

February 27 Council Meeting Minutes

UMGSA Council Meeting
February 27, 2013. 5:00pm
GSA Lounge

1. Call to Order

5:04pm

2. Approval of the Agenda

Sebastien Kerherve/Calistas Ekenna

Amendment: The VP-HSC Report has been removed from the Unanimous Consent Agenda and tabled to the next meeting, as it accidentally was not included in the Council Document Package.

Amendment: Add Item 7 'Discussion on Students on Departmental Councils '.

Carried

3. Approval of Minutes from January 23, 2013 UMGSA Council Meeting

Matt Gale/Crystal Cook

Carried

3.1 Business arising from the minutes

None

4. Unanimous consent agenda

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 the Unanimous Consent Agenda be approved.

Carolyn Weiss/Monika Wetzal

Carried

4. Presentation on Graduate Students Advising: Zoe St. Aubin

The Academic Advising sub-group wants to get every grad student's opinion on how well their academic advising needs are being met. They will be generating a report that may have some recommendations that addresses how needs are not being met, as well as things that are being done well. They are assembling a focus group to gather this information. The focus group will take about 60 minutes and will be conducted in April. Participants will receive a \$10 honorarium and a free lunch. Please contact Zoe if you are interested, and please disseminate this information to your department as the university needs participants.

5. Discussion on Health Plan

The GSA is looking at improving services to the current health and dental plan. We can't change the health plan without a referendum. We will decide at this meeting if we want to go ahead with a referendum. The StudentCare Health Plan has come up with some options for potential health care plans.

StudentCare has been working with the UMGSA Executive to develop a potential health care plan. They consulted with the GSA and created a survey to determine what graduate students wanted from a health plan.

Grad students wanted more services from their plan, and they want to be more involved. Graduate students are also heavier users of the health care plan.

Some of the Services StudentCare can provide if we get a health plan through them are:

- An Integrated Web Platform – The Web platform is user friendly, there is also call centre. Everything is in real time. They also have access to the insurance providers system and can provide information on where submitted claims are in the insurers system.
- There are 4 main improvements to the plan: doubling eyeglass coverage, increasing health practitioner coverage, enhancing travel coverage (the travel coverage is proprietary to StudentCare, and has trip interruption and trip insurance coverage, for up to 120 days), and network savings.
 - 'Networks' Are a list of names and locations of practitioners who give discounts to members of StudentCare in exchange for having their names advertised on the StudentCare website.
- StudentCare also offers customizable coverage (OptChoice), which will allow students to change their coverage rates. This will reduce opt-outs as students can customize their plans so they best meet their needs (eg. Option A – 80% drugs, 70% dental, Option B – 90% drugs, 60% dental, Option c – 70% drugs, 80% dental).
- There is also a Claim app for smart phones, students can submit and file their claims via their phone.

Removing ourselves from the UMSU Health Plan will increase our costs, as we are decreasing our numbers, as well as maintaining a group of 'high users' of the health plan. Being joined with UMSU lowers our costs. This is something we need to keep in mind moving forward, as once we hold a referendum to separate on the Health and Dental Plan it is final.

MOTION: BIRT THE UMGSA Council hold a referendum on leaving the UMSU health and dental plan and create a new, graduate student administered health and dental plan.

Johanu Botha/Poura Jabari Barjesteh

Carried

MOTION: BIRT the GSA Bylaws be suspended in order to allow the referendum to be held during the election.

Carolyn Weiss/Monika Wetzel

Carried

MOTION: BIRT we include this referendum question as part of the GSA 2013-2014 election period, March 11-13, 2013.

Carolyn Weiss/Kendra Magnusson

Carried

Potential Referendum Question:

Do you support the implementation of an autonomous GSA-administered Health and Dental Plan which will provide improved benefits and services designed for the needs of graduate students and for all full-time University of Manitoba graduate students, and the withdrawal of GSA members from the University of Manitoba Students' Union (UMSU) Health and Dental Plan?

MOTION: BIRT the GSA add 'for a cost no greater than \$420 per student' after 'Do you support the implementation of an autonomous GSA-administered Health and Dental Plan...', and the phrase 'specifically for the needs of all full-time University of Manitoba graduate students, which would entail' in place of 'for the needs of graduate students and for all full-time University of Manitoba graduate students and the'.

Carolyn Weiss/Johanu Botha

Carried

Final Referendum Question:

Do you support the implementation of an autonomous GSA-administered Health and Dental Plan for a cost no greater than \$420 per student which will provide improved benefits and services designed specifically for the needs of all full-time University of Manitoba graduate students, which would entail the withdrawal of UMGSA members from the University of Manitoba Students' Union (UMSU) Health and Dental Plan?

7. Committee Reports

7.1 Finance Committee Report

MOTION: BIRT Carolyn Weiss be reimbursed \$758.33 for expenses incurred for the Pub night.

Chad Cowie/Monica Wetzel

Carried

MOTION: BIRT Trish Kelley be reimbursed \$6011.76 for expenses incurred for the expenses related to the CCSL.

Chad Cowie/Kendra Magnusson

Carried

MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA approve the Finance Committee's Decision to approve \$500 to the History Department for their Symposium, \$500 to Human Nutritional Science for their Symposium, approve \$500 for English, Film, and Theatre for the Association of Graduate English Students' Colloquium, and \$500 for the Family Social Science Graduate Students' Association for their Symposium.

Chad Cowie/Carolyn Weiss

Carried

7.2 Awards Committee Report

The Awards Committee did not meet for the last month. Updates to the awards guidelines are waiting for the next Senate meeting.

