



Graduate Students' Association



221 University Centre
University of Manitoba
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January 25th 2012 Council Meeting Agenda 5:00pm UMSU Chambers

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Approval of the Agenda**
- 4. Approval of Minutes from November 30th 2011 GSA Council Meeting**
 - 4.1 Business arising from the minutes**
- 5. Gradzette Presentation**
- 6. Elections Committee selection**
 - 6.1 BIRT that the 2012 GSA annual election nomination period be February 2 -15, 2012**
 - 6.2 BIRT that the 2012 GSA annual election campaign period begin 9:00CST on February 27, 2012 and end at 16:30CST on March 9, 2012.**
 - 6.2 BIRT that the 2012 GSA annual election voting period begin at 9:00CST on March 12 – 20:00CST on March 14 2012.**
- 7. CRO Selection**
- 8. Special Projects Presentation**
- 9. Day of Action**
- 10. Committee Updates and Ratifications**
- 11. Committee Reports**
 - 11.1 IDR Committee Report**
 - 11.2 Bylaws Committee**
 - 11.3 Finance Committee**
 - 11.4 Campaigns Committee**
 - 11.4.1 Canadian Federation of Student Semi-Annual General Meeting**
 - 11.4.2 Canadian Conference on Student Leadership**
 - 11.5 Awards Committee**
- 12. Executive Reports**
 - 8.1 President**
 - 8.1.1 Report of the relationship of CFS National, CFS-MB & UMGSA**
 - 8.2 Vice President Internal**
 - 8.3 Vice President Academic**
 - 8.4 Vice President External**
 - 8.5 Senator Gagne**
 - 8.6 Senator Karari**
 - 8.7 Vice President Health Sciences Report**
- 13. Departmental Reports**
- 14. Other Business**
- 15. Announcements**
 - 15.1 GSA Annual General Meeting: Friday February 2nd, 2012 in the GSA Lounge**
- 16. Adjournment**

Next Meeting Wednesday February 15, 2011, 5pm in the GSA Lounge



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November 30, 2011 Council Meeting MINUTES 5:00pm UMSU Chambers

1. Call to order at 5:04pm

2. Approval of the agenda

Nawrot – noted amendments to the agenda, including two Special Projects grants from Biological Sciences, Plant Sciences and Nursing GSAs, and to put them as item 6. in the agenda. He also noted a travel policy motion as item 7. He also noted that CUPE will also present prior to the executive reports.

MOTION: BIRT the agenda be approved as amended.

Chen / Haglund

Carried

3. Approval of Minutes from October 28, 2011 GSA Council Meeting

MOTION: BIRT the minutes from the October 28, 2011 GSA Council Meeting be approved as amended

Gagne / Cowie

Carried

3.1 Business arising from the minutes

Nawrot – noted that there is no business arising.

4. Canadian Federation of Students Day of Action Proposal

Bates – introduced Marakary Bayo, Manitoba Chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students who will speak on the February 2012 Day of Action

Bayo – provided an overview of the National Day of Action. He provided an overview of the current political environment facing the post-secondary sector both provincially and nationally. He highlighted the campaign goals, which include equality for international students, tuition fee freeze, more funding, reduction of poverty, and elimination of interest rates on student loans. He said the campaign messaging is “Keep the public for the people”, in order to include coalition partners. He said that the provincial office has already met with representatives from student unions to ensure debate among peers.

He said his goal is to discuss and debate the issue of tuition fees, and to encourage student unions to host a debate on tuition fees on campus, including local executives, professors and the public.

He said that they plan on having lead-up events, including a student holiday “wish list”, as well as creating an invoice to send to the government for tuition fees. He said he will

be planning solidarity actions with coalition partners and the Occupy Movement in memorial park.

Bates – said the GSA executive discussed that in the past DOAs have been demonstrations at the Legislature. She said that it is hard for grad students to show up, another idea was holding a zombie walk or working with UMSU to hold a panel series on student issues, postcard campaign or sitting down with council representatives among faculties and departments to raise issues to the campaigns committee.

Bayo – said the Resource Coordinator is the researcher, and there are many tools and materials available, and that all the CFS expects from the GSA is to hit the ground, and inform members about the issues and attend the rally. He said they are willing to provide posters, research and whatever help the GSA would need. He said that as a media stunt, they can organize a mock funeral for post-secondary education. He said on February 1st, students from across the country will be holding events.

Cowie – said that he is not comfortable voting on this without discussing with his departmental GSA. He said that though the opposition has changed, the Senate still has significant influence, and to target all three parties.

Bates – said that the next Council meeting is January 25, and the Day of Action is February 1st.

Bayo – said that the decision for February was made by the national executive, its not the first time a DOA was in February and in the past it has been very successful. The purpose of holding a rally at the Legislature is to invite the Premier and minister of PSE to address students.

Scofield-Singh – said she participated in a DOA in the 90s in May, held at Parliament Hill.

Karari – said that he has a problem with the issue to freeze tuition fees. He said that a reduction of school fees of a certain percentage would be a better goal, and when we talk about freezing tuition fees and calling for reduced international fees may be counterproductive. He said we should aim to reduce tuition fees by a certain percentage, and for equality for international students.

Bayo – said in order to make PSE more affordable and accessible tuition fees should at least be frozen. He said that the NDP has capped tuition to inflation, which is not a freeze, it s a step in the right direction but that's not enough.

He said if you are not comfortable having a tuition fees debate on your campus, you can talk about the changes in the Tri-Council and commercialization of research. He said they are open to suggestions.

Nawrot – said that Council has to decide whether or not to commit to a day of action or not, which includes time, involvement and participation.

MOTION: *BIRT the GSA will participate in the student day of Action February 1, 2012*

Khazenehei / Karari

Gagne – said that if they participate, he feels that tuition fees shouldn't be discussed because of the inflationary increase, and that we lobbied for the inflationary cap in the past, but are now calling for reduction or a freeze – he said he is concerned that we are sending mixed messages to the government.

Nawrot - suggested that the campaigns committee can work to define the needs of the GSA for the Day of Action. He said that if we vote for this, that we need full participation

from Council. He said there is nothing wrong in voting yes, or no, depending on peoples' time commitments.

MOTION: BIRT *the details of the GSA's participation in the Day of Action be delegated to the Campaigns Committee.*

Gagne / Armstrong
Amendment Carried

Scofield-Singh – said that as much as she'd like to support it, Nursing does not have the time to commit.

Karari – said that participation is one thing, and having an impact is another. He said that if we want to participate in the DOA, we need to liaise with members of parliament, have our students actively support the DOA, and it calls for our sacrifice and commitment. He would like to see the event succeed, but we need to put many factors in place.

Ekenna – said that contributing requires time, and that each councilor will have to use social media and talk to every student in order to reach out to as many students as possible.

CARRIED

VOTE COUNT 16 / 9

Abstentions: Chen, Freeman

Nawrot – said that Health Sciences also needs to vote on this issue.

Cowie – asked when we will hear back from the HSGSA

Nawrot – said within the next two weeks.

5. Special Project Grants

Kristen Podolsky from Plant Science GSA – suggested to move the GSA Senator Council Election item to position number 4 of the Agenda. Said the 20th Annual March 23-24 symposium. She explained it's a 2-day event bringing grad students together to discuss plant science from across regions. She said oral presentations, networking etc. collaborate efforts to advance agricultural progress across fields. Historically it has been a joint effort between UM, U Sask and North Dakota/Minnesota State Universities. She said it was in Saskatoon, and that we expect 70 students. She provided an overview of the itinerary. She said there will be tours of agricultural facilities around Winnipeg, and will include presentations, social events, keynote speakers and others. She said the event will end with a banquet. She said costs would include transportation, gifts, etc. she said other organizations have been contacted for funding and that they are requesting \$500.

Nadine Price from BSGSA – said she is requesting Luke Lewbinsky lecture (prof from zoology) the theme is zoology, and they invite a researcher to present at an evening lecture, it is open to the public. She requests \$250 for the reception, posters and promotional materials.

The second lecture is in honour of Hanna "PhD from 20s) and \$250 is being requested for food, promotional materials. The speakers are Dr Hopie Hokstra (Harvard university) and Dr. Robert Rogousseau (Cornell University).

Scofield-Singh – noted another speaker was supposed to present. She noted that nursing has 4 different streams, they are holding a forum on advanced practice nursing forum January 26 in the evening, for a networking opportunity to nursing students, and

4th year undergrads and the general public. The panel would include Laurie Lamont, Vice-President of the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, Annette Shultz, prof UM, Barbara clinical specialist, Krishna, a Nurse Practitioner at Lions Manner. The purpose of the panel is to discuss leadership and research. There will be information provided, research into their roles and providing examples and tips to masters of nursing students. She said they are requesting \$600 to help cover the costs of catering and presentation and promotional materials.

Chen – asked if presenters are looking for contributions from other sources.

Price – yes from other departments within the university

Podolsky – yes has approached other departments

Scofield-Singh – not yet, the organization approached deadline is February

Armstrong – noted that grants are capped at \$500.

Scofield-Singh – said she is fine with \$500

Gagne – asked if there is a limit per department per year, but that the cap is \$500 per event. He asked if Plant Science organizes the whole conference

She said yes, each assoc. is responsible.

Cowie – noted that it is a conflict of interest to vote on their own requests.

MOTION: BIRT that the presenters leave for their own presentations.

Gagne / Cowie

Carried

MOTION: BIRT the Plant Science application for the special project grant for \$500 be approved.

Scofield-Singh / Haglund

Carried

MOTION: BIRT the BSGSA application for special project grant for \$500 be approved for their two lectures.

Karari / Cardillo

Carried

MOTION: BIRT the Nursing application for special project grant for \$600 be approved.

Thiruppathi / Ekenna

Bates – asked if we want to keep it at \$500 to keep it equitable.

Amendment: BIRT the Nursing application for special project grant for \$500 be approved

Bates / Keller

Ekenna – said the two other applications said that he would like to see \$600

Political Studies said he approves of the amendment, because there are many ways to raise money, and that they can raise the last \$100

Haglund – said she encourages them to find sponsorship for \$100

Chen – said that the funding should be based on the cost of the event, and that she speaks in favour of the amendment for \$500.

Amendment Carried

Motion Carried

Nawrot – noted that all presentations have been awarded the \$500.

Amendment to the agenda to deal with the presentation from CUPE 3909 as the next item of business.

Bates / Reisacher

Carried

6. Presentation CUPE 3909

Latour – provided a background on CUPE 3909, CUPE Manitoba and CUPE National. He said that it is a democratic organization that takes direction from its members. He said that as individuals we are powerless, but united we are stronger. He said the local works on the collective agreements on students' behalf including the right to get paid, continuance, job security and others. He said that because they negotiated a collective agreement (CA), when comparing to the UW where there is no CA, a level 1 TA at the U of M gets \$18.62 compared to \$10.23 at UW. He said that when collective agreements are violated, CUPE 3909 is there to assist. He said there have been many gains, including pay equity for summer sessionals, raise for TAs, increases in course cancellation fees and mandatory performance evaluations and the establishment of a committee to investigate appropriate hours of work. He said we gained these because of a 97% strike mandate endorsed by the GSA. He said issues had been taken on to benefit individual members, including back pay and unfair disciplinary issues. He said the most important reason they are there today is to encourage members to join the Stewards Committee, of up to two stewards per department to increase communication between members and departments, and the union. The role would also be to liaise between the executive and members, to assist violations, and to assist in organizing the membership. He said nominations are due December 9 until the next elections, in the coming fall. He passed around nomination forms. He encouraged members to pass the information around between departments.

He said he hopes to build a strong union to defend our rights as students.

McLean - said that one of the big things achieved in the last CA was establishment of a committee to investigate hours assigned to marker graders and TAs because many grad students work for their supervisors and are fearful of individual grievances, which may hurt their academic career. This committee allows investigation without individual members tied up with the process. He said the role of Councilors is also to assist students, and that the GSA can help to bring issues forward to CUPE 3909

Bates – asked about time commitment, reports etc.

McLean said the Stewards would meet about once a month, but the important role is to be the person in the department people talk to when they have problems. He said as Stewart you have more authority. He said training will be provided as well. It won't be a ton of time commitment, and should be less than the GSA council.

7. GSA Travel Policy Motion

Nawrot – provided an overview of the motion. He said that when students are sent to conferences on graduate student money, there is no policy to ensure that those attending on behalf of the GSA actually participate. He said he has witnessed numerous

times that students have not actually attended the conference. He said the motion comes forward from Health Sciences GSA.

MOTION: *BIFRT the GSA Bylaws and Policy committee draft a GSA travel policy outlining the following major points:*

- Graduate students attending GSA funded conferences (ie, Canadian Federation of Students, Canadian Conference on Student Leadership, etc.) are required to attend at least 80% of the conference proceedings (e.g. seminars, presentations, discussions, etc.).

Those individuals failing to attend, must provide a written report to GSA explaining those reasons; health problem, family issues, etc.

-GSA delegates are to be respectful of conference proceedings and of other delegates.

- If food is provided at the conference, then GSA delegates are not permitted to eat elsewhere and submit a travel claim to pay for additional food and beverage. If the student has missed a meal, is in travel or has dietary restrictions, food receipts can be claimed.

-Delegates are not permitted to claim additional travel costs such as those for taxis, buses or car rentals that are not required for conference attendance.

-Upon return, all delegates must submit a one page written report about the conference, what they have learned and how they will use that information in future.

- those individuals not abiding by the rules set out in the travel policy will have to reimburse the GSA for the airfare and conference costs, or parts thereof as determined by the Internal Review and Development Committee.

- GSA executive members who do not follow the above listed guidelines will be subject to review by the Internal Review and Development Committee promptly upon return and a report submitted to council outlining their findings and remedial action plan.

BIFRT, The new GSA travel policy be ready to present for the January Council meeting.

Cowie / Wiens

Scofield-Singh – asked if it is reasonable to expect Bylaws to meet in December. She asked how people will prove that they attended 80% of the meetings.

Freeman – said Bylaws will meet January 11, prior to Council.

Hildebrand – asked if this motion is to refer this to Bylaws, or voting on this motion itself?

He said that regarding the 80%; it is sometimes difficult to prove. He said sometimes 80% is sometimes impossible because of many simultaneously occurring events.

Nawrot – said this is only for conference paid for exclusively by the GSA. He said this policy is meant to be established in order to hold the students of attendees accountable, to ensure full participation and activity.

Hildebrand – said he would like to see these as measurable.

Bates – said that in terms of reimbursing airfare and conference costs, that if you miss a chunk of the conference cost it is actually a heavy burden. She said that she doesn't want this financial penalty to be a deterrent to participation.

Gislason – said that it would depend on the degree of the infraction and on the case.
CARRIED

8. Committee Updates and Ratifications

Freeman – said that in the policies, it states that the IDR committee cannot have any fewer than 6 members, but that it also says that it cannot have more than 6 members. She said that Laura Norman indicated interest in joining the committee.

Scofield-Singh – said that she will be withdrawing from the committee, being replaced by Laura effective January 1st.

Freeman – provided an overview of the changes, which will be included in the minutes.

Cowie – indicated interest in the Aboriginal committee.

Gislason – noted that April Gislason should be updated.

Ekenna – confirmed that he would like to be on the Aboriginal committee.

Chen – said that social science designate has graduated from Awards committee. Angela Trenso is the new Social Science rep, and Deborah Lall part of the committee as well.

Hildebrand – said that Laura Cobus will sit on the Awards committee.

Scofield-Singh – removed from campaigns.

Cowie – said that the Aboriginal committee should consider changing it's name to the First Nations, Inuit and Metis committee, which has become standard practice among many organizations.

Nawrot – said that there is no Health Sciences Student rep on IDR. And that Council should endorse the HSGSA Council decision.

