



Graduate Students' Association



221 University Centre
University of Manitoba
Winnipeg MB, Canada R3T 2N2
Tel: 204-474-9181
Fax: 204-474-7560
email: gsa@umgsa.ca

February 15th 2012 Council Meeting Agenda 5:00pm UMSU Chambers

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Approval of the Agenda**
- 3. Approval of Minutes from January 25th 2012 GSA Council Meeting**
 - 3.1 Business arising from the minutes**
- 4. Motions with notice**
 - 4.1 BIRT that Ms. Kendra Magnusson be ratified as the CRO for the 2012 GSA Elections.**
 - 4.2 BIRT confidence has been lost in Peter Karari as Senator for the University of Manitoba Graduate Students' Association and that he be relieved of his position immediately, relinquishing all rights and responsibilities associated with said position. ***
- 5. Special Projects Presentations**
- 6. Committee Updates and Ratifications**
- 7. Committee Reports**
 - 7.1 Bylaws Committee**
 - 7.2 Finance Committee**
 - 7.3 Campaigns Committee**
 - 7.4 Awards Committee**
 - 7.4.1 BIRT that the GSA Teaching Award prize amount be increased from \$200 to \$500.**
- 8. Executive Reports**
 - 8.1 President**
 - 8.2 Vice President Internal**
 - 8.3 Vice President Academic**
 - 8.4 Vice President Health Sciences Report**
 - 8.5 Vice President External**
 - 8.6 Senator Gagne**
 - 8.7 Senator Karari**
 - 8.8 Senator Reisacher**
- 9. Departmental Reports**
- 10. Other Business**
- 11. Announcements**
- 12. Adjournment**

Next Meeting Wednesday March 28th, 2011, 5pm in the GSA Lounge

***closed session discussion**



Graduate Students' Association



221 University Centre
University of Manitoba
Winnipeg MB, Canada R3T 2N2
Tel: 204-474-9181
Fax: 204-474-7560
email: gsa@umgsa.ca

January 25th, 2012 Council Meeting MINUTES 5:00pm UMSU Chambers

1. Call to Order 5:08

2. Approval of the Agenda

Motion: *BIRT the agenda be approved as amended.*
Sharpe / Bates
Carried

3. Approval of Minutes from November 30th 2011 GSA Council Meeting 3.1 Business arising from the minutes

Nawrot – noted that according to Roberts Rules, the minutes are required to be read verbatim. He noted that this can be waved by a vote of council. He said that because everyone has read the minutes, this need not be required. He noted that there was no business arising from previous meetings' minutes.

Motion: *BIRT the minutes from the November 30th, 2011 GSA Council Meeting be approved as amended.*
Cowie / Chen
Carried

4. Gradzette Presentation

Phil Dunphy – presented on the current state of the Gradzette. He said that the Gradzette is important because it is the only medium for grad students to voice their issues and concerns. He noted that grad student issues are only really reported upon by mainstream media, and that is rare. He said in November their issue had over 800 readers, or 1/4 of graduate students. He said their goal is to reach 1/3 of grad students. He noted that there are only two other grad student publications in Canada. He hopes to help create a grad student wire to help grad students from across the country keep up to date on issues pertaining to grad students. He noted that a goal is to get more freelance writers to expand their content. He noted that they want to allocate more funding towards advertising and promotions. He said that he hopes to advertise in other campus journals.

Nawrot – said that according to procedures, the Gradzette must present its budget to Council, and that Council can vote to approve the working budget of the Gradzette.

Motion: *BIRT that the working budget of the Gradzette be approved as presented*
Sharpe / Gough
Carried

Gough – asked if they are looking for only UM students as freelancers

Dunphy – said he would like to open it up, as there are many grad students who are alumni of U of W and Red River.

5. Elections Committee Selection

Nawrot – said that the GSA election process is due to begin. He said these are formal motions to begin the process.

He said these timelines are mandated by our Bylaws

5.1 Motion: *BIRT that the 2012 GSA annual election nomination period be February 2 -15, 2012*

5.2 Motion: *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.*

5.3 Motion: *BIRT that the 2012 GSA annual election voting period begin at 9:00CST on March 12 – 20:00CST on March 14 2012.*

Motion: *BIRT motions under items 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 be voted on omnibus.*

Gagne / Cardillo

Bates – asked if online voting will happen again this year

Nawrot – said its up to the CRO and Elections Committee.

Carried

Motion: *BIRT motions under items 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3 be adopted.*

Cowie / Doll

Carried

6. CRO Selection

Nawrot – noted that an elections committee must be struck.

Ojo – noted that he is a former CRO. He explained the elections process, including committee composure, and the roles and responsibilities of the CRO and Elections committee. He said that the elections committee can decide whether or not to use online voting.

Nawrot – asked for nominations from the floor as to who will be on the Elections Committee.

Cowie – asked if the department wants to be on it, can the departmental rep appoint someone from the department.

Gagne – noted that if you plan on running for Executive, you cannot be on the committee.

Magnusson – noted that she is concerned with the time commitment.

Ojo – said the elections committee can decide how the election is run, including online polling. He said that it really sped up the process. He said its really about organizing with committee members. He said the committee then decides who will be CRO.

Nawrot – noted that the CRO is a paid position, with a \$1,000 remuneration.

Cardillo – asked how many meetings are involved.

Ojo – said he had called four meetings, but the CRO has more responsibilities.

Magnusson – volunteered

Ekenna – volunteered

Martinez – volunteered

Cardillo – volunteered

Salter – said Stephanie Chu for HSGSA would be able to sit on the committee.

Nawrot – noted the volunteers for the committee

Motion: ***BIRT the representatives from English Film and Theatre (Magnusson), Social Work (Ekenna), School of Art (Martinez), Soil Science (Cardillo), and HSGSA (Chu) be ratified as the Elections Committee for the 2012 GSA General election.***

Cowie / Bazarkulova

Carried

Nawrot – said because the election nomination period begins Feb. 2 that Council endorse the committee's selection of CRO.

Motion: ***BIRT that the CRO selected by the Elections Committee be endorsed by Council.***

Gagne / Koksel

Carried

7. Special Projects Presentation

Chen – read an email from the VPI, noting that the World Women's' Congress and the Cracker Jack series reported back from their GSA funding.

She noted that the Women's Congress thanked the GSA for the funding for the November 28, 2011 event. She said that the event organized a Redress project on campus. She said that the event also investigated the experience of aboriginal women in Canada to the United Nations.

She said the second email is from the BSGSA President reporting on the use of special project funds. The event had 2 grad students present to faculty and students biweekly, and three sessions were organized. Funds were used for refreshments and promotion, as well as towards a departmental award to a student with the best presentation. She said they hope to make this award an annual distinction. She noted that the presentations were on a diverse range of student projects related to Biological Sciences.

Nawrot – noted that there are no requests for funding.

Magnusson – noted that she had a special project funds request that she intended to present last November.

Motion: ***BIRT that the Agenda be amended to include a special project grant request from English Film and Theatre.***

Nursing / Karari

Reynolds – noted that Psychology also had a request for February 1st.

Tursunova – said that she was also told that she could make a special project presentation to council on February 3rd and 15th.

Amendment: ***BIRT the motion be amended to include NRI and Psychology.***

Cowie / Martinez

Carried

Amendment: *BIFRT that each presentation be kept to 3 minutes each*
Gough /Parsons
Carried

Main Motion
Carried

Magnusson – said that a colloquium was held on January 20th that had 15 speakers and over 20 participants presenting on the Future of Literary Studies. She said they are requesting \$497.70 for food and refreshments.

Nawrot – noted that approval will be pending on paperwork submitted.

Chen – asked if the request is for the extra amount?

Cowie – asked where funding came from.

Magnusson – said the department lent money.

Hildebrand – asked what council had provided in previous years.

Magnusson – said they also invited U of W graduate students. She said whatever wasn't consumed was refunded, and that all receipts will be submitted.

Reynolds – noted that the GSA of Psych is hosting the 1st interdisciplinary colloquium including a variety of departments to speak to faculty and grad students in psych on how they use concepts in their work. She said they are requesting funds for a wine and cheese and refreshments, as well as promotions and a gift for presenters. She noted their budget is \$770, and that any contribution would be helpful.

