

GSA Annual General Meeting

11:30 am December 1, 2005
GSA Lounge

1. Call to order
2. Approval of agenda
3. Approval of minutes of last AGM
4. Executive Reports
 - a. President
 - b. Vice President (Student Affairs)
 - c. Vice President (Finance)
 - d. Vice President (Health Sciences)
 - e. UMSU Councillors
 - f. Senate
5. Constitutional ammendments
6. Other Business/Business from the floor
7. Announcements
8. Adjournment

GSA Annual General Meeting
May 26, 2004
Rm. 290 Education Building
4:45pm

Executive Attendance

Last Name	First Name	Position	Present	Absent	Regrets
Islam	Shamsul	President	X		
Chhabra	Amit	VP Student Affairs	X		
Mohammed	Feroz	VP Finance	X		
Ryan-Arbez	Nancy	VP Health Science	X		
Spiers	Kim	Exec-At-Large	X		
Ahsan	M. Mahmud	Senator	X		
Ganeshan	Manikandaprabu	Senator			X
Mohamed	Aezeden	Senator	X		
Ahmed	Abul K. R.	Councilor	X		
Kadaru	Pranith R.	Councilor	X		
Karim	Lutful	Councilor			X
Parupally	Puranchander R.	Councilor	X		

Councilor Attendance

Lastname	Firstname	Department	P	A	R	Signature
Bell	Sandy	Nursing 1				
Brophy	Dave	Enviro Geography	Present			
Card	Paul	ECE				
Chadha	Neelam	Psychology				
Chan	Hugh	Nursing 2				
Chong	Patrick	MicroBiology	Present			
Delbaere	Marjorie	Mgmt2				
Driedger	Jane	Natural Resources				
Dumontet	Monique	English	Present			
Dunn	Katherine	Biochemistry				
Gonzalez	Miriam	Family Studies				
Gregoire	Dana	UMSU Councilor				
Hawkins	Amy	Animal Science	Present			
Hiebert	Colin	Botany				
Hultin	David	Native Studies				
Kasichayanula	Sreeneeranj	Pharmacy				
Kaushik	Vibhu	Mech&Manf				
Kroeker	Myron	Soil Science				
Lester	Kristie	Zoology	Present			
Mauro	Ian	Geography	Present			
McCaughey	Deirdre	Mgmt1	Present			
Morehouse	Nat	Religion	Present			
Paizen	Bruce	ECE	Present			
Pajares	Roland	History	Present			
Peng	Claudia	Human Nutrition				
Pronyk	Carl	Biosystems				
Rasul	Golam	Plant Science				
Rypien	Candace	Med Microbiology	Present			
Song	Ruixiang	ECE3				
Spiers	Kimberly	Sociology	Present			
Wilson	Paige	Architecture	Present			

Graduate Student (non-councilor) Attendance

Last Name	First Name	Signature
Ajiboye	Sola	
Beer	Sandy	
Bellido	Guillermo	

Doerksen	Kevin	
Jenkins	Nathan	
McLean	Matt	
Mundy	C.J.	
Rattan	A	
Roy	Mark	
Stevenson	Kevin	
Szczerski	Carl	
Thambirajah	Natasha	
Valin	Joanne	
Weng	Dapeng	

Non-Voting Members in Attendance

Last Name	First Name	Position	Signature
Koch	Phil	Gradzette Editor	

1. Call to order

Meeting is called to order at 4:59 pm.

2. Set time to adjourn

Motion: Brophy, Environmental geography/Spiers, Sociology. 6:30pm. Unanimously carried.

3. Approval of Chair

Motion: Ryan-Arbez/Islam. Accept Dana Gregoire as chair.

Request from Brophy to take into consideration that many people here are not familiar with processes. Acknowledgment by Gregoire. Unanimously carried.

4. Approval of Agenda

Gregoire reviews the agenda. Request by Mauro on when to have the 'issue of the past executive' added to the agenda. Added as new point 7.

Request for hard copies of agenda. Not on hand due to printer difficulties.

Request to discuss international fees issue. This will be discussed during executive reports.

Request to discuss stance on CUPE issues. This will be discussed during executive reports.

Brophy asks about the ability of the council to make motions. Clarified by Valin that past executive could not speak about issues because of confidentiality issues. Feroz was concerned that the Former Executives were not informed about this issue and never discussed in any Executive meeting. Request by Valin to make opinions known as they come up and voice concerns because they are welcome.

Motion: Chhabra/Pajares. Approve agenda. Unanimously carried.

5. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Morehouse/Brophy. To approve minutes of April 30, 2003 AGM. 28 in favour. 5 abstentions. Carried.

6. Executive Reports

President's Report

Islam

- Introduction of self and current executive.
- Current year was a rough start due to the rough transition from past executive to current, as some of you know. GSA office will now be open 4-5 hours daily and the schedule is posted at the door. The Executive will be posting positions for hire: gradzette editor, gradzette associate editor and website manager. This will be done after budget is finalized.
- Regarding the actions of the past executive, Dr. Kerr VP-Academic has said that he will act only if UMSU is behind us because we are a part of UMSU. UMSU currently is not interested in acting.

Brophy asks for clarification on who we spoke with.

Confirmed that it was Steve Gaetz and Amanda Aziz (UMSU President). Due to timing of the conversation, Aziz was unable to discuss the situation further so Shamsul will be discussing this with her further in the coming week. Steve Gaetz suggested that we drop this issue because we spent so much time on it last year with no resolution and further involvement is of no use. Brophy wanted clarification that Ronald was to repay monies and return books to us and whether this had been done.

Chhabra confirmed that she has not returned the monies or the books.

Koch advised that she offered to return four books to him. Only one was of them was potentially of use to the GSA so he only took that one.

Chhabra clarified that while she had agreed to return all the books, she is not required to because we only requested that she do so.

Ryan-Arbez clarified that she stated she would return monies and books at the finance-ethics meeting when we confronted this issue with her.

Dumontet confirmed that Ronald admitted that she has money that she needs to return.

Feroz provided further information that we couriered letters and called her. We finally asked Amanda Aziz to email her to which Ronald replied. We decided to try to have a meeting with UMSU and Ronald all together in the coming year.

Valin explained that we tried to work with UMSU this past year and perhaps Amanda has a fresh approach that I would be interested in hearing, but I think it has been exhausted. I also think it is important that we do not feel this is over just because this approach hasn't worked.

Chhabra indicated that we talked to VP Student Affairs of the University Administration and he said that we can't deal with this issue because we are not an independent organization. We have to go through UMSU and only then can we go to administration.

Mauro makes request to hear from executive, specifically Nancy, regarding why there were changes in what the Joint Committee looked at and what was shared with Council.

Ryan-Arbez indicated that the committee looked at her personal spending. The issue of the lawyer, I can't tell you why that happened. We didn't decide to ignore it, but we felt that could be seen as a GSA expense.

Valin - before I established the Joint Finance-Ethics Committee, this was discussed with people and I think what happened is we focused on the misspent money, not to hide or ignore the lawyer money.

Mauro - if we had known the full extent, the response of councilors would have been much different.

Ryan-Arbez - I apologize for that. We were trying to look at the money that she took for herself and stayed with that. The issue that was brought to our attention was this issue and we stayed with that.

Mauro - I still think that stymied our ability to deal with this effectively. I would like to hear from the councilors.

Feroz - it was not just the president. There were others involved in deciding what was going forward. Currently, we don't have everything because all the information is at the auditors.

Valin - I left the file on the lawyers on your desk so you have everything that you need for this issue. Part of the reason I think why things happened is because it is a difficult thing to prove. For example, the extent of the relationship. I think we need a lawyer to handle this and I hope this is pursued, but I don't think the finance-ethics committee meant to shut this aspect down. We do have the cheque number somewhere. We know who signed it. We need to go to the lawyer.

Roy - I agree that this changes the whole situation because thousands of dollars is different than hundreds. How much do you think they went out?

Feroz - this is the outstanding balance. This is based on all the information that I currently have. We have an amount in our accounts.

Valin - the \$97 is just part of it. The books total closer to \$400.

Mauro - this still doesn't give the whole issue.

Valin - I guess what I'm asking is that we approach this from a different perspective. We aren't trying to minimize the issue. I encourage you to look at the receipts. It looks a lot worse than just \$97, you're so right. What we need to do is approach the lawyer issue separately because I think that is something bigger than we are. I'm concerned for the Association to try and take this on their own.