MOTION: *BIRT the Committee membership be ratified.*

Freeman / Sharpe

Carried

8.1 Bylaws Committee

Freeman – provided an overview of the Bylaws Committee report. She noted the attached motions to be discussed for approval

8.1.1 Motions to be reviewed

MOTION: *BIRT the executive policy manual, under article III, be amended to add a new subpoint:*

Leaves of Absence

a) Authorized leaves of absence

- 1. Are paid leaves***
- 2. Shall not exceed 3 weeks per leave, and are limited to 2 leaves per term of office***

3. *Shall be authorized by the executive committee and reported in the executive reports at the next scheduled council meeting*
- b) *Unauthorized leaves of absence*
 1. *Are unpaid leaves*
 2. *Include all leaves greater than 2 weeks, which are not authorized by the executive committee*
 3. *Shall be reported in the executive reports at the next scheduled council meeting*

Freeman – said that in response to the council's wish to review the process of awarding and following up with special project grants, the Finance Committee produced the following motion for council to discuss.

MOTION: *BIRT the Financial Policy manual, under II Special Project Grants, under 4. General regulations, add the following*

- i) *Recipients of special project grants are required to send a brief report of the event to the vice president internal within one month of the event, to be included in the Vice President Internal's next report to council.*

Freeman – said that the next motion is with respect to the maximum time between attendance at a conference and submission of conference grant request forms.

MOTION: *BIRT the financial policy be changed; to add to under I travel grants, 1. General regulations, the following:*

Applications must be received within 4 months of the conference date.

Freeman – noted that these changes were voted on at the Bylaws Committee.

MOTION: *BIRT the recommendations from the Bylaws Committee be adopted.*
CARRIED

8.2 Finance Committee

Freeman – said that campaign discussed the U-Pass

Nawrot – said the decision was approved at the AGM which is the highest decision making level of the GSA.

8.3 Campaigns Committee

Bates – said that campaigns had discussed the U-Pass campaign, which is also being discussed at the sustainability Committee.

She said Winnipeg is changing its transportation master plan over the next few years. She said an online food survey is being sent out to review the food services contract. Day of Action she said we're not sure if we are participating.

She said there is an ongoing discussion on Occupy Winnipeg, and that a presentation could be held in January, and that the next meeting is December 9, 4-6.

9. Executive Reports

9.1 President

Nawrot – noted that the lounge can be booked by Council members at no cost. He noted that the renovations to the GSA lounge will include sound proof rooms, and that the GSA council meetings will be held there.

Hildebrand – asked about liquor permits in the GSA lounge.

Nawrot – said if it is catered by Aramark, they provide a liquor license. If it is not, then the GSA needs to sign a waiver, and security and the GSA need to also sign the liquor permit. He encouraged Councilors to get UMSAFE training.

He said that Dr. Barnard will be president of the U of M beginning July 1, 2012, and noted that the decision was not a unanimous one. He said that the Board of Governors is being restructured. HE said they are working to ensure that the UMSU and GSA President are on the Committee, rather than the current rotating seat.

He said that he has sent a letter to CUPE 3909 to evict, and that the GSA violated the university's policy, and that there is a joint agreement between UMSU and the University. He said although grad students make up CUPE, they are not a student group. He said that they have been given 3 months notice, and that office renovations are being help up by this. He said the renovations will commence in February. He said that the service from the computer company we have been dealing with overcharges. He said that an alternative will be provided to Council, and that he will be looking at UMSU. He said that Security Services will be pulled from Bannatyne campus at the end of January.

9.2 Vice-President Internal

Freeman – provided highlights of her report. She noted the Bannatyne student caucus which will meet at Bannatyne on Dec. 1 in theatre A to discuss the removal of Security Services from Bannatyne.

9.3 Vice-President Academic

Chen – provided an overview of her report. She said that she sits on the Senate Awards Committee, and that the FGS travel awards has been discussed, but still need to be approved by Senate, she said students will get more details about revisions to these awards. She said that the GSA will be working with UMSU on holiday food hampers, and that students should expect an email from the GSA, and that students can go to the GSA website to fill out an online form to register their holiday hampers. She said the 24hr UC second floor study room has been opened.

9.4 Vice-President External

Chen – provided an overview of her report. She said that the Senate Ctte for curriculum and Course changes, so faculties that have requested changes have been reviewed. She said she missed a few meetings because she attended an academic conference. She noted a new masters degree program in the Faculty of Kinesiology. She said she attended the CFS National meeting, which will be reported on next meeting.

Scofield-Singh – noted that a PhD program has just been announced for Nursing.

Nawrot – noted that FGS executive, the students are still required for the same amount of credit hours worth of material, despite being reduced.

9.5 Senator Gagne

Gagne – noted that he had nothing to add to his report.

9.6 Senator Karari

Karari – noted that he has been involved in a campaign “Visapression” which focuses on the plight of international students who have been taken away from their families for a long time, categorized as having depression. He said he has researched the fact that these individuals don’t require drug therapy, they require *visatherapy*. He said he presented at a conference, Strangers Away from Home and that these international students who face visa denials face a unique kind of depression. He said that if we do not solve the direct problems facing these students, including immigration issues. He said he is liaising with MPs, Faculty and other stakeholders to develop policy that would help alleviate this kind of issue. He said actors within the university have indicated interest.

Senator Resiacher – thanked Council for electing him as Senator. He said he is on Student Retention and Success Committee and Aboriginal Committee.

9.7 Vice-President Health Sciences

Salter – regrets.

10. Departmental Reports

Byagowi – December 9th Christmas party, in the staff lounge in engineering.

11. Other Business

Freeman – Faculty of Arts is looking for grad students to sit on standing committees, including space, research, endowment, course program and approval until June 30.

12. Announcements

Nawrot – said that the university is committed to getting graduate student housing. He said that the Manitoba government ministry of innovation industry and mines will be providing more research money to the U of M. He said the GSA AGM will be January 20, 2012 in the GSA Lounge

He said there will be a 20th anniversary of the CFS Manitoba on January 30.

He said that workshops have been scheduled on thesis writing for humanities and natural sciences, including how to do funding proposals etc. by the Teaching Learning Centre, occurring over lunch hours 2nd or 3rd week of the month he said it is free to register.

Prokesch – said that the chair of the IDR Committee was in the office today, beginning the first review of the executive, she indicated that a link will be sent to the listserv to review and answer question on the performance of the executive of the GSA, and she encourages everyone to complete it.

Hildebrand – asked about the status of the Pub.

Nawrot – said that the status of the Pub is that they received the building permit two days ago. They are hoping to have an official grand opening in January.

Karari – said that those who are interested in supporting the *Visapression* campaign, that you can grab a copy of the Manitoban and review the article.

Nawrot – said that an agreement for the Pub should be complete in January.

Bates – asked about the UMSU Gala next week. She encouraged everyone to attend the UMSU Charity Ball on Wednesday, December 7.

13. Adjournment 7:10:pm

Motion: BIRT the meeting adjourn

Sharpe / Gagne

Carried

Minutes prepared by D. Jacks

DRAFT

November 30, 2011
5:00 pm
UMSU Council Chambers – University Centre

<i>GSA Executive</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Signature</i>
President	Peter Nawrot	Present
VP Internal	Angela Freeman	Present
VP Academic	Jennifer Chen	Present
VP External	Tonia Bates	Regrets
VP Health Sciences	Neil Salter	Regrets
Senator1	Peter Karari	Present
Senator2	Olivier Gagne	Regrets
Senator3		Vacant
Council Chair (Non-voting)	Peter Nawrot	(Non-voting) Present
Office Manager (Non-voting)	Ruth Prokesch	(Non-voting) Present
Executive Assistant (Non-voting)	David Jacks	(Non-voting) Present
	<i>Name</i>	<i>Signature</i>
<i>Agric & Food Science</i>		
Agribusiness & Agric. Economics	Lynn Van De Spiegle Proxy: Jamie Poirier	Regrets Present
Animal Science	Hamidreza Khazanhei	Present
Biosystems Engineering	Senthinkumar Thiruppathi	Present
Entomology	Graham Parsons	Absent
Food Science	Havva Filiz Koksel Amin Eleimat	Present
Plant Science	Chami Amarasinghe	Present
Soil Science	Michael Cardillo	Present
<i>Architecture</i>		
Architecture	Paul Dollick/Matthew Trndota	Absent
City Planning	Ashlyn Haglund	Present
Interior Design		
Landscape Architecture	Tamara Urban-Imbeault	Present

Arts		
Anthropology	Stephanie Armstrong	Present
Classics		
Economics	Murshed Chowdhury	Present
English, Film & Theatre	Kendra Magnuiusson	Absent
French, Spanish & Italian	Michelle Keller	Present
German		
History	Sarah Gauntlett Proxy: Sarah Ramsden	Present Regrets
Icelandic Studies		
Linguistics	Kay Hamidzadeh Shannon Price	Present
Native Studies		
Philosophy		
Political Studies and Public Administration	Chadwick Cowie	Present
Psychology	Greg Bose	Present
Religious Studies		
School of Art	Monica Martinez	Regrets
Sociology	Kyla Doll	Present
Canadian Studies St. Boniface		
Arthur Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice		
Peace and Conflict Studies	Laura Normand	Absent
Management		
Management 1 (MBA)		
Management 2	Hamed Aghakhani Kasey Martin (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		
Electrical & Computer	Ahmad Byagowi	Present
Mechanical & Manufacturing		
Environment		
Geography & Environment	Cheryl Sobe	Regrets
Geological Sciences	Ryan Sharpe	Present
Nat Resources Institute	Jessica Lockhart	Present
Disability Studies		
Food & Nutritional Sciences		
Interdisciplinary		
Human Ecology		
Clothing & Textiles		
Family Social Sciences	Emem Ukpog	
Human Nutritional Sciences	Sule Mundi	Regrets
Law		
Law		
Music		
Music		
Nursing		
Nursing	Alanna Chau Cathy Scofield Singh Kendra Ann Seenandan- Sookdeo	Present
Phys Ed & Rec Studies		
Recreation Management & Kinesiology	Beibei Lv Angela Comer (Co-Councilors)	Present

Science		
Biological Sciences	Andrew Olynyk	Present
Chemistry	Fatemeh Farazkhorasani	Present
Computer Science		
Mathematics		
Microbiology	April Gislason	Present
Physics & Astronomy	Kurt Hildebrand	Present
Statistics		
Social Work		
Social Work	Calistas Ekenna	Present
UMSU (Non-Voting)		
President or Designate		Absent
CUPE 3909 (Non-Voting)		
President or Designate	Matt McLean	Present

HSGSA Departments		
Pharmacology & Therapeutics	Stephanie Chu	Regrets
Immunology	Natascha Clark	
Pathology		
Human Anatomy and Cell Science		
Physiology		
Medical Physics (Non-Voting)		
Medical Microbiology		

Pharmacy	Casey Sayre	Absent
Occupational Therapy & Medical Rehabilitation	Daniel Doerksen	Absent
Community Health Sciences	Elsabe du Plessis Proxy: Neil Salter	Regrets
Biochemistry & Medical Genetics	Alexandra Kuzyk	Absent
Oral Biology		
Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery		
Orthodontics		
Periodontics		
Physicians Assistant Program		

Guests:

Nadine Price
Kristen Podolsky (Plant Sciences)
Timi Ojo (Soil Sciences)
Brian Latour (CUPE 3909)

DRAFT

Internal Development and Review Committee : Sub-committee Report

From: Hilary Gough (Chair, IDRC – subcommittee)

To: GSA Council

Date: January 25, 2012

Re: First GSA Executive Review of the 2011/2012 term

Members of the IDRC – Review sub-committee:

Hilary Gough	Social Sciences Designate
Cathy Scofield-Singh	Graduate Student
Jeremy Funk	Professional Studies Designate
Erin Acland	Humanities Designate
Andrew Olynyk	Nat. and Ag. Science Designate
Beibei Lu	Graduate Student

Meetings:

Committee:

October 18, 2011 – Committee membership reviewed, review of executive assigned to Sub-committee, appointment of chair to Sub-committee

Sub-committee:

November 07, 2011 – Planning and assignment of evaluations

January 16, 2012 – Review and editing of report, discussion of recommendations

Executive Members Reviewed:

President – Peter Nawrot
VP Internal – Angela Freeman
VP External – Tonia Bates
VP Academic – Jennifer Chen
Senator – Peter Karari
Senator – Olivier Gagne
Senator – Adam Reisacher*
VPHSGSA – Neil Salter

*At time of review, Senator Reisacher had only held the Senator position for less than a month, leaving little to review, thus this review is limited. Senator Reisacher has since been assigned committee roles and will be reviewed in full in the second review.

Review Period:

May 2011 – November 2011

Review Process:

Each of the six committee members were randomly assigned 2-4 Executive Members to review, depending on the responsibility level of those being reviewed. This was arranged so as to distribute the work evenly and have each Executive Member reviewed by two people.

Considered in the review were the following materials:

- GSA Council documents (Executive Reports, etc.) and meeting minutes (May 2011-Nov 2011)
- GSA Internal Committee minutes (where available)
- External Committee minutes/feedback (where available)
- Peer Survey Responses
- GSA Student Survey Responses
- Office Hours (as recorded in the log book)*

*recording of office hours for the VPHSGSA was inconsistent, therefore, disregarded

Executive Performance Review 2011-2012

First Review May 2011 – Dec 2011

Name: Peter Nawrot

Position: President

Attendance: Peter's attendance in council and executive meetings is perfect. He is a member of many internal and external committees and attends a great number of meetings. The majority of those that he has missed were properly accounted for, and regrets sent.

Participation: Peter leads executive and council meetings appropriately, and is involved in, or aware of, all of the activities that the GSA is involved in. His participation in external committees appears to be committed, though many contacts could not elaborate due to the confidential nature of the activities of these committees.

Office Hours: Peter has spent a lot of time in the GSA office, and exceeds expectations in that respect. However, Peter has been present in the office during fewer than half of his posted office hours (Monday 12:00-16:00) from September to November. It is strongly encouraged that these office hours be kept more regularly or be changed to a time that better suits Peter's schedule.

Peer/Student Feedback: Peer feedback was overall positive, reinforced by comments such as, "*very hard-working, has all bases covered*" and "*Peter has done a very good job of working to finish up past projects*". Student Feedback was varied, though some direct criticism suggested that Peter might work toward being more accessible, which would be aided by an improvement in office hour attendance and more reliable e-mail response.

Other: Overall, Peter appears to be doing a good job balancing the daily needs of the GSA while completing bigger picture, long-term goals.

Name: Angela Freeman

Position: Vice-President Internal

Attendance: Angela's attendance at internal meetings has been good. All absences were excused.

Participation: Angela appears to be extremely committed to fulfilling her responsibilities as VP Internal working on issues that pertain a more efficient and functional internal operation of the GSA. She has fulfilled her responsibilities in submitting a financial budget. The committee would like to commend Angela and the finance committee on regularly and expediently processing conference grant applications.

Office Hours: Angela has exceeded expected office hours. Some posted hours have been missed, and the committee strongly encourages the entire executive to post notice with alternate hours when regular hours will be missed.

Peer/Student Feedback: Positive peer review summarized by the following comment, "*Hard-working and on top of things*". Angela received overall positive feedback from the GSA Student Survey.

Other: Angela has (to-date) fulfilled the required bi-annual budgetary update; however, it may be useful for council to receive more regular, monthly, updates. Finally, Angela has made progress in the area of establishing more consistent reporting on meetings by the executive, but could provide more guidance in establishing consistent formatting for minutes, reports, and electronic filenames.

Name: Tonia Bates

Position: Vice-President External

Attendance: Tonia's attendance at council and executive meetings has been good. Internal committee attendance is acceptable, however, record of external meeting attendance is less than expected. Some activities are likely unrecorded as Tonia's October executive report was not received in time to be added to the council minutes, and thus, was not available for review. Tonia is strongly recommended to be sure that future reports are received on time, and that all meeting attendance is reported.