Nawrot – said his understanding is that it would be more than \$250

He asked exactly how much is being requested. She said their budget requested \$770

Hildebrand – asked where else funding would come from.

Reynolds – said some funding was provided by GSA. She said they hope to hold more talks and events that these funds will go towards. She said that the department also provided a bit.

Cowie – asked what the maximum is for special projects? He understands the maximum being \$500

Gagne – asked which GSA already provided funds.

Reynolds – said the funds came from their GSA department grant.

Tursunova – said that the first project is related to exploring environment and health in First Nations communities to promote health. She said it was carried out in 21 / 63 First Nations communities. The project was carried out to establish what problems arose in the chronic disease prevention programs. She said that some speakers will come from up north and Saskatchewan to understand Manitoban First Nations experience with health programs, and how traditional ecological programs can help guide program development in First Nations communities where diabetes and others are higher prevalence. It will take place Feb 3

She said that the second program comes from Shirley Thompson from NRI, that there is a black history month in Canada, but there is a need for recognition of indigenous culture – to build a movement across Canada for an indigenous led campaign, focusing on the rights of indigenous peoples, impacts of hydro projects etc. She said for each project they ask for \$500. Two projects.

Chen – asked how these two events will benefit graduate students

Tursunova – said that there are courses linked to health and environment and students from NRI, Geography and Nursing are invited, and students will present.

Chen – asked the special project grant limitations for departments.

Nawrot – said each request is maximum \$500, but each department can make as many

requests they like. He said that its up to Council

Chen – noted that the Women's World Congress special project grant came from NRI

Tursunova – said the project was in 2011, and that these two requests are for 2012.

Nawrot – noted that the Bylaws do not limit

Scofield-Singh – asked how much is left in the budget line.

Nawrot – said there is enough.

Hildebrand – asked what other sources were approached.

Tursunova – said environment and health program is funded by the Canadian Initiative for Health Research, but nothing from GSA. She asked the Native Department and Global College for funds, which covered some expenses. She said that the past project was funded by Geography and the GSA.

Hildebrand – asked how much CIHR has funded

Tursunova – said the total budget is \$13,933 minus \$500 from the GSA. The rest would be funded by CIHR.

Hildebrand – said that because CIHR is covering so much, why would the GSA provide funding, especially considering that it doesn't cover many students.

Cowie – asked if Native studies will also be presenting, and if any indigenous people are contributing.

Tursunova – said individuals will be attending from Leaf Rapids, South Indian Lake and Garden Hill First Nations. As well as First Nations students from NRI.

Cowie – asked if the second event is towards an indigenous history month, he said June is already National Aboriginal Month.

Tursunova – said they spoke with the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs who support this event.

Cowie – asked if AMC is helping to fund it.

Tursunova – said AMC is not contributing.

Magnusson – said that with a budget of \$13,000, it sounds like a big event. She noted the first event sounds like something the GSA should be supportive of.

Nawrot – asked if student participants get any type of academic credit. He asked if to complete their program requirements, do they have to participate in the project.

Tursunova – said that the students are taking related courses. She said it is a voluntary program that is not tied into a course.

Bazarkulova – asked if there are guidelines on project funding? Qualifications?

Nawrot – said the VPI will be working with Bylaws committee regarding special projects. He said the purpose is to help support graduate students on campus. Council could pay for peoples' programs, we technically could but it is not the mandate or mission of the organization, it is meant for symposiums and events that benefit graduate students on campus.

Cowie – said he agrees with English Film and Theatre, that it supports broader indigenous student population, and he thinks its an excellent topic, and beneficial to students.

Martinez – asked if the Psychology event is open to all grad students.

Tursunova – said that it is open to nursing, geography, NRI. She said they would like to have a specific audience who will be able to understand, and provide feedback. She said its for developing priorities or first nations communities. She said they cannot invite everyone, and that they plan to invite 50 participants including students and government health agencies.

Magnusson – asked if it is limited to participants, or just to audience.

Tursunova – said its for those who are able to contribute and understand what's going on.

Ekenna – said that if it was open to graduate students from social work, they can benefit

too, so not restricting it is a good idea.

Tursunova – said students can still benefit from the event, and that there is a limited budget and certain limitations, they have a purpose and a goal. They are planning on developing priorities and actions.

Cowie – said that people in fields related to the program are participants. He asked if Native Studies are able to attend.

Tursunova – said if they are health related they can participate.

Cowie – asked if individuals from aboriginal communities wanted to attend, if they can.

Tursunova – said that it is limited to the faculties involved.

Motion: *BIRT that presenters leave the room for the vote.*

Gough / Martin

Carried

Gough – said that we are already passed for the projects, what chances do we have to reach the end of the projects fund.

Nawrot – said that we doubled the budget line to \$6,000 and that only about \$2,000 has been used.

Hildebrand – asked when its used up.

Nawrot – said end of April. He said that Council has the capacity to increase the special projects grants in the future.

Chen – said that other than how much money can go to departments, its about how to use the money wisely to better benefit graduate students. She said she doesn't understand if funding is available for CIHR, what is the purpose asking GSA.

Scofield-Singh – proposed to vote on all four of the projects omnibus.

Motion: *BIRT the special project applications be voted on omnibus.*

Scofield-Singh / Martinez

Karari – said that these projects are not similar so voting on them wholesale wouldn't be fair. It's important to vote on each project.

Bazarkulova – agreed that they should be voted on separately.

Scofield-Singh – said although they are all separate, we don't have the right to judge what the projects are doing. She said the decision is to give them the money or not.

Ekenna – wants to look at proposals individually.

Motion Defeated

Motion: *BIRT the speakers list be limited to two-for and two-against.*

Bates / Martinez

Carried

Motion: *BIRT a special project grant to the value of \$497.70 be provided to English Film and Theatre*

Hildebrand / Gough

Carried

Motion: *BIRT a special project grant to the value of \$500 be provided to Psychology.*

Gough / Parsons

Carried

Motion: *BIRT a special project grant to the value of \$500 be provided to NRI for the project related to health and wellness in First Nations Communities.*

Doll / Koksel

Cowie – said if one group is covering most of it, we should take it into consideration. He said we also need to know why the majority of First Nations communities didn't take part in it. The restriction of the people being studied doesn't make sense.

Gough – said that by her understanding, the original money was for the research; the \$13,000 is not going to fund the new part of it.

Cowie – said only twenty-one out of over sixty First Nations didn't participate, and that he wants to know why, and if it is meant to learn, setting up limitations to attend seems restrictive of the intent.

Nawrot – asked the NRI representative to leave the room.

Amendment: *BIRT both requests made by Tursunova be tabled to be presented to the next meeting of Council pending further information.*

Bates / Doll

Gough – said that her concern with not giving funds is that the events may not be able to happen.

Martinez – said that if the program is geared towards a specific base, then we should not be concerned that it appears restricted.

Koto – asked if there is already an Indigenous month, that already exists.

Gough – said there is a workshop and speaker involved in the event, which could make it beneficial to graduate students.

Ekenna – said that if funding is approved for the second project we could approve, and get the first project to come back.

Nawrot – noted that he is also confused. He noted that if there is confusion, he would recommend to table the motion to the next meeting. He said if they are indeed in need of money, we can approve tentatively a certain amount of money, and that those funds could be released with a temporary approval at the next council meeting.

Karari – asked if the VPI can be empowered to receive more information from the projects. Including a limit.

Amendment: *BIRT the VPI be empowered to review the projects, with the ability to approve a tentative limit of \$XX.*

Karari / Scofield-Singh

Hildebrand – said it is presenters' responsibility to provide a clear description of their project. He said that we need to take responsibility for our decision. He said we should table to motion to the next meeting, and that we can provide funds retroactively.

Gough – said that this is not the first time she has seen a less-than-clear presentation, and that the GSA should be providing information to presenters on how to make proposals to council. She said she would not like to see them penalized.

Koksel – she said we decided to give them only three minutes, and that NRI had two proposals and only three minutes.