Thambirajah - the Laptop Computer issue was also kept separate, so if you start to bring things separate it minimizes the amount.

Valin - I didn't know about the laptop

Monique - it wasn't tendered. That's the issue.

Thambirajah - why weren't these things, the furniture, the laptop mentioned in the report? It seems to be that very specious decisions are being made. All of it was inappropriate I think.

Ryan-Arbez - I think we tried to make it manageable for us. I'm learning in terms of what else do we have to do and if we in this meeting today make a strategy for how to deal with this, I welcome that. I think that would be great. I think the people on the committee did everything they could do. If there are still things to do, then let's do it.

Valin - I think that by virtue of the fact that we're still here, that should be seen as a positive. A lot of what happened was because we were trying to focus on what we could handle at the time, which was to deal with performance. We weren't trying to hide anything or shut anything down.

Thambirajah - so can these things be added on? Can we deal with them?

Ryan-Arbez - how I interpreted things is that we know she owed us that, for sure. The other things were given to other people, other money. From what I understand, they went to a lawyer, not her. We put the issue of her spending forefront and then the other issues, yes, if we need to address them, then let's do that.

Gregoire - I have a speaker's list I would like to go through it. This is the time to ask questions etc. I would like to put forward a proposal afterwards from all of this.

Bellido - I am wondering if Ronald was supposed to be here today. Is her attendance required?

Chhabra - She is not required, but she was invited.

Bellido – the Joint Committee dealt with this but I feel a bit deceived because all of these issues were not brought up. And I am not quite sure why they were not. When I heard that it was about a hundred dollars, I was not worried. Hearing that more and more monies were spent, I get more concerned. Why weren't they brought up? I'm surprised.

Chhabra – first of all, the councilors and executive at that time were not informed. The President and two Vice-Presidents were the only ones who made decisions.

Feroz – as I said earlier, these things were never brought to the Executive Committee.

Valin – that is not true at all.

Feroz – someone had signed those cheques and made those decisions. It's not just a President issue.

Valin – at the first executive meeting at the beginning of the year is when she passed the furniture issue. Secondly, every member of the executive should have been present at the meeting to speak to this issue and they were not there.

Feroz – I was told by Sandeep that Joanne and Sandeep went to buy the EQ3 furniture and it was Joanne who selected the furniture and Sandeep made the Cheque ready. Furniture purchase was never brought to the Executive meeting. I have copies of emails that I sent to Sandeep (VP Finance 2003-04) asking why things were passed and what Sandeep said to me is that those were standard motions that should be sent directly to council.

Chhabra – in fall these decisions were made and the executive were unaware.

Monique – this is to clarify with Feroz. Correspondence from when? From March 2004 on? Okay. What's going on about what?

Morehouse – this is great pointing fingers and calling names. Why don't we change the bylaws and policies to fix this? We don't have all the answers to this but we do have a way of fixing the problems so let's do that.

Brophy – I agree, I think these discussions have already gone on too long particularly if we are going to try to continue dealing with this. I don't think that dealing with the bylaws is enough though. Joanne has mentioned that we might have legal action available to us. These guys have put in a lot of time and tried to be diplomatic and it has not worked. We need something with teeth. This is where we decide what to do and we can go to UMSU and say we want to take legal action.

Koch – I also worked as executive assistant over the last year and a half and I've seen a lot happening. I haven't had a place to talk about a lot of that. I want to make it clear that the executive changed over May 1 and Valin is not a member of the current executive. I've seen budget lines and this has happened in many different ways. If somebody steals money, that's really direct and we have to deal with it. But regardless of that, I see budget lines being exceeded. There are two examples: The first is the lawyer fee for two elections ago. It is mandated that someone be CRO. There was no one willing that year. Suzanne approached a friend of hers who is a lawyer. Now, Robert Barry, former VP (2002-03), did a lot of the duties of the CRO for general election 2003. The problem is, the budget for that election was \$250. There was no line to pay that at all. The bill was submitted and there are only three people with signing authority. Two of them therefore are to blame for that. The furniture thing is the other example. The budget line was exceeded by \$2000. When I first saw the furniture I thought, "nice furniture to get for that price". I didn't know that the furniture actually cost closer to \$4000. Two executives signed for it. When they are signing this stuff, they are going against the decisions of council. As Gradzette Editor, when my budget line gets cut, I can't do my job. Council isn't seeing financial statements, expenditures, budget to date, etc. It says right now that any member of council can ask to see these statements.

Rypien – I think we need to get past this. The executive now is brand new. You can tangibly prove that the \$97 was misspent but other things, i.e. the laptop or the lawyer fees, are harder things to prove that they were inappropriate. And they had budget lines, even though they were exceeded. We are going to deal with this, I know that. We have discussed other options. We just need to also make sure that we are not going to further hurt the GSA. We need to work on ways to make sure this doesn't happen. Hopefully we can implement changes to the constitution. Making sure things are written down etc. I know for my HSCGSA, everything has to get passed by everyone. But I think we need to make tangible decisions here.

Dumontet – I was on the Joint Committee and I assure you that it was never far from my mind that these things had gone on. There were no technical rules broken because there was nothing written about it. It was wrong. We knew that. But there was nothing we could say and point to and say that that was wrong until we got the factual evidence of receipts etc that showed she bought things for herself. This was never dropped. This was never a matter of convenience. This was the only thing that we could actually state. One other thing regarding the other executive complaining that they didn't know what was going on. We couldn't talk about things we couldn't prove because technically we couldn't say that she had done things wrong. We would have been dangerously close to slander. And she was threatening constantly that she would throw her lawyer at us.

Brophy – did she not represent that this would be a pro bono service. I disagree that there was nothing that we could do about this. It was widely understood that this was her friend.

Valin – what she said was she had her friend do some pro bono work. And we didn't have the minutes passed but we do now.

Monique – to leave the door open for possible legal action, I would also like to point out that there was a general call for volunteers to sit on the joint committee. If you didn't know about it, it was likely due to the shaky attendance for council minutes.

Beer – I think what we can do with this is learn from this. There are tremendous challenges for the new executive. I see that councilors need to support the new executive. I'm concerned about the battles that are going on and we need to move to a higher level. We can form a task force or whatever to get to the bottom of this huge issue. There aren't a lot of funds that are available to deal with this legally but we need to deal with this.

Wang – The former VP Finance is now president of CUPE.

Spiers – we'll talk about my concerns later with Mark's concerns in number 7.

Feroz - we need to move on but we need to get the experience of this.

Gregoire – so now let's let the executive finish the reports and Mark can speak then.

Brophy – let's make UMSU the priority. Let's not allow this to make a total waste of time. We need to pass motions on how to act.

Gregoire – we need to do that yes, but I think we will have to strike a ballot after getting all the information.

Islam – I am done.

Vice President (Student Affairs) Report

Chhabra

- We have already planned a number of things, including free workshops, socials, office hours. We are asking for computers from administration but are still in the process of that.
- There was a proposal to raise the fee by 100% for international students. We tried to get students out to this meeting and we are meeting with administration on this. It was held May 18. It will most likely not happen however please attend the next meeting which is June 22 and you are all welcome to come to this.
- The president issue we have now discussed and we will continue to in the next item. We are working to come to a conclusion. For now, we take it as a learning experience. There are proposals for constitution and bylaw amendments.
- There was a meeting with the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and the Head of National Libraries Canada regarding putting the theses and dissertations online. There will be a presentation. The U of M will be signing a contract and the Faculty of Grad Studies will work with GSA regarding the rules on how to make this work online.

Valin – I was at a number of those meetings and there is a possibility of putting things up a chapter at a time and allowing your committee to see it and then it formats it. It's just a way of processing it for you.

- It was brought to the notice of the council that GSA was breaching the contract with the office manager's union. This contract was first signed in 1998 and never renewed. 25% of our operating budget would pay for that position. Steve Gaetz from UMSU is willing to help us get out of that contract. We will be having social events, like that traditional BBQ and we are hoping to organize some beer bashes and other events.

Bellido – so basically we write a thesis and try to submit parts of it to journals, but if we were to place it online, would we be able to publish it in journals?

Chhabra – the rules are not set up. It's going to take years. We are going to work with the faculty of graduate studies to deal with this.

Valin – this is a concern for many of us. Some universities have had arrangements where they put it up but it is not accessible for a period of 2 years. This is something to bring to your departments and bring thoughts back to us.