Participation: External meeting attendance appears low; however, activity regarding the Canadian Federation of Students and campaigns on and off campus is evident from executive meetings minutes. Tonia effectively keeps the executive abreast of many campaigns of concern to students.

Office Hours: Tonia has spent many hours in the GSA office, exceeding expectations. Her fulfillment of posted hours, however, has been low. The committee strongly recommends that Tonia select new office hours which she can be more certain to attend and to post them publicly.

Peer/Student Feedback: Peer and Student evaluations are generally positive, with several GSA Students indicating that Tonia is a "*good communicator*". One criticism has been that the Campaigns committee has not been as active as expected, and began slowly.

Other: Overall, Tonia appears to be committed to fulfilling her role in the GSA and is advised to record her GSA-related activities in a more timely and detailed fashion.

Name: Jennifer Chen

Position: Vice-President Academic

Attendance: Jennifer's attendance at internal and external meetings has been excellent.

Participation: Academic events, such as the GSA Awards Luncheon, have been well organized and reported to the GSA.

Office Hours: Jennifer has spent considerable time in the GSA office, and has been present for nearly all of her posted hours, with regrets sent, or alternate hours held when hours were missed. She is commended for being so consistent with her office hours, and the committee requests that she and all executive members publicly post notice when their hours will be missed, along with alternate hours for that week.

Peer/Student Feedback: Peer and GSA Student feedback is overall positive. One comment suggests that Jennifer might organize more academic events.

Other: Overall, Jennifer has been very productive this term, and demonstrates strong commitment to her role in the GSA.

Name: Neil Salter

Position: Vice-President HSGSA

Attendance: Attendance at meetings is good; however, there are some inconsistencies in reports. This is likely in part due to his role being split between two campuses.

Participation: Reports from council meetings reflect a high level of awareness and participation in all activities of the HSGSA. Activities are reported to GSA council, and support needed/invitation to participate communicated.

Office Hours: Some posted office hours have been missed. It is strongly encouraged that executive members ensure accessibility during posted hours, and communicate alternate hours when necessary.

Peer/Student Feedback: Peer feedback was overall positive, describing that Neil "*attempts to connect the two campuses*". Student feedback was more varied, with some students questioning his ability to fill the VP role, while others described him as "*very knowledgeable*".

Other: Overall, the GSA is satisfied with Neil's role as a liaison between the two campuses. Detailed assessment of his activities on the other campus is beyond the scope of this review and is left to the Health Sciences IDR.

Name: Peter Karari

Position: Senator

Attendance: Attendance at council and executive meetings has been relatively good. However, Peter has missed two of three Senate council meetings, one without regrets. This is of concern to the committee as this is his primary role, and he is asked to make greater efforts in attending Senate this term.

Participation: Peter has been very engaged in several Senate discussions and demonstrates interest in many GSA activities.

Office Hours: Peter adequately fulfilled office hour requirements, but missed several posted hours. He is strongly recommended to post in advance hours that will be missed, along with make-up times.

Peer/Student Feedback: Feedback from students and peers is not as strong as other executive members. Concerns were raised about the issues that Peter addresses during council and other meetings which are outside of his appointed role in the GSA. Peter is strongly encouraged to seek the appropriate procedures for bringing forth interests and concerns that he has rather than including them in his senator report in GSA council. This may include approaching different GSA committees or trying to work closer with other executive members to have these issues addressed in the appropriate ways. The Student survey also suggests that Peter needs to be more effective in communicating that he understands issues from other people's perspectives.

Other: Peter has been tardy in developing compensation/performance framework. The issue was initially raised in Executive Committee meetings, but has not developed any further. Finally, the committee requires clarification regarding Peter's position on PACS for the search of a new Faculty of Arts dean. Is his a role from GSA or simply as a graduate student?

Name: Olivier Gagne

Position: Senator

Attendance: Olivier's attendance at Senate committee and GSA meetings is very good.

Participation: Olivier communicates his activities in Senate and Senate committees effectively in GSA Council Executive reports.

Office Hours: Olivier adequately fulfilled office hour requirements, but missed several posted hours. He is commended for making alternate arrangements and is strongly recommended to post these alternate hours in advance.

Peer/Student Feedback: Feedback is positive. Olivier is seen as a good team member.

Other:

Name: Adam Reisacher

Position: Senator

Attendance: Adam is newly appointed and his work will be evaluated in full during the second review

Participation: N/A

Office Hours: Adam held 13.75 office hours in November which exceeds expectations for Senators. We encourage him to designate set office hours for the new term, and strive to maintain them reliably.

Peer/Student Feedback: Adam was not included in the Peer review. Limited student feedback suggests that despite having very recently taken up his position, Adam is very involved.

Other: N/A

Overall Executive Performance:

Some mention was made in peer review that overall goals set for the year have been overlooked in favour of other ongoing projects. The IDRC subcommittee was unable to determine what those goals are, but is interested to review them, and encourages the President and executive to use the new semester to renew focus on larger goals which fulfill the overall mandate of the GSA. This will require that all executive members work together and communicate effectively – another concern raised in the peer review.

As mentioned, most executive members have not shown great success in being present for the office hours which they have publicly posted. These are very important, as they present an opportunity for graduate students to approach members of the executive with concerns, ideas and questions. All executive members are strongly encouraged to make a greater effort to be present in the GSA office during their posted hours, and if needed, make public their absence in advance along with an alternate time. Advance notice is crucial as many graduate students may not be on campus regularly, and will be discouraged from participating in GSA activities if they cannot predictably make contact with the executive.

The subcommittee requests that additional effort be made to make meeting minutes more consistent. As it stands, there is considerable repetition in minutes from executive meetings, and other errors have been noted. A standard formatting for the naming of electronic files would also be of help.

As it stands, the information on the GSA website is out of date. The committee would like to see this information updated more regularly. This includes making council meeting minutes available for download. Also, the executive and staff contact information should be more visible so that students are able to make contact with the GSA as needed.

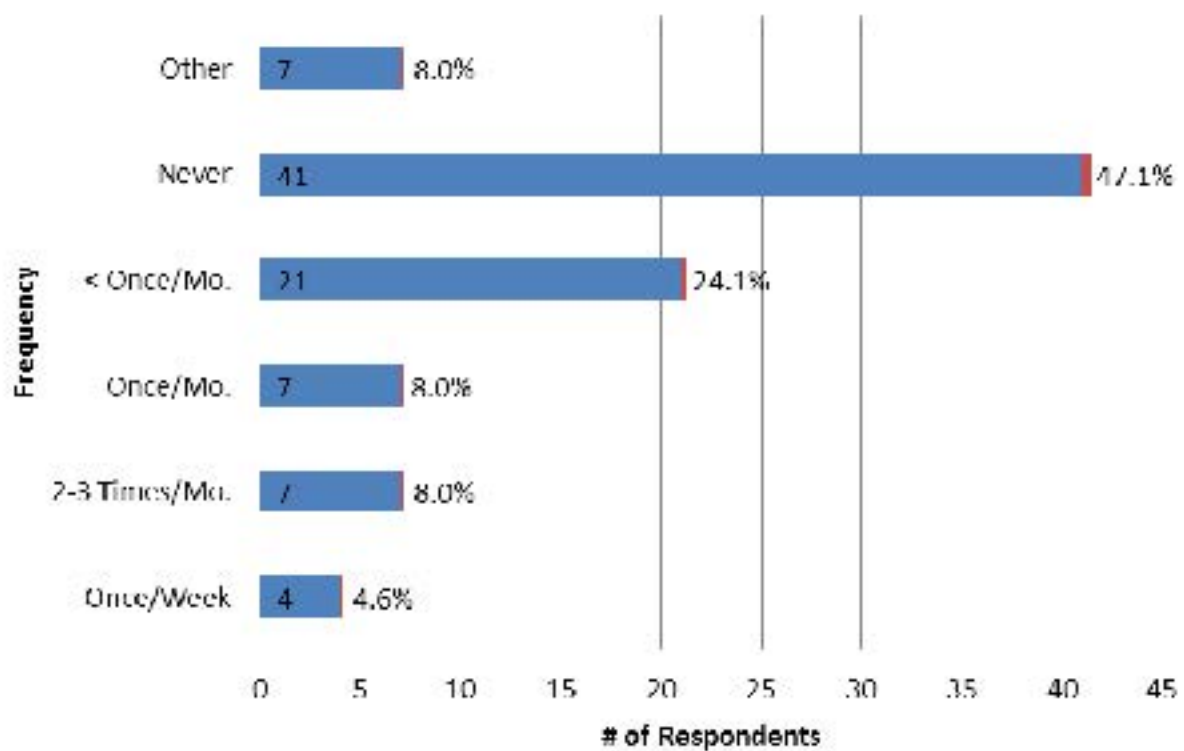
As noted, the subcommittee would like to see the VPI consider more regular budget reports.

The GSA Student survey, which generated approximately 87 responses, revealed that many graduate students are entirely unaware of the GSA, its role, and its activities. 47% of respondents reported never having had contact with a GSA Executive member, while 45% responded 'Don't Know' to the question, "How would you rate the performance of the GSA Executive Team during their first months in office?". These responses suggest that the GSA executive may need to increase their effort to reach out to the greater Graduate Student body. This may be aided by focusing the goals of the executive for the winter term, and communicating these to Graduate Students in a newsletter so that students are aware of what the GSA does for them.

Finally, in order to facilitate the review process, contact information for external committees on which GSA executive members sit should be compiled and made available to the IDRC sub-committee.

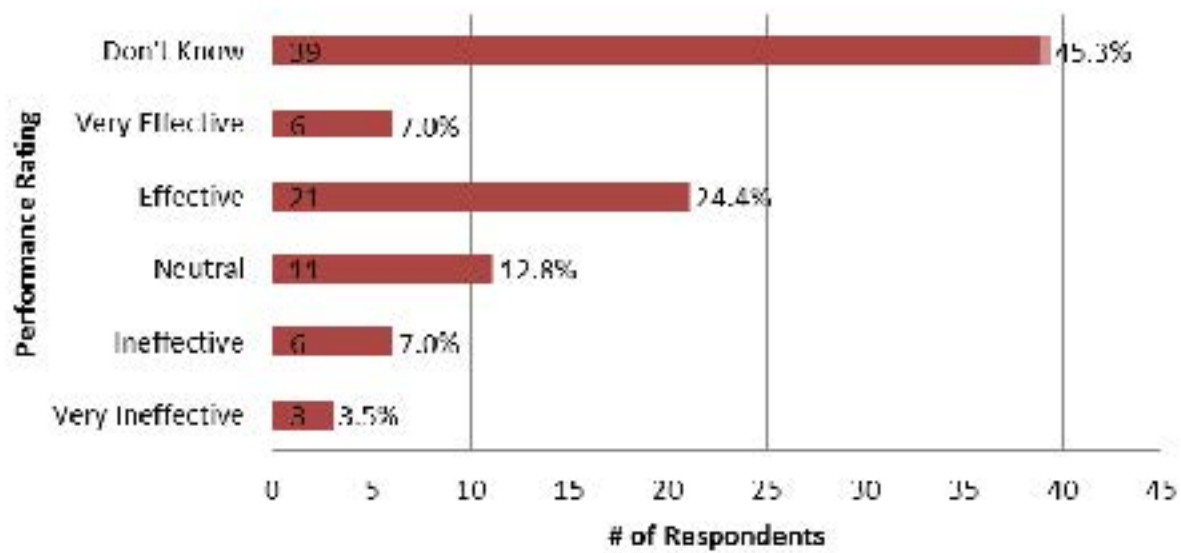
The IDRC subcommittee will be reviewing specific activities in a month from now to ensure that the recommendations are being followed. Please anticipate another report in the event that acceptable improvement is not shown.

Interaction With GSA Executive

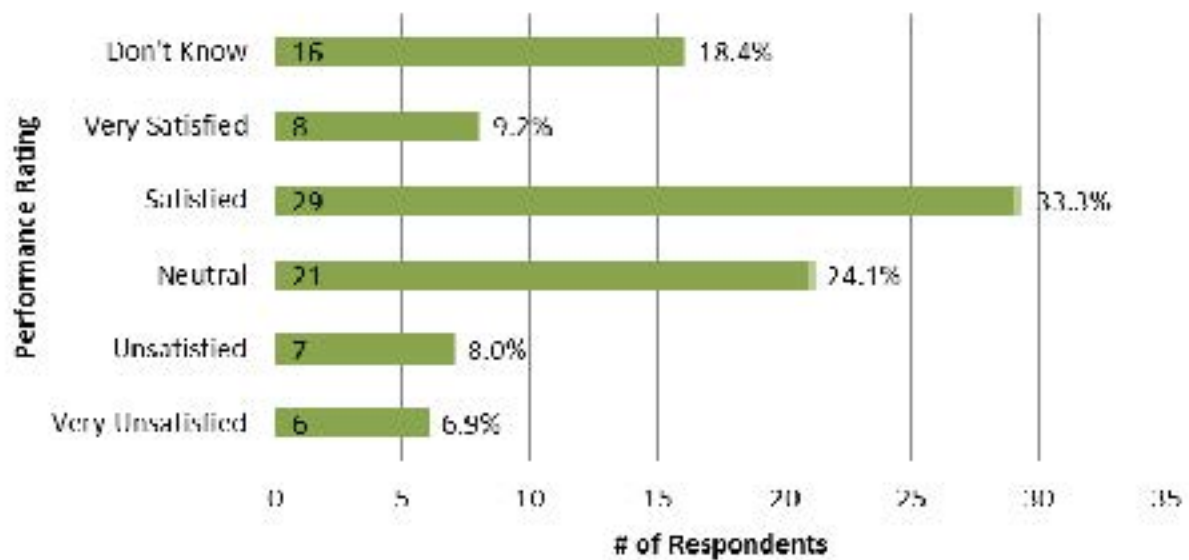


Overall Executive Performance

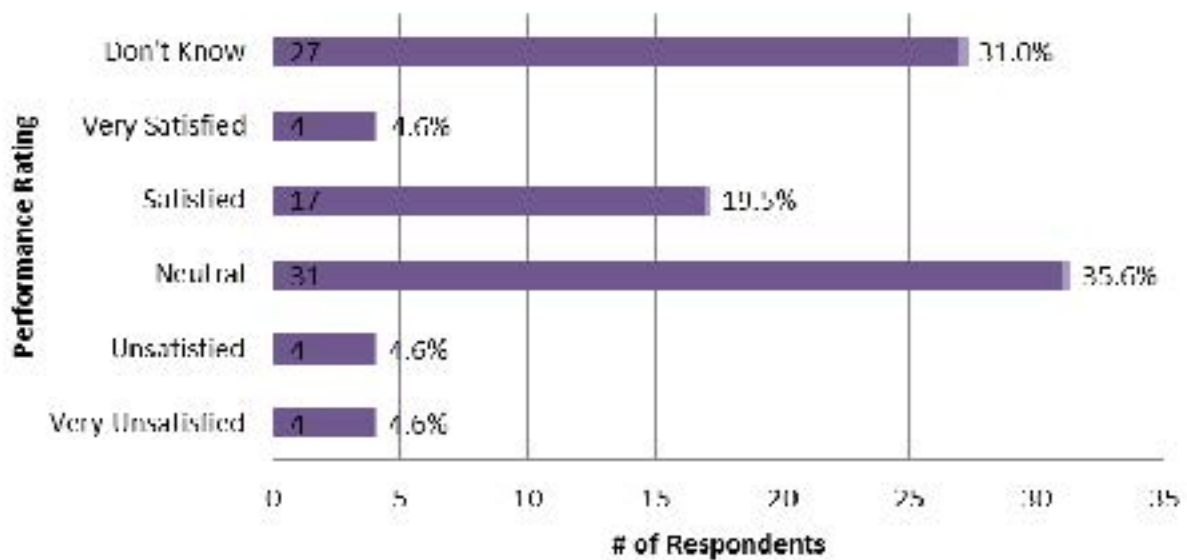
How would you rate the performance of the the GSA Executive Team during their first months in office?