Karari – said that this project will mature before the next council. He said he would recommend that the VPI is the one who is responsible for the finances, and that if NRI provides information to the VPI, we can empower the VPI to make the decision.

Cowie – said that he understands the concerns, but that presenters should have approached Council earlier, and that if this event was planned in advance, why didn't

they ask other groups.

Nawrot – noted that this is essentially a loan. He said Council has done this before, where partial funding has been provided.

Amendment: *BIRT the amount be no more than \$500*

Normand / Ekenna

Carried

Amended Motion: *BIRT both requests made by Tursunova be tabled to be presented to the next meeting of Council pending further information.*

BIFT the VPI be empowered to tentatively approve up to \$500 to NRI, with the outstanding balance to be discussed at the next meeting of council.

Bates / Doll

Carried

8. Day of Action

Bates – said the campaigns committee decided to have an alternative Day of Action, and that they waited on a vote from the HSGSA, and that HSGSA was not interested in participating in the Day of Action. She said the committee discussed how to engage people in conversation on how to increase funding for graduate students- including Council members, government officials and administrators. She said that she would like to ask members to ask questions to the decision makers. She said the date to be decided would be in early March. She said that they hope to have government officials, administrators and decision makers at the table. She encourages members to send her suggestions.

9. Committee Updates and Ratifications

Nawrot – noted none

10. Committee Reports

10.1 IDR Committee Report

Gough – presented the IDRC report. She provided an overview of the roles and responsibilities of IDRC. She said that overall the executive are doing their jobs. She said that all graduate students received a survey to solicit feedback. She said that in general terms, they'd like to see overall goals of this year's executive written down somewhere in order to properly gage those goals. She said they understand that the executive have done a good job in continuing the work from last year, but that a new set of goals would have been useful. She said everyone holds a lot of hours, but that some members have been in the office less than 50% of their posted office hours. She said that she would like to see executive revisit the office hours. She said that the website should be updated with new hours, as well as alternate hours.

She said that they would like to see more consistency in the meeting minutes, including errors.

She said the website should be updated more often, and that executive contact information should be put more prominently on the first page.

She said that there should be some consistency in the list of goals. She said they had some specific issues with work being done, or not being done- including reviewing council documents, and office hours, and that she will be reviewing

them again in one month.

Magnusson – asked what actions can be taken if executive members fail in their responsibilities, or do not take the IDRC's recommendations seriously.

Gough – said suspension of pay, or having members removed from the executive are among other tools available.

Nawrot – noted that the VPI is ill, and the Bylaws and Finance Committee reports will have to wait until the next meeting of Council.

10.2 Bylaws Committee

10.3 Finance Committee

10.4 Campaigns Committee

Bates – said that Campaigns Committee met in December prior to the Day of Action. She said only six or seven people showed up, but that it was immediately prior to holidays, a very busy time for students.

Ojo – said that campaigns should meet every month.

Bates – said there is no official fixed date for Campaigns committee.

Ojo – said that the committee is available to all grad students, so its meetings should be posted on the website.

10.4.1 Canadian Federation of Student Semi-Annual General Meeting

Bates – said that she didn't have a good experience as a representative of the GSA. She said she felt bullied, and that the meeting was very difficult, and that she encourages students to read her report.

Nawrot – said that he had received a letter from one of the GSA delegates to the meeting, who wished to have his opinions expressed. He said that he will read the letter:

"This was the second CFS National AGM I attended. I concur with the general sentiment of Vice President Bates' report on the CFS meeting. In particular, the fact that the most controversial motions were simply referred to the National Executive calls into question the extent to which decisions at CFS are made democratically and whether the CFS actually represents students' interests. I would agree with Vice President Bates that the CFS does not appear to represent the ideas, goals and perspectives of the majority of the graduate students at the University of Manitoba and I would advise against sending delegates to future meetings. I would agree with Senator Gagne that 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),

I would strongly recommend exploring membership possibilities in alternative student organizations (e.g., CAGS).

*Greg Boese
Councillor, Department of Psychology"*

Cowie – asked if others shared similar experiences. And if it was a general consensus.

Chen – said her concerns are consistent with other students' concerns; in particular that graduate students representation is smaller than undergrads, which makes it difficult for grad students to participate.

Scofield-Singh – asked if the GSA is looking at staying with CFS.

Nawrot – said that this type of decision is to be referred to the general membership, and must be taken to a referendum.

Ojo – said the consensus was that the meeting didn't serve its purpose. But that it is not a general consensus that an alternative body should be investigated.

Bates – said that this isn't the first time this has happened, and that one delegate moved from one hotel to another, as well as issues in the early 2000s asking to share a room with fellow executive, because she felt unsafe, but that they wouldn't allow for mixed sex rooms to happen. She noted that this is not a one-time instance for the GSA, but that it happens every three to four years.

10.4.2 Canadian Conference on Student Leadership

Bates – said that some of the workshops were not at the learning level that they were expecting, and that the professional workshops were more useful. She said that some of the keynote speakers were excellent. She provided an overview of some of the keynote speakers. She said the feedback was mixed from those who attended. She said that three individuals had skipped portions of the conference, as well as a 12-hour period where the conference went to Banff – they said that the individuals said that it was too cold, but still went out for dinner. She said that the GSA currently lacks guidelines for individual participation to conferences, including attendee participation and that it is being discussed at bylaws, and that in order for individuals to actually engage in the conference, and that if individuals are going to skip large portions of the conference, then those judgments are not as useful as those who actually attended the conference.

10.5 Awards Committee

Chen – said that the Awards Committee is updating the new application forms for the GSA awards process, which will be uploaded to the GSA website. She said these revisions will be updated for the 2012-2013 nominations. She said that when its updated, students will be notified.

11. Executive Reports

11.1 President

Nawrot – provided highlights of his report. He noted that he had hired Liz Gonsalves as a research assistant to investigate rumours that monies were owed to the CFS. He said that in the process of her research she uncovered other things. He said upon legal consultation, the GSA lawyer has reviewed the report and said that there are some suspicious activities regarding the GSA's relationship with CFS that merits further investigation.

Gonsalves – she said that she is willing to take any questions.

Cowie – said that on page 39 it refers that the letter was composed and signed by an individual not authorized by the GSA.

Gonsalves – said that the letter of application for full membership in CFS was requested by the current GSA president. The application letter was signed by

Vinod Varadharajan, who was GSA Treasurer at the time. She noted that in a subsequent letter from the same Treasurer the individual indicated that he was pressured to sign the application letter, and that he did not have the authority to do so, and that there was also a letter from President at the time to CFS that stated that the individual who signed the application letter didn't have the authority to sign the letter. She said that the minutes of the GSA Council and the time indicate that they discussed holding off on signing the letter, as they felt it could be difficult to get the Board of Governors to levy the fees. She said she subsequently found two application letters for full membership in CFS, one that has just the individual's signature and name, and one that has the individual's signature and name as well as "per Amanda Jones". She said she contacted Amanda Jones, who is willing to discuss what she did or did not write.

Cowie – asked about the GSA letterhead found in the CFS Manitoba office.

Gonsalves – said that she found a letter addressed to the faculty of the U of M regarding the GSA referendum to join the CFS that was typed on an unmarked blank sheet of 8.5 x 11" sheet of paper. Scotch taped to the top of the blank piece of paper was a strip of paper that had the GSA letterhead on it. She said that a copy of the same letter on a single sheet containing letterhead at the top was also found. She said there were also blank sheets of letterhead from another Canadian graduate students association as well. She said that there was also a sheet of the current GSA letterhead in the CFS office.

Nawrot – said that it is serious and warrants further investigation. He said the GSA contributes roughly \$50,000 and that any authority with what we do will have to go to the general membership at an annual general meeting, but that he wanted to present this to Council for information. He said that it will take time and resources to determine whether or not the GSA are actually members of CFS.

Gonsalves – said the GSA didn't levy CFS fees through the Board of Governors until 2006. In 2005 the GSA received a demand from CFS for the fees and they had a lawyer review their status as members, and indicated that in all likelihood the GSA is a member of CFS, though the Lawyer did mention that the documentation reviewed was not necessarily exhaustive.