7.3 Bylaws Committee Report

There is nothing new to report from the Bylaws Committee. A few friendly amendments to the Bylaws have been made.

7.4 Campaigns Committee Report

The next meeting will be on March 7 at 4:30pm. It will be a quick meeting then the committee is going to the Hub for food and drink. The UPass survey will be ready by then.

7.5 'Autonomous' Committee Report

The committee held its first meeting, it established a list of things that need to be done, and have an agenda ready for the next meeting

7.6 Elections Committee Report

The All Candidates Forum will be in the lounge next week on Wednesday, March 6. Please encourage people from your department to come, and take a poster advertising the event to your department.

8. Executive Reports

- 8.1 President
- 8.2 Vice President Internal
- 8.3 Vice President Academic
- 8.4 Vice President Health Sciences Report
- 8.5 Vice President External
- 8.6 Senator Rebizant
- 8.7 Senator Botha
- 8.8 Senator Moreno

9. Senate Report

10. Department Reports

None

11. Other Business

None

12. Announcements:

- Calistus Ekenna (Social Work) had a baby last Saturday.
- Native Studies Students' Association - there will be an information session on the Idle No More movement and Bill C-34 on March 8.
- The 3MT Finals are on March 6

13. Adjournment.

Ryan Coulling/Sebastien Kerherve

Carried

Meeting adjourned at 7:05pm

Next Meeting is on Wednesday, March 27, 2013 at 5 pm at the GSA Lounge.

	<i>Name</i>	<i>Signature</i>
President	E. RoTimi Ojo	present – left at 6:30pm
VP Internal	Chad Cowie	present
VP Academic	Jennifer Chen	present
VP External	Tonia Bates	present
VP Health Sciences	Carolyn Weiss	present
Senator1	Jessica Rebizant	present
Senator2	Johanu Botha	present
Senator3	Sem Moreno	present
Office Manager (Non-voting)	Ruth Prokesch	present
Office Assistant (Non-voting)	Trish Kelley	present
<i>Agric & Food Science</i>		
Agribusiness & Agric. Economics	Awudu Lukeman	present
Animal Science	Hamidreza Khazanehei	absent
Biosystems Engineering	Behzad Bashiri	absent
Entomology	Lars Andreassen	absent
Food Science	Yao Wu	absent
Plant Science	Chami Amarasinghe	Present – left at 6:30pm
Soil Science	Taiwo Akinseloyin	absent
<i>Architecture</i>		

Architecture	Samantha Peters	Present – left at 6:30
City Planning	Lise Gibbons	regrets
Interior Design	William Gray	absent
Landscape Architecture	Britney Bell	absent
Arts		
Anthropology	Amy Scott	absent
Classics		
Economics	Fariba Solati (Co-councilors) Prosper Koto	absent
English, Film & Theatre	Kendra Magnusson	Present
French, Spanish & Italian		
German		
History	Sarah Gauntlett Proxy: Nicholas Curry	Present Regrets
Icelandic Studies		
Linguistics	Kay Hamadzadeh	present
Native Studies	Ryan Duplassie	present
Philosophy		
Political Studies and Public Administration	Alexander Salt	regrets
Psychology	Julie Erikson Proxy: Jeff Doering Yunqiao Wang	Present regrets regrets
Religious Studies		
School of Art	Shannon Yashcheshen	present
Sociology	Ryan Coulling	Present – arrived at 5:35pm
Canadian Studies St. Boniface		
Arthur Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice		
Peace and Conflict Studies	Paul Cormier Proxy: Maria Lucia Zapata	present Regrets

Management		
Management 1 (MBA)		
Management 2	Paul Dueck Ji Zhou (Co-councilors)	present
Education		
Curr: Hum. & Soc. Sc.		
Curr: Math & Nat Sc		
Curr: Teaching & Learning		
Educ. Admin & Foundations		
Educational Psychology		
Educ. Adm. Fnd. & Psy		
Faculty based PhD		
Educ. St. Boniface		
Engineering		
Civil	Pouria Jabari Barjesteh	Present – left at 6:25pm
Electrical & Computer	Ahmed Byagow (co-councillors) Dan Lockery	Present present
Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering	Sobhan Sadri	present
Environment		
Geography & Environment	Matthew Gale	present
Geological Sciences	Kerry Bates	absent
Nat Resources Institute	Jessica Lockhart	present
Disability Studies		
Food & Nutritional Sciences		
Interdisciplinary		
Human Ecology		

Clothing & Textiles		
Family Social Sciences	Monika Wetzel	present
Human Nutritional Sciences	Shyamchand Mayengbam	present
Law		
Law		
Music		
Music		
Nursing		
Nursing	Crystal Cook (Co-Councillors) Antonina (Nina) DePaul	Present
Phys Ed & Rec Studies		
Recreation Management & Kinesiology	Soyun Chapman Proxy: Elizabeth Hardy	present regrets
Science		
Biological Sciences	Helia Zhang	absent
Chemistry	Joey Lussier	Present
Computer Science		
Mathematics		
Microbiology	Mac Kohlmeier	Present
Physics & Astronomy	Kurt Hildebrand (Co-councilors) Sebastien Kerherve	Present
Statistics	Monsur Ahmed Chowdry Proxy: Ankit Doshi	Present Regrets
Social Work		
Social Work	Calistas Ekenna	Present
UMSU (Non-Voting)		
President or Designate	Jennifer Black	UMSU leave of absence
CUPE 3909 (Non-Voting)		
President or Designate	Shannon Price	absent

<i>FGS Rep (Non-Voting)</i>		
Dean or Designate	Jay Doering	regrets
<i>Student Life (Non-Voting)</i>		
	David Grad	regrets