Overall Executive Performance
How satisfied are you with the level of
communication and information coming
from the GSA Executive Team?



Overall Executive Performance
How satisfied are you with the degree of
availability and accessibility of the GSA
Executive Team?



Report

From: Peter Nawrot, President
To: GSA Council
Date: January 10, 2012
Re: Executive Report

COMMITTEES, MEETINGS AND BUSSINESS MATTERS

Meetings Attended:

January 9, 2012.	GSA Executive	2.0 hours
January 6, 2012.	President of the University of Manitoba	1.0 hour
December 20, 2011.	Co-curricular Record	3.0 hours
December 15, 2011.	Hamper Delivery	3.5 hours
December 14, 2011.	Pub Advisory	1.0 hour
December 9, 2011.	Manitoba CFS Chairperson	1.0 hour
December 8, 2011.	Co-curricular Record	2.0 hours
December 7, 2011.	Student Recruitment with Alex Usher	1.5 hours
December 5, 2011.	GSA Executive	2.25 hours
December 5, 2011.	FGS Faculty Council	1.0 hour
December 1, 2011.	UMSU	1.0 hour
December 1, 2011.	Student Advising Working Group	2.0 hours
December 1, 2011.	Orientation Working Group	2.5 hours
November 30, 2011.	GSA Council	2.25 hours
November 30, 2011.	Student Experience Committee	2.0 hours
November 30, 2011.	Pub Advisory	1.0 hour
November 28, 2011.	First Aid/CPR training	8.0 hours
November 25, 2011.	SEMP	3.0 hours
November 24, 2011.	Vice Provost – Students	1.0 hour
November 23, 2011.	Manitoban AGM	1.5 hours
November 21, 2011.	Learning Assistance Centre and UTS	1.0 hour
November 18, 2011.	SEMP – Graduate Studies	2.0 hours
November 16, 2011.	GSA Bylaws	1.0 hour
November 15, 2011.	Manitoba CFS Chairperson	1.5 hours
November 15, 2011.	Board of Governors	3.0 hours
November 14, 2011.	Disability Student Services	0.5 hours
November 14, 2011.	Aboriginal Student Association AGM	2.5 hours
November 14, 2011.	CFS Staff Relations	2.0 hours
November 14, 2011.	Security Services and Administration	0.5 hours

Meetings Missed:

December 9, 2011. GSA Campaigns Committee

Regrets

Absences in December were due to scheduling conflicts with other meetings.

Executive Summary:

Renovation and Capital Projects

The GSA Lounge renovations are expected to be completed by January 31, 2012. The cost of this project is set at \$76,000.00.

The GSA Office renovation is expected to begin February 16th (for asbestos abatement) and be completed by February 29th, 2012. If construction is delayed, operations of the GSA will be moved into the space previously leased to CUPE 3909 by March 2, 2012. The cost of the project is estimated to be \$70,000.00.

Board of Governors

Dr. Barnard began by announcing that Mrs. McCallum had submitted her notice of retirement after working at this University for 40 years.

The Board of Governors approved the change in the structure and timing of Board meetings. This change will be effective January, 2012. The Chair summarized the submission, stating that the key to it is reducing the number of Board meetings from seven to six annually and having more in-depth discussions on strategic areas. She reminded Board members that the meetings have always been set for 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. even though the expectation and practice has been to end by 6:00 p.m. and noted that under the new meeting model the meetings will likely be three hours long. She then explained that there would be three policy/strategy meetings and three business meetings per year. Further, she stated that some business matters may creep into the strategy meetings, particularly in the beginning, but that would not be the intention. She then added that this new model could not be allowed to delay the necessary work of the Board so some flexibility and ongoing monitoring would be needed. Lastly, the Chair noted that this model would allow discussion of some bigger issues and provide opportunities for education on matters where the Board needs a better understanding.

FGS Faculty Council

Dr. Barnard attended and told faculty members that some programs will receive more funding while other program will be cut as part of the Academic Restructuring Plan. There was a brief question and answer period with the President of the University and faculty members requested that the University administration consult and communicate more with faculty members before initiating changes.

Student Advising

The President of the University approached the Vice Provost of Students last year about reviewing advising services on campus. This is a common area for improvement at many institutions. Several other Canadian institutions have conducted similar reviews which the University of Manitoba can learn from. The projected timeline for the review has been set at 15 to 18 months. There is an active Advisors' Exchange group on campus that meets regularly, which is chaired by Greg Sobie. Greg will liaise and relay information to and from this group.

Centralizing advising services across campus is not being considered. Advising is closely tied to student retention and student satisfaction. In order to improve services to our student body, the following will be considered:

- What is academic advising?

- What are the students' needs during the various stages throughout their academic careers?

- How satisfied are students with advising?

- What are the gaps?

- What are the best practices in advising at other post-secondary institutions?

- What recommendations should be made to improve advising at the University?

Graduate students require other types of specialized services. A question arose if this review include the graduate advisor and student relationship? An answer was not clearly stated.

International students particularly have increased stress with these situations. Cross-faculty advising should be considered as students may receive conflicting information, and also can feel they are being sent from office-to-office without proper advice.

Advising starts as early as recruitment and continues throughout the life of a student (including CCR opportunities) to graduation.

Four components of academic advising include:

- Program; Academic; Career Development/Professional Opportunities; and Specialized (i.e., Accessibility, Athletic, International, Aboriginal, Graduate).

The question of what advising actually constitutes was discussed.

Transit – Route 19

For the following reasons it's not possible to loop the 19 Notre Dame - Logan service via northbound Pearl, westbound McDermott, and southbound Emily before proceeding westbound on Notre Dame:

1. Route 19 is a very frequent and highly used route serving residential and commercial areas west of HSC, as well as Red River College. Each weekday, there are about 3,300

westbound passengers on Route 19 that ride through the existing stop at westbound Notre Dame & Pearl. In comparison, there are only 185 boardings each day at that stop. Even if it is assumed that all 185 boardings are passengers whose trip origin is HSC, the route diversion would inconvenience about 18 times as many passengers as would be benefitted by a shorter walk.

2. With the number of people travelling to/from HSC each day and the proximity of the parking structures, traffic congestion on Pearl, McDermot and Emily is often quite high. So the potential for schedule delays (and inconvenience to through-passengers) is significant. This also has an impact on operations costs for transit. Given the high frequency operated on Route 19 and the route's high ridership, persistent delays of even a few minutes can result in a requirement to operate additional buses on the route.

What is the relationship between CFS National, CFS Manitoba, and UMGSA? – Preliminary Report by Elizabeth Gonsalves (attached report)

Ms. Gonsalves was hired to investigate a possible loan owing to the Canadian Federation of Students over a decade ago and has subsequently provided a preliminary report of her findings. This report is an objective report that is stating facts but in no way provides any conclusions. I have read through the report and note that there is a lot more material that needs to be reviewed and that this is a preliminary report. At this stage we have information that does not clearly show whether GSA has joined CFS such that GSA must collect fees from graduate students at University of Manitoba for CFS and remit to CFS. The report at this early stage does not contain a recommendation or conclusion as to what the available options are, which is more than understandable given the internal contradictions in the material that was summarized. Upon consultation with our legal counsel's review of the report the following was stated:

“Perhaps the only conclusion or recommendation that could be made at this stage is that insufficient and contradictory information discovered to date suggests that further research and investigation is warranted before it will be possible to suggest further actions.”

The report will be given to the membership at the upcoming Annual General Meeting to determine the will of the membership to further research, investigate, analyse, and synthesize the materials that have been collected.

Canadian Federation of Students

The dissent of Local 96 on the motion to adopt the agenda as amended to not include item 4. "CFS-Manitoba: Operation Reviews", at the January 17, 2012 Provincial Executive meeting left us no choice but to leave the Provincial Executive on principal of dissent regarding changes to the agenda that prevented discussion deemed to be of severe importance by our co-representatives. The position of Local 96 is that we are in violation of the bylaws of CFS Manitoba and that Local 96 cannot further participate if the decision of the directors is to break the bylaws of CFS Manitoba.

The following are motions will be presented to the Provincial Executive of the Canadian Federation of Students Manitoba at their next meeting:

Be It Resolved that Liz Gonsalves, Research Assistant for Local-96, be invited to attend all sessions of the Provincial Executive meeting of CFS-MB on January 27, 2012.

Be It Resolved That all Members will desist the use of any communication devices or technologies external to what is necessary to ensure Members access to the proceedings for this meeting.

Be It Resolved That the Executive of the Canadian Federation of Students-Manitoba ratify the Chairperson as the Staff Relations Officer for their term of office as per the Bylaws of CFS-MB currently in effect.

Be It Resolved that Elizabeth Carlyle, Prairies Organiser on leave as of January 3, 2012, return all keys of CFS-MB and remit all access to CFS-MB to the CFS-MB chairperson effective immediately.

Be It Resolved That CFS-MB Executive request a supplement from National Executive in the form of a replacement for the Prairies Organiser who has commenced a one-year leave of absence on January 3, 2012, on the condition that a current Collective Agreement and job description are provided before any hiring process is initiated.

Be It Further Resolved That an agreement between CFS and CFS-MB be negotiated regarding the National supplement to CFS-MB to be reviewed and agreed upon annually with each new executive.

Academic Restructuring

Please review Dr. Barnard's letter to the university community attached to my report.

Wireless Access

There are several areas that do not have wireless service on campus. Unfortunately, the plan to have this project completed by September 2012 is not feasible. IST is currently reviewing all spaces on campus with and without access and they are coordinating with Physical Plant to plan this project. It is expected that a plan will be communicated to the University community shortly after the holiday break, including a timeline as to what can be completed by September 2012. Wireless is available in Pembina Hall Residence.

Email and IDs

There are two issues with regard to student email accounts. The first issue includes being able to claim a UM ID early (at application, admittance, or acceptance, as opposed to registration). The earlier a student is able to get an ID, the earlier the orientation process

can begin. This has been discussed with IST at a Student Affairs Leadership Team meeting. The second issue has to do with students not using their UM account, and/or having it forwarded to their personal account. There are potential security and privacy issues with this practice. Students find the portal cumbersome and do not use this account on a regular basis. The University of Manitoba will be changing the student email system to either Microsoft Office or Google.

Mobile App

Frustration has been expressed that this app is not available for blackberries as many students are blackberry users. There is a concern that there was no student input on the development of the app, nor on the advisory committee for updating the app even though they were assured that they are to be included. Student Affairs has also asked for representation on this committee.

International Student Health Plan

The Registrar advised that there was a meeting the appropriate provincial ministers and representatives from the Manitoba post-secondary institutions. It is hoped that clarification of the plan is provided and that a clear communications plan with a FAQ document can be available for all parties. There are some questions about early enrolment availability and how students can obtain a refund from the current UM plan, if applicable.

Undergraduate Research Opportunities

Since the provincial election, there has been a continued push to obtain adequate funding for research activities and there has been some success to date. There is an online module on research integrity available which is a self-service tutorial which takes approximately six hours to complete. The Research Office has reviewed it, have received very positive feedback from consultations, and therefore the University of Manitoba will be purchasing the software. A certificate is provided upon completion of the module which will add considerable value to students' cv's. It is being considered for the CCR as well. This is a fantastic opportunity for our students as we will be the first Canadian university to offer the program. It is expected to be launched in late spring. Students in science are launching a research journal, which is supported by the dean's offices in science and engineering. It will be peer reviewed and there are faculty advisors that will support the initiative. It will be launched in January 2012.

Signage/Way finding

The Assistant Vice President of Administration spoke to a report outlining terms of reference for the working group on outdoor way finding (including the tunnel system). Wireless signage will be considered as part of this group's efforts as well. The group is focussing on addressing the needs of new students and visitors to campus and are working on some items that can be completed with a short turnaround time.

Student Residence Capital Plan

It is acknowledged that more residences are required on campus. Residence operations cannot run a deficit. A significant challenge in this regard is that fees are collected for only eight months of the year. There is a need to retrofit University College and Mary Speechly Hall (both are almost 45 years old). McLean Crescent is evolving as “residence row” for undergraduate students as residences are in a cluster and near to the dining hall. The Campus Planning Office is creating a master plan for the Southwood Lands which will include options to build residences for graduate students housing and family housing for international and Aboriginal students. It is important to have these options as it is increasingly difficult for these groups to find appropriate and safe housing, particularly close to campus. There are three options for the management of new residences: UM independent (existing system), private (similar to a traditional apartment), or in partnership (a developer constructs and manages the property, but allows the residence life programming to be run by our staff). During the summer, the developer has the ability to run the property as a hotel. As the Strategic Enrolment Management plan includes doubling graduate student enrolment over the next five to seven years and also increasing Aboriginal and international student enrolment, the residence component is key in planning.

Personal Safety

The students of Bannatyne Campus will be holding an event without Security Services (using the FAQ document). The Assistant Vice President of Administration announced that the new Bannatyne Security Services plan will not be implemented until the end of January, so the director of security services can attend a meeting in the early new year. There may be an open forum arranged for all faculty, staff and students to communicate and clarify correct information around this issue. The Committee was assured that safety on all campuses is a high priority of the University and the protocols of security service will not be changed as a result of this initiative.

Regarding lighting on the Fort Garry campus, a pilot project will be started with changing lights on Gilson Crescent (leading into N lot) to florescent lighting. The current lighting casts shadows. The pilot project will assess the difficulty to change bulbs and whether the lighting improves. Pat will follow-up about the possibility of installing a swipe card system at the Dentistry parking entrance at Bannatyne.

Parking

The Director of Ancillary Services advised that a Parking Advisory Committee is being established which will meet quarterly. The membership includes students and administrative representatives. A new Parking Services Manager has now been hired, and the first meeting of this group will be held very soon. The committee currently does not have a graduate student representative. UMGSA will pursue to have representation on this committee.

Enhancing Student Spaces on Campus

The Assistant Vice President of Administration advised that his staff and members of UMSU are working together on the Student Space Implementation Team (SSIT). Projects include the Arts lounge and the Armes tunnel space which are both moving forward. The President of the Arts Students' Association advised that she is compiling a template of best practices in this regard and including points of contact in key areas in Physical Plant and in administrative offices for the use of future student groups looking to improve their lounges and other spaces on campus. This will be worked on through the SSIT.

Priorities will also be established by this working group. It is valuable to communicate to the campus community of how we are all working together, making a difference, and being successful.

The Student Life office will have a staff of twelve in January 2012 and it will maintain the space it has currently until the spring. This office requires high-traffic student space as they welcome all students and provide services to the entire student body. In addition, the office provides space for Student Recruitment to meet prospective students, as well as for many student program groups. The Assistant Vice President of Administration is working on campus space planning.

It was noted that the University Centre Agreement is being redrafted and is currently being reviewed by the Legal Office. This agreement is between UMSU and the University Centre services to set out best practices and the allocation and control of space in University Centre. The original agreement was signed in 1987.