Nawrot – said that most of the information presented by Gonsalves is new information that is being reviewed by the lawyer.

Koto – asked if after investigation, if it's found that CFS had fraudulently represented the GSA - what repercussions can be taken?

Nawrot – said the GSA is a member of the Manitoba Corporations Act, and that repercussions can be sought there. He said the goal is for the research assistant to go through the information to assess next actions.

Gough – asked if at the AGM whether or not we would be discussing what course of action to take.

Nawrot – said that we have been acting as members since 1999, and that since the lawyer in 2005 indicated that we are members, we have been acting as such. He said the current lawyer indicated that there appears to be something suspicious. He said that because GSA is now autonomous, that we will have our lawyer determine whether or not we are members.

Koto – said that there are two issues. If we are members or not, and whether or not the signatures and who signed is also of concern. If it turns out that whoever signed those letters shouldn't have, what is our next course of action.

Nawrot – said both are interrelated because if someone doesn't have authority, and if that person was under duress, it calls into question whether or not we are

in fact members. He said that because this is of such serious nature, we need to bring it to an AGM.

11.2 Vice President Academic

Chen – said that the GSA worked with UMSU to distribute Holiday Hampers. The GSA purchased 50 hampers, which were delivered on December 15th by Senator Reisacher and Peter Nawrot, while she stayed to help distribute the hampers at the Council Chambers.

She said that the percent change from 2010-2011 found that the total number of hampers increased by 36%, the number of adults participating increased by 37% and the number of children increased by 17%.

She said the GSA bursary funds were released in December. She said that 24 graduate students received funds at a value of \$76,000 in addition to the GSA awards, which was \$50,000. She said that this year the GSA provided \$126,000 in awards and bursaries.

She said the GSA is seeking partnership with Student Life to have Stephen Lewis for the GSA Speaker Series, including a reception with Mr. Lewis, and that the events will be held on March 28th and 29th 2012.

11.3 Vice President External

Bates – said that she did not include her office hours on her report, which were 21 hours, and 13.75 in meetings, which does not include participation in meetings outside of Winnipeg such as CCSL and CFS.

She said that she worked with UMSU for a number of meetings, and that she attended both conferences. She said that TEDX Manitoba will be screened on February 9th, and that we have posters available for people to put up in their departments. She said that members should spread the word, and that it is a come-and-go event, which will be held at Asper School of Business.

She said that she would like to concur with IDR's report. She said a lot of the VPE's time is taken up by CFS work. She said that about 60% of the time is organizing for the conferences, but has since scaled back on her obligations to other organizations, and will commit time to the Campaigns Committee.

Cowie – said he'd like clarification on what other external meetings she participates in.

Bates – said Freeman attended the Sustainability Committee meetings. She said that David Jacks attended Residential Tenancies meetings but is no longer the GSA representative to those meetings; She has since attended these meetings with Reisacher. She said that one committee she attends had seven months condensed into three.

11.4 Senator Gagne

Gagne – said that he would like to echo Tonia's sentiments on the CFS annual general meetings, and that he is concerned that the organizations does not represent students. He said that he would like to congratulate Tonia on her perseverance during the CFS AGM, and that she received zero support from other students, except for from the GSA.

11.5 Senator Karari

Karari – noted that there are some people who have critiqued the Canadian Conference on Student Leadership (CCSL), and others who enjoyed it. He said

he has a constructive critique. He said it was specifically oriented for high school students and undergrads. He said it was mostly (...)

Scofield-Singh – called a Point of Order. She said that the reports should be on what has been done as a Senator.

Karari – said that as an elected Senator and Council member, he feels he is within his right to discuss this issue with Council (...)

Bates – said that everyone was encouraged to provide a report about the CCSL. She said that she is concerned that she did not receive a report from Karari and that she would like to see him report on Senator-related issues.

Nawrot – asked Karari to report on senator related issues.

Karari – said that as a Senator, he has the right to speak. He said that he was one of the three people who were mentioned; he wanted to give council members the facts from his perspective. He said that these were very bad experiences that happened to himself and others at the conference (...)

Nawrot – asked Karari to report on Senate related information.

Karari – He said that in relation to the issues presented by the IDR committee, that the committee wanted clarifications on the Presidential Advisory Committee, and how he became a member of that committee. He said he received an email from former GSA President Labine asking for any council members to be on the committee to provide names.

Gough – asked if he is on the committee as Senator, Council member, or individual.

Karari – said that he is on the committee as a representative of graduate students, and that he feels the role of Senator and the role as a grad student should not be divorced. He said that apart from being a Senator, he is also involved in student activism, and that as an advocate as a graduate student, he brings these issues to council.

He said there are many graduate students who are separated from their families, and that he feels he needs to address issues that pertain to graduate students as an advocate for graduate students (...)

Nawrot – asked Karari to focus on Senate related information.

Karari – said he sits on the Academic Appeals Committee and Admission Appeals Committee. He said that there have been about 10 appeals so far. He said some students are not able to continue their education due to a variety of reasons including student fees, among others. He said he tries as much as possible to represent those students' needs. He said that his role is to see whether the legal procedures were followed as per whether or not the students are provided a chance to continue their studies.

Gough – said that the IDRC's recommendation was not that he doesn't represent students, but that the recommendation is that Senate reports pertain only to Senate-related or Senate Committee-related issues. She said that other issues can be brought to other committees, such as Campaigns Committee. She said they are not asking him to stop doing what he is doing.

Cowie – said that there have been four Senate meetings, and that Karari has already missed two or three. He asked for clarification on why Karari missed the senate meeting.

Karari – said that there are three meetings that were missed. Two of them had apologies, with regrets. One of them that he missed without regrets. He said that he missed the January 11th meeting likely due to family issues, and that he encourages members to speak to him after the meeting.

11.6 Senator Reisacher

Reisacher – said he has nothing to add to his report.

11.7 Vice President Health Sciences Report

Salter – said that HSGSA has successfully attained a graduate student lounge, which was a primary goal of the HSGSA this year.

12. Departmental Reports

Gough – said that the Margaret Meade film festival which was supported by the GSA special project grant was a great success. She thanked the GSA for having approved the special project grant.

Magnusson – agreed that the conference was great.

13. Other Business

Nawrot – said that there is no other business.

14. Announcements

14.1 GSA Annual General Meeting: Friday February 2nd, 2012 in the GSA Lounge

Nawrot – noted the time and place for the GSA AGM.

Ekenna – said that at 3pm, January 25th, Social Work will be holding an open house at the Social Planning Council.

15. Adjournment 7:44

Motion: *BIRT the meeting adjourns*

Gough / Ekenna

Carried

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

Minutes prepared by D. Jacks

**January 25, 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	Present
Senator1	Peter Karari	Present
Senator2	Olivier Gagne	Present
Senator3	Adam Reisacher	Present
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	Present
Animal Science	Hamidreza Khazanhei	Present
Biosystems Engineering	Senthinkumar Thiruppathi	Absent
Entomology	Graham Parsons	Present
Food Science	Havva Filiz Koksel	Present
Plant Science	Chami Amarasinghe	Present
Soil Science	Michael Cardillo	Present
<i>Architecture</i>		
Architecture	Paul Dollick/Matthew Trndota	Absent
City Planning	Adam Prokopanko	Present
Interior Design		
Landscape Architecture	Tamara Urban-Imbeault	Regrets

Arts		
Anthropology	Stephanie Armstrong Hilary Gough (Proxy)	Present
Classics		
Economics	Fariba Solati Prosper Koto Dana Bazarkulova	Present
English, Film & Theatre	Kendra Magnuiusson	Present
French, Spanish & Italian	Michelle Keller	Present
German		
History	Sarah Gauntlett	Present
Icelandic Studies		
Linguistics	Kay Hamidzadeh Shannon Price	Present
Native Studies		
Philosophy		
Political Studies and Public Administration	Chadwick Cowie	Present
Psychology	Kristin Reynolds	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	Present
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	Absent
Mechanical & Manufacturing	Naghme Garmsiri Yaser Maddahi Md. Abul Khair Afzal Hossain	Present
Environment		
Geography & Environment	Cheryl Sobe	Present
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	Absent
Human Nutritional Sciences	Sule Mundi	Present
Law		
Law		
Music		
Music		
Nursing		
Nursing	Alanna Chau Cathy Scofield Singh	Present
Phys Ed & Rec Studies		