Thambirajah – are GSA documents and files going to be more accessible this year?

Chhabra – yes, things will be online.

Thambirajah – would you entertain something like a FIPPA in the bylaws as well?

Chhabra – yes.

Thambirajah – and regarding the office manager position, is it possible to hold Steven Fletcher accountable because from my understanding, he created that position for his own use.

Valin – I don't know anything about that.

Motion: Dumontet/Bellido. Extend meeting time to 7:30. 25 in favour. 5 opposed. 2 abstentions. Motion carried.

McLean – I was wondering if we could get the Joint Committee's report published in the next Gradzette. Is now the time for that motion? New business, okay.

Vice President (Finance) Report

Mohammed (Feroz) – here is my report.

Roy – I have a question. Sandeep was able to sign cheques? He had signing authority? And he has to submit a final report.

Mohammed (Feroz) – and he didn't and I asked him why reports were not submitted. He did not respond to my email. When I asked about the financial situation, he said that he was reprimanded for his behavior.

Mauro – before we lose quorum. Obviously today has been bogged down with issues of misuse and stuff. I would like to pass a motion.

Motion:

BIRT the GSA council strike a task force with Amanda Aziz, current UMSU president, to explore potential legal action/criminal investigation against the past GSA president (Suzanne Ronald) and VP Finance (Sandeep Chandana) for their financial abuses committed in the 2003-04 year.

We need to have a clear directive in this council to do this and I ask that the council pass this motion to deal with this.

Spiers – and I've spoken with the police to deal with this.

Discussion around the desire to keep things non-inflammatory in the motion. Friendly amendments discussed.

Motion – BIRT GSA AGM strike an ad hoc committee with UMSU president or their designate given ex-officio status to investigate financial matters of the fiscal year 2003.

Valin – we don't need to move ahead if we aren't comfortable with this.

Brophy – because we have Amanda on board, we should deal with this right now.

?? – can we deal with only mandatory AGM stuff now?

Jenkins – I would like to add that some of us can't deal with this at council. Because executive hasn't shown in the past that this is a priority, we need to deal with it now.

Koch – I would like to add that we can have an AGM at any time.

Mauro – let's do the straw poll and see who's in favour of this.

Gregoire – how many people would be interested in passing the above motion BIRT GSA AGM strike an ad hoc committee with UMSU president or their designate given ex-officio status to investigate financial matters of the fiscal year 2003. Just about unanimous. How many would be interested in adding the wording of "and possible legal action".

Bellido – I would like to look at an amendment. Investigate inappropriate use of GSA financial resources.

Gregoire – the concern is that you are implying things. I don't see why a broad-based committee would want to bind itself.

Valin – would it be helpful to add 'decide the consequences'?

Hawkins – because we don't want to put something inflammatory in here to cover ourselves, I'm wondering if we can make an amendment after the committee makes a report by the next council meeting. So my suggestion is to go ahead with this but put something in so that we know that things are being done and lawyers are being consulted.

Discussion continues around this.

Gregoire – BIRT

Motion: BIRT GSA AGM strike an ad hoc committee with UMSU president or their designate given ex-officio status. The mandate of this committee is to investigate financial matters of the fiscal year 2003, seeking legal advice as required and reporting back to the GSA council at regular meetings.

This committee will be composed of GSA President, VP Finance, and at least two councilors and at least two graduate students at large.

This committee is composed of the following individuals:

- Ian Mauro, environment geography
- Amit Chhabra, computer science
- Natasha Thambirajah, history
- Kim Spiers, sociology/criminology
- Monique Dumontet, English
- Shamsul Islam (President)
- Feroz Mohammed (VP Finance)
- UMSU president or designate

Mauro/Jenkins. 1 abstention. Carried.

Ryan-Arbez – when the report came out at the council meeting, there was a majority vote to have the meeting held in camera. Councilors at that meeting were there for it. I'm worried because I can't give you all the information that you are wanting. This task force, there are so many issues to address here, and I don't know if it will be helpful to graduate students to know only part of the issue if they can't get all of it. There were no express efforts to suppress this information. It was attempted to be as professional as possible but all I can say is I have been directed by council to keep that quiet.

Valin – I want it known that the amendments have to be made known before it is released, particularly from the February 11 and 25th, 2004 meetings.

7. Past Executive Issue

Dealt with already.

Quorum is now lost. Meeting is informally adjourned.

8. Amendments to By-laws and Constitution

Ryan-Arbez - This is an idea of what we are going to be looking at. Question and answer session.

9. Old Business

10. New Business

11. Announcements

12. Call to Adjourn

Report

From: Meghan Gallant, President

To: Members of the GSA

Date: December 1, 2005

Re: Semi-annual report

Ancillary Fees

At the May 17 meeting, the University's Board of Governors approved, through their annual budget, new Ancillary Fees amounting to \$465 per year for full time graduate students. These were to be paid both in years where full tuition or continuing fees were paid and amounted to an 11% or 70% increase in these years respectively. It should also be noted that grad students would be using few of the services purportedly covered by these fees in the later years of their study.

The GSA Council passed a motion on May 16 officially stating their opposition to these fees and a letter was sent to the Minister of Advanced Education, the President and Vice-President (Administration) of the University and the Chair of the Board of Governors stating this. Only the Minister responded, saying she was unable to stop the increases but was meeting with the University.

Similar increases occurred at each university in the province and the student associations, as well as the provincial office of the Canadian Federation of Students, began work opposing these increases by proposing alternate funding solutions, meeting with the Minister of Advanced Education and other officials, and publicly expressing discontent with the new fees and the way in which they were implemented. Legislation was proposed enshrining the tuition fee freeze, including ancillary fees.

On July 8, the provincial government announced \$6.9 million in one-time funding in order to reduce the ancillary fees approved at the UofM. This reduced the fees from \$465 to \$150 for graduate students. The remaining fees are, however, still on the University's books and will be charged next year unless rescinded by the Board of Governors or funded again by the provincial government. Further, without a fee freeze that explicitly includes ancillary fees, or a strong message from the province that such increases will not be tolerated, it is not unlikely that the University will introduce new fees next year.

We have continued to push for a clear definition of ancillary fees. We have been told that the provincial government and the Council on Post-Secondary Education are working on this definition although we have yet to see a result.

Handbooks

This year, for the first time, the GSA produced a grad-specific handbook with several pages of information on the GSA and other graduate-related issues. We were able to do

this for this year as a sub-contract through UMSU although for future years we will have to budget for the cost independently and solicit ads as well.

We received the handbooks at the end of August and distributed almost all 1000 of them fairly quickly! They were handed out at the ISIC distribution tables in September, at some department orientations and alongside UMSU's handbooks at their distribution table.

International Student Identity Cards (ISICs)

We were able to distribute ISIC cards to graduate students on the Fort Garry, Bannatyne, and St Boniface campuses in September. The response was great, and we have since set ourselves up to issue them out of our office at any time.

Lobby meetings

I have attended a number of Lobby meetings, mostly coordinated through the CFS-MB office. These have included:

Anita Neville (MP for Winnipeg South Centre) – April 29

Provincial NDP Caucus – July 7

Mike Savage (Chair, Federal Post-Secondary Education Caucus) – July 29

Minister Reg Alcock (MP for Winnipeg South and President of the Treasury Board) – September 24

Noel Baldwin, director of research and program development for the Millenium Scholarship Foundation – October 18

Council on Post-Secondary Education

The Council on Post-Secondary Education (COPSE) is the intermediary body between the provincial government and post-secondary institutions in Manitoba. Student representatives have met with representatives from COPSE on a couple of occasions this year.

Discussions have touched on many issues but defining 'Ancillary Fees' has been stressed. In addition, we have discussed creating working groups with representation from students, faculty and university administrations to discuss issues of common concern including transfer credits from colleges, long term planning and fees and funding. A presentation was made to the full council on October 14, highlighting issues of quality and access, focusing on the recent ancillary fee hikes and the need to take strong measures to prevent a reoccurrence of what happened this summer.

CFS Provincial Executive

I have been this local's representative on the CFS Provincial executive since the summer. A Fee Watch campaign was recently launched in order to keep a focus on the concerns raised with the ancillary fee hikes. There will also be a graduate student-specific component to the campaign, focusing on the restructuring underway.

The provincial office has coordinated extensive lobbying and solidarity work. Of note to graduate students, the provincial executive passed a motion of support for Ian Mauro and Steph McLachlan, similar to that passed by the GSA Council.