Orientation Working Group

Orientation 2011 Notes and Suggestions for Improvement:

The Orientation 2011 energy was high, and we need to feed into that with our new students. It was suggested that orienteers wear identifying t-shirts for the first two weeks of classes. It was also evident that students are receiving too much information the first week. There is a delicate balance of providing the right amount of information at the optimal time when the student requires that knowledge. Is there a welcome service available to greet students arriving at the airport? The International Centre for Students has a Welcome Family program available. We can do a better job of instilling a sense of UM and Bison pride. We need to celebrate with students and underscore that they have worked hard to get to this point – they are part of the herd. The overwhelming feeling should be reflected positively. Four aims for Orientation were noted:

- become engaged (campus, academic)
- confidence (way finding, proud),
- connected (know where key resources are and how to get connected)
- be glad you are here

We must be cognizant to not spam the students, or to feel like they are being spammed – mailings must be coordinated and specific. The Orientation website should be an up-to-date hub with relevant links to UMSU, GSA, City of Winnipeg and a comprehensive calendar of events. This link should be noted in the acceptance letters sent to students. International students have cultural socialization needs (i.e., drinking water, finances, driver's licence). The wasp factor must be eliminated: The Director of Student Life will speak to Physical Plant to work on a solution. Improve student connection to their faculty, academic advisors and student leaders. Improve way finding – inside and outside- it must be specific and relevant to students. Improve information and communication and instil campus pride. Build on the energy of rez orientation. Bannatyne Orientation dates must be cognizant of those program's different start dates. Some Fort Garry programs start on alternate dates too (Ag Dip; Aboriginal Orientation). Mature student orientation and transfer student orientation each require specific attention and tailored information.

Office Hours:

Mondays: 12:00 - 16:00

November 14, 2011 – 8.5 hours

November 23, 2011 – 3 hours

November 28, 2011 – 5.5 hours

November 21, 2011 – 4 hours

November 24, 2011 – 4 hours

December 5, 2011 – 4 hours

December 20, 2011 – 5 hours

December 12, 2011 - 2 hours

Time spent in the office: 36 hours

Time spent in meetings: 56.5 Hours



UNIVERSITY
OF MANITOBA

Graduate Students' Association



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**What is the Relationship between CFS and UMGSA?
What is the Relationship between CFS-MB and UMGSA?**

**Preliminary Report by
Liz Gonsalves, UMGSA Research Assistant
Submitted on
January 19, 2012**

**For
The University of Manitoba Graduate Students' Association**

**At
The Meeting of the University of Manitoba Graduate Students'
Association Council on January 25, 2012**

**And
The Annual General Meeting of University of Manitoba Graduate
Students' Association – February 2, 2012**

What is the Relationship between CFS and UMGSA?
What is the Relationship between CFS-MB and UMGSA?

Preamble: While researching the question of an alleged monetary loan from the Canadian Federation of Students Manitoba (CFS-MB), documents between the University of Manitoba Graduate Students' Association (UMGSA) and the Canadian Federation of Students National office (CFS) highlighted a question in the validity of our membership with the above organizations as well as the Canadian Federation of Students – Services (CFS-S). The ultimate question is:

1. Is or has UMGSA ever been a valid member of CFS, CFS-S and/or CFS-MB?

To determine if this is the case the following information is necessary:

1. When did UMGSA allegedly become prospective members of CFS, CFS-S and/or CFS-MB?
2. When did UMGSA allegedly become full members of CFS, CFS-S and/or CFS-MB?
3. What were the Bylaws of the organizations at the time of prospective and full membership with regards to said membership (i.e. What is the process?)?
4. Were all Bylaws and requirements of all organizations adhered to in the membership processes (i.e. Was due process followed?)?
5. What documentation exists as evidence for the above?
6. What individuals had authority to act and/or sign on behalf of the organizations involved?
7. Who actually acted and/or signed on behalf of the organizations involved?

The purpose of this evaluation is to determine if UMGSA is in fact a current member of CFS, CFS-S and/or CFS-MB with the aim to ensure an accurate and judicious application of fees collected from the UMGSA membership (i.e. graduate students at the University of Manitoba).

Methodology: UMGSA documentation (meeting minutes, letters, budgets, etc.) as maintained within the GSA office (and digitally archived) was reviewed. UMGSA archives were augmented and updated with documentation (meeting minutes, referendum materials, publications and articles, letters, etc) as maintained within the CFS and CFS-MB offices and the University of Manitoba Board of Governors (BoG) website which were also reviewed. Communication with CFS-MB via Marakary Bayo, CFS-MB Chairperson, and with CFS via Roxanne Dubois, National Chairperson, and past UMGSA President 00/01 and 01/02, Amanda Jones, in the form of telephone conversations, e-mails and in-person meetings has been employed to obtain information.

Synopsis: Letters between the 00-02 UMGSA president and the National Chairperson of CFS indicate a disagreement as to whether or not UMGSA is legitimately a member of CFS (and subsequent CFS-related organizations). Prospective membership status was applied for in September 1999 and subsequently approved by CFS. A successful referendum for full membership was held January 23 – 25, 2001 and the membership was allegedly ratified at the national general meeting of CFS on May 12, 2001. At the same time the UMGSA



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Council had decided to postpone the application for full membership pending a decision of the BoG regarding UMGSA autonomy (which was only achieved this year - June 21, 2011) and collection of CFS fees. CFS recognized the financial situation of UMGSA at the time and promised not to collect fees for 01/02, 03/04, or retroactively for any fees not collected by U of M. The national chairperson of CFS indicated being in receipt of the full membership application signed by a member of UMGSA and the "willingness to waive membership fees until such time as that autonomy is achieved." The president of UMGSA argued that the letter sent to CFS for application of full membership status was composed and signed by an individual, other than the president, who was not authorized to do so. The validity of membership with reference to CFS Bylaws was also questioned because UMGSA was not an autonomous organization (member of UMSU), and through UMSU were also members of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA). In 2005 CFS National Chairperson, George Soule, sent a letter to UMGSA regarding outstanding membership fees and in September 2006 the first fees were collected by the BoG on behalf of UMGSA for membership in CFS (CFS-S and CFS-MB).

Findings: The minutes of the UMGSA Council meetings for the 1999 – 2000 and 2000 - 2001 term of office provided a framework of the initiation of prospective membership status in CFS and the events leading up to and including the full membership referendum. The minutes for the 2001 – 2002 UMGSA term of office have not been located yet. There are several letters, some signed, and most dated, disputing membership status of UMGSA immediately following the alleged ratification of said membership at a national meeting of CFS and continuing through most of that term.

There is some evidence that an executive and/or council member of UMGSA, who was heavily involved with the CFS membership drive from 1999 to 2001, was also an employed member of CFS-MB staff at the same time. Their specific roles and level of transparency within these two organizations remains unclear at this time. A News Release from CFS dated January 26, 2001 indicates that this individual was the spokesperson for UMGSA.

The UMGSA's copy of the CFS Bylaws, which was recently obtained (2010/11 term of office) to replace what had been missing for some time, has again disappeared. UMGSA currently has neither a current copy of the Bylaws of CFS or any prior versions. Requests for information from CFS either take a substantial amount of time for a response or go unacknowledged/unanswered. Knowing that CFS must register their bylaws federally as a federal non-profit organization means, to determine if the Bylaws of the organization as they were at the time of the membership question were upheld, a search of federal government documents can be employed.

There are several filing cabinets maintained in the CFS-MB office containing a great deal of documentation. Not all files are categorized in a way that is obvious as to their content. This led to a need to ignore existent categories and spend time reviewing individual contents. The disorganization and redundancy of contents of the CFS-MB file server was also apparent. A letter addressed to the University of

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Manitoba Faculty, dated January 15, 2001, was found among all the documents in the files pertaining to UMGSA. It was typed up on a regular blank white sheet of 8.5" x 11" paper with a strip of paper taped to the top of it that contained the letterhead of UMGSA employed during that term of office. The letter is indicated to be from Amanda Jones, President, Graduate Students' Association, but it is not signed. An additional blank sheet with UMGSA letterhead was within the same file maintained in the CFS-MB office. A blank sheet of the current UMGSA letterhead was also contained within the files of CFS-MB. There were also several printed copies of e-mails between the UMGSA president and their legal counsel at the time regarding questions pertaining to membership in CFS. It is unclear how these were obtained by CFS-MB to exist within their files.

Chronology: May 26, 1999 – GSA Council minutes indicate:

President: Ed Janzen

Vice President: Tami Kowal-Denisenko

Treasurer: Brady Usick

Staff: Gary Russell

In the president's report discussion with CFS has begun to arrange a presentation to Council regarding membership

1999 – According to UMGSA letterhead Membership was as follows:

President: Ed Janzen

Vice President: Tami Kowal-Denisenko

Vice President: Douglas Lee

Treasurer: Brandy Usick

August 25, 1999 – GSA Council minutes indicate:

Social Director: Raj Apadoo

Senate Rep: Ehsan Latif

UMSU Rep: Stephanie Bradley

UMSU Rep: Mike Newman

UMSU Rep: Patrick Nelson

President's report indicates CFS membership question will be raised at the October GSA General Meeting. Ed Janzen and Krishna Lalbiharie both attended a 2-day CFS Skill-Building Weekend hosted in Brandon August 14 – 15 and GSA Executive has begun work with CFS on Target Education and Access 2000 campaigns.

Krishna Lalbiharie is appointed as Gradzette Editor.

September 29, 1999 – GSA Council minutes indicate:

Senate Rep: Mabelle Magsino

At Large: Paul Zita

A presentation to Council by CFS National Chairperson, Michael Conlon, and Kemlin Nemhard. Discussion regarding current membership in UMSU and fees paid to UMSU that go CASA, estimated to be \$3/student, as well as question of applying for prospective membership while UMGSA is part of UMSU – response is that they do not need to be separated - and question regarding UMGSA's membership in CASA via UMSU.



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Motion to take out prospective membership with CFS approved with 1 opposition and 1 abstention.

Communications/PR Report identifies CFS membership, and UMGSA autonomy as part of campaign ideas for membership

Undated letter to Michael Conlon, CFS, from Ed Janzen applying for prospective membership with CFS as per approved motion of Council meeting.

October 27, 1999 – GSA AGM minutes indicate:

Office Manager: Gary Russell

Senate Rep: William Ewanchuk

(Clothing & Textiles Rep: Amanda Jones)

A presentation to the general membership was made by Joel Oliphant, retained by GSA to research UMGSA becoming incorporated and autonomous from UMSU – Because GSA is unincorporated it is not constituted as a legal person and therefore precluded from entering agreements; UMSU allocates 1/3 of all graduate student organization fees to GSA; incorporation requires University of Manitoba Board of Governors approval

Unanimous approval to pursue incorporation under the Corporations Act – a motion in which the clauses highlight that contracts outside of incorporation have questionable legal status and that individuals would find themselves personally liable for having signed contracts on behalf of UMGSA.

There is no evidence of a vote on the motion to pursue autonomy.

Motion to constitute the position of a Director of Public Relations approved with 4 abstentions.

November 24, 1999 – GSA Council minutes indicate:

UMSU Rep to GSA: Lee Seymour

UMSU Rep to GSA: Peter Spindler

Motion to select Kevin Toyne as GSA Council chair for

99/00 carried

Motion to select Krishna Lalbiharie as the Director of Public Relations carried.

Motion to select Paul Zita as UMSU Rep. carried

President's Report indicates that pending Board of Governors' approval incorporated name has been granted by Companies' Branch; recognizes inconsistencies and inadequacies of Council minutes to this point.

January 26, 2000 – GSA Council Minutes indicate:

(Clothing & Textiles Rep: Amanda Jones)

President's report indicates petitions are circulating regarding autonomy (on both sides) and that the BoG is in receipt of GSA autonomy application and will consider the matter at next meeting subject to legal inquiry

Director of PR report indicates GSA is in support of CFS "Access 2000" campaign and will participate in Day of Action on Feb 2, 2000

February 23, 2000 - GSA Council Minutes indicate:

VP(HSC): Doug Lee [see letterhead]

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(Clothing & Textiles Rep: Amanda Jones)

CFS National Chairperson: Michael Conlon

Dir. PR report highlights support of NGC of CFS to

support UMGSA right to pursue autonomy and incorporation as motioned at NGC meeting on February 20, 2000 and quoted in letter of support from NGC to UofM BoG, and a suspension of CFS membership referendum to October as per Elizabeth Carlyle, CFS Deputy National Chairperson, because of time constraints of both organizations.

March 29, 2000 – GSA Council Minutes indicate:

(Clothing & Textiles Rep: Amanda Jones)

Passed motions to appoint Barbara Mah as Social Director,

Anna Frias as DPR and Ed Janzen, Bill Ewenchuck and Lloyd Lawrence as UMSU Reps for 00/01 term.

DPR report indicates BoG consulting UMSU regarding autonomy

March 29, 2000 – GSA AGM minutes indicate:

No attendance available

Motion to reaffirm pursuit of GSA autonomy carried

April 26, 2000 – GSA Council Minutes indicate:

VP (HSC): Israel Mendez

(Clothing & Textiles Rep: Amanda Jones)

Motion to accept Mabelle Magsino as Senate Rep carried

President's report indicates the following for GSA 00/01

Executive: President: Amanda Jones

Vice-President: Paul Zita

Treasurer: Vinod Varadharajan

Senator: Narjit Chadha

Senator: Tami Kowal-Denisenko

DPR: Ana Frias

Social Director: Barbara Mah

UMSU Council Reps: Lloyd Lawrence, Ed Janzen and Bill Ewanchuk

Autonomy decision at BoG expected in July

DPR Report expects a decision from BoG on autonomy at June 27, 2000 meeting and indicates a resolution drafted for consideration of NGC of CFS regarding authorship and IP and also includes a report from the National Advisory Group on Student Financial Aid for the Canadian Federation of Students written by Krishna Lalbiharie.

May 31, 2000 – GSA Council Meeting minutes indicate:

President: Amanda Jones

Treasurer: Vinod Varadharaj

DPR: Ana Frias

Senator: Narjit Chadha

UMSU Councilor: Ed Janzen

UMSU Councillor: Lloyd Lawrence

Chair: Krishna Lalbiharie (hand written in)

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President's report indicates that CFS has agreed to pay for all the costs of the referendum being held in October.

Treasurer's report included 00/01 Budget proposal, which notes a potential "\$2,000 should be spent on CFS membership, referendum & conferences." This is indicated to be significantly less, pending membership referendum in October, by both Janzen and Lalbiharie who adds that it should be less than \$700 maximum and no major expense for the referendum will be incurred.

DPR report indicates that although as prospective members GSA is eligible to attend National General Meetings of CFS nobody from GSA attended the May meeting (May 18 - 21, 2000).

November 2000 - CFS National General Meeting postpones GSA referendum again

January 7 - 25, 2001 - Campaigning for GSA full membership in CFS referendum

January 23 - 25, 2001 - referendum to join CFS with "YES" majority

April 2001 - President's year-end report states no letter was sent to CFS for full membership

April 25, 2001 - UMGSA Council Meeting chaired by Liz Carlyle: GSA will apply for full membership of CFS at 39th Semi-Annual General Meeting contingent upon item #4 of undated letter from CFS regarding fee collection; letter signed by Elizabeth Carlyle to UMGSA assuring that CFS:

1. will not collect fees for 2001/2002 and 2002/2003;
2. will not take legal action against UMGSA for membership fees not collected by the university
3. assures full membership is not contingent upon fee collection
4. will not seek retroactive payment of membership fees not collected by the university

This motion was made by Krishna Lalbiharie who is not listed to be in attendance at that same meeting.

May 12, 2001 - CFS 39th Semi-Annual General Meeting

- CFS National Chairperson: Ian Boyko

- UMGSA ratified as FULL members of CFS at opening plenary

- report of Ed Janzen to UMGSA Council regarding 39th Semi-

annual National General Meeting of CFS states "Full Federation membership for the U of M GSA was ratified, pending receipt of a letter from our Executive."