Recreation Management & Kinesiology	Beibei Lv Angela Comer (Co-Councilors)	Regrets
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	Absent

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

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

Guests:

Emmanuel Rotimi Ojo (Soil Science)
Phil Dunphy (Gradzette)
Sarah Petz (The Manitoban)
Zulfiya Tursunova (Peace and Conflict)

DRAFT

Report

From: Peter Nawrot, President
To: GSA Council
Date: February 1, 2012
Re: Executive Report

COMMITTEES, MEETINGS AND BUSSINESS MATTERS

Meetings Attended:

January 30, 2012.	GSA Executive	2.5 hours
January 27, 2012.	CFS –MB Provincial Executive	0.2 hour
January 26, 2012.	Student Advising	2.0 hours
January 25, 2012.	UMSU	1.0 hour
January 25, 2012.	GSA Council	3.0 hours
January 25, 2012.	GSA Awards	1.5 hours
January 23, 2012.	Meeting with CFS-National Chairperson	0.5 hour
January 20, 2012.	University Discipline Hearing	2.0 hours
January 20, 2012.	UMSU	1.0 hour
January 19, 2012.	Board of Governors	3.0 hours
January 18, 2012.	Student Life	1.0 hour
January 17, 2012.	CFS –MB Provincial Executive	1.0 hour
January 16, 2012.	GSA Legal Counsel	1.0 hour
January 13, 2012.	Student Life	1.0 hour
January 13, 2012.	Student Experience Agenda Planning	1.0 hour
January 11, 2012.	GSA Finance	1.0 hour

Meetings Missed:

January 31, 2012.	Student Services @ Bannatyne	Regrets
January 31, 2012.	Meeting with the Minister of PSE	Absent
January 31, 2012.	FGS Executive	Cancelled
January 26, 2012.	Orientation Working Group	Regrets
January 25, 2012.	Pub Advisory	Regrets
January 18, 2012.	Student Experience	Regrets

Regrets are due to scheduling conflicts with class. Absences are attributed to CFS-MB planned meetings relating to Day of Action. January 26th meeting was not attended due to advocacy work with for 2 students.

Executive Summary:

Renovation and Capital Projects

The GSA Lounge renovation are expected to be completed by mid February 2012.
Tentative schedule is as follows for renovation of the office in University Centre Room 221:

Date	Task	Task By	Notes
Thursday, Feb 16	Move contents Asbestos abatement	General Services Others	
Tuesday, Feb. 21	Construct new wall Patch and paint Electrical Rough- in Plumbing	UM Carpentry Shop McCaine UM Plumbing Shop	Remove marked out ceiling tiles for McCaine Remove toilet to allow for new flooring
Tuesday, Feb. 28 & 29	Install millwork & whiteboards	UM Carpentry Shop	
Thursday, March 1 & 2	Electrical hook ups	McCaine	
Monday, March 5, 6	Remove flooring and install new	Curtis Carpets	
Wednesday, March 7	Plumbing hook ups Window film installation Furniture Installation	UM Plumbing Shop UM Carpentry Shop Others	Install new sink, re-install toilet Sheri Turner to confirm
Thursday, March 8	General clean up	Aramark	
Friday, March 9	MOVE	General Services	

FGS Council

GSA Representation – Total 14

Humanities (2)

Social Sciences (2)

Health Sciences (2)

Debra Lall (Psych), VACANT

Hai Luo (Social Work), Julia Anne Gamble (Anthropology)

S. Sabapathy (Med. Rehab.), Asra Ahmed (Oral
Biology)

Agricultural Sciences (2)	Emmanuel R. Ojo (Soil Sc), VACANT
Natural Sciences (2)	Mueed A. Mirza (Physics), Qiuyan Yuan (Civil Eng)
Additional reps (4)	Peter Nawrot (Pres), Jennifer Chen (VP Academic), Neil Salter (VP HSC), VACANT

Board of Governors

Discussion occurred at the Board level regarding the vision and development of the Southwood property (former golf course). This meeting was closed and confidential.

University Centre Wireless Upgrade

Graduate Students Association is not represented in this committee, however the GSA will be invited to the next meeting of this committee.

IDR Committee

An allegation of harassment and human rights violations has been forwarded to the IDR Committee. The proceeding are confidential and an assessment will be completed by the IDR subcommittee.

CFS – Manitoba Provincial Executive

Friday evening was the date of the CFS-MB Provincial Executive meeting, at which UMGSA made a second attempt to bring issues of violation to the CFS-MB by-laws and board negligence in managing or at least supervising the management of the business and affairs of the corporation to the attention of the board. It had to be the oddest meeting I've ever nearly attended. Essentially the meeting was called to order and immediately cancelled. Before the meeting was called to order the Deputy Chairperson, after travelling over 2 hours to attend the meeting, stated that they felt the meeting should be cancelled because proper notice of the meeting was not given (even though notice was given in August 2011 when the meetings were scheduled and ratified). Another reason given was that agenda material and reports were not provided in due time (in practice they never have been) for board members to review the material to properly vote and make decisions (the GSA has escalated this issue in 2010/2011 but was dismissed as being unreasonable).

Another director then stated that they could not put forth a motion to cancel the meeting until the meeting was actually called to order so they suggested the meeting be called to order. Of course, immediately after the Chairperson called the meeting to order one of those two individuals put forth a motion to cancel the meeting. It was seconded and a vote took place where the motion was carried and subsequently the meeting was adjourned. As President of GSA, I was the only director in opposition to this motion and requested a roll call vote in order to record which way each director voted as there were some who abstained from voting.

The oddest part of the entire situation is that each of these members actually showed up for a meeting just to cancel its occurrence and two of these members actually had to travel in from Brandon Manitoba for this purpose (one of the is the Deputy Chairperson). Not only that but once the meeting was adjourned they proceeded to discuss their activities and agendas for the upcoming National Day of Action (that UMGSA refuses to take part in or be associated with) for at least the next half hour until the food arrived. Certain members have made it clear that they place priority on the Day of Action above all else. One wonders if they could not have spent that time more productively; perhaps in reviewing the motions and information they claimed to be so ignorant of.

Office Hours:

Mondays: 12:00 - 16:00

January 6, 2012 – 5 hours
January 16, 2012 – 2 hours
January 20, 2012 – 6 hours
January 24, 2012 – 10 hours
January 26, 2012 – 5 hours

January 9, 2012 – 5 hours
January 19, 2012 – 6 hours
January 23, 2012 – 10 hours
January 25, 2012 – 2.5 hours
January 30, 2012 – 5 hours

Time spent in the office: 56.5 hours

Time spent in meetings: 22.7 Hours

Report

From: Angela Freeman, Vice President Internal
To: Graduate Students of the University of Manitoba
Date: January 31, 2012
Re: Council Report –January 11 – January 31

COMMITTEES, MEETINGS AND BUSINESS MATTERS

Meetings Attended:

January 10, 2012	Office Hour (not on last report)	1 Hour
January 10, 2012	Sustainability Meeting (not on last)	2 Hours
January 11, 2012	Finance Committee Meeting	1 Hour
January 13, 2012	Bannatyne Town Hall – Security	1.5 Hours
January 14, 2012	Margaret Mead Film Fest (Social)	-
January 16, 2012	In office	.5 Hours
January 17, 2012	Office Hours	2 Hours
January 18, 2012	Bylaws Committee	1 Hour
January 23, 2012	Gradzette Meeting	1 Hour
January 30, 2012	GSA executive Meeting	3 Hours
January 31, 2012	Office Hours	2.5 Hours

Meetings Missed:

January 25, 2012	Senate Committee On Admissions	Cancelled- no new business
January 25, 2012	GSA Council Meeting	Regrets- Illness

Executive Summary:

Gradzette

The Gradzette editor attended the Canadian University Press conference and will be speaking to that at the council meeting. The agreement between the GSA and the Manitoban has been finalized and signed.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee met on January 11, 2012. We reviewed 27 new applications and 2 older applications. 4 were rejected. The total amount awarded was \$8,778.35 at this meeting.

