

Council Meeting Minutes  
January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014, 5:00pm  
GSA Lounge

APPROVED  
2014.02.26

**1. Call to order.**

Meeting called to order at 5:02pm.

**2. Approval of the agenda.**

**MOTION: BIRT** the agenda for the January 22, 2014 UMGSA Council meeting be approved.

*Jeremy Beller/Kathleen Strader*

*Carried*

**3. Approval of the minutes from November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013 GSA Council Meeting.**

**MOTION: BIRT** the minutes from the November 27, 2013 UMGSA Council meeting be approved.

*Jill Norminton/Daniel Levin*

*Carried*

**4. Presentation by Callan Davey on UMSU/GSA Health and Dental Plan.**

- In September, the GSA and UMSU changed health and dental insurance providers from Greenshield to Blue Cross as the insurance company and StudentCare Networks as the broker and administrator of the plan.
- When the change was first made, there were some transitional issues that arose.
- Prescriptions drugs have been an issue under the new plan. Some drugs weren't being filled. This did not raise a red flag at first, but has come up quite often since then. StudentCare created an action committee to look into this.
  - There was a problem with the card coding between insurance companies. It was recognized, and StudentCare has had multiple meetings with stakeholders since resolving this issue. They have been working on getting students prescriptions filled and claims reimbursed.
- StudentCare has overall received positive feedback.
- Some issues that students are still having:
  - Some health care providers cannot direct bill to the new insurance company.
  - The cost of prescription drugs is not reimbursed at the same percent coverage as they were under the old plan.
    - There is a formulary built into each insurance drug plan that lists the drugs that are eligible for a plan. When a plan is instituted, you pick a formulary based on the financial restraints of the plan. A formulary that includes all drugs is very expensive and not usually chosen for students as the insurers try to keep costs low. When StudentCare figured out the coding problem, they asked Greenshield to provide them with a list of the top 500 drugs claimed over the past few years. Those drugs accounted for 97% of the drug claims in the previous years. StudentCare felt comfortable using that list of drugs as their formulary.
  - Vaccinations are also not covered under the new plan. Vaccinations are important for graduate students working in specific fields or who have to travel to certain parts of the world.
  - Information received from the Health and Dental Plan Office was not correct and service has been poor.
  - The website claims they will cover 'up to 80%' of the drug cost. The average percent coverage of Farhoud's drugs by Greenshield was 70%, the prescriptions covered by Blue Cross were covered at approximately 50%. The dispensing fee charged by pharmacies is roughly \$9.00-10.00 depending on the pharmacy you visit, with the exception of Costco who charges only \$5.00. StudentCare only pays \$5 of the dispensing fee.

*ZMW*

- Dispensing fees are controlled exclusively by the pharmacy. Though it was covered under Greenshield, the dispensing fee is usually not a component of a health and dental plan.
- The service currently provided by Blue Cross is not the same as the service we were receiving under Greenshield.

#### 5. Unanimous consent agenda.

5.1. 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 be accepted omnibus.**

*Kathleen Strader/Danielle Dubois*

*Carried*

#### 6. UMGSA 2014/15 Elections

- 6.1. It is hoped that the new Executive Guidelines Manual developed this year will provide concrete guidance to incoming executive members, thereby facilitating a smoother transition and reduced workload.
- 6.2. If you are interested in running for any of the executive positions, please speak to the executive member currently holding the position, so they may brief you on their daily tasks and responsibilities! If you have any questions about the policy and procedure for the election, please contact the Chief Returning Office Kendra Magnusson at [cro@umgsa.org](mailto:cro@umgsa.org).
- 6.3. Note: No member of the Elections Committee may participate in the election as a candidate or campaign volunteer. (They are allowed to leave the committee if they should choose to run in the elections). In addition, any candidate or campaign volunteers that are members of the sitting Executive are required to take a leave of absence for the duration of the campaign period and voting period.

#### 7. Round-Table Event: Wine and Dine if You Share What's on Your Mind

- The Round Table Event was well attended. There were six general themes that came out of the discussion that students felt were important: getting involved, post-graduation, fees, departments issues, and university services. The discussions focused on things that needed to be improved as well as potential solutions.
- Mike has finished summarizing the topics that were discussed, and Trish has been working on transcribing the recorded discussion.
- The Executive met with the Minister of Education and Advanced Learning, and is interested in seeing the summary of the event. The Minister has also prioritized some of the topics that were discussed at the Round Table, especially careers. This information can also be used by the Strategic Enrollment and Management Committee to improve life on campus for students.
- Mike is planning on talking to the Office of Student Life to see where they can help with these issues.

