

## UMGSA Council Meeting Minutes

### Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017 - 5:30 PM - UMGSA Lounge

#### 1. Call to Order (5:35pm).

#### 2. Approval of the Agenda

##### **Note: Agenda Items for Concurrence Without Debate**

Any item that has a  beside it denotes an item intended for Concurrence Without Debate. These items include reports and other routine matters, and are considered accepted or adopted by the UMGSA Council without debate or a vote. Any Council Member who wishes to remove any item so-noted from the list of items for Concurrence Without Debate may do so by contacting the Council Chairperson prior to the meeting, or by requesting that it be removed when the Chair asks if there is any opposition to accepting these items for Concurrence Without Debate, immediately prior to the motion to approve the agenda as presented or as amended.

**MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council approves the agenda for the September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017, UMGSA Council Meeting as presented.**

*Linguistics/Animal Science (Carried).*

#### 3. Approval of the Minutes: The minutes of the August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017, UMGSA Council Meeting are included as Appendix I to the council meeting agenda.

**MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council approves the minutes from the August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017, UMGSA Council Meeting as presented.**

*Native Studies/Human Nutritional Sciences (Carried).*

#### 4. Committee Reports

##### 4.1. Executive Committee Report:

- Fall Orientation was a success.
- Executives attended the International Centre Orientation.
- The President and other Executives visited departments and faculties during Orientation which helped to build relationships with new graduate students.

##### 4.2. Finance Committee Report:

- Finance Committee has been spending the majority of their time processing Travel Grants.

##### 4.3. Bylaws and Policy Committee Report:

- The UMGSA Conference Grant policy has been revised.
- Policies relating to elections and the use of social media are being discussed.

#### **4.4. Events Committee Report:**

- Fall Orientation, organized with FGS and Student Life, was a success.
- The UMGSA Fall Orientation Social was well attended.
- The UMGSA is currently collaborating with UFMF in creating a program called GradTalks which will air on Tuesday mornings. Students interested in participating should contact Obi.
- The UMGSA's Halloween Social will be October 27<sup>th</sup>.

#### **4.5. Campaigns Committee Report:**

- The committee has been discussing ThinkGrad membership.
- The U-Pass can present issues to graduate students in exceptional circumstances who need to opt-out or into the fee; any concerned students should contact Albert.
- The UMGSA is running a campaign to raise awareness about textbook prices for graduate students. If you purchase an expensive textbook, take a picture of your receipt and send it to Albert.
- Suggestion that the textbook campaign advocates moving towards an open-source textbook model like there is in British Columbia.
- The Campaigns Committee endorsed a Canada-wide sexual violence policy for university campuses.
- Question as to how this policy and others relates to the current events concerning the accusations against former music professor Steve Kirby; the University has policies in place for these situations but they can be improved. We can make room on coming Council agendas to have further discussion on this issue.

#### **4.6. Awards Committee Report:**

- The UMGSA Awards Luncheon on September 25<sup>th</sup> honoured this year's recipients of the UMGSA Student and Teaching awards.
- Next month is Academic Integrity Month.

#### **4.7. Indigenous Ad-Hoc Committee Report:**

- The Committee is working with the Indigenous Community to find out the best way to consult with them.
- The Committee will meet before the next UMGSA council meeting.

### **5. Senate Report**

Nothing to report. Next Senate meeting is the first week of October.

### **6. Executive Reports**

- 6.1.**  July Executive Reports (Appendix II)
- 6.2.**  August Executive Reports (Appendix III)
- 6.3.**  August ThinkGrad Conference Report (Appendix IV)

### **7. Departmental Reports**

- Native Studies has a call for papers from anyone (Indigenous or non-Indigenous) regarding topics or issues that affect Indigenous people. All types of submissions are

welcome. It is free to apply and past participants have had their work published as a result of their application.

## 8. Unfinished Business

None.

## 9. New Business

### 9.1. Approval of Amendments to the Graduate Student Membership of FGS

**Committees and its Faculty Council:** Three student appointments need to be amended in order to be in compliance with a few policy requirements which were overlooked when these appointments were originally approved. The amendments are as follows:

1. Colin Graydon will replace Uzzal Liton on the FGS Awards Committee.
2. Andrew Plesniarski will replace Chandan Howlader on the FGS Executive.
3. Andrew Plesniarski will replace Chandan Howlader on the FGS Council.

**MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council approves these three revisions to the membership of FGS Committees and its Faculty Council.**

*Mathematics/Linguistics (Carried).*

### 9.2. Approval of Graduate Student Representatives on UMSU Committees: Graduate Student representatives appointed to serve on UMSU Committees need to be approved by the UMGSA Council. The three appointed representatives are as follows:

1. Albert Boakye will serve on the U-Pass Committee.
2. Chandan Howlader will serve on the U-Pass Committee.
3. Richard From will serve on the Member Services Committee.

**MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council approves these three appointments to UMSU Committees.**

*Entomology/Kinesiology & Recreation Management (Carried).*

### 9.3. Approval of an Amendment to the Orientation Budget: Until very recently, the UMGSA incurred all costs for our Orientations, including for lunches, and running Orientation in collaboration with the Faculty of Graduate Studies has provided significant savings. Due to budget limitations, FGS requested that the UMGSA provide some funds toward providing lunches during the UMGSA Orientation. The UMGSA Executive agreed that a contribution of \$600 toward one of the two Grad Orientation lunches was reasonable and appropriate, because these costs are more than covered by greater-than-budgeted revenue from the sale of ad space in our UMGSA Handbooks. FGS still paid for about two thirds of all food costs, and even when costs went up from the original estimates, they took on all of those additional costs.

**MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council approves the addition of \$600 to the Orientation budget, to cover this contribution toward food for one of the Grad Orientation lunches.**

*Psychology/Biological Sciences (Carried).*

### 9.4. Approval of an Addition to the Budget for ThinkGrad Membership Fees: The UMGSA is a member of ThinkGrad, formerly known as the GU15, which is a collaborative group of graduate student associations across Canada. Until now, there have been no membership fees, and we have only paid the costs of attending the group's

conferences. ThinkGrad is preparing to incorporate in the near future, and will then be hiring a part-time coordinator to enhance the group's collaboration efforts, to create and maintain a website for the group, and to assist member associations when hosting ThinkGrad conferences. Our graduate student population here at the UofM is small enough that we will pay the lowest tier rate of membership fees, which are set at \$800 per year. Larger grad student associations will be paying two or three times as much, but we will all share equally in the benefits of continued collaboration with this group. This \$800 membership fee will not be due until April, and will cover membership in the group for the 2018-2019 academic year. Though it is a payment covering the subsequent budget year, because it needs to be paid in April, it falls under this year's budget. As a member, the UMGSA can collaborate with other graduate student associations in discussing issues facing graduate students across Canada. For example, ThinkGrad members could partner in lobbying government bodies to solve issues faced by graduate students.

**MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council approves \$800 for ThinkGrad membership fees for the 2018-2019 academic year, to be paid in April of 2018.**

*Anthropology/Linguistics (Carried with one opposed).*

**9.5. Approval of an Amendment to the Committee Policy Dealing with the Membership of the Finance Committee:** Approved in principal by the Finance Committee, and approved in this final form by the Bylaws & Policy Committee, the Committee recommends the addition of “no fewer than” and also “a minimum of” to the rules regarding membership for the Finance Committee in the Committee Policy Manual. This will make the Finance Committee's membership rules consistent with all other similar committees, and properly reflect the actual composition of the Committee now and in past years. The full proposed and existing wording of this section of the UMGSA Committee Policy is included as Appendix V to this council meeting agenda.

**MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council approves the revised wording of the Committee Policy dealing with the Membership of the Finance Committee as written.**

*Mathematics/Kinesiology and Recreation Management (Carried).*

**9.6. Approval of an Amendment to the Financial Policy Dealing with Conference Grants:** Approved in principal by the Finance Committee, and approved in this final form by the Bylaws & Policy Committee, the Committee recommends significant revisions to the Conference Grant section of the Financial Policy. One major change is that applicants will be able to claim combined food and in-city travel costs only in the form of \$65 per-diems. The revisions as a whole will make the application process much simpler for applicants, as well as for those who review the applications. This will also make the application process more consistent, and will often result in applicants being able to reliably claim more money for reimbursement than under our current policy and procedures. The full proposed and existing wording of this section of the UMGSA Financial Policy are included as Appendix VI to this council meeting agenda.