Bylaws and Policy

The bylaws committee met on January 18, 2012 and discussed the motions concerning the IDRC autonomy presented to council last year by Peter Karari. We also worked on creation of the Hardship fund policy. The retained earnings wording was discussed. Finally, the travel policy concerning GSA delegates was discussed at length. A suggestion of a letter of agreement was suggested and is being created.

Bannatyne Student Caucus

To unite the two campuses better, the VPI volunteered to sit on the caucus as a non-voting member. A security open house was held, very well attended, and issues were discussed.

SCADM

There have been no issues brought to SCADM.

Sustainability Committee

Sustainability committee met and discussed the revisions of the sustainability plan, including what information was obtained from the workshops. The sustainability group through admin has created water bottle filling stations in university centre which count how many plastic bottles have been reduced via refillables. The UPASS referendum upcoming was also discussed.

Margaret Mead Film Festival

This very well-attended GSA sponsored event was a big hit. The VPI attended one of the films in support of this great initiative.

Office Hours:

Tuesdays 9-11am.

Total in Office: 6 hours

Time spent in meetings: approx. 9.5

Total: 15.5 Hours

Report

From: Yijie (Jennifer) Chen, Vice-President Academic
To: GSA Council
Date: January 11 - January 31, 2012
Re: Council Report

COMMITTEES, MEETINGS AND BUSSINESS MATTERS

Meetings Attended:

January 11, 2012	Senate Meeting	0.5 hour
	Student Advocacy	1 hour
January 12, 2012	Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarship Review	4.5 hours
January 13, 2012	Leader of Tomorrow Scholarship Review	3.5 hours
January 17, 2012	CFS-MB Provincial Executive Meeting	1 hour
January 18, 2012	Senate Executive Meeting	0.75 hour
	Senate Committee on Awards Meeting	0.25 hour
	GSA By-laws Committee Meeting	1.75 hours
January 25, 2012	GSA Awards Committee Meeting	1 hour
	GSA Council Meeting	3 hours
January 27, 2012	CFS-MB Provincial Executive Meeting	1 hour
January 30, 2012	GSA Executive Meeting	3 hours

Meetings Missed (all sent regrets):

January 16, 2012	GSA Executive Meeting - was cancelled
January 18, 2012	Student Retention Sub-Committee Meeting – scheduling conflict with the Senate Committee on Awards Meeting
January 23, 2012	Senate Planning and Priority Committee Meeting – pre-occupied study
January 30, 2012	Student Senate Caucus Meeting – scheduling conflict with the GSA Executive Meeting
January 31, 2012	FGS Executive Meeting - was cancelled

Executive Summary:

Holiday Hampers Feedbacks:

To improve the next year's holiday hampers program, a feedback request email including four questions was sent to each student who registered the hampers in December 2011. Up to January 31, 2012, 10 replies were received. Below is the outcome of each question:

1. How do you score the holiday hampers this year generally?

Very good (70%) Good (30%) Just normal (0%) Poor (0%)

2. Which food do you like the most in the hamper?

Turkey/Chicken (70%) Rice (50%) Tea bags (30%) Cookies (30%) Jam (30%)
Pasta/Stuffing/Pancakes (20%) Canned food (10%)

3. Which food do you like the least in the hamper?

Canned food (50%) Tea bags (40%) Rice/Pasta (20%) Cookies/Jam (10%)

4. What would you like to receive in hampers in the future?

Household products (e.g. toilet paper or paper towels, tin foil) (50%)

Other type of food (e.g. spices - oregano/garlic/etc, South Asian food, barley & oats, baby food) (50%)

Gift items (10%)

Comments:

I am very happy to have received a hamper this year, thank you.

We were very grateful for the hamper, made for a great x-mas dinner! Thanks again!

Really appreciate all of your efforts... Good luck guys!!!!

The whole process was very well handled.

I may not apply anymore in the future since my financial situation is getting better.

2012-2013 GSA Awards and Teaching Award Application Forms:

The Awards Committee met to discuss changes to the 2012-2013 GSA Awards and Teaching Award application forms, which have been made available on the GSA website (www.umgsa.ca). The new editable forms clarify some of the confusions that happened in previous years, including that students need to be registered as full-time/part-time students in the following academic year to be eligible, the award recipients can be nominated by individuals. Suggestions also included increasing the amount allocated to the GSA Teaching Award. Following discussions with the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS), the Dean of FGS has approved the request for additional matching funds for the GSA Teaching award. FGS is willing to match a new contribution of \$250, increasing the value of the award to \$500. The VPA is following up it to contact the Senate Committee on Awards to get approval.

An email regarding the awards application has also been sent to graduate students via the listserv on January 30, 2012.

Academic Issues:

1) Senate Meeting

The course changes submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies regarding deletion of courses that have not been offered in the past five years have been approved Senate.

Senate has approved the addition of the Executive Lead, Indigenous Achievement, as an Assessor on Senate.

2) Motion regarding Academic dress:

The GSA Executive has endorsed a motion for academic dress to be submitted to the Senate Committee on Academic Dress. The motion is aimed to recognize the GSA representatives, University of Manitoba senior administration, and guests of the broader community in academic special functions through the provision of distinguishing academic dress.

Workshops:

Currently, the GSA is seeking a partnership with Learning Assistance Centre (LAC) and University Teaching Services (UTS) to organize a series of academic workshops spanning February to April and July. The topics include how to write, writing and citing, paraphrasing, and how to talk to advisors, which will all benefit graduate students. The workshops will take place on Fort Garry campus and Bannatyne campus. The details will be provided shortly.

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.

Canadian Federation of Students (CFS):

- 1) The CFS-MB Provincial Executive meeting was held on Tuesday, January 17th. The GSA submitted a series of motions regarding the CFS-MB operational review. However, these motions were tabled to the next Provincial Executive meeting.
- 2) The CFS-MB Provincial Executive meeting held on Friday, January 27th. However, after call to order, a motion was put forwarded and passed to cancel the meeting. Thus, no motions were discussed.

Office Hours:

Wednesdays: 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Time spent in the office: 33.33 hours

January 11, 2012 – 4 hours January 13, 2012 – 7.25 hours January 16, 2012 – 2.33 hours
January 18, 2012 – 3.67 hours January 25, 2012 – 3.08 hours January 27, 2012 – 3.33 hours
January 30, 2012 – 6.42 hours January 31, 2012 – 3.25 hours

Time spent in meetings: 21.25 hours



Report

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

COMMITTEES, MEETINGS AND BUSSINESS MATTERS

Meetings Attended:

Monday, January 9, 2012	GSA Executive Meeting	1 hour
Wednesday, January 18, 2012	TEDxManitoba Plan Meeting	1.5 hours
Wednesday, January 25, 2012	Housing Working Group	2 hours
Wednesday, January 25, 2012	GSA Awards Committee	1 hour
Wednesday, January 25, 2012	GSA Council	2 hours
Thursday, January 26, 2012	UMSU Council Meeting	1.5 hours
Monday, January 30, 2012	GSA Executive Meeting	3 hours
Tuesday, January 31, 2012	SAMPA Meeting	1.75 hours

Meetings Missed:

Monday, January 9, 2012	GSA Executive Meeting	Missed 1 hour
-------------------------	-----------------------	---------------

Executive Summary:

Student Housing Working Group

The GSA, as well as administrative and student representatives have been meeting since the fall of 2011 to address student residence issues. Tenants of student residences do not fall under the current protection of the Residential Tenancy Act of Manitoba, and there are currently no provincial standards with regards to student housing on Manitoba campuses. Issues that are being addressed by this working group include privacy, confiscation of property, political canvassing access, security, overnight guest restrictions, evictions and full-term housing charges. This group will continue to meet until we have created a set of policies for post-secondary student residences in Manitoba.