Fee Restructuring

Last May, the incoming Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies indicated that a restructuring of graduate student fees would be taking place soon. As weeks went by and we had not received any updates as to the status of the restructuring, we began emailing the Dean requesting more information. After some time, we were put in touch with the Vice Provost (Student Affairs) who is also the chair of the fee restructuring committee. He and I met to discuss the work the committee had done at the two meetings it had already had, and I was added to the committee from that point.

The committee has met once this term, although a report is expected to be completed by December for fee changes to be in effect for the 2006-2007 session.

There has been some limited discussion within committee on time to completion and the effect that fee changes may have on this. Feedback from graduate students is both welcome and encouraged.

I have been seeking information from the National Graduate Caucus of the CFS on fee models at other universities and on the impact of the move away from continuing fees at other universities. The provincial office of the CFS has incorporated a grad fee component into their Fee Watch campaign.

We filed a Freedom of Information request for the reviews of graduate programs that have been happening across all departments over the last few years. The documents are available, but with a cost for access far beyond what we are able to cover as an Association. The reviews we've seen thus far have all stated that graduate students are under funded and cite better funding levels as a way to improve graduate programs at the UofM.

Autonomy

Discussions with UMSU have been ongoing around the prospect of GSA autonomy. Most of these have, and will continue to focus on the funds that graduate students pay into and the allocation and access to these funds. Currently, all students pay into several funds managed through UMSU, in addition to their operating budget, and we are negotiating graduate students control over our contributions to these funds. Any input into these discussions, and any final agreement are more than welcome.

Payroll change

The payroll system that covers students on scholarships, fellowships and stipends changed at the end of June. Notice was sent out to most students that their paycheck would be delayed by one week, but only reached students the day they also noticed they hadn't been paid. This left several students with late fees, NSF fees and other penalties. We contacted the University Comptroller who agreed to reimburse anyone who incurred these penalties due to lack of notice and passed this information on to graduate students.

External Meetings

Semi-Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students – May 19-22

In addition to the National Executive report, this meeting gave direction to the Executive for the next six months. The annual budget was approved, as was the campaign strategy and a number of motions brought forward by locals. This included an emergency motion encouraging student associations to write letters to the Government of Manitoba and

senior administrators at Manitoba Universities expressing support for the tuition fee freeze and opposition to ancillary fee increases, and urging the Government to stop or repeal these increases.

A number of panels, presentations and workshops were also held on topics ranging from research commercialization to tuition fees to the effect of international trade agreements on post-secondary education.

The National Graduate Caucus (NGC), a stand-alone caucus of the CFS, also approved a campaign strategy for the year, including the Whistleblowers campaign, the campaign to restore/maintain post-residency (continuing) fees and research on graduate student debt.

Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS) – Nov 2-6

The Canadian Association for Graduate Studies is a national organization whose membership consists mainly of the Deans of graduate studies from most Canadian Universities. In addition, there are a handful of representatives from the granting councils and national student organizations.

The National Graduate Caucus (NGC) of the CFS and its parallel organization in Quebec, the Conseil national des cycles supérieurs (CNCS), submitted 6 motions for consideration at the general meeting, in accordance with CAGS' bylaws. These motions dealt with graduate student employees right to choose whether or not to unionize; support for full public disclosure of the terms of public-private partnership contracts; whistleblower protection legislation; support for a dedicated federal transfer payments for post-secondary education; support of income tax exemption for student grants and scholarships; and democratic representation for graduate students on the CAGS executive.

The first 5 of these motions were refused from consideration at the meeting by the executive committee, with no reasoning provided. The 6th was completely refused and instead a bylaw amendment was proposed that would have enshrined many of the problems identified by the NGC and CNCS.

Despite the formal problems some deans voted with students at the meeting, and a greater number approached us privately, expressing their support for the content of the refused motions and recognition of the democratic deficit within CAGS. The bylaw changes regarding student representation were tabled for further information. Although much work remains in order for graduate students to have an effective and democratic voice within CAGS, we are in a slightly better position than we were at the close of last year's meeting.

Executive Committee

This summer, the Executive Committee initiated a logo contest, soliciting input from students for a new logo. We received a number of submissions and forwarded one to Council for ratification.

The committee also initiated the hiring of a Website Designer, Awards Officer and Gradzette Editor and Production manager as well as the by-election for vacant Senate positions that occurred this September.

On taking office it became apparent that there were unresolved concerns between the GSA and the CFS due to our not levying membership fees for several years. We sought advice from a lawyer as to any legal obligations we had and, based on this and our review of relevant documents, recommended to Council that we begin levying the appropriate fees immediately.

The executive planned a Wine and Cheese social orientation event in September that was well attended and well received.

As graduate students have been paying into the ISE award fund for three of the four years approved in the referendum where it was approved, the student contribution will be up for referendum shortly. Further, as this will be the second year the award is distributed, a review of the impact of award and whether it is fulfilling its potential is warranted. In order to do this, the executive proposed the creation of a subcommittee of the ethics committee, with additional members. This committee will conduct a thorough review of the award and our options for pay-in and disbursements. They will present final recommendations as to how to best use funds already accrued and what recommendation to give in our upcoming referendum.

Selections Committee

The Selections Committee has met on a needs basis for hiring. We've hired Chris Metcalfe as website designer, David Zhang as ISE Awards Officer and Susan Collins as the Gradzette Editor and Production Manager.

Office Committee

The Office Committee has discussed office function, including our printing/copying/fax service and reorganization of the office to make it a more welcoming and effective space. We've also discussed in some detail the need for an Office Manager and hope to be able to fill the position in the coming months.

Campaigns Committee

The Campaigns Committee organized a panel discussion held on Tuesday, October 25, on Academic Freedom at the University of Manitoba. Panelists were Dr Joanne Kesselman (VP Research), Mr Alan Simms (President, Smartpark), Dr Steph McLachlan (Prof, Environment), Mr Ian Mauro (PhD student, Environment) and Dr Robert Chernomas (Prof, Economics). The panel was attended by approximately 200 people, and received considerable media attention, including an article in the Free Press, where the announcement of the release of *Seeds of Change* made the front page. A good discussion was had, although there was limited time for questions from the floor. The response has been overwhelmingly positive.

In addition to this, I sit on a number of committees and boards within the University (Senate, Senate Executive, Board of Governors), the Faculty of Graduate Studies (Executive and Council) and UMSU (Council and the Board of Senior Sticks). I am more than happy to answer any questions or concerns regarding these bodies or anything else.

Report

From: Sola Ajiboye, Vice President (Student Affairs)

To: GSA General Membership

Date: Nov 1, 2005

Re: Semi-Annual Report

May 2005

Since I came into office in May 2005, I have been working closely with the FGS by sitting on the FGS Executive Committee and the Faculty Council of Graduate Studies. Together with the President, I have also met informally with the former acting and associate deans and the new dean to discuss issues of common interest.

I also worked with other members of GSA Executive to plan our priorities for the year. A draft of the budget for the 2005-06 fiscal year was prepared and presented at the May Council meeting.

June 2005

Had an inaugural meeting of the Bylaws committees to look into necessary bylaws and constitutional amendments.

I started working with the Campus Employment Services staff to arrange free workshops for graduate students. I also participated in an informal training by the Office of Student Advocacy and Services.

I also continue to work with other Executives for the day-to-day running of the association.

July 2005

Participated in relevant information session on University policy as part of my training as a student advocate. I also had my first task as a student advocate during this period.

Continued working with the Executive, Bylaws, Finance and Office Committees of the Association to fulfil their mandates.

I had a meeting with Award Coordinator. We discussed about how much was available as the interest from the Endowment Fund for the ISE Awards and Bursary for 2005-06 session. Money accrued from interest is insufficient to cover all the awards and bursaries due to reduced interest rate for the year. Suggestion was made to request for additional funding or reduce the number of bursaries to be awarded.

August 2005

The final schedule for the graduate student free workshop was finalized and presented to the Council for information. The upcoming workshops are listed below:

Topic	Date	Time	Venue
Internet Job Searching	November 23, 2005	1:00 - 2:00 pm	Microcomputer Lab 336 University Centre
Resume, Curriculum and Cover Letter Writing	January 25, 2006	1:00 - 2:00 pm	GSA Lounge, 217 A University Centre
Job search	February 22, 2006	1:00 - 2:00 pm	GSA Lounge, 217 A University Centre
Contract and Salary Negotiation	March 22, 2006	1:00 - 2:00 pm	GSA Lounge, 217 A University Centre

I also had various student advocacy meetings and continued working with the Executives, Bylaws, Finance Committees to fulfil their mandates.

