

UMGSA 2014-15 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 29, 2015, 5:00pm

UMGSA Lounge (217 University Centre)

1. Call to order at 5:23pm
The HSGSA AGM was held January 27 at 12pm Theatre C of Basic Medical Sciences Building. All individuals who vote in that meeting are not permitted to vote again at this AGM. The votes cast will be included in this vote.

2. Ratify the Chair
BIRT the University of Manitoba Graduate Students' Association (UMGSA) membership ratify the Executive at Large, E. RoTimi Ojo to chair the UMGSA Annual General Meeting.
Joseph Dipple/Mario Solis
Motion Carried.

3. Territory Recognition
We acknowledge that we are on the Treaty 1 territory, the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe people, and the homeland of the Metis nation. The university and the Forks of the City of Winnipeg sit at the crossroads of the Anishinaabe, Metis, Cree, Dakota, and Oji-Cree Nations.

4. Introduction of UMGSA Executive Members

UMGSA Executive Position	Executive Name
President	Laura Rempel
Vice-President Internal	Valery Agbor
Vice-President External	Note: Faizan Khan resigned after the agenda was sent to students.
Vice-President Academic	Kristjan Mann
Vice-President Health Sciences (HSGSA president)	Melissa Rabb
Vice-President of Marketing and Events	Beibei Lu
Senator 1	Chido Uchime
Senator 2	Diba Vafabakhsh
Senator 3	Richard From
Executive-at-Large	E. RoTimi Ojo

5. Guests to be approved by the membership.
 - 5.1. ***BIRT the UMGSA membership approve the presence of (name of guests) at the UMGSA AGM.***

None. Motion not moved.

6. Approval of the agenda.

BIRT the UMGSA Membership approve the agenda presented for the 2014/15 AGM.

Katelyn Dykstra Dykerman /Enoch A-iyeh

Motion Carried.

7. Approval of minutes from January 29, 2014 UMGSA AGM Meeting.

Whereas the previous AGM was held on January 29, 2014.

Whereas Robert's Rules specifies that AGM minutes must be approved by members who were in attendance at that meeting.

BIRT the UMGSA Membership, present at last year's AGM, approve the minutes from the January 29, 2014 AGM.

Gustavo Mejicanos /Laura Rempel

Motion Carried.

8. Review of the UMGSA's Budget/Actuals- May to December 2014 (please see Appendix B)
VP Internal: Most important part is that we are well within the budget approved by Council. We receive student membership fees collected by the University from tuition payments each year (disbursed in November and March) and then money is allocated to different parts of the budget. We are on budget with one thing to highlight. There is slight overspending on Line 6605 GSA Designed items due to increased demand. \$600 was budgeted, \$850 has been spent, but our budget will allow for this.

9. UMGSA's 2013/14 Audit

President: BDO is our current auditor and for the past few years. In their report they say they didn't find any fraudulent activities. This is the previous executive term's audit. Also contains some recommendations for streamlining our processes for the audit.

- 9.1. Whereas the 2012/2013 executive changed the UMGSA term to align with the University's academic terms

BIRT the UMGSA membership approve the UMGSA audit as presented by BDO Canada, LLP auditors for the period between March 31, 2013 to April 30, 2014.

Gustavo Mejicanos /Joseph Dipple

Motion Carried.

- 9.2. ***BIRT the UMGSA membership approve BDO Canada, LLP as the UMGSA's auditors for the 2014/2015 term.***

Joseph Dipple/Kaladhar Battepati

Motion Carried.

10. Executive Committee Annual Report

- 10.1. Executive Committee Report

President: Highlights from the year include fighting the FGS proposal to increase continuing fees this brought the Executive team together at the very beginning of our term, the Anti-cuts campaign such as our rally at the January BOG meeting,

and the Universal Bus Pass (UPASS) referendum was supported by 59% of students who voted. One recommendation is to prioritize building UMGSA's organizational capacity to have a stronger presence at the university so we can be more proactive.

- 10.2. HSGSA Internal Activities Report
Highlights included: planning the Bannatyne orientation, socials, summer activity, and Research Days
- 10.3. Finance Committee Report
Committee has been very successful thanks to help from councilors, 9 special project grants, many conference grants
- 10.4. Awards Committee Report
Two primary functions included choosing winners for the UMGSA awards, and planning a luncheon. Also took on the task of organizing GU15 research as part of partnership with the GU15. We will be discussing Austerity measures at the University of Manitoba and similar experiences across Canada. The GU15 is comprised of U15 University's graduate student associations.
- 10.5. Bylaws Committee Report
The committee worked on the Elections policy manual. They are currently working on the Executive policy manual, trying to make it more efficient and consistent. Thanks to all members of the committee for all of their hard work.
- 10.6. Campaigns Committee Report
VPE resigned but the written report is available in the AGM documents.
- 10.7. Events Committee Report
Plan and organize events with different themes for networking and socializing. Orientation was the biggest event planned which included a social and a wine and cheese. We have had almost 1 social event per month: Halloween social, holiday social, movie night. GSA designed items for student giveaways including pens and toques. Thanks to all of the committee members.
- 10.8. Internal Development and Review Sub-Committee Report
Committee Chairperson: Formed by 8 council members to review job performance of the executive team. The first evaluation phase was from May to October 2014. In general, UMGSA has done an excellent job, but also have some recommendations for opportunities to improve. They collected feedback through a survey to the whole graduate student body. One of main responses was that students wanted a decrease in emails from UMGSA, while others wanted more communication to know what UMGSA was doing. A range of opinions included support or concerns raised regarding U-PASS, funding opportunities and social events.