- Question as to how many receipts the committee have to sort through, and why the per diem amount is being raised to \$65. The Finance Committee decided on \$65 per day to accommodate in-city travel expenses and to allow attendees flexibility in their travel arrangements according to their needs.

- Concern is raised that \$25 would allow for too much leisure travel at the UMGSA's expense, and that over the years the amount of funding that the UMGSA allows could continue to increase as a result of this motion. The \$25 per diem increase would not allow students to claim any amount in excess of the pre-existing funding cap, which would not change as a result of this motion and therefore would not set a precedent for funding increases in the future. The concern about a \$25 increase being too high for transportation is echoed by other members of council.
- Question as to whether students declare funding received from FGS, their department or their supervisor in their applications, and whether this change could allow students to claim more than their total costs for a conference. The UMGSA will not provide funding beyond the total deficit incurred from a conference.
- Question as to how the Committee can know the total cost of a conference if students do not provide receipts. Claiming the per diem amount would not allow students to exceed the pre-existing limits for UMGSA Conference funding.
- Comments that a \$65 per diem is reasonable, and in keeping with per diems in government and professional industries. \$65 per day is easy to spend in expensive cities. If students want to cut costs by taking public transportation and by staying in inexpensive accommodations, that is their personal choice, but not all students may feel comfortable making the same choices.

**MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council approves the revised wording of the Financial Policy dealing with Conference Grants as written.**

*Anthropology/Law (Carried).*

#### **9.7. Proposal for Strategic Redirection Regarding the Gradzette and The Manitoban:**

The Gradzette has had very low readership for at least a few years, and ceased to produce a print edition early last year as a consequence. Grad student research will be better-promoted through the UMGSA website, which will also boost the visibility and use of our website's other promotions and resources. The UMGSA will shift the already-existing student fees that currently go to The Manitoban for production of the Gradzette to The Manitoban directly. This change will provide better coverage of Grad student issues in The Manitoban, a very valuable half-page of no-cost UMGSA advertising in every issue, as well as advertising on The Manitoban website. If approved by the UMGSA Council, this change in fees will be ratified by UMSU Council and then by the Board of Governors, in accordance with provincial legislation. This change will not increase the fees paid by Grad students, but will only change the use of this existing levy.

**MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA disband the Gradzette, transfer the promotion of graduate student research to our own website, and change the current student levy for the Gradzette so that it will directly fund The Manitoban instead.**

*Human Nutritional Sciences/Entomology (Carried).*

## **10. Announcements**

**10.1. Next Council Meeting:** Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017 - 5:30PM - UMGSA Lounge

## **11. Adjournment (6:33pm).**

<i>Position/Department</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Signature</i>
President	Carl Neumann	Present
VP Internal	Chandan Howlader	Present
VP Academic	Mohammad (Emrul) Hasan	Present
VP External	Albert Boakye	Present
VP Marketing & Events	Obiajulu Nnaemeka	Present
VP Health Science	Andrew Plesniarski	Absent
Exec-At-Large (Non-voting)	Richard From	Present
Senator 1	Silvia Araujo	Present
Senator 2	D Skye Kushner	Present
Council Chairperson (No Vote)	Karalyn Dokurno	Present
Office Manager (No Vote)	Ruth Prokesch	Present
Office Assistant (No Vote)	Jayne Hammond (Minute Taker)	Present
<b><i>Agric &amp; Food Science</i></b>		
Agribusiness & Agric. Economics	Allan Walker	Absent
Animal Science	Yue (Yvette) Shang (Co-Council) Dipana Maharjan	Both Present
Biosystems Engineering	Ikra Iftekhar Shuvo	Regrets
Entomology	Thais F. Silva Guimaraes	Present
Food Science	Pamela Drawbridge	Pamela sent Regrets Proxy: Huiqin (Mia) Wang
Human Nutritional Sciences	Matt Granger	Present
Plant Science	Kenny So (Co-Council) Win Jian (Daniel) Chan	Both Present
Soil Science	Mick Runzika	Absent
<b><i>Architecture</i></b>		
Architecture	None	None
City Planning	Andrew Treger (Co-Council) Felipe Mogollon	Both Present
Interior Design	Eugenia Amoako	Present
Landscape Architecture	Alyssa Magas	Alyssa sent Regrets Proxy: Krista Renwick
<b><i>Arts</i></b>		
Anthropology	Analucia Vucic	Present