I took a two-week break for out-of-country research and vacation.

September 2005

Organized the Wine and Cheese event to welcome new and returning graduate students. Attempted the registration of GSA teams in the campus intramural sports.

I started representing GSA on the Learning Commons Task Force with the mandate to prepare a plan to establish a (virtual/distributed) Learning Commons in the University.

I also represented GSA on a PVP Committee mandated in Nov. 2004 to develop a Conflict of Interest and Commitment (COIC) policy and procedure as required by the Tri-Council memorandum of understanding.

Updated information on the new GSA website

October 2005

I continued my duty on all the internal committees of the Association that I sit on.

Scheduled the inaugural meeting of the GSA Ethics Committee. Obtained the Council's approval to make decision without a quorum of the committee membership.

Worked with the COIC committee to finalize the draft of the policy and procedure to be sent to the BoG for approval.

Submitted a vision for the Learning Commons from graduate student's perspective. Attended the meeting of the Task Force to further deliberate on the visions and benefits of the LC to graduate students. I am currently working with other groups presenting graduate students to discuss the benefits.

GSA Annual General Meeting Report

From: Jeff Hein, Vice President (Finance)

To: GSA Members

Date: December 1, 2005

Re: AGM Report

Committee Activities

The GSA Finance Committee has been active this year working through the financial inner workings of our organization. As chair of the Finance Committee, I am quite proud of what we have accomplished so far.

Some financial matters from last fiscal year were addressed, but for the most part, the finance committee has been working toward this year. The first disbursement of conference grants and special project grants went through this summer, and we are preparing for the second disbursement this winter. The budget and financial status of the organization has been an ongoing discussion. For your information, please see the summary attached at the end of this report.

Another project the Finance Committee has been looking into changing the GSA bank account over from CIBC to a credit union that better meets our financial and ethical concerns.

As chair of the Finance Committee, please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have regarding the GSA finances.

Information/Activities

GSA FY2004 Finalizations

Ever since late April, 2005, I have been actively involved with finalizing the 2004-2005 fiscal year (FY2004) financial matters. The last executive had left this executive with \$29,132.62 worth of accounts payable expenses for honoraria, grants, bills, and outstanding payments to the Canada Revenue Agency. Included in this amount are penalty fees in the amount of \$359.35 for failure to remit penalties and interest incurred from the financial practices of the previous executive. However, due to our nature as a non-profit organization, I have appealed to the CRA to have this amount waived and credited back to us. This has unfortunately been a very long process as communication has been all but nil, but I will continue to pressure the CRA to resolve this.

Thanks to the assistance of many organizations that deal with the GSA in financial matters, I was able to teach myself the in's and out's of my roles while finalizing last fiscal year's finances.

GSA FY2004 Audit

Although documents were provided by the previous executive, the assembly and preparation of documents for the GSA FY2004 audit was done almost exclusively by this year's executive. I would like to extend my thanks to the former FY2005 executive-at-large, Carl Szczerski, as well as my brother, Jason Hein, for spending countless hours going through all documents cheque by cheque until an accurate account of all expenses was developed. I would like to note that last year's VP (HSGSA), Candace, was willing and able to help with the audit as well. Unfortunately, she never got the chance to wear the Audit-brero.

I'm happy to report that the audit for FY2004 has come back with a clean bill of health, and fewer recommendations than last year's audit. If anyone would like to have a look at the finances from last fiscal year, give me a shout.

GSA FY2005 Audit

After appreciating the amount of time required to prepare the documents for the FY2004 audit, I have been working on preparing the documents for the FY2005 audit on an ongoing basis. My plan is to hand off all I've worked on to the next VP Finance and hope they'll be ready to submit after the May 2006 Council meeting.

GSA Financial Accounting Software

While developing the documents for the FY2004 audit, I began developing spreadsheets and macro's in excel to simplify the daunting record-keeping task of GSA finances. After about 8 macro's and a dozen excel files, I have set up a makeshift collection of excel documents that keep record of all cheques that go out, pay attention to the bank account, report expenses based on budget allotments, calculate discrepancies and reconciliations with monthly bank statements, produce paystubs for all GSA members on the GSA payroll, write cheques, and manage my email address book.

I hope to work with the Gradzette editor, and the vice president (Finance) of the HSGSA to distribute similar versions of these spreadsheets and macros to assist in their financial accounting tasks.

If anyone is interested in viewing the current financial records, feel free to ask.

GSA Logo

The GSA has a new logo that I am proud to say I helped design!



Application Forms Updated

Through input from the GSA Finance Committee, GSA Bylaws Committee, and GSA Council, I have developed a new set of the application forms for GSA grants.

Deadlines – Conference Grants and Special Project Grants:

The deadline for the application for the next disbursement for conference grants, special project grants, and donations is today, actually! The next deadline for the next disbursement is March 17, 2005. All application forms can be downloaded from our website at www.umgsa.ca. All guidelines are listed with the application, as well as in the GSA Bylaws (Bylaw VI Subsections A, B, and G). Please feel free to contact me (vpf@umgsa.ca , 474-9181) if you have any questions.

Graduate Student Tuition at U of M

I'm sure everyone is aware of the increase in fees due to the recent Ancillary Fee implementation. That's hopefully not news. Recently, however, I noticed that graduate students who transfer directly from a Master's Program to a PhD program here may be paying more than they should. I found out because this happened to me, and from the sounds of it, several others. The following text was part of my report I gave to September Council, and if this situation applies to you or anyone you know, please read on.

Make sure you and members of your department checks your fee assessment to ensure you're not overcharged for both re-registration fee and tuition if you recently transferred from the Master's to PhD program.

To check if you are affected by this, please log on to the Student Records web service (login at <https://pasweb.cc.umanitoba.ca/webapp/rs/login/indexr.html>), and click on the "Timetable/booklist/fees" link on the left hand side under the "fees" category.

You should have either an amount listed under the "Tuition" column, or an amount beside "Continuing" under the "Other" column, but NOT both. It may also be that you are paying two "Continuing" fees, one for Master's and one for PhD. This is also incorrect.

If you do have both, or if you are unsure, please call Arlene from Student Records (474-9188) and specify your problem. She will be able to adjust the amount accordingly.

I recently spoke with Arlene, and she says there have been quite a few contacting her. She also mentioned how some students are receiving fees back for previous years. She

stated that this correction needs to be done only once, so students who required the adjustment should not require it in subsequent years.

Autonomy

I have entered into several discussions with executive and staff members of UMSU regarding the issue of the GSA being autonomous to UMSU. I'm quite pleased to know that there has been a lot of positive feedback and support from UMSU regarding this matter. In fact, when speaking to one member, I received the impression that they feel that the GSA is autonomous (due to all the referenda we've had on the subject) and now it's a matter of working out the financial aspects.

I hope to meet with UMSU within the next while and go through the student organization fees in detail to understand what GSA members pay for and are entitled to as members of UMSU, so the GSA can begin discussing what is what around the finances. If you have any input on this matter, please feel free to get in touch with me.

Endowment Board Proposal and GSA Office Manager

On direction from the Finance Committee and Council, Meghan and I have forwarded a proposal to the University of Manitoba Endowment Board to secure financial support for the GSA Conference Grants. All students pay into the endowment fund, and support such as this would ensure that the endowment fund properly caters to the needs of graduate students. The Conference Grants currently awarded by the GSA take up a sizable portion of our operating budget, and if this amount can be offset by support from the endowment board, the GSA can explore other ways to expand. Of particular interest is the filling of the Office Manager position, which has been vacant for several years now.

Over the last 6 months, I have come to appreciate how much work is involved with operating and maintaining the GSA office. Having a full-time staff person within the GSA focused on internal services and external communications will help offset the workload of the executive, and develop a sense of continuity between elections, which I feel has been sorely missing in previous changeover periods. Ultimately, I believe that the GSA executive honoraria can be reviewed under the consideration that the workload is appropriately distributed.