11. Review of Current Bylaws: Relationship with the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS)

- 11.1. Presentation by past UMGSA president, E. RoTimi Ojo, on the history of the relationship between UMGSA and CFS.
- 11.2. October 30, 2012: UMGSA Special General Meeting (SGM) (see Appendix E)
 - 11.2.1. Important motions were made regarding UMGSA's relationship with CFS
- 11.3. January 30, 2013: UMGSA Annual General Meeting (AGM) (excerpt below)

11.3.1. Bylaws add Article IX to reflect those decisions made at the SGM and are to be reviewed annually at UMGSA's AGMs. These bylaws include:

- University of Manitoba Graduate Students' Association is not a member of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), the Canadian Federation of Students- Services (CFS-S) or the Canadian Federation of Students- Manitoba (CFS-MB), herein referred to as CFS/-S/-MB and in that regard if and when necessary, it shall dispute all statements, claims, indications and suggestions of membership (full or otherwise) in the CFS/-S/-MB.
- The UMGSA shall continue to collect and hold fees related to possible membership in CFS/-S/-MB in a contingency fund up to and including the completion of the 2017-2018 academic term or until such time that the membership status is officially conceded, in writing, between the legal counsels of the CFS/-S/-MB, the University of Manitoba and the UMGSA or determined by courts, whichever is sooner.
- Fees that are collected in respect of possible membership in CFS/-S/-MB may be used toward the reasonable costs associated with the process of defending the position of UMGSA regarding membership in the CFS/-S/-MB until such time that the membership status is officially conceded, in writing, between the legal counsels of the CFS/-S/-MB, the University of Manitoba and the UMGSA or determined by courts, whichever is sooner
- The general membership of the UMGSA and HSGSA shall discuss affiliations with external organizations, including but not limited to Canadian Federation of Students (National, Provincial, and/or Services), Canadian Alliance of Student Associations, at each Special/Annual General Meeting.
- At each annual general meeting, the membership shall revisit and determine the use of all remaining fees collected from the UMGSA members and held in a contingency fund until the issue of membership in the CFS/-S/-MB is finally resolved.

11.3.2. BIRT once the issue of membership in the CFS/-S/-MB is finally resolved the UMGSA Membership recommends allocating the remaining fees collected from the UMGSA members and those held in a contingency fund to (please bring recommendations to be discussed at AGM).

None. Motion not moved.

12. Proposed Bylaw Revisions:

12.1. **BIRT that in Article II, Section 2, reference to the Faculty of Health Sciences and Colleges (formerly named departments) be included to align with the University of Manitoba's restructuring process and terminology.**

Joseph Dipple/Karalyn Dokurno

Motion Carried.

ARTICLE II – NAME, DESCRIPTIONS, AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2. The UMGSA recognizes that its members within the field of Health Sciences, primarily located at Bannatyne Campus and St. Boniface Research Centre,

constitute the body known as the “Health Sciences Graduate Students’ Association” (HSGSA). This includes, but is not limited to, graduate students in the Faculty of Health Science, Colleges of Dentistry, Medicine, Medical Rehabilitation, Pharmacy, and a subset of students within the department of Physics. The HSGSA operates as a part of the UMGSA, representing and fulfilling the needs of its constituent members. For a full list of departments in the HSGSA please refer to the “Council Policy Manual.”

12.2. **BIRT that references to Internal Development and Review Committee (IDRC) in Article III, Section 3j of the bylaws be amended to read Internal Development and Review Sub-Committee (IDRSC).**

Joeph Dipple/ Katelyn Dykstra Dykerman
Motion Carried.

III.3.j. An executive may only be impeached by the student body which elected her; five students, who are not members of either campus’ Association’s Executive, must provide in writing their grievances and clear documentation of the steps taken to resolve the conflict. All information must be supplied to the Internal Review and Development Sub-Committee (IDRSC), who will hold all materials in confidence until a decision is reached. IDRSC may recommend further mediation, or submit materials to Council for consideration. Once the matter is presented to Council, all materials must be made public. Council may then decide to either consider the impeachment, or pursue further means of mediation.