#### 8. Holiday Hampers

- Holiday hampers were distributed. There were 71 recipients.

#### 9. Orientation Handbook Review

- Students have talked to Monika about not knowing about Orientation, or starting in January and not getting any Orientation information. Monika has merged graduate student information with the available undergraduate information. It would be better to have a handbook that is exclusively for graduate students.
- The Handbook is meant to be fillable by Departments, as students have expressed that they do not want something too generic. They would prefer to have something tailored to their needs.
- The handbook will be available online. The intention is to put links to resources so the handbook is easier to use as it is smaller and allows for access to required information.
- The majority of students felt that a welcome message was important.

- Programs available in departments and contact names are listed.
  - The purpose is to distinguish departmental and GSA Orientations, and to make sure that services are not duplicated.
- The Registration Checklist is specific to graduate students. Requirements are included for new and returning students.
- Information on IST and the accounts assigned to students is provided.
- Financial support lists various methods of getting financial support available to graduate students including grants, loans, bursaries, and TAing.
- Transportation includes information on parking passes, SafeWalk, when and where to pay for transit passes, and the Bison Grocery Run.
- Information on when students start classes and resources such as iThenticate, workshops, how to submit theses, resources for printing, photocopying and scanning, Academic Learning Centre, and how to submit your thesis.
- Additional resources lists information on FGS, GSA, campus daycare, Career Services, Health and Wellness, the Health and Dental Plan, PEERS and the Student Counselling Centre
- Getting Involved is the last section and lists potential volunteer opportunities.

## 10. Verbal Committee Reports:

### 10.1. Executive Committee Report

- There were Ugly Sweater Socials held at both the Bannatyne and Fort Garry campuses, Holiday Hampers were distributed, a Round Table Event on improving student experience was held.
- There is an AGM on January 29, 2014 in the UMGSA Lounge. There will be some changes to Bylaws, all councilors are encouraged to attend.
- Elections are starting soon.

### 10.2. Finance Committee Report

- There was a decrease in the number of applications in December. There has also been a decrease in the number of incomplete applications.

### 10.3. Awards Committee Report

- The instructions for the Awards Application have been changed to say that applications should be submitted to the UMGSA Office, instead of to the students' departments.
- The Awards Committee met online to review some of the changes and amendments to the GSA Awards. The changes have to be sent to the Senate Committee for Awards and then sent to the Senate for approval.

### 10.4. Bylaws Committee Report

- The Finance Committee had an application that was originally received in August and has been appealed three times since then. The correct information is still not being submitted, so they recommended to the Bylaws Committee that the Financial Policy Manual be amended so that appeals are limited to two appeals except in special circumstances, at the Finance Committee's discretion.
- The Bylaws Committee has finished their review of the Financial Policy Manual.

### 10.5. Campaigns Committee Report

- Attendance for Campaigns Committee meetings has been good.
- The Committee has met twice. They are working on ensuring department websites are updated and getting links those websites to put on the GSA website, as well as links to department associations.

### 10.6. Internal Development and Review Committee Report (IDRC report attached)

- The report for the May 1 – November 1 time frame is included in the Council documents.
- Overall the Executive members have been doing a great job collectively and individually.
- 122 students responded to the IDRC survey. They are working on getting more responses for the next evaluation.
- The IDRC was asked to review the honorariums; their suggestions are included in the AGM documents.

*FMW*

**11. Executive Members' Reports:**

- 11.1.  President
- 11.2.  Vice President Internal
- 11.3.  Vice President Academic
- 11.4.  Vice President Health Sciences
- 11.5.  Vice President Marketing and Events
- 11.6.  Senator Ekenna
- 11.7.  Senator Mejicanos
- 11.8.  Senator Okeke
- 11.9.  Executive-at-Large (October report also attached)
- 11.10. Vice President External (Nov /Dec/ Jan. report to be submitted in February)

**12.  Senate Report**

**13. Department Reports**

- None

**14. Other Business**

- Thank you to everyone who contacted Timi Ojo about the Academic Integrity Program. Please contact Monika if you would like to schedule an Academic Ambassador to come to your department and she will put you in touch with Timi.
- The first 3MT heat will be on February 6. The UMGSA is hosting a post-3MT (Almost) Valentine's Social from 5:00-9:00.
- The HSGSA is holding a Curling Bonspiel that will be open to UMGSA members. It will most likely be at the West Kildonan Curling Centre.