GSA Budgeted expenses - November 22, 2005

Budget Line	Budgeted Amount Approved November 21	Amount Spent May 2005 to Present	Projected Expenses May 2005 to April 2006
Executive			
Honoraria	\$31,900.00	\$15,700.00	\$31,900.00
External Meeting Expenses	\$3,000.00	\$2,432.63	\$2,987.32
Elections			
General Elections	\$300.00	\$15.66	\$265.66
Grants			
Departmental Grants	\$19,000.00	\$7,781.38	\$18,751.15
Conference Grants	\$24,000.00	\$10,343.96	\$23,677.29
Graduate Teaching Award	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Special Projects	\$1,750.00	\$315.00	\$1,715.00
Library Grants	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Committee Awards	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bursaries	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Donations	\$600.00	\$350.00	\$600.00
Promotions			
Gradzette	\$6,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$6,500.00
Handbook	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Social Programming	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Sports	\$360.00	\$0.00	\$360.00
Social Non-Alcoholic	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Orientation	\$500.00	\$413.78	\$500.00
Advertising	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Capital Venture Mgmt Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mentorship Programming	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lecture Series	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Website Administration	\$1,100.00	\$1,032.10	\$1,032.00
Campaigns	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Office Staff			
Wages, Benefits & Parking	\$1,600.00	\$800.00	\$1,600.00
Professional Development	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fees and Charges			
Bank	\$400.00	\$189.97	\$371.44
Audit	\$1,596.00	\$0.00	\$1,596.00
Insurance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Subscriptions, Etc	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Professional Consulting	\$560.46	\$560.46	\$560.46
Revenue Canada	\$2,000.00	\$864.27	\$1,839.02
Emergency/Miscellaneous	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Council & Committees			
Venue Booking & Equipment	\$200.00	\$108.02	\$486.25
Meeting Hospitality	\$1,000.00	\$330.34	\$937.98
Office Supplies & Expenses			
Stationery & Office Fees	\$3,000.00	\$1,491.53	\$2,722.70
Ikon Lease	\$4,500.00	\$2,452.74	\$4,346.99
Photocopies	\$500.00	\$39.69	\$392.92
Bannatyne Campus			
HSGSA Disbursement	\$9,200.00	\$4,600.00	\$9,200.00
Capital Expenses			
Office Furniture	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Leasehold Improvement	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Computer Centre	\$1,000.00	\$836.71	\$796.86
Computer Administration	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Long Accounts Payable			
Capital Fund Repayment	\$3,714.29	\$3,714.29	\$3,714.29
Total	\$121,830.75	\$55,972.53	\$119,653.33
Revenue	Projected Amount for FY2005	Amount Received May 2005 to Date	Notes
	\$123,609.46	\$62,676.78	See notes 1 and 2 below
Unallocated Revenue	\$1,778.71		

1 UMSU will deduct an Orientation Fee of \$4,890.00. This amount is deducted from the Revenue instead of being reported in the budget

2 The projected revenue is based on enrolment from 05R. Ask me about the discrepancy between enrolment and fees collected!

UMSU Councillors' Report

From: Asit Dey, Christina Fawcett, Abhishek Gupta and Jason Kelly

To: GSA AGM

Date: December 1st, 2005

Re: AGM Report

Highlights from UMSU Council Meetings

UMSU Meeting: May 26th 2005

UMSU Ad-hoc Environmental Sustainability Committee was established, proposed by Jason Kelly, in order to implement environmental policy, promote sustainability and work with other student groups involved in environmental initiatives. Of most significance is the hiring of an environmental auditor and working to establish a farmers market on campus.

UMSU Meeting: July 21st 2005

1. The motion for levying CFS membership fee for graduate students had been passed and forwarded to BOG for final approval and implementation of fee.
2. UMSU has increased the Conference grant for Graduate students from \$20,000 to \$25,000.
3. New Health & Dental Plan was passed to keep the premium at \$197.00. As well, the new Health plan provider is **National Student Health Network**. The changes were: 1) keep Out of Province Coverage in the plan, 2) Lower the Dispensing Fee Cap to \$5 (in 04/05 there was no cap, and the committee had brought it to \$6 in a previous mtg) 3) Remove coverage for impacted wisdom teeth (but regular wisdom teeth extractions are still covered 50% by the plan up to \$750).

UMSU Meeting: September 22nd 2005

Guest speaker: Ian Mauro.

A motion supporting the academic freedom case to the Student Affairs Committee to review and report back at the next Council Meeting was passed.

UMSU Meeting: October 6th 2005

A motion for academic freedom case was passed, which states:

Whereas the free pursuit of research without prejudice is a basis of publicly funded universities;

Whereas the University of Manitoba is a publicly funded university;

Whereas all students & researchers are affected by corporate funding on public universities, and;

Whereas the University of Manitoba has threatened the academic rights of student researcher Ian Mauro;

Be it resolved that the UMSU publicly condemn the actions of the University of Manitoba in this matter;

Be it further resolved that the UMSU support Ian Mauro in releasing his work, and;

Be it further resolved that the UMSU call for the University of Manitoba Senate to conduct an independent inquiry into this matter.

Senate Report

From: Kofi Adane, Senator

To: GSA AGM

Date: 1st December, 2005

Re: AGM Report

MEETINGS ATTENDED AND MISSED

Senate Meetings: April, May, June, September and October. In each of these meetings student senate caucus (SSC) met prior to it. Senate approved a number of reports and recommends a number of issues for board of government approval. The most pertinent ones are:

Mses Laura Robson and Annie Ducas, Senators from Engineering and Science constituents, respectively, were elected as students' representative to Senate Executive Committee. Ms Robson is a voting member while Ms Ducas is an assessor. It should be noted that their election was done during SSC Meeting, and GSA President also is a member of Senate Executive Committee.

The President of University of Manitoba presented her monthly report to senate on each of the senate meeting. In May's meeting, senate approved the University's Budget for the year 2005/2006. It should be mentioned that the budget and/or report also include the new fees (technology fee and other service fees), the International Students Awards, an increased in Graduate Research Funding, and the announcement of an increase of funding from the Provincial Government through his Provincial Budget on March 8, 2005. The President of University of Manitoba also announces the online renewal for staff parking permit, this online service will be available for student permit sales in spring 2006. In October's report, she announced that, the total enrolment was increased by 1.8% to maintain the University of Manitoba, the third 'largest city' in Manitoba with population of 28,013 as of the first day of classes. In this, graduate students account for 3,021 an increased of 1.1% from 2,988.

Senate has confirmed a year-end total of about 4,698 graduands to receive their respective degree, and over 300 of them are GSA members. Kudos to them!!

Senate has recommended to Board of Governors to approve over 16 awards for GSA members. Also, the terms of International Graduate Student Entrance Scholarship have been amended to include students entering into Graduate Diploma programme. The number of Travel Grants to graduate students through Alumni has been increased to 75. GSA members are being encouraged to take advantage of it.

The Sub-Committee to Investigate the Use of Software to Detect Plagiarism gave its report. They recommended against acquiring plagiarism-detecting software, although instructional, preventative and restorative options are recommended to reduce plagiarism encourage academic integrity.

Senate approved the modification of PhD in Social Work, MSc programme in Environment and Geography proposal, proposed site locations for services on campus

such as Aboriginal Centre, English Language Centre for non-native English speaking international students, parking, et cetera. Also, Senate approved and recommended to the Board of Governors the Introduction of a Ph.D. programme in Design and Planning in the Faculty of Architecture. In May's meeting, Senate approved the new entry mark for University 1, from 63% to 70%. Although, the SSC objected to it, the university gave assurance that they have room to accept some of the students who had marks below 70%.

Senate Committee on Appeals: No meeting. The member's list was only update in October meeting.

Senate Planning & Priorities Committee (SPPC): The first meeting will be held on 31st October, 2005

Appeal Committee (FGS): Only one meeting held in August.

Executive Committee: May – October, 2005

See attached report

OTHER INFORMATION

HSGSA Council: Present at 6th September, 05 HSGSA Council to familiarise and sort for issues/questions for Senate meeting. This will be more often as the current executives strive to address the needs of GSA members in all aspects of area.

University AGM: Present at this University of Manitoba AGM meeting held on 20th September, 2005 at Engineering and Information Technology Complex.

In 17th October, 2005, GSA council approved the by-election for other two GSA senators. Messrs Hong Xu and Hong Su are now our new GSA senators.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

ARTICLE I — NAME, AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Change the wording in Section 1 ‘...Graduate Students’ Association University of Manitoba’ to ‘University of Manitoba Graduate Students’ Association’

ARTICLE II — MEMBERSHIP

2. Strike the clause ‘.....or their designated alternative’ in section 5’
3. The remaining part of section 5 be reworded to read: ‘Councillors may send a proxy from their department. The chair should receive written notice of any proxy prior to the Council meeting. For departments not situated on the Fort Garry Campus, a written proxy vote will be accepted.’
4. Strike the second sentence in Section 6 to avoid redundancy.