UMSU Council

Attended their most recent meetings where council members shared the academic, student leadership and social aspects of undergraduate life for the month of January. In particular, UMSU VPE is looking into adopting an established international nutrition plan as a prospective food plan to improve edible products on campus. GSA VPE shared our upcoming TEDxManitoba event with the group in hopes of encouraging undergraduate student attendance.

SAMPA

Attended this group's monthly meeting to provide information about the CFS work we are completing, as well as assist this group in planning a graduate / political event in the upcoming months. Contact VPE if you would like GSA representation at your department's next student meeting.

GSA Executive-to-Graduate Outreach:

GSA Newsletters

The VPE is responsible for sending out newsletters to all graduate students at least twice per month, or once per week if there is enough information to include. Nine newsletters have been sent out since the beginning of September. The general format of the newsletter is to group items into related categories: GSA, University, Winnipeg, Provincial, Canada and International. This provides a framework and organization for the newsletter, as well as an easy way to search the document. No newsletters were sent out in January as important information (such as the AGM) was sent out as individual messages to graduate students. Newsletter reporting will resume in February.

Twitter

It was suggested by the VPE and agreed upon by GSA Executive that the GSA would test Twitter as a social media to help us remain in contact with graduate students and disseminate information about student related successes and issues. Since the account was created in July we have sent out 233 tweets, are being followed by 106 people and/or organizations, and we are following 204 people and / or organizations. It appears that this medium of communication is a good way to receive immediate information and we hope to attract even more graduates to our Twitter feed in the coming months.

Facebook

The GSA has also taken the opportunity to create a Facebook page to more readily contact graduate students. We currently have 137 members and post upcoming GSA and University functions and events. We also guide students to websites they may find interesting, UMSU job postings, post our newsletters as documents, and do our best to inform students about upcoming conferences. Regular posters include the VPE, VPA and GSA assistant. We hope to continue to grow this group and use it as a form of communication and relationship building.

Additional Executive Information:

HSGSA and GSA Curling

The GSA has created a curling team and is participating in the yearly HSGSA six week curling marathon. This might be an activity the next GSA Executive expands on as we are having a great time meeting new people and enjoying some physical activity.

Margaret Meade Festival

Attendance at this festival was a personal choice rather than a professional GSA matter. It is worth mentioning that graduate students who coordinated the festival should be very proud of their work, as the movies were very enlightening and the panel discussion an excellent opportunity to discuss the themes with professionals. Our GSA grant money was well used by this group. (No hours for the GSA were counted as per attendance.)

Office Hours:

Thursday, January 12, 2012 – 2 hours
Thursday, January 19, 2012 – 2 hours
Thursday, January 26, 2012 – 2 hours
Thursday, February 2, 2012 – 2 hours

Time spent in the office: 8 hours

Additional Hours in Office:

Monday, January 9, 2012 - .75 hours
Wednesday, January 11, 2012 – 1 hour
Thursday, January 12, 2012 – 3.25 hours
Tuesday, January 24, 2012 – 6 hours
Wednesday, January 25, 2012 – 2 hours
Thursday, January 26, 2012 – 2 hours
Tuesday, January 31, 2012 – 7.5 hours
Thursday, February 2, 2012 – 2.5 hours

Time spent in meetings: 25 Hours

Report

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

COMMITTEES, MEETINGS AND BUSINESS MATTERS

Meetings Attended:

January 12, 2012	Grad Student Lounge Meet	1.5 hours
January 13, 2012	Security Town Hall	1 hour
January 17, 2012	HSGSA Exec Meeting	2 hours
January 18, 2012	Faculty Committee for GS	2 hours
January 24, 2012	HSGSA Council Meeting	1.5 hours
January 25, 2012	GSA Council Meeting	3 hours
January 31, 2012	SS@BC meeting	1.5 hours
February 1 st , 2012	HSGSA AGM	2 hours
February 2, 2012	GSA AGM	2.5 hours
February 6, 2012	GSA Exec Meeting	3.5 hours
February 9, 2012	HSGSA Exec Meeting	1 hour

Meetings Missed:

January 24, 2012 Diversity Working Group – HSGSA council conflict

Executive Summary:

Executive Duties:

As HSGSA President I have been scheduling and chairing 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 AGM:

The HSGSA members held an AGM on the 1st of February, 2012. With 20 in attendance, including Peter Narwot and Liz Gonsalves (who helped with background information concerning GSA motions), the AGM decided to accept all motions put forth. Food was

provided for those attending.

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 executive have overseen the swipe access changeover, and are currently outfitting the room with lounge essentials. It was noted that the room does not have any soap or paper towel dispensers, another item which needs remediation in the future. Currently working with the MMSA regarding their satellite signal access.

HSGSA Elections:

Stephanie Chu is this year's CRO for the HSGSA 2012 elections. It is currently the nomination period, and the HSGSA will be working with Stephanie and the Elections Committee to host a question period for interested students before the 15th of February. Currently we have had several students express interest in the positions, yay!

Office Hours: Tuesday/Wednesday 12-1pm

January 10, 12 (Mark covered on the 11th), 17, 19 (Mark covered on the 18th), 24, 26
(Mark covered on the 25th), 27 (covered for Sajid), 31st
February 2 (covered for mark), 7th
Additional time spent in office – 2 hours per week

Office hours missed: N/A

Time spent in the office: 20 hours

Time spent in meetings: 21.5 hours

HSGSA Annual General Meeting Report – February 2012

From: HSGSA Executive
To: Health Science Graduate Students of the University of Manitoba
Date: February 1st, 2012
Re: AGM

CSHRF

New HSGSA executive assisted former executive Cordula Buse in running the 2011 Canadian Student Health Research Forum. Events assisted included the boat cruise, NML tours, and information booth. Suggestions for next year include finding a new venue for the main event, in place of the boat cruise. HSGSA proudly sponsored three, \$200 awards for poster competition participants.

Student Summer Programs

The HSGSA has provided free bowling vouchers for students throughout the summer with two reusable, cheap vouchers procured from Teambuy. The HSGSA has also hosted Hot Heats, Cool Treats Mondays, where every Monday students are invited for a free frozen treat to cool their summer woes.

Orientation Planning

During the summer, the executive planned the 2011 Health Science Orientation. The orientation was from the 26th to the 29th of September, with the Social taking place on the 23rd. Our executives have worked diligently to ensure all events have the necessary speakers, food, and information. The president spoke at departmental orientations as a representative of the HSGSA to help inform new students of important awards and events. The HSGSA participated in a Bannatyne Campus Orientation on August 31st, Sept 1st, 2nd. The executive spent time manning the HSGSA/GSA booth, providing welcomes and assistance.

Orientation Execution

The social aspects of orientation, including the orientation social, as well as the paintball event were well attended by students. However, information session attendance was poor and the executive suggests that the orientation for the following year take place on no more than two, preferably one, days. This day will be noted by departments to allow students the academic freedom to attend orientation sessions.

Paintball Activity

In the spring of 2011 the HSGSA purchased vouchers for the fall of 2011 to have a group paintball session. The Paintball event was a tremendous success, was under budget, and had great attendance. 27 students enjoyed free transportation, free food, and free play.



HSGSA/F of M Bus Ticket Program

The HSGSA has been providing bus tickets to St. Boniface students taking classes at the Bannatyne Campus again this year with financial support from the Faculty of Medicine. The VP St. B has been facilitating this program directly from St.B, a positive step forward.

HSGSA Halloween Social

The executive organized a Halloween social for the 27th of October, including the serving of alcohol and food. There were lots of great free prizes and fun games, including pumpkin carving, mummy wrapping, costume competitions, and tomfoolery.

HSC Student Caucus

Through coordination with UMSU, the HSGSA co-hosted the Bannatyne Student Caucus. These meetings help to foster a better relationship between the grads and undergrads on campus, as well as provide a unified voice by which students can exert a more concerted message to administration. One of the focus' of the Caucus was the proposed security changes issued for the Bannatyne Campus. As a result of this Caucus, two open forums were held on campus to educate students of the changes and create awareness of opinions and concerns to administration.

