to the Digital Copy Centre, which was not included in the budget. Thus, Graduate Student Action's total came to 394.55, which was under their total budget of \$400).

Choice Matters: \$164.98 (\$18.98 was in taxes to the Digital Copy Centre. Thus, Choice Matter's total came to \$146. Their budget was \$170, which was understood to have been used in full prior to obtaining official invoices, as the candidates, through the CROs, ordered a larger number of posters than were actually printed by the Digital Copy Centre. An additional 60 posters should have been provided, but the Digital Copy Centre failed to print them).

Independent Candidate (Kathryn Marcynuk): \$40.99 (\$3.78 was in taxes to the Digital Copy Centre, so Kathryn's total was \$36.22. Her budget was \$50).

Other Costs: **\$62.60**

Breakdown: Reprinted due to vandalism: \$40  
Voting Posters (50 copies): \$22.60

**Total: \$1904.23**

## Voting Period

Voting for the UMGSA General Election opened at 9:00 am on Monday, March 16 and closed at 8:00 pm on Wednesday, March 18. All voting took place online. Students who had not yet voted were sent a reminder email at the beginning of each day of voting. This email provided instructions on how to vote. No campaigning was allowed during the voting period, as per the bylaws.

Throughout the voting period, the Chief Returning Officers held office hours for 4 hours a day (10:00 am – 2:00 pm) in the UMGSA office. These office hours were for the purposes of providing technical support and answering any questions about the election. No students attended.

Online voting was conducted through Tomkorp Computer Solutions Inc. Tomkorp charges a \$400 base price per election/referendum. The Executive Committee voted to spend an additional \$400 on improvements to streamline the voting process. These improvements involved making the voting website more mobile-friendly and providing customized links for each student for ease of voting.

About one hour into voting, the CROs were alerted to a problem with the ballot in that voters were only able to select 1 senator candidate rather than 2. This resulted from a misunderstanding in which Tomkorp believed that each student would vote once and the top two results would be elected. Although the CROs had provided the information that 2 senators had to be elected and had previewed the ballot prior to the beginning of the voting period, this problem was not apparent to them as they could not actually submit a test ballot. The CROs immediately contacted Tomkorp. The issue was fixed approximately one hour into voting, but 46 students had already cast votes. After consultation with Tomkorp, to prevent any skew in the voting results, the 46 Senator ballots were invalidated; ballots for the other positions were not affected. The 46 students who had voted were contacted by email, alerted to the situation, and asked to vote on the Senator position again. Tomkorp kept track of the number of these 46 students who had re-voted, and 22 of 46 recast their vote for Senator. 24 people did not re-vote.

## Results

### President

**Kristjan Mann: 74% (427 votes)**

Junhui Gong: 25% (146 votes)

Various write-ins: 6 votes

Total votes: 579

Vice President Academic:

**David Terrazas: 53% (313 votes)**

Aida Adlimoghaddam: 46% (271 votes)

Various write-ins: 5 votes

Total votes: 589

Vice President External

**Enoch A-iyeh: 91% (544 votes)**

Votes against: 9% (54 votes)

Various write-ins: 3 votes

Total votes: 601

Vice President Internal

**Valery Agbor: 89% (498 votes)**

Votes against: 10% (58 votes)

Various write-ins: 3 votes

Total votes: 559

Vice President Marketing & Events

**Beibei Lu: 89% (508 votes)**

Votes against: 10% (59 votes)

Various write-ins: 1 vote

Total votes: 568

Senator (x2)

**Kathryn Marcynuk: 53% (297 votes)**

**Gagan Sidhu: 42% (237 votes)**

Richard From: 41% (231 votes)

Gustavo Mejicanos: 29% (162 votes)

Various write-ins: 6 votes

Total votes: 562

**Total voter turnout: 17.6% (676 votes)**

## **Candidate Feedback and Concerns**

Some feedback was received from candidates on ways to make campaigning easier and/or better for future elections. Concern was expressed over the fact that the policy manual requires all campaign posters to be removed before the voting period begins, thus decreasing awareness of the election during the voting period.

Some candidates approached the CROs formally with concerns regarding poster campaigning, though no formal complaints were filed. It was felt that some candidates were disrespectful by placing their posters overlapping other candidates' posters, or positioning their posters in a way that carries cultural significance of superiority.

All candidates had problems with vandalism of posters, although no evidence of who committed the vandalism was found. Vandalized posters were reprinted by the CROs at no expense to the candidates' budgets. An email was sent out reminding candidates that vandalism is an indictable offense as per the Election Policy Manual.

One candidate expressed that the first weekly email, which had a maximum of 100 words, did not provide enough space for a detailed campaigning platform. Thus, the CROs decided to increase the word maximum to 500 for the second email.

## **CRO Concerns**

The CROs had some concerns about the election process throughout the 6.5 weeks of the election cycle. Some of these had to do with the vagueness of the Elections Policy Manual. Over the summer, the CROs plan to propose some changes to the policy manual for the sake of clarification.

Most other concerns regarded communication with candidates. During the first week of campaigning, there was a consistent failure to meet deadlines and requirements that had been set by the CROs, resulting in a significantly increased workload for both CROs. Additionally, there were a number of emails sent to the CROs with complaints that clearly did not fall under their jurisdiction or were repeatedly reasserted with no credible basis or purpose. This overreliance on the CROs once again significantly increased the CROs' workload and also slowed down response time as they had much more correspondence to address.

The CROs had one other major concern, which involved printed campaign material and the Digital Copy Centre. The CROs had made it clear that all printed material must be ordered by the CROs and that candidates were not allowed to place their own orders. Despite this, one candidate obtained additional copies of posters from the Digital Copy Centre on their own. Additionally, the Digital Copy Centre failed to complete one job as requested; 180 posters were ordered, and only 120 were billed to the GSA.