ARTICLE III — GOVERNMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION

5. Change the clause ‘.... which may include’ in section 2 from to ‘will consist of’
6. Combined Bylaws and Policy together a single committee and add Ethics, Awards and Selections as standing committees in section 5 d

ARTICLE IV — ELECTIONS

7. Strike the previous Section 1h and replaced with ‘ Any position where one person runs uncontested shall be decided by a yes or no vote in the general election’
8. Add Section 1h to read ‘Any positions in this section (Article IV(1)) left vacant after the general election will be filled by a by-election in the fall’
9. Add ‘A minimum of one position on the Senate and UMSU Council shall be filled by a student from Health Sciences Campuses if one or more students from these campuses run in the general election.’ to section 2.

ARTICLE V — DUTIES OF EXECUTIVE AND COUNCIL

10. Add ‘Committee, and other committees as specified in the Bylaws of the Association.’ to Section 2e
11. Section 3h be reworded to read ‘Serve as chair of any GSA Committees required by the Bylaws, and attend meetings of the GSA Finance Committee.’
12. Strike ‘ As chair of the Bylaw Committee, update the bylaws annually to ensure the list of external committee is complete.’ from Section 3j.
13. Amend Section 4g to read ‘Serve on GSA committees as specified by GSA bylaws and defined in HSGSA bylaws.’
14. Amend Section 8c to read ‘Chair and attend any committee meetings required the Bylaws of the Association.’
15. Add ‘ and present a written report during these meetings.’ to Section 8d.

ARTICLE VI — MEETINGS

16. Amend Section 3 to read 'Executive Meetings shall be held at least monthly.'

ARTICLE VII — REFERENDA

17. Add 'No referendum shall be held from May 1 - Oct 1.' to Section 3.
18. Change the quorum for referendum in Section 4 from 5 to 10%

ARTICLE VIII — QUORUM

19. Amend Section 3 to read 'The quorum of the Council meetings shall be one half (1/2) of the Council.'
20. Amend Section 4 to read 'The quorum for all committee meetings shall be one half (1/2) of the total membership of the committee.'

CONSTITUTION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

As last amended at the April 30, 2003 General Meeting of the Association.

ARTICLE I — NAME, AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. The Association shall be known as the University of Manitoba Graduate Students' Association and shall hereinafter be referred to as the Association.
2. The Association shall promote the interests of graduate students as a whole and shall act as a platform for educational, cultural, and social activities.
3. The Association shall represent the interests of graduate students to the University authorities and other organizations on and off campus.
4. The Association shall endeavor to establish and promote contact with Graduate Students' Associations of other Canadian Universities.

Deleted: of the University of Manitoba

ARTICLE II — MEMBERSHIP

1. The following shall be members of the Association:
 - a. All students registered in the Faculty of Graduate Studies.
 - b. Such other persons or groups of persons as the Association shall choose to admit subject to its Bylaws.
2. The recommendation for membership fees shall be made by the Council of the Association to the appropriate University authorities and shall be established as Bylaws of the Association.
3. Each member of the Association shall be entitled to one vote in the general elections of the Association.
4. Each member enrolled in a department which offers a graduate program shall be entitled to one vote in the election for departmental representatives to Council.
5. Each elected departmental representative and the two members elected by and from the members of UMSU Council as per Article III(4)c, and each member of the Executive shall be entitled to one vote at Council meetings. Councillors may send a proxy from their department. The chair should receive written notice of any proxy prior to the Council meeting. For departments not situated on the Fort Garry Campus, a written proxy vote will be accepted
6. Each member of the Association shall be entitled to one vote at the General Meetings of the Association.

Deleted: or their designated alternate,

Deleted: Councilor

Formatted: English (U.K.)

Deleted: For departments not situated on the Fort Garry Campus, a written proxy vote will be accepted.

Deleted: In such cases where a member holds an Executive position and a departmental representative position and is unable to find an alternate, such member shall be entitled to two (2) votes upon identifying for which position each vote is cast

Deleted: As with Council meetings, written proxy votes will be accepted from members of departments not situated on the Fort Garry Campus.

ARTICLE III — GOVERNMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION

1. The ruling body of the Association shall be the Council of the Association. The Council of the Association shall consist of the Executive of the Association and the Councillors of the Association subject to the following provisions:

2. The Executive will consist of:

Deleted: which may include:

- a. President
- b. Vice President (Student Affairs)
- c. Vice President (Finance)
- d. Vice President (Health Science)
- e. Senators of the Association
- f. Representatives of the Association to the Council of the University of Manitoba Students' Union (UMSU).
- g. Executive-At-Large

3. Notwithstanding Article III(2), the number of Senators and University of Manitoba Student Union Representatives shall be determined according to the Bylaws of the respective bodies.

4. The Councillors of the Association;

- a. Council shall have one (1) elected graduate student representative from each department with a graduate program subject to the provisions of Article III(4)b.
- b. Each of the following groups shall be considered as one single department:
 - i. All students enrolled in programs in the MBA department of the Faculty of Management.
 - ii. All graduate students enrolled in programs in the departments of the Faculty of Management except those defined in III(4)b.i
 - iii. All students enrolled in the program leading to the degree of Master of Education at Saint Boniface College.
 - iv. All students enrolled in an interdisciplinary program of the Faculty of Graduate Studies.
 - v. All students in departments of low enrollment who may choose to amalgamate as one department body.
- c. Council shall have two members elected by and from the members of UMSU Council. These members will not be members of the Association unless designated in accordance with Article II(1).

5. Committees of the Association

a. Committee Responsibilities

- i. It is the responsibility of each Committee to deliberate on an issue, establish a position (either by consensus or by formal vote) and report it to the appropriate body.

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b. Executive Responsibilities to the Committees of the Association:

- i. The Executive Committee has the right to either accept or reject a Committee report but not amend it.
- ii. The Executive Committee must ensure that a report or its brief is distributed to all Council representatives 5 days prior to the next meeting.

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c. Council's Responsibilities to the Committees of the Association:

- i. Council members have the responsibility of serving on at least one Committee or providing an alternate from their department to act on a Committee.
 - ii. All Committee recommendations must be implemented through a vote by the Council of the Association or at a General meeting of the Association.
 - iii. A Committee report and any motions contained in it, may be debated by Council unless stipulated otherwise according to Article III(5) and Article III(6).
 - iv. Council has the right to stipulate through a formal motion or in the Bylaw's of the Association that a report may be presented in chambers for concurrence without debate.
- d. There are several key standing Committees that are essential to the operation of the Association. Each Committee has a specific function and set of responsibilities to perform as outlined in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association. The Committees are:
 - i. Executive
 - ii. Elections
 - iii. Finance
 - iv. Campaigns
 - v. Bylaws and Policy
 - vi. Office
 - vii. Ethics
 - viii. Awards
 - ix. Selections

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Policy

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6. Reports of Committees.

- a. Committee reports must be presented to Council as stated in Article III.
- b. A report submitted for Concurrence without Debate may be either accepted or rejected by Council or at a General Meeting but may not be debated.
- c. Council has the right to determine which reports may be considered for concurrence without debate.
- d. Reports that may be considered for Concurrence without Debate:
 - i. Any report containing a motion that allocates monies already included in the Association Budget.
 - ii. ~~Any report presented for information purposes only.~~
 - iii. ~~Any report stipulated by Council or in the Bylaws of the Association to be presented for Concurrence without Debate.~~
- e. Notwithstanding III(6)c: Reports that may not be considered for Concurrence without Debate include:
 - i. Any report containing a motion that allocates monies not already included in the Association Budget.
 - ii. Any report or motion that would amend portions of the Constitution or Bylaws of the Association.

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ARTICLE IV — ELECTIONS

- 1. Any member of the Association shall have the right to stand for any post on the Executive, with the exception of that of Executive-At-Large. The only Executive posts to be filled by General Election are those of the President, Vice-President (Student Affairs), Vice-President (Finance), Vice-President (Health Sciences Campus), UMSU Councillors and GSA Senators in accordance with the following:

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Manager as specified in IV(1)g

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filled by acclamation, the election
shall be decided by a simple
majority vote of the existing
Council.