May 17, 2001 - unsigned letter to BoG from Amanda Jones requesting clarification of decision regarding collection of CFS membership fees (no such topic evident in minutes of BoG meeting from April 24, 2001 as referenced)

May 30, 2001 - UMGSA Council unanimously carries motion to postpone CFS membership pending BoG decision on autonomy and CFS fee collection (Ian Boyko was in attendance)

Undated (2001) agreement of membership between CFS and UMGSA signed only by Ian Boyko (no GSA signature)

June 4, 2001 - letter from Amanda Jones to Ian Boyko re May 30, 2001 motion

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June 4, 2001 – letter from Vinod Varadharajan to GSA Council and Executive alleging pressure tactics and questionable practices of CFS supporters/employees to obtain a signature on the letter of application for full membership to CFS

June 13, 2001 – letter from Amanda Jones to Ian Boyko re: pressure tactics of CFS to obtain a signature on full membership agreement

July 16, 2001 – letter from Ian Boyko to Amanda Jones defending membership

October 15, 2001 – letter from Amanda Jones to Ian Boyko defending non-membership position

November 27, 2001 – letter from Ian Boyko to Amanda Jones validates that CFS is in receipt of membership letter signed by Vinod Varadharajan dated May 5, 2001; states CFS “willingness to waive membership fees until such time as that autonomy is achieved.”

December 10, 2001 – letter to Ian Boyko from Amanda Jones responds that motion at meeting of CFS held in Brandon, Manitoba stated full membership of GSA would be accepted “pending the receipt of a letter from the President of the GSA.” The letter also indicates that while in attendance at a UMGSA meeting on May 30, 2001, Ian Boyko “confirmed that the CFS was waiting for the letter of application” from the UMGSA president and only then would GSA be accepted as a full member. It further refutes the above authority of Vinod Varadharajan to sign the letter indicated above on the president’s behalf and alleges that Mr. Varadharajan subsequently sent CFS a letter confirming he had no authority to sign the application letter and that he was pressured by three CFS members to do it.

05/06 - UMGSA President: Meghan Gallant

January 29, 2005 – letter from George Soule, CFS National Chairperson, to Meghan Gallant re: outstanding membership fees (no amount stated)

July 7, 2005 – UMGSA Executive carried motion to begin to levy fees for CFS membership dues

March 26, 2006 – BoG approves fee collection for CFS membership

September 2006 – first collection of CFS membership fees from graduate students at the university

June 21, 2011 – UofM BoG carries motion to recognize UMGSA as autonomous organization from UMSU

Conclusion/Recommendation: The contradictory and insufficient nature of information discovered at this early stage does not clearly provide options for UMGSA. Additional research and investigation is warranted before it will be possible to suggest further actions.

Notes of Interest: CFS campaigns adopted by UMGSA have remained relatively consistent and unchanged since 1999. Autonomy of the GSA has been a documented desire since 1973 (an achievement at least 38 years in the making!). There were implications that membership in the CFS would aid in achieving that autonomy.

Research Issues: The binders of documents in the GSA office do not necessarily contain what is labeled on their spines and review of all documents is a necessity.

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All files have been scanned and some have been itemized and filed electronically but research of physical documents is still heavily required in the GSA office. The research included the additional task of organizing and categorizing the documents accordingly. Thus far only the binders in the top two left corner shelves contain what they say they contain. There are many resources remaining to be reviewed.

The documents archived within the filing cabinets and electronic server of the CFS-MB office are redundant and some are inadequately organized and categorized, contradictory or incomplete/missing. Because there was much in the files regarding UMGSA, with specific reference to the referendum and membership, that was not within the UMGSA office, a large portion of the limited time spent in the CFS-MB office involved copying documents for UMGSA files. There has been far more information to acquire and retrieve than there has been time to review it.

E. Gonsalves
January 19, 2012



Report

From: Angela Freeman, Vice President Internal
To: Graduate Students of the University of Manitoba
Date: January 15, 2011
Re: Council Report –November 11 – January 10

COMMITTEES, MEETINGS AND BUSINESS MATTERS

Meetings Attended:

November 11, 2011	Office Hours	2.25 Hours
November 15, 2011	Bannatyne Student Caucus	1.5 Hours
November 16, 2011	Office Hours	1 Hour
November 16, 2011	Bylaws Committee Meeting	1 Hour
November 17, 2011	BSGSA AGM (not included in hour total)	1.5 Hour
November 18, 2011	Office Hour	1.75 Hours
November 18, 2011	Senate Committee on Admissions	.5 Hours
November 23, 2011	Office Hour	1 Hour
November 24, 2011	Draft Sustainability Workshop	3 Hours
November 25, 2011	Emails	1 Hour
November 25, 2011	Office Hour	1 Hour
November 30, 2011	Office Hour	1 Hour
November 30, 2011	GSA Council	2.25 Hours
December 1, 2011	Department Grants	.25 Hours
December 2, 2011	Office Hour	1 Hour
December 5, 2011	GSA Exec Meeting	2.25 Hours
January 6, 2012	Office Hours	1 Hour
January 9, 2012	Exec Meeting	2.5 Hours
January 10, 2012	Office Hours	2.5 Hours

From the 6th to January 4th, the VPI was out of country, but available by email.

Time spent answering emails during holidays - ~ 4 Hours

Meetings Missed:

November 21, 2011	GSA exec meeting	Cancelled
November 23, 2011	Sustainability Lunch and Learn	Lab conflict
December 13, 2011	Sustainability Committee	Out of Country

December 14, 2011	SCADM	Was cancelled
December 14, 2011	Finance Committee	Cancelled due to class end
December 21, 2011	Bylaws Committee	Cancelled due to class end
January 4, 2012	Office Hour	Out of Country

Executive Summary:

Gradzette:

The Gradzette editor will be attending the Canadian University Press conference on behalf of the Gradzette to network and come up with new ways to bring issues to graduate students. The January issue is currently online.

Finance Committee:

The Finance Committee met on November 11, 2011. We reviewed 18 applications, 2 were rejected because of insufficient documentation. The total amount awarded was \$4,970.

Bylaws and Policy:

The bylaws committee met and reviewed the policies (or lack of) concerning emergency loans and the process for obtaining an emergency loan. This discussion was extensive, and by no means completed within the hour allotted. The conversation will continue in the new year, and the document will be forthcoming at the AGM.

Bannatyne Student Caucus:

To unite the two campuses better, the VPI volunteered to sit on the caucus as a non-voting member, which will keep a record of the meetings for future executive. The discussion focused on security issues, as a press release went out early in November indicating that security services at Bannatyne would be greatly reduced.

Senate Committee on Admissions (SCADM):

The only proposal brought forth was a direct entry into the arts English program. The only contention was a footnote that suggests that students take a math course to prepare themselves. Some felt it might scare off potential students, while others felt that the suggestion might help students prepare themselves for studies in the future. The December SCADM meeting had no items to discuss.

Sustainability Committee:

As of the 10th of November, the VPI was appointed to the UofM sustainability committee. She attended the Draft Sustainability Meeting and discussed issues of concern to graduate students. She also was able to liaise with interested students.

Office Hours:

Wednesday and Friday: 4-5pm (changed in Winter term to Tuesdays 9-11am).

Total: 12.5

Time spent in meetings: approx. 14.25

Report

From: Yijie (Jennifer) Chen, Vice-President Academic
To: GSA Council
Date: January 10, 2012
Re: Council Report

COMMITTEES, MEETINGS AND BUSSINESS MATTERS

Meetings Attended:

November 16, 2011	Preparation Meeting for CFS AGM	2.5 hours
November 17-20, 2011	Canadian Conference on Student Leadership (Calgary)	4 days
November 21-26, 2011	CFS AGM (Gatineau, QC)	6 days
November 28, 2011	Senate Planning & Priority Committee Meeting	0.75 hour
November 30, 2011	Bison Active Living Council Meeting	2 hours
	GSA Council Meeting	2 hours
December 5, 2011	FGS Council Meeting	1 hours
	GSA Executive Meeting	2 hours
	Student Senate Caucus Meeting	1 hour
December 7, 2011	Senate Meeting	1.3 hours
December 9, 2011	GSA Campaign Committee Meeting	1 hour
December 13, 2011	Student Retention Sub-Committee Meeting	1.75 hours
December 14, 2011	Preparation Meeting for Senate Executive Meeting	0.75 hour
	Senate Executive Meeting	1.25 hours
December 15, 2011	Senate Committee on Awards	1 hour
January 6, 2012	International Centre for Students Orientation Day	0.75 hour
January 9, 2012	UM & UW joint program working group meeting	1.5 hours
	GSA Executive Meeting	2 hours
	Student Senate Caucus Meeting	1.5 hours

Meetings Missed:

November 16, 2011	GSA By-laws Committee Meeting (Time conflict) - Regrets
November 21, 2011	Student Retention Sub-Committee Meeting (In Gatineau) - Regrets
	GSA Executive Meeting (Cancelled)
November 23, 2011	Senate Executive Meeting (In Gatineau) - Regrets
November 24, 2011	FGS Executive Meeting (In Gatineau) - Regrets

Executive Summary:

Holiday Hampers:

This year the GSA continued the working relationship with UMSU to cosponsor the annual holiday hampers, distributing holiday hampers for graduate students in need. The GSA purchased 50 hampers, using the full \$5,000 allocated to the program from the budget line under "Holiday Hampers". Pick-up and delivery of the hampers occurred on December 15, 2011. Most registrations for holiday hampers were from international students, as well as from students who have family and children. GSA President Peter Nawrot and Senator Adam Reisacher volunteered to deliver hampers to graduate students who would not be able to pick them up in-person, while the VPA assisted all day in distribution from the UMSU Council Chambers.

The hampers were prepared by UMSU, and toys from the holiday toy drive were donated to families with children as gifts. The hampers contained chicken/turkey, non-perishable food, rice, noodles, jam, tea bags as well as stuffing and cranberry sauce. Please find below the holiday hamper percent changes between 2010-2011. This should be useful in reviewing the growth of the holiday hamper program.

Registered Holiday Hampers*													
2009			2010				2011				Percent Change 2010-2011		
Hampers	Adults	Veggie	Hampers	Adults	Children	Vegetarian	Hampers	Adults	Children	Vegetarian	Hampers	Adults	Children
51	80	4 (7.8%)	30	59	28**	7 (23.3%)	47	95	34	10 (21.3%)	36.20%	37.90%	17.60%
note 2009 #s don't specify children													
Note: *actual hampers registered may not reflect actual hampers delivered													
**adjusted to reflect error in survey question													

Bursaries:

The bursary funds for the Fall 2011 and Winter 2012 sessions were released in December 2011 and deposited in students' Aurora accounts. The UMSU and GSA Graduate Student Bursary Fund (Award number: 43819) has been granted to 4 graduate students at \$4,000 in total. The GSA/UMSU Graduate Bursary (Award number: 44830) has been granted to 7 graduate students at \$7,000 in total. The Graduate Students' Association Bursary (Award number: 45358) has been granted to 13 graduate students at \$ 65,000 in total. The total amount of bursaries given to graduate students are \$76,000 in addition to the GSA Awards given for the 2011-2012 which valued at \$50,000.

The 2011-2012 GSA has provided \$126,000 in awards and bursaries to graduate students.

Academic Issues:

- 1) The 2012-2013 academic schedule has been approved by the Senate.
- 2) *University of Manitoba Tri-Council Top-Up Award*
The Faculty of Graduate Studies and academic departments at the University of Manitoba will offer a cost shared program to top-up the value of graduate scholarships and fellowships awarded through select Tri-Council funding programs. The Faculty of Graduate Studies will match the contribution from the home department to new recipients of Tri-Council awards.
- 3) New offers of graduate student scholarships in Biological Science, Peace and Conflict Studies, Fine Arts, and Native Studies.

Speaker Series:

Currently, the GSA is seeking a partnership with Student Life to bring Mr. Stephen Lewis to the University of Manitoba for the GSA Speaker Series on March 28, 2012. While the partnership is currently being discussed, as sponsors of the event the GSA would be included in promotional materials, and have the opportunity to participate in a reception with Mr. Lewis after his presentation. Mr. Lewis is internationally renowned for his work on HIV/AIDS in Africa, as well as his experience with the United Nations.

The costs associated for this event would be from the GSA *Speaker Series* budget line item.

Bison Sport and Active Living Council:

A Bison Sport and Active Living Council meeting was held on November 30, 2011 to discuss reports from facilities, active living, membership services, recreation programs, Bison Sports, and athlete council.

Capital projects were discussed, including renovations, repairs, upgrades, and maintenance of the facilities in Frank Kennedy Centre, Max Bell Centre, Investors Group Athletic Centre, Stadium, and Joe Doupe Centre and have been approved by the Faculty Executive.

Construction of the Tunnel from Architecture to Extended Education is underway and is scheduled for completion in April 2012. Frank Kennedy Centre locker rooms will be renovated including having steam rooms and private shower rooms. Squash courts will be re-developed to international standards which Squash Manitoba has expressed interest in financially supporting. The development of the tennis courts is in the process of discussion with Tennis Manitoba regarding their contribution.

Data from membership services showed that with the 5% price increase during past three years, membership sales were decreasing, including student membership sales at both campuses. A membership survey was sent out in 2011 and approximately 900 members responded.

Currently, Bison Sports are initiating programs to involve in community and high schools, such as Bison Book Buddies that athletes repeat visits schools (kindergarten – grade 3) to

develop lasting relationships with students and help with their reading skills.

Athlete Council submitted a proposal to the Admin and Parking Services to call for any athlete who received a parking permit to be placed in *I Lot* for the convenience of carrying heavy equipment and safety concerns at night. At the completion of the 2010-2011 season, 90 out of 296 University of Manitoba student-athletes qualified for Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) Academic All-Canadian status by maintaining a minimum GPA of 3.5+.

Faculty of Graduate Studies Council Meeting:

A list of graduate course changes was compiled by the Registrar's Office. The FGS has submitted these changes to Senate for approval. FGS also reported discipline & appeals from May to November 2011.

Student Retention Sub-Committee Meeting:

This sub-committee is conducted by the Registrar's Office to address issues that would affect students' retention at University of Manitoba. The main target of this committee is undergraduate students academics, campus experience, and intercultural competency; it also discusses space, communications and wireless issues on campus.

Advocacy:

Because of the confidential and personal information associated with advocacy cases, and in the interest of privacy, details of advocacy cases will not be presented in this report. Advocacy cases can pertain to academic appeals (including relationships between students and their advisors, funding, grades, plagiarism, time to completion issues and others) as well as personal or health related issues.

International Centre for Students Orientation Day:

The International Centre for Students held its orientation day on January 6, 2012. The VPA presented during the GSA session, which included 15-20 new international graduate students. Topics covered included GSA services, advocacy and campaigns. GSA handbooks, rulers, pamphlets and promotional materials were distributed to the students.

Canadian Federation of Students (CFS):

1) Day of Action

The CFS-MB "Public for the People" campaign will culminate in a rally at the Manitoba Legislative Building on February 1st, 2012. UMSU is organizing an "Our Space" campaign to address issues that concern University of Manitoba students. A motion regarding academic amnesty was also submitted by UMSU to Senate to recognize February 1st, 2012 as a day of student protest and that all academic staff shall be made aware of this fact.

2) The next CFS Provincial Executive meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 17th.

Office Hours:

Wednesdays: 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Time spent in the office: 49.71 hours

November 16, 2011 – 6 hours	November 28, 2011 – 0.5 hours
November 30, 2011 – 3.66 hours	December 1, 2011 – 3 hours
December 2, 2011 – 1.62 hours	December 5, 2011 – 5 hours
December 7, 2011 – 2.85 hours	December 9, 2011 – 0.75 hours
December 13, 2011 – 3.67 hours	December 14, 2011 – 3.08 hours
December 15, 2011 – 7.67 hours	December 16, 2011 – 3.16 hours
December 19, 2011 – 0.33 hours	January 4, 2012 – 5 hours
January 6, 2012 – 3 hours	January 9, 2012 – 0.42 hours

Time spent in meetings: 24.05 hours
Plus 10 days in meetings outside of Winnipeg

Happy Year of the Dragon!