12.3. **BIRT that Article III, Section 3i be amended to read “Impeachment of an Executive’s position should only be undertaken in circumstances when the prescribed means of mediation are exhausted. These means are outlined in Article IV titled ‘Conflict Resolution Procedure’ of the Executives Policy Manual”.**

VP Internal, Valery Agbor confirmed that the lawyer has been consulted and approved of this change. Two friendly amendments were accepted, to strike out “the newly created” and to change “all other means” to when the prescribed means are exhausted in the policy manual.

Darcy McDougall/Joseph Dipple
Motion Carried.

12.4. **BIRT Article III, Section 3.i. (i-iv) and j of the bylaws be moved to Article, 4 of the executive policy manual.**

Joseph Dipple/Mario Solis.
Motion Carried. VP Internal, Valery Agbor abstains.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP:

3. Membership of Executive:

- g. Membership of the Executive shall be terminated in the following cases:
 - i. Conviction of an indictable offence

- ii. Abuse or misappropriation of finances, resources or private information belonging to the UMGSA
 - iii. Misrepresentation of the UMGSA in legal or public matters
 - iv. Expulsion from her program or the University
 - h. Executives may be impeached for the following:
 - i. Gross negligence
 - ii. Abuse of a fellow Executive, Council member or other individual which compromises the Executive's ability to perform their role
 - i. Impeachment of an Executive's position should only be undertaken in circumstances when all other means of mediation are exhausted. These means include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Initial face to face dialogue between conflicting parties; and if it does not work
 - ii. Introduction of the conflict to UMGSA council for debate and dialogue on the way forward which may be;
 - iii. Mediation efforts from executives mandated to do so by the UMGSA council
 - iv. Formation of a commission for a fact-finding mission
 - j. An executive may only be impeached by the student body which elected her; five students, who are not members of either campus' Association's Executive, must provide in writing their grievances and clear documentation of the steps taken to resolve the conflict. All information must be supplied to the Internal Review and Development Committee, who will hold all materials in confidence until a decision is reached. IDR may recommend further mediation, or submit materials to Council for consideration. Once the matter is presented to Council, all materials must be made public. Council may then decide to either consider the impeachment, or pursue further means of mediation.

13. Other Business- None

14. Announcements

- a. UMGSA Elections will begin in February for the 2015-16 academic year. For more information contact our Chief Returning Officers Karalyn or Joe at cro@umgsa.org

15. Adjournment

BIRT the 2014/15 UMGSA AGM meeting be adjourned.

Joseph Dipple/Kaladhar Battepati

Motion Carried. 6:34pm

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Attendance

	Grad Student Name	Department
1	Joseph Dipple	Native Studies
2	Kristjan Mann	GSA VPA and Anthropology
3	Karalyn Dokurno	English, Film & Theatre
4	Zhiwei Zeng	Biosystems Engineering
5	Cassandra Tkachuk	Plant Science
6	Valery Agbor	GSA VPI and Biosystems Engineering
7	Chido Uchime	GSA Senator and Electrical Engineering
8	Andres Herrera	Entomology
9	Diba Vafabakhsh	GSA Senator and Electrical Engineering
10	Hai Tran	Linguistics
11	Cora Dupuis	Education
12	Elnaz Azad	Animal Science
13	Brett Mallon	Peace & Conflict
14	David Anderson	Architecture
15	Meaghan Pauls	Landscape Architecture
16	Katelyn Dykstra Dykerman	English, Film & Theatre
17	Mario Solis	Biomedical Engineering
18	Enoch A-iyeh	Electrical & Computer Engineering
19	Sarwesh Mali	Mechanical Engineering
20	Gaurav Honnegowda Ramakrishna	Mechanical Engineering
21	Solmundur Palsson	Anthropology
22	Ranju Upadhyaya	Sociology
23	Hamid Nasrinpour	Electrical & Computer Engineering
24	Hamed Janani	Electrical & Computer Engineering
25	Beibei Lu	GSA VPME and Kinesiology & Recreation
26	Darcy McDougall	Environment & Geography
27	Dayo Ogundipe	Electrical & Computer Engineering
28	Shujoh Naha	Computer Science
29	Ifeloluwa Fadeyi	Law
30	Saeed Shahabi	Electrical & Computer Engineering
31	Sam Esfandiarpour	Civil Engineering
32	Gustavo Mejicanos	Animal Science
33	Hamid Afshari	Mechanical Engineering
34	Kaladhar Battepati	Social Work
35	Richard From	GSA Senator and Geological Sciences
	Non-Voting Attendees	Department
	E. RoTimi Ojo	Chairperson and GSA Executive At Large
	Laura Rempel	GSA President

	Melissa Rabb	GSA VPHSC and HSGSA President
	Ruth Prokesch	GSA Office Manager
	Guest	Department
	Mohsen Akbarzadeh	Graduated from Mechanical Engineering