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- a. The Association shall elect in a General Election the President, Vice-President (Student Affairs), Vice-President (Finance), Vice-President (Health Sciences Campus), UMSU Councillors and GSA Senators by a simple majority vote. In the case of a tie, the elections shall be decided by a simple majority vote of the existing Council.
 - b. The election procedure and proceedings will be handled by an Election Committee appointed by the Council in accordance with the appropriate Bylaws. No member of the Election Committee shall run as a candidate.
 - c. Nominations will be open for the President, Vice President (Student Affairs), Vice-President (Finance), Vice-President (Health Sciences Campus), UMSU Councillors and Senators on or after the 1st working day in February and close 10 working days after.
 - d. Elections for the Offices of President, Vice-President (Student Affairs), Vice-President (Finance), Vice-President (Health Sciences Campus), UMSU Councillors and GSA Senators shall take place at a time designated by Council and no later than 10 working days prior to the March Council meeting.
 - e. For Executive elections the Office Manager will act in the capacity of the Chief Returning Officer. If the GSA Office Manager position is vacant then a CRO will be chosen by the Elections Committee.
 - f. Counting of ballots will take place by the CRO in the presence of the Elections Committee and any scrutineers.
 - g. An Office Manager that is also a member of the Association is not eligible for any position filled in a General Election.
 - h. Any position where one person runs uncontested shall be decided by a yes or no vote in the general election
 - i. Any positions in this section (Article IV(1)) left vacant after the general election will be filled by a by-election in the fall.
2. The position of Vice-President (Health Sciences Campus) will be filled in the GSA General Election by means of a separate ballot that is made available to students who vote at a polling station located at the Bannatyne Campus or St. Boniface Research Centre. A minimum of one position on the Senate and UMSU Council shall be filled by a student from Health Sciences Campuses if one or more students from these campuses run in the general election.
3. The Executive may appoint one member of the outgoing Executive as Executive-at-Large. If appointment in accordance with the here present Article does not take place before April 30, the incoming Executive shall thereafter appoint an experienced Councilor of the Association for the position of Executive-at-Large.
4. Election of Councillors:
- a. Each Council representative must be a member of the Association.
 - b. Each must be elected by a simple majority of the eligible voting members of the Association in his/her department, the result to be submitted to the Office Manager of the Association within seven (7) days. In the absence of the Office Manager, the result shall be given to the President.
 - c. Vacancies in the Council must be filled by a re-election to be conducted in the department in which the vacancy occurs.
5. Assumption of responsibilities and term of office for the Executive and Council:
- a. Executive members shall assume office May 1st.

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Deleted: <#> h) The position of Gradzette Editor shall be selected by a Hiring Committee of the Association. The decision of the Committee shall be ratified by the Council of the Association. ¶ Any positions in this section (Article IV(1)) left vacant during a term of office will be filled by a by-election.

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- b. GSA Senators and UMSU representatives shall assume office according to the Bylaws of the respective body.
- c. Each Council representative shall assume office at the first regular Council meeting following the departmental election.
- d. The term of office of each Executive and Council member shall be one year.
- e. Every Executive and Council member shall have the right to seek re-election.

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ARTICLE V — DUTIES OF EXECUTIVE AND COUNCIL

1. The Executive.

- a. The Executive shall be responsible to the Council for the day-to-day workings and emergency decisions required for the Association.
- b. All members of the Executive shall report to the Council such decisions and activities that effect the general operational policies of the Association.
- c. All members of the Executive shall be responsible for developing policy recommendations pertaining to their portfolio.
- d. The Executive must prepare an annual budget for the Association. This budget must be presented in the May meeting of Council for approval.
- e. The Executive must respect the fiscal constraints in the budget as approved by Council.
- f. In the event that a budget for the current fiscal year is not approved by Council, the Executive must respect the fiscal constraints in the budget approved by Council in the previous year, until a new budget is passed.
- g. Each incoming and outgoing Executive member is responsible for ensuring an effective year-end transition process. Both incoming and outgoing Executive members should meet regularly, each with her or his respective counterpart(s), between April 1 and April 30. They should work to ensure that incoming Executive members are well-prepared to assume their duties on May 1. Certain members, including the President, Vice-President (Student Affairs) and Vice-President (Finance), should be prepared for this to be a more intensive "job shadowing" period.
 - i. If mutually agreed upon by the respective incoming and outgoing members, and only in a situation where one of these persons faces a conflict with schoolwork or other such duties, the transition period may be extended up to but not later than May 15. Such will not affect the date of changeover for either the holding of any position or remuneration for that position.
 - ii. When a changeover occurs at a date other than May 1, whether as duly established or when an Executive member assumes a new position during the course of a year, the transition period will take place in the 15 days preceding the changeover or, as per Article V 1.g(i), of this paragraph, within 15 days of the changeover.
 - iii. The transition period will be nil-salaried for incoming Executive members, except as per Article V 1.g(i), where the transition period may be wholly or in part nil-salaried for any outgoing Executive member.
- h. The Executive shall post regular office hours for the President and Vice-Presidents as well as up-to-date contact information for all members of the Executive. This information shall be posted so that it is visible outside the GSA Office and shall be printed in each issue of the Gradzette.

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2. The President shall perform the following duties:

- a. Read and become familiar with the Bylaws and Constitution of the Association.
- b. Supervise the day-to-day business of the Association.
- c. Represent the Association both internally and externally in adherence to Association policy on all matters.
- d. Attend all meetings of the Association.
- e. Serve as Chair or Vice-Chair of meetings of the Association and the Executive Committee, and other committees as specified in the Bylaws of the Association.
- f. Sit on committees of the Association, both ad hoc and permanent, including the Finance Committee, Bylaws Committee, Graduate Teaching Award Committee, and others as determined by the GSA Bylaws.
- g. Serve on the Faculty of Graduate Studies Executive Committee and Council.
- h. Serve on, or find alternates to serve on, committees of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, both ad hoc and permanent, including the Programs and Planning Committee, Guidelines and Policy Committee, and others.
- i. Serve on the Senate Executive, as an assessor to the Senate, on Senate committees, and as chair of the GSA Senate Caucus.
- j. Serve on at least 2 external committees, including the University's Budget Advisory Committee and others as may be necessary.
- k. Serve, or designate an alternate to serve, as the official representative of the Association in external matters pertaining to the relationship of the Association with other graduate and university student associations.
- l. Coordinate appointments of GSA Senators, GSA UMSU Councillors, and other graduate students to internal and external committees, seeking ratification from Council as appropriate. Provide names of all graduate students who serve on such committees to the Vice-President (Student Affairs) regarding recognition by the Student Records Office.
- m. Be prepared to perform duties of the Vice-President (Student Affairs) in case of illness, schedule conflict, resignation, etc., on an interim basis.
- n. Post and keep a minimum of 2 regular office hours per week, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., except when absent due to sickness, travel or some other reasonable eventuality, and see that notice is posted whenever the regular hours cannot be fulfilled.
- o. Present a written report at each GSA Council meeting. Provide to each GSA Council meeting a written list of all internal and external meetings attended, noting scheduled meetings the President was unable to attend, and a record of office hours maintained. Failure to provide such lists regularly shall constitute grounds for a vote of no confidence under the terms of Bylaw IV.
- p. Perform other tasks as assigned by the GSA Executive or Council.

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- 3. The Vice-President (Student Affairs) shall perform the following duties:
 - a. Read and become familiar with the Bylaws and Constitution of the Association.
 - b. Represent the Association both internally and externally in adherence to Association policy on all matters.
 - c. Act as joint authority and share responsibility with the President for non-fiscal decisions in the daily affairs of the Association.
 - d. Be prepared to perform duties of the President in case of illness, schedule conflict, resignation, etc., on an interim basis.
 - e. Oversee internal communications of the Association, including: Ensure accurate contact information is maintained for all Executive members and GSA Council representatives; ensure accurate and up-to-date office hours and contact information are posted outside the GSA Office; in cooperation with the chairs of

GSA Council and GSA Committees, ensure due notice is given for all meetings; ensure socials, lectures and other events are widely publicized; ensure the GSA email is checked regularly and messages forwarded to appropriate parties; work with any website coordinator to ensure the GSA website is accessible and includes up-to-date information; work with the Gradzette editor to ensure up-to-date contact information and notices are provided in time for publication.

- f. Work to ensure all departments, and UMSU Council, elect GSA Council representatives as