Economics	Hubert Scarlett	Absent
English, Film & Theatre	Shaylyn Maharaj-Poliah Kasey Morgan (Co-Council)	Present
Linguistics	Irina Volchok	Present
Native Studies	Laura Forsythe	Present
Political Studies & Public Admin	Anderson Agbugba (Co-Council) Ryan Werbicki	Both Absent
Psychology	Michelle Ward (Co-Council) Brenna Henrikson	Present
Sociology	Abdul-Bari Abdul-Karim	Absent
<b><i>Management</i></b>		
Management – PhD and MSc	Zulfiquer Ali Haider	Absent
Management – MBA	Adeoye Babatunde (Co-Council) Han Kang	Both Absent
<b><i>Education</i></b>		
Education – PhD – Ad hoc	Kazutoshi (Koe) Yoshino	Present
Education – Admin, Foundations & Psych.	Catherine Draper	Absent
Education – Curriculum, Teaching & Learn	Erica Hildebrand	Absent
<b><i>Engineering</i></b>		
Civil Engineering	Alexander Afuberoh	Absent
Electrical & Computer Engineering	Nozhan Bayat (Co-Council) Ehsan Tahmasebian	Both Absent
Mechanical Engineering	Shahriar Bagheri	Shariar sent Regrets Proxy: Robabeh Abbasi Hauestini
<b><i>Environment, Earth &amp; Resources</i></b>		
Environment & Geography	Tonya Burgers (Co-Council) Maddie Harasyn	Both Present
Geological Sciences	Cody Ross	Regrets
Natural Resources Institute	Anderson Assuah (Co-Council) Rajib Biswal	Rajib Present (left at 6:00pm)
<b><i>Graduate Studies</i></b>		
Applied Health Sciences	Nick Kosmenko (Co-Council) Brittany Semenchuk	Present
Biomedical Engineering	Ahmed Elwali	Present (left at 5:53pm)

Peace and Conflict Studies	Nour Maghanaoui	Absent
<b><i>Kinesiology &amp; Recreation Mgmt.</i></b>		
Kinesiology & Recreation Mgmt.	Laura Ceccarelli (Co-Council) Yash Rawal	Both Present
<b><i>Nursing</i></b>		
Nursing	Josie Bolainatz	Absent
<b><i>Science</i></b>		
Biological Sciences	Gwangseok Yoon	Present
Computer Science	Md Momin Al Aziz (Co-Council) Md S. R. Mahdi	Mahdi sent Regrets
Mathematics	Jane Breen	Present
Microbiology	Mac Kohlmeier	Present
Physics & Astronomy	Jaseer Ahmed	Jaseer sent Regrets Proxy: Kyle Monkman
Statistics	Kelly Ramsay	Present
<b><i>Social Work</i></b>		
Social Work – Indigenous Knowledge	Kyra Wilson	Present (arrived at 5:55pm)
<b><i>UMSU (Non-Voting)</i></b>		
President or Designate		Absent
<b><i>CUPE 3909 (Non-Voting)</i></b>		
President or Designate	Abdulrazaki Abi	Absent
<b><i>FGS Rep (Non-Voting)</i></b>		
Dean or Designate	Dr. Todd Mondor	Absent
<b><i>Student Life (Non-Voting)</i></b>		
Office of Student Life	Cora Dupuis	Absent
<b><i>Guests</i></b>		
Native Studies (possible Councilor)	Timothy Maton	Present
Linguistics (incoming Councilor)	Iuliia Rezvukhina	Present
Chemistry (potential new Councilor)	Haben Gabir	Present

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President

Date

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Executive-at-Large

Date