Report

From: Tonia Bates, Vice President External
To: Graduate Students of the University of Manitoba
Date: January 13, 2012
Re: Council Report - November / December / mid January

COMMITTEES, MEETINGS AND BUSSINESS MATTERS

Meetings Attended:

November 14, 2011	UMSU Health and Dental Plan	2 hours
November 16, 2011	CFS Prep Meeting	3 hours
November 28, 2011	GSA Executive Meeting	2 hours
November 30, 2011	GSA Council	2.5 hours
December 5, 2011	GSA Executive Meeting	2.5 hours
December 6, 2011	International Student Health	1.5 hours
December 7, 2011	UMSU Health and Dental Plan	2 hours
December 9, 2011	GSA Campaigns Committee	1.5 hours
January 9, 2011	GSA Executive Meeting	2 hours

Conferences Attended:

November 17 – 20, 2011	Canadian Conference on Student Leadership	59 hours
November 23 – 26, 2011	Canadian Federation of Students AGM	57 hours

Meetings Missed:

November 17, 2011	Curriculum and Course Changes, Senate	3 hours
November 24, 2011	Curriculum and Course Changes, Senate	2.5 hours
November 24, 2011	SCIE Senate Meeting	3 hours

Executive Summary:

UMSU Health and Dental Plan

We have spent most of our time approving or denying opt-out and opt-in applications for the U of M health care plan, for both undergraduate and graduate students.

CFS Prep Meeting

We discussed the motions on the table for the meeting, we have three (No Means No Campaign, adjusting conference schedule, asking for more details in financial statements). All other motions are letter writing in support or in protest of various national and international causes. We discussed each motion from a graduate perspective knowing that motions change a great deal during the conference. Six graduate students attended the conference in Ottawa later in November.

International Student Health Meeting

Various groups on campus were invited to attend a meeting in order to disseminate information about the new health care coverage offered by the province of Manitoba to international students. Students could have opted in since September of 2011, but most students were unaware of this and therefore all will be opted in as of April 1, 2012. It would be a good idea to have the same presentation offered to GSA members to inform everyone of this new health care coverage.

Campaigns Committee

We discussed the possibility of joining in CFS Manitoba and National Day of Action on February 1, 2012. Consensus was that we would have a special event during which we would discuss funding for graduate students with University and government officials, but not in conjunction with CFS. Possible planning of the event will continue into the new year.

Canadian Conference on Student Leadership (CCSL)

The conference was in Calgary to which we sent eight graduate students. There was a strong contingent of key note speakers, including the president of U of Calgary, Calgary's mayor and Dragon Den's Brett Wilson. The break-out sessions were good but directed more at undergraduate students, with the professional series more applicable for graduate student leadership. We were able to create several key relationships with U of Calgary's GSA Executive as well as other students attending the conference. In all, it was a good experience for attendees, and from this event we have developed a GSA Travel policy ensuring that individuals attending conference, representing the GSA, are aware of the expectations and commitments, being made as per conference attendance.

Canadian Federation of Students, Annual General Meeting (CFS AGM)

This conference took place in Ottawa and we sent six delegates to the conference, mostly current or past members of the GSA executive. We prepared three motions all of which were quite controversial (see the attached). The motion requesting a change of meeting scheduled was supported by half the groups present, and at the final plenary a recount of the vote was required four times as the count was very close, although the motion was eventually defeated. Our financial motion was defeated as well with less discussion. The No Means No motion was met with strong resistance from many University's and the Women's Constituency was very controversial. Not only did the chair not follow Robert's Rules of Order during the meeting (with the CFS president in attendance passing around the microphone) but the GSA was verbally attacked and bullied by this group for a full hour. Two individuals spoke in favour of the motion but other than these

two individuals, not only did most people not talk about the campaign or the motion, but pre-meditated tactics were used divert the attention away from the motion and discuss ideas which were not a part of the motion. For the duration of the weekend we were subject to more bullying tactics on behalf of many in attendance at the conference. There were four Universities in support for the work we were attempting to complete and we engaged in very productive and useful discussions with these groups. In all, the conference was quite challenging and the only work accomplished was the omnibus motion to write letters. All other motions were passed on to the National Executive.

Office Hours:

Mondays: **FILL IN USING BOOK AT OFFICE!**

Time spent in the office: 42 hours

June 10, 2020 – 2 hours

June 11, 2020 – 2 hours

June 12, 2020 - 2 hours

June 13, 2020 – 3 Hours

Time spent in meetings: 40 Hours

Report

From: Neil Salter, VP HSC
To: Graduate Students of the University of Manitoba
Date: January, 2012
Re: Council Report

COMMITTEES, MEETINGS AND BUSINESS MATTERS

Meetings Attended:

November 10, 2011	SS@BC Open house	1 hour
November 15, 2011	Diversity Working Group Meet	2 hours
November 16, 2011	GSA Bylaws (teleconference)	2 hours
November 21, 2011	GSA Executive Meeting	1.5 hours
November 28, 2011	BSAC meeting	3 hours
November 29, 2011	HSGSA Council	1.5 hours
November 29, 2011	CHS event	1 hour
November 30, 2011	GSA Council	2 hours
December 5 th , 2011	FGS Faculty Council	1 hour
December 5 th , 2011	GSA Executive	2 hours
December 6 th , 2011	Diversity Working Group	2 hours
December 9 th , 2011	HSGSA Christmas Social	5 hours
January 5, 2012	Meeting with Dean of FofM	1 hour
January 5 th , 2012	HSGSA Executive	1 hour
January 9, 2012	GSA Executive	2 hours

Meetings Missed:

November 24, 2011 FGS Executive Meeting

Executive Summary:

Executive Duties:

As HSGSA President I have been scheduling, chairing and ordering food services for meetings, working with the GSA and reporting to them through GSA executive and council meetings, as well as sitting on several FGS committees. Also, I have been working with my executive to make sure all events and plans are being managed properly and keeping everyone on the same page.

HSGSA Christmas Social

The executive organized a Christmas social for the 9th of December, including the serving of alcohol and food. There were lots of great free prizes and fun games, including balloon antler contests, eggnog chugging, and carolling. Food and alcohol quantities were adequate.

HSC Security Issue:

Since November, the GSA and UMSU have been working on trying to relay information to students on the Bannatyne campus about the coming changes to security enforcement. Two town halls were held. The most recent town hall had Linda Lavalley, Director of Security Services in attendance, who was there to answer questions from students and staff concerning the changes. The town hall was well attended though answers were convoluted. Working with UMSU to see next steps as Security Services seems unwilling to bend decisions even in light of obvious alarm raised by Bannatyne community.

HSC Communication Strategy:

Executive are working in concert with past-executive/president Meaghan Labine in forming a new proposal for the Faculty of Medicine (FofM) for an improved campus communication strategy. Presentation was given to FofM Dean Postl and was well received.

HSGSA Lounge:

The Faculty of Medicine has been gracious enough to offer the use of the once Faculty of Medicine, faculty lounge for a Graduate student lounge. The lounge will be given to the HSGSA by the end of January and will be made into a lounge for students to socialize and relax. This is probably one of the best things our executive has gained this year for our students!

Terry Fox Run

HSGSA has been in communication with the Terry Fox Foundation in the hopes of initiating a Terry Fox run for the U of M in the near future, joining several other high-class institutions nationwide.

Office Hours: Tuesday/Wednesday 12-1pm

November 16, 21, 22, 29, 30

December 6, 7, 13, 14, 21, 22,

January 3, 4, 10, 11

Additional time spent in office – 2 hours per week

Office hours missed: November 15 – HSC Caucus meeting

Time spent in the office: 28 hours

Time spent in meetings: 28 hours

Report

From: Olivier Gagné, Senator
To: Graduate Students of the University of Manitoba
Date: January 10th 2011
Re: January 25th Council Report

COMMITTEES, MEETINGS AND BUSSINESS MATTERS

Meetings Attended:

November 22 nd	CFS-National AGM	10.5 hours
November 23 rd	CFS-National AGM	15 hours
November 24 th	CFS-National AGM	14.5 hour
November 25 th	CFS-National AGM	12.5 hour
November 31 st	Council Meeting	2 hours
December 5 th	Executive Meeting	2 hours
December 5 th	Student Senate Caucus	0.75 hour
December 7 th	Senate Meeting	1.25 hours
December 8 th	Senate Committee on University Research	1.25 hours
January 9 th	Executive Meeting	2 hours
January 9 th	Student Senate Caucus	1.5 hours

Meetings Missed:

None

Executive Summary:

December senate meeting:

Not much directly affecting graduate students. One item of interest was the annual report of the International College of Manitoba (a Navitas branch). The private college was founded in 2008 from a collaboration with the University of Manitoba, despite very poor backing from the university community (due to the fact that the college is a for-profit private organisation), with the alleged goal of working on international student retention. It was brought up that this goal is not mentioned once in the report, questioning the initial motives behind the collaboration. It was presented that international students passing through ICM are at least doing as well as regular international students once entering the University of Manitoba (evaluated in terms of GPA only). There were a considerable

number of questions asked to the Vice-Provost, which expressed discontent towards the stance of the university administration to support the ICM.

CFS-National meeting:

It was the 3rd CFS-National Annual General Meeting (2nd this year) that I attended on behalf of the GSA, in Ottawa, ON. A more thorough report will be made available written by all delegates who attended the meeting; however, my experience with those meetings has led to some conclusions worth mentioning in this report.

There does not seem to be any point in sending delegates to the meetings anymore. The issues discussed do not pertain to graduate students, and when some do, undergraduate student associations (far greater in numbers than graduate student associations) have voting power to hastily shut down our graduate student concerns. For example: the last two AGMs have seen motions passed which strongly opposed the transfer of ANY private funding to publically-funded universities. However, a lot of graduate students in fields like Engineering, Medicine and Science receive funding from private sources in the form of scholarships to pay for their salary and other expenses; this would not register with the vast majority of undergraduate student associations.

The Canadian Federation of Students is not representative of the Canadian student population but rather promotes ideological causes shared by the elected executive members of the student association (and not the students they represent), that are *non-specific* to students, and that sometimes present paradoxes (e.g. standing against graduate students getting paid for the work they perform but claiming that their most important campaign is the erasure of student debt). For reasons like these, the Canadian Federation of Students has a very bad reputation with government officials, universities, other student unions such as the Quebec Federation of University Students (Quebec students refusing to be part of CFS) and other organisations such as CAGS (discussed shortly).

A more appropriate type of conference the GSA should send delegates to, instead of the CFS AGMs, would be CAGS (Canadian Association of Graduate Schools). These conferences are attended by Graduate Deans from 58 universities across Canada as well as the national research-granting agencies. Students are also encouraged to attend to discuss issues their respective universities face and to help forge a national direction in terms of graduate funding, as long as they are not attending on behalf of the CFS due to recent developments where CAGS unanimously voted against CFS representation on their board.

Office Hours:

Thursdays 14:00-16:00

November 17, 2011 – regrets
December 1, 2011 – 2 hours
December 13, 2011 – 3 hours

November 24, 2011 – regrets
December 8, 2011 – regrets
December 15, 2011 – 5 hours

January 5th 2011 – 0.5 hours

January 9th, 2011 – 1.5 hours

Time spent in office hours: 12 hours

Time spent in meetings: 63.25 hours

Time spent in others: 9 hours

Report

From: Peter Karari, Senator
To: Graduate Students of the University of Manitoba
Date: November 10, 2011-January 10, 2012
Re: Council Report

COMMITTEES, MEETINGS AND BUSSINESS MATTERS

Meetings Attended:

November 16, 2011	By-Laws Meeting	1.5 Hours
November 16, 2011	Interview with Sarah Petz (Manitoban) on Visa-pressure	2 Hours
November 16, 2011	Lunch with Dr. Bernard (Vice Chancellor)	1.15 Hours
November 21, 2011	Executive Committee Meeting	2 Hours
November 30, 2011	Meeting with the Dean Faculty of Arts	1 Hour
November 30, 2011	Council meeting	1.5 Hours
Dec. 5, 2011	Student Caucus Senate Meeting	1.5 Hours
Dec. 5, 2011	University Senate meeting	2.0 Hours
Dec. 9, 2011	Campaigns committee	2.0 Hours
Jan. 9, 2012	Executive Meeting	1.0 Hours
Jan. 9, 2012	Student Caucus Meeting	1.5 Hours

Meetings Missed: None

Dec. 5, 2011 GSA Executive missed due to diary conflicts

Executive Summary:

A Constructive critique of the 5th Annual Canadian Conference on Student Leadership in Calgary

1. This conference was specifically oriented for high school students and undergraduates.
2. Most of the presentations were not scholarly and not based on any academic research.
3. For critical thinkers and serious graduate students, the conference did not provide any new learning experience, research or career development.

Observations and Concerns

1. It is not clear why our President being the head of GSA and more so the VP External recommended this conference to graduate students without first doing enough research about its appropriateness to the expressed needs of graduate students.
2. It is not understandable how three persons including the GSA President, a former GSA Executive and a graduate student whose flight tickets and hotel accommodation were paid using graduate student money missed to attend the conference
3. These kinds of poorly targeted conferences end up wasting graduate students money, and the time and energy of the attendants.

Recommendations

1. It is important that the GSA president as the head of GSA and more so the VP External as the person responsible for conferences to conduct adequate research and determine the appropriateness of any conference whether recommended by the university administration or other external institutions before recommending the same to graduate students. Any conference funded by the GSA should accommodate the popular expressed needs of graduate students.
2. I call upon the VP External and/or the GSA President to explain the circumstances under which the attendance of this conference was authorised and recommended without prior verification of its relevance to the graduate students.
3. Could the GSA President and/or the VPE explain how the GSA funds wasted by those whose flights and accommodations were paid but never turned up for the conference would be recovered.
4. Could the VP External declare commitment to investigate the relevance of future conferences before recommending them to graduate students.

Interview with The Manitoban

An interview with Sarah Petz (Manitoban) was done. It reflected my presentation in the “Strangers Away from Homelands” Conference featuring: *"Diasporal Home and Visa-pressure: The Challenge of Re-union for International Students' Families"* explaining how international students suffer from *visa-pressure*: depression caused by separation from their spouses and children due to visa denial. This is an effort to facilitate sensitization and awareness campaigns on this challenge that is adversely affecting some international students. Following this interview, a story was carried in the Manitoban further creating awareness about this challenge. Positive feedbacks have been heard from those who read this story and especially their willingness to join the campaign.

Senate Committee Meetings

Active involvement in admission/academic appeals senate committee meetings. The key objective of this committee is to hear and determine appeals from decisions of faculty and school Selection Committees, administrative decisions affecting the admission process and decisions related to the transfer of credit policy of the faculty/school and the possible granting of advance standing. Once the Committee has determined jurisdiction of an appeal, any decision resulting from the appeal hearing is final and binding on all other committees and the parties concerned. This far, we have been able to hear and three admission and two academic appeals.