**15. Announcements**

- 15.1. Health and Dental Plan Reminder: 2nd opt-out deadline for the health and dental plan has been changed to January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014, after this date, no refunds will be issued. For more information see UMGSA's student planner handbooks.
- 15.2. 3MT Challenger Application Deadline was January 13<sup>th</sup>, challengers to be announced January 17<sup>th</sup>, and heats will run throughout the month of February.
- 15.3. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is next week, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 5pm in the GSA Lounge. An email will be sent out January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014 with the AGM package.
- 15.4. Next Meeting is Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 5pm in the GSA Lounge.
- 15.5. The University Development Services workshops are now available to graduate students. Space is limited for each workshop.
- 15.6. Four people have put their names forward for the Elections Committee.

**MOTION: BIRT the membership of the Elections Committee be ratified.**

*Melissa Rabb/Crystal Cook*

*Carried*

**MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA meeting move into closed session.**

*Kathleen Strader/Kendra Magnus-Johnson*

*Carried*

**16. Closed Session**

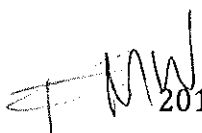
**MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA meeting move into open session.**

**MOTION: BIRT the UMGS Council revisit the motion approved at the 2013 October Council meeting which approved the service agreement put forth by Kokobi.**

*Crystal Cook/Mehdi Rahimian*

*Carried*

**MOTION: BIRT the UMGS Council approve the service agreement put forward by Kokobi to provide a framework for the development of a report regarding the UMGSA's relationship with the**



CFS, a timeline of the UMGSA's membership and political involvement with the CFS as well as a financial analysis of potential issues regarding outstanding fees to the CFS.

*Crystal Cook/Mehdi Rahimian*

*Defeated (Mike Cardillo, Julie Hyde, Sebastien Kerherve, and Bridget Antze abstained)*

**17. Adjournment**

**MOTION: BIRT the GSA Council meeting be adjourned**

*Sebastien Kerherve/Britney Bell*

*Carried*

Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm

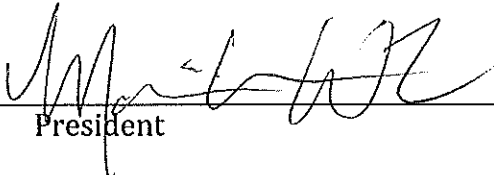
|  | <i>Name</i>  | <i>Signature</i>         |
|--|--|--------------------------|
| President                              | Monika Wetzel                                      | present                  |
| VP Internal                            | Farhoud Delijani                                   | present                  |
| VP Academic                            | Mehdi Rahimian                                     | present                  |
| VP External                            | Crystal Cook                                       | present                  |
| VP Health Sciences                     | Melissa Rabb                                       | present                  |
| Senator 1                              | Calistus Ekenna                                    | present                  |
| Senator 2                              | Gustavo Mejicanos                                  | present                  |
| Senator 3                              | Emeka Okeke  | regrets                  |
| Exec-At-Large (Non-voting)             | Jennifer Chen                                      | Present – left at 6:35pm |
| Office Manager (Non-voting)            | Ruth Prokesch                                      | present                  |
| Office Assistant (Non-voting)          | Trish Kelley                                       | present                  |
| <b><i>Agric &amp; Food Science</i></b> |  |                          |
| Agribusiness & Agric. Economics        | Jereme Keren Biney                                 | present                  |
| Animal Science                         | Kristine Blair<br>Atta Kofi Ayekum                 | present                  |
| Biosystems Engineering                 | Charles Nwaizu                                     | Present – left at 6:00pm |
| Entomology                             | Andres Fabian Herrera<br>Proxy: Aldo Rios Martinez | Regrets<br>present       |
| Food Science                           | Yuming Chen  | absent                   |
| Plant Science                          | Chami Amarasinghe                                  | Present – left at 6:33pm |
| Soil Science                           | Nicholson Jeke                                     | present                  |
| <b><i>Architecture</i></b>             |  |                          |
| Architecture                           | Gordon Yiu   | present                  |
| City Planning                          | Krista Rogness                                     | present                  |
| Interior Design                        | Jaymie Borchardt                                   | present                  |