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 Lavallee in attendance, who was there to answer question from students and staff concerning the changes. The town hall was well attended though answers were convoluted. We will be working with UMSU in future steps. VP St. Boniface composed a security survey which has been sent out to students and is currently collecting valuable information concerning students' opinions of campus security to aid future efforts.

HSC Communication Strategy

Executive are working in concert with past-executive/president Meaghan Labine in forming a new proposal for the 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!

MMCF

There was a 3rd MMCF meeting held on January 16, 2012. To remind everyone, MMCF has transferred control over all of their funds to The Winnipeg Foundation (TWF) and the MMCF will cease to exist within the next couple of months after we ensure that every fund is utilized by TWF properly. There will be another ~\$5000 in travel awards available to graduate students (apart from the Deer Lodge ones) within the next couple of months, and the VP Academic will be working with Ed Kroeger and Peter Nickerson on how these will be awarded; currently leaning towards 10 awards of \$500 each to be awarded at CSHRF. There is also another travel award becoming available to graduate students within the Department of Medical Microbiology. VP Academic will keep the council updated on what exactly the end result is with these new travel awards.

HSGSA Curling

The executive, particularly the VP Academic, are once again coordinating the HSGSA curling league, hosted by the West Kildonan Curling club. Participants pay a fee of \$20 and get to play over seven Saturdays as well as enjoy a finale in the form of a social with free food and drinks. Roughly fifty graduate students are participating in this event!

2012 Speaker Series

The HSGSA executive is working in conjunction with the GSA to facilitate a lecture by Stephen Lewis at the Bannatyne campus on March 28, 29. Funds from the HSGSA operating budget, specifically from the speaker series budget, will be put forward to aid the financing of the series.

HSGSA Logo

VP Internal worked with Graphic Designer Janelle Desrosiers to design a new logo, banner, and word art for the HSGSA so that our image is more professional. The new logo encompasses whole body health, something our campus stands for. She also created eight new posters for reoccurring events (can be used each year with date changes). With the logo the HSGSA will be better branded and more visible.

Strategic Planning Meeting for the Faculty of Medicine

VP Internal attended a meeting as a graduate representative. During this meeting it was discussed on how to deliver operation excellence and accountability, relentlessly pursue innovation and discovery, and provide leading-edge research education. A number of suggestions were made and another meeting will be held in mid-February.

Report

From: Olivier Gagné, Senator
To: Graduate Students of the University of Manitoba
Date: January 31st, 2012
Re: February 15th Council Report

COMMITTEES, MEETINGS AND BUSSINESS MATTERS

Meetings Attended:

January 11 th	Senate Meeting	0.5 hour
January 11 th	Finance Meeting	1 hour
January 25 th	Awards Meeting	1 hour
January 25 th	Council Meeting	3 hours
January 30 th	Executive Meeting	2.5 hours

Meetings Missed:

None

Executive Summary:

January senate meeting:

Approximately 290 graduate courses were identified by the registrar's office as not having been offered in the past five years. Departments were asked to justify the retention of these courses if desired; a list of the courses to be retained was made and the courses not making it to the list were deleted by senate.

The Unsafe Clinical Practice Policy of the Faculty of Nursing was amended to be more consistent with the Manitoba Workplace Safety and Health Act.

The Executive Lead, Indigenous Achievement, was added to senate as an assessor (senate now has 18 assessors)

UMSU obtained academic amnesty on February 1st, for a National Student Day of Action to take place at the university to raise awareness about student issues on campus

Please note that a motion was passed at the executive meeting on January 30th to excuse the Senators and Vice-President Academic from attending the Student Senate Caucus on the same day.

Office Hours:

Thursdays 14:00-16:00

January 12, 2011 – 2 hours

January 24, 2011 – 7 hours

January 19, 2011 – 3.75 hours

January 26, 2011 – 4 hours

Time spent in office hours: 16.75 hours

Time spent in meetings: 8 hours

Time spent in others: 3 hours

Report

From: Adam Reisacher, Senator
To: GSA Council
Date: February 6, 2012
Re: Council Report

COMMITTEES, MEETINGS AND BUSSINESS MATTERS

Meetings Attended:

January 11, 2012	CFS Housing Strategy Meeting	1 Hour
January 11, 2012	Student Housing Working Group	2 Hours
January 18, 2011	Bylaws Committee	1 Hour
January 25, 2012	CFS Housing Strategy Meeting	1 Hour
January 25, 2012	Student Housing Working Group	2 Hours
January 25, 2012	GSA Council	2.5 Hours
January 30, 2012	GSA Executive	3 Hours
February 1, 2012	U of M Senate	1 Hour
February 2, 2012	GSA Annual AGM	2 Hours

Meetings Missed:

January 11, 2012	U of M Senate (Regrets, attended Student Housing Working Group Meeting)
January 30, 2012	Student Senate Caucus (GSA Executive Meeting went long)

Executive Summary:

Student Housing Working Group

Slow and steady progress is being made on several issues important to students at every academic level. The main focus of the student delegation is to bring student tenants under the protection of the Residential Tenancies Act. Discussions regarding student privacy, month-to-month payments of rent, and other issues are ongoing.

As a result of discussions in this group, the U of M has created a calling card for use when entering a student's residence. If the student is not in the residence, the staff member will leave a card informing the student when the residence was entered, what work was done, and who did it.

I think these meetings have provided an effective forum of communication between students, university administrators, and government.

Senate Highlights

Discussion regarding President Barnard's plan to revamp the U of M's faculties and departments garnered most of the discussion at the Feb. 1 Senate meeting. Both students and faculty voiced their concerns regarding possible impact on the quality of student's education. However, most agreed that it is a discussion worth having, and that such changes would not necessarily be negative for students.

Office Hours:

Mondays: 9:00am - 11:00am

Time spent in the office: 8 hours

Jan. 16, 2011 – 2 hours

Jan. 23, 2011 – 2 hours

Jan. 30, 2011 – 2 hours

Feb. 6, 2011 – 2 hours

Time spent in meetings: 15.5 Hours



Report

From: Senator Peter Karari
To: Graduate Students of the University of Manitoba
Date: January 10, 2012 to February 3, 2012
Re: Council Report

COMMITTEES, MEETINGS AND BUSSINESS MATTERS

Meetings Attended:

January 18, 2012	By-Laws Meeting	1.0 Hours
January 18, 2012	Student Senate Caucus	1.0 Hours
January 25, 2012	GSA Council Meeting	2.0 Hours
January 30, 2012	Executive Committee Meeting	3.0 Hours
February 1, 2012	University Senate Meeting	1.0 Hour
February 2, 2012	AGM meeting	2.0 Hours

Meetings Missed

Jan. 11, 2012 Senate meeting (sent regrets due to family emergencies)

Office Hours: Mondays: 2:00 pm - 4:00pm

February 3, 2012- 2 hours

NB// Missed office hours 3 times due to family emergencies which the GSA office was made aware of.

Time spent in the office: 2 hours

Time spent in Committees, meetings and business Matters: 10 Hours



UNIVERSITY
OF MANITOBA

Graduate Students' Association



221 University Centre
University of Manitoba
Winnipeg MB, Canada R3T 2N2
Tel: 204-474-9181
Fax: 204-474-7560
email: gsa@umgsa.ca

January 30, 2012.

The Honorable Erin Selby
Minister of Advanced Education and Literacy
Room 162
Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8

Dear Minister Selby:

I hope this letter reaches you in good health and spirits. The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the University of Manitoba Graduate Students' Association does not endorse, support, nor engage in, and we disassociate ourselves from the Day of Action activities planned by the Canadian Federation of Students – Manitoba.

It is our commitment to engage in dialogue and collaborative effort with the stakeholders of post secondary education in the province of Manitoba. In the near future, you will be receiving an invitation from the University of Manitoba Graduate Students' Association to attend a breakfast talk about graduate student research and the future of post secondary education in Manitoba with graduate students, university administration and yourself.

The University of Manitoba Graduate Students' Association looks forwards to working with you and thanks you for your hard work and commitment to students attaining a higher education to pursue their goals and contribute to Manitoba's future.

Kind Regards,

Peter Nawrot
President