Office Hours:

Fridays: 2:00 pm - 4:00pm

Time spent in the office: 10 hours

November 11, 2011- Remembrance Day

November 18, 2011- 2 hours

November 25, 2011 - 2 hours

December 2, 2011 (preoccupied with my doctoral proposal preparation)

December 9, 2011 - 2 hours

December 16, 2011- (family illness, regrets)

January 06, 2011- 2 hours

Time spent in Committees, meetings and business Matters: 15.55 Hours

Report

From: Adam Reisacher, Senator
To: GSA Council
Date: January 16, 2012
Re: Council Report

COMMITTEES, MEETINGS AND BUSSINESS MATTERS

Meetings Attended:

November 30, 2011	Beyond Year 1 Working Group	1.5 hours
November 30, 2011	GSA Council Meeting	2 hours
December 5, 2011	GSA Executive Meeting	2.5 hours
December 5, 2011	Senate Student Caucus	1 hour
January 9, 2012	GSA Executive Meeting	2.5 hours
January 9, 2012	Senate Student Caucus	1 hour

Meetings Missed:

December 7, 2011 University of Manitoba Senate

Executive Summary:

Senate only had one meeting during this reporting period. The December 7th meeting of Senate discussed several points of interest for graduate students:

- Alterations made to the regulation of the Joint Discipline Committee of History. Inclusion of both U of M and U of W on the parchment for the Joint Master's Program in Religion.
- The annual report of the International College of Manitoba. The Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences increased the admission average for entry to the Agriculture Diploma program from 50 to 60 percent (barring extenuating circumstances).
- The Faculty of Dentistry eliminated the Transfer Applicant category. It has not been used in the past 10 years.

I joined several committees during this reporting period:

- Residential Tenancies Committee
- Robin Connor Lectureship Committee
- Learning Assistance Centre Writing Tutor Program Advisory Committee

Holiday hampers were a success; Jennifer Chen, Peter Nawrot and I worked with UMSU to distribute food hampers to graduate students in need.

Office Hours:

Mondays: 9:00am - 11:00am

Time spent in the office: 20 hours

Nov. 14, 2011 – 2.75 hours	Nov. 21, 2011 – 2.5 hours	Nov. 23, 2011 – .5 hours
Nov. 28, 2011 – 2.5 Hours	Dec. 5, 2011 – 1.75 hours	Dec. 12, 2011 – 2 hours
Dec. 15, 2011 – 4 Hours*	Dec. 19, 2011 – 2 hours	Jan. 9, 2012 – 2 hours

Time spent in meetings: 8.5 Hours

*Hamper Delivery



Message from David T. Barnard, President and Vice-Chancellor

Dear Colleagues,

For almost 135 years, the University of Manitoba has been shaping academic, business and community leaders, enhancing our community and conducting research that changes the world.

Throughout our history, we have grown and evolved through a constant process of rethinking, re-evaluating and reassessing where we are, where we want to be and how we'll get there.

Many members of the University of Manitoba community have heard me refer to the complex academic structure that exists here. Currently, we have 20 faculties and schools and 78 departments delivering programs to serve over 27,000 students. By comparison, the University of Toronto has the same number of faculties and schools, and only 14 additional departments, to serve 72,000 students. Almost 30,000 students at the University of Calgary are served by 13 faculties and schools encompassing 70 departments. At McMaster University, programs are delivered to its 27,000 students through 6 faculties and 49 departments. In fact, based on available data, no other medical-doctoral institution of our size and scope in Canada has as many free-standing faculties and schools or departments as we do.

I believe that this overly elaborated academic structure impedes our academic work in at least three important ways.

1. It affects academic planning and decision making because academic leaders – especially deans and directors – are more removed from these processes than they should be. Put simply, this group is too large to bring together effectively on these and other matters.
2. This structure results in the inefficient use of our most precious resource, namely, our people, who should have the opportunity to use their skills more creatively to advance our learning, discovery and engagement missions.
3. Most importantly, the need to navigate within our highly articulated structure hinders progress on our Strategic Planning Framework priorities, notably, our commitment to providing an outstanding student experience and to enhancing our teaching and research programs in areas of strength and/or strategic importance to our province and nation. Students require more flexible program and course selection, and simpler academic regulations to achieve their educational and career goals; faculty, in turn, require greater opportunities for inter- and multi-disciplinary collaboration to develop and advance their teaching and research programs.

I want to begin an important conversation within the University of Manitoba community about how we move forward and enhance our commitment to our students, our faculty and staff, and to the community we serve. It is my vision to see the University of Manitoba's academic structure better reflect our size and scope, enhancing rather than impeding our ability to deliver on our mandate.

When the University of Manitoba's Strategic Planning Framework was adopted, I committed to ensuring that it would guide the decisions we make together and that we would use it to pursue our ultimate objective of achieving excellence. Initiatives like ROSE and OARs have been focused on transforming our organizational infrastructure and approaches, in order to improve the way the university conducts its work. It is now time to move forward with a plan to simplify and improve our university's academic structure, so that we can more effectively achieve our strategic vision.

Some work designed to address our current academic structure is already underway. Late last year, we began a process where deans and directors of faculties and schools with natural affinities of various sorts began working in clusters to explore some new avenues of collaboration and interaction. Through this process, work on new cross-faculty academic programming, the sharing of administrative resources and facilities, and collaborative outreach activity has already begun. It has shown us that more and closer ties among units can be beneficial - to students, faculty and staff and to our community at large.

This cluster mechanism, I believe, can serve as a useful starting point in the development of a plan to simplify and improve our academic structure. To this end, I have asked Dr. Joanne Keselman, Vice President (Academic) and Provost, to work with deans and directors through the cluster groups and they, in turn, with their faculty, staff, students, alumni and external stakeholders, to identify viable options for reducing the number of faculties and schools from the current total of 20 to a number closer to the national average of 13 by 2017.

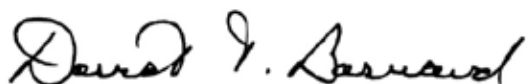
Based on discussions to date, it is clear that there are significant opportunities to improve our academic structure in the health sciences area. The move to interprofessional education and an increasing emphasis on multi-disciplinary research teams, combined with the need to address common issues including clinical education and program accreditation, provide compelling reasons to proceed with this cluster as a first step in the development of a plan. To this end, Dr. Keselman will work with the health sciences cluster to develop a proposal or set of options by December 2012 for consideration by our governing bodies. An interim report on this work will be provided in the spring of 2012.

It is clear that other opportunities exist to improve our academic structure. I encourage faculties or departments that see possibilities where closer relationships among themselves would be beneficial to bring their ideas forward for discussion.

We remain committed, as the only medical-doctoral institution in Manitoba, to contributing to our communities' and our province's cultural, social and economic well-being. This process will enhance our ability to meet the needs of our students, our faculty and our community as a whole.

We want this change to be invigorating and exciting. We want it to be inclusive, and will engage the University of Manitoba in discussions about how this goal will be achieved. Finally, we will only move forward where it makes sense, and proposals will be advanced, discussed, improved and approved through the University of Manitoba's collegial governance processes.

This institution will soon be 135 years old. We respect and honour our traditions but must adapt them to ensure a vibrant and prosperous future for the much loved University of Manitoba, its staff and students and the community it serves.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David I. Bernard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

		2011 Budget	May 1, -Jan 10	Updated Budget		
Income						
4000 - Revenue						
4005 - Student Organization Fees			321,000.00			
4010 - Membership Fees	300,000.00			425,517.00		
4020 - Rent from CUPE3909	7,200.00	7,245.00		7,200.00		
4030 - GSA Cash Box	-	-		-		
4031 - GSA Cash Box Revenue	1,200.00	155.39		1,200.00		
4032 - Cash Box Float	-	-		-		
4050 - Ad sales Gradzette	-	-		-		
4070 - Endowment Fund	110,000.00	-				
4075 - Endowment Fund Transfer	125,000.00	-		-		
4080 - Capital Fund	59,000.00	-	175,000.00		for reno&net	
4090 - To CFS - National	26,000.00	-	26,000.00			
4100 - To CFS - Provincial	17,500.00	-	17,500.00			
4110 - Gradzette Fees (Manitoban)	19,500.00	-	19,500.00			
4111 - UMFH Radio Fund	-	-	17,025.00			
4112 - UMFH Fee	-	-	8,512.50			
4113 - WUSC Fee	-	-	8,512.50			
4114 - World Wise Fee	-	-	1,702.50			
4115 - Engineers without Borders	-		851.25			
4120 - Interest on Bank Accts	45,000.00	3,952.56	45,000.00			
4125 - Interest - GIC's	-		-			
4130 - Revenue - Other (Endowment Fund Interest)	1,000.00	21,540.00	1,000.00			
4000 - Revenue - Other						
Total 4000 - Revenue	711,400.00	353,892.95	754,520.75			
4150 - Other Income	-		-			
4999 - Office Equipmnt Fund Withdrawal	-		-			
Total Income	711,400.00	353,892.95	754,520.75			

total fees col 525120.54 umfm 2.5 3405 studer
CFS and UMSU fees and endow 99,603.75 umreg 1.25
total operating budget from student fee 425,516.79 wusc 1.25
world wise 0.25
EWB 0.125

per semester

Expense						
5000 - Honorarium/salary/benefits						
5001 - Human Resources	-	-	-			
5005 - Executive	56,400.00	35,800.00	56,400.00			
5010 - HSGSA	14,400.00	9,600.00	14,400.00			
5015 - CRO	1,000.00	-	1,000.00			
5020 - Council Chairperson	1,000.00	-	1,000.00			
5025 - Minute Taker	-	-	-			
5030 - Employee Pay	100,000.00	53,520.71	100,000.00			
5040 - Employer Paid CPP	3,500.00	3,537.41	3,500.00			
5045 - Employer Paid EI	2,700.00	2,537.24	2,700.00			
5050 - Employer Paid RRSP	2,550.00	1,902.86	2,550.00			
5055 - Blue Cross Premiums	4,100.00	3,113.24	4,100.00			
5060 - Parking or Bus Pass	570.00	462.07	570.00			
5000 - Honorarium/salary/benefits - Other	-	3,600.00	-			
Total 5000 - Honorarium/salary/benefits	186,220.00	114,073.53	186,220.00			
6000 - Expenses						
6005 - HSGSA - Bannatyne Disbursements	17,550.00	541.29	17,550.00			
6010 - Campaigns	2,000.00	1.00	2,000.00			
6020 - Capital Expense						
6025 - Major Purchases	1,000.00	-	1,000.00			
6035 - Office Space	50,000.00	-	70,000.00			
6040 - Lounge Space	50,000.00	-	75,000.00			
6020 - Capital Expense - Other	-	-	-			
Total 6020 - Capital Expense	101,000.00	-	146,000.00			
6100 - CFS Canada	26,000.00	-	26,000.00			
6125 - CFS Manitoba	17,500.00	-	17,500.00			
6200 - Council & Committees						
6205 - Venue Booking & Equipment	200.00	-	200.00			
6210 - Committee Hospitality	600.00	104.30	600.00			
6215 - Hospitality (Meals at Meetings)	4,000.00	1,180.56	4,000.00			
6220 - Parking/Bus for Meetings	500.00	336.80	500.00			
6200 - Council & Committees - Other	-	-	-			
Total 6200 - Council & Committees	5,300.00	1,621.66	5,300.00			
6300 - Donations	-	-	-			
6325 - Elections						
6021 - Elections	1,000.00	-	1,000.00			
6325 - Elections - Other	500.00	-	500.00			
Total 6325 - Elections	1,500.00	-	1,500.00			
6375 - External meeting Expenses						
6380 - CFS External Meetings	15,000.00	10,050.01	15,000.00			
6385 - Other External Meetings	-	8,439.82	-			
6375 - External meeting Expenses - Other	-	-	-			
Total 6375 - External meeting Expenses	15,000.00	18,489.83	15,000.00			
6400 - Fees						
6405 - Bank Service Charges	70.00	48.82	70.00			
6410 - Annual Incorporation Fee	25.00	25.00	25.00			
6415 - Subscriptions, Etc	300.00	217.67	300.00			
6420 - Professional Consulting	2,000.00	-	2,000.00			
6425 - Revenue Canada - Penalty Charge	-	-	-			
6430 - University Charges	-	-	-			

6435 · Other Fees	500.00	210.00	500.00
6400 · Fees - Other	-	-	-
Total 6400 · Fees	2,895.00	501.49	2,895.00
6450 · Fees Paid to UMSU			
6451 · UMFH	-	17,025.00	17,025.00
6452 · UMREG	-	8,512.50	8,512.50
6453 · WUSC	-	8,512.50	8,512.50
6454 · World Wise	-	1,702.50	1,702.50
Engineers without Border	-	1,672.79	851.25
6450 · Fees Paid to UMSU - Other	-	-	-
Total 6450 · Fees Paid to UMSU	-	37,425.29	36,603.75
6475 · Gradzette	19,500.00	12,099.42	19,500.00
6500 · Grants			
6503 · Departmental Grants	50,000.00	16,582.50	50,000.00
6505 · Graduate Teaching Award	100.00	100.00	100.00
6510 · Special Projects	6,000.00	3,800.00	6,000.00
6520 · Conference Grants	100,000.00	46,019.75	100,000.00
6535 · Donations	6,000.00	1,000.00	6,000.00
6540 · Emergency Loans/Grants	3,000.00	2,451.00	3,000.00
6545 · Childcare (PlayCare DayCare)	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
6550 · Holiday Hampers	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
6555 · Food Bank	3,000.00	-	3,000.00
6560 · Tax Office	2,500.00	-	2,500.00
6500 · Grants - Other	-	-	-
Total 6500 · Grants	176,600.00	75,953.25	176,600.00
6600 · Promotions			
6605 · GSA Designed Items	2,000.00	3,550.36	2,000.00
6610 · CFS Handbook	3,200.00	2,278.50	3,200.00
6615 · Sports	1,000.00	-	1,000.00
6625 · CFS Bulk Purchases	1,000.00	-	1,000.00
6640 · CFS Website Administration	-	31.50	-
Total 6600 · Promotions	7,200.00	5,860.36	7,200.00
6725 · Long Term Accounts Payable			
6730 · Expense	-	-	-
6725 · Long Term Accounts Payable - Other	-	-	-
Total 6725 · Long Term Accounts Payable	-	-	-
6750 · Office Expenses & Supplies			
6755 · Stationery and office supplies	3,100.00	925.29	3,100.00
6760 · IOS Copier Lease	4,000.00	2,480.36	4,000.00
6765 · IKON Photocopies	1,500.00	584.96	1,500.00
6770 · Insurance	5,000.00	7,340.00	5,000.00
6775 · Office Improvements	250.00	-	250.00
6777 · CUPE3909 Expenses	200.00	318.40	200.00
6780 · U of M - Monthly Ledger	1,500.00	994.35	1,500.00
6785 · Office Expenses/Supplies - Other	50.00	343.52	50.00
6750 · Office Expenses & Supplies - Other	-	172.48	-
Total 6750 · Office Expenses & Supplies	15,600.00	13,159.36	15,600.00
6795 · Professional Development	1,000.00	571.20	1,000.00
6800 · Programming			
6805 · Orientation	10,000.00	7,287.26	10,000.00
6810 · Social Events	15,000.00	4,795.69	15,000.00
6815 · Seminar Series	8,000.00	-	8,000.00
6820 · Speakers Series	10,000.00	1,051.91	10,000.00
6825 · GSA Awards Luncheon	3,000.00	4,536.53	3,000.00
6830 · Council Retreat	4,000.00	-	4,000.00
6800 · Programming - Other	-	-	-
Total 6800 · Programming	50,000.00	17,671.39	50,000.00
6850 · Endowment			
6851 · Endowment Fund	10,000.00	-	10,000.00
6852 · Capital Fund	10,000.00	-	10,000.00
Total 6850 · Endowment	20,000.00	-	20,000.00
6925 · Professional Consulting			
6930 · Audit	7,000.00	5,500.83	7,000.00
6935 · Legal	7,000.00	1,744.82	7,000.00
6940 · Computer & Website Maintenance	30,000.00	20,839.02	30,000.00
6945 · Professional Consulting - Other	2,000.00	1,339.50	2,000.00
6925 · Professional Consulting - Other	-	-	-
Total 6925 · Professional Consulting	46,000.00	29,424.17	46,000.00
6950 · Retained Earnings Fund	-	-	-
Total Expense	710,865.00	289,967.95	755,865.00
Net Income	535.00	63,925.00	(1,344.25)
Money from previous year			
Actual Total			