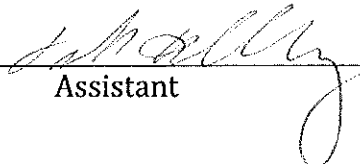
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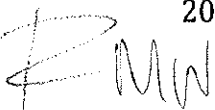
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|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| Landscape Architecture                         | Britney Bell  | present                              |
| <b>Arts</b>                                    |   |                                      |
| Anthropology                                   | Jeremy Beller   | present                              |
| Economics                                      | Musah Khalid<br>Urnee Dasgupta  | Present – left at 6:25pm             |
| English, Film & Theatre                        | Kendra Magnus-Johnston<br>Karalyn Dakurne                                   | Present<br>present                   |
| History  | Nicole Courier<br>Danielle Dubois   | Present – left at 6:25pm             |
| Linguistics                                    | Anna Parenteau<br>Kathleen Strader  | present                              |
| Native Studies                                 | Ryan Duplassie<br>Proxy: Joe Dipple   | present                      regrets |
| Philosophy                                     |   |                                      |
| Political Studies and<br>Public Administration | Alexander Salt  | present                              |
| Psychology                                     | Yunqiao Wang<br>Hayley Chartrand (co-<br>councilors)<br>Proxy: Matt Quesnel | Present<br>Regrets<br>Regrets        |
| Sociology                                      | Daniel Levin<br>Matthew Sanscartier   | Present                              |
| <b>Graduate Studies</b>                        |   |                                      |
| Applied Health Sciences                        | Navjot Pachu<br>Scott Kehler  | Present- left at 6:15pm              |
| Peace and Conflict Studies                     | Julie Hyde<br>Saad Khan   | Present<br>Present – left at 5:30pm  |
| <b>Management</b>                              |   |                                      |
| Management - PhD and MSc                       | Ji Zhou   | present                              |
| Management 2 - MBA                             | Amanda Gebhardt   | Present – left at 6:25pm             |
| <b>Education</b>                               |   |                                      |
| Curr: Hum. & Soc. Sc.                          |   |                                      |
| Curr: Math & Nat Sc                            |   |                                      |
| Curr: Teaching & Learning                      |   |                                      |
| Educ. Admin & Foundations                      |   |                                      |
| Educational Psychology                         |   |                                      |
| Educ. Adm. Fnd. & Psy                          | Barbara Borgs   | absent                               |
| Faculty based PhD                              |   |                                      |
| Educ. St. Boniface                             |   |                                      |
| <b>Engineering</b>                             |   |                                      |

|                                  |                   |   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Social Work                      | Nabieu Musa Sesay | Present - left at 5:55 pm for class       |
| <i>UMSU (Non-Voting)</i>         |                   |   |
| President or Designate           | Christian Pierce  | Present – left at 6:25 for closed session |
| <i>CUPE 3909 (Non-Voting)</i>    |                   |   |
| President or Designate           | Ana Vialard Hart  | regrets                                   |
| <i>FGS Rep (Non-Voting)</i>      |                   |   |
| Dean or Designate                | Jay Doering       | absent                                    |
| <i>Student Life (Non-Voting)</i> |                   |   |
|                                  | Brendan Hughes    | regrets                                   |
| <i>Guests</i>                    |                   |   |
| StudentCare                      | Callan Davey      | Finished at 5:30pm                        |

APPROVED  
2014.02.26

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 President Date March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Assistant Date Feb 7, 2014



|  |   |                          |
|--|---|--------------------------|
| Civil                                    | Pouria Jabari Barjesteh                       | present                  |
| Electrical & Computer                    | Ahmed Byagowi (co-councillors)<br>Dan Lockery | present - left at 6:33pm |
| Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering | Vikram Bantia                                 | Present – left at 6:30pm |
| <i>Environment</i>                       |   |                          |
| Geography & Environment                  | Heather Stark                                 | present                  |
| Geological Sciences                      | Halya Petzold                                 | present                  |
| Nat Resources Institute                  | Bridget Antze                                 | present                  |
| <i>Human Ecology</i>                     |   |                          |
| Clothing & Textiles                      |   |                          |
| Family Social Sciences                   | Morgan Stirling                               | present                  |
| Human Nutritional Sciences               | Mohammad Abdullah                             | absent                   |
| <i>Law</i>                               |   |                          |
| Law                                      |   |                          |
| <i>Music</i>                             |   |                          |
| Music                                    |   |                          |
| <i>Nursing</i>                           |   |                          |
| Nursing                                  | Jill Norminton                                | present                  |
| <i>Phys Ed &amp; Rec Studies</i>         |   |                          |
| Recreation Management & Kinesiology      | Soyun Chapman                                 | Present – left at 6:15pm |
| <i>Science</i>                           |   |                          |
| Biological Sciences                      | Shuo Huang                                    | present                  |
| Chemistry                                | Joey Lussier                                  | absent                   |
| Computer Science                         |   |                          |
| Mathematics                              |   |                          |
| Microbiology                             | Mac Kohlmeier                                 | regrets                  |
| Physics & Astronomy                      | Sebastien Kerherve                            | Present                  |
| Statistics                               | Monsur Ahmed Chowdry                          | Present – left at 5:50pm |
| <i>Social Work</i>                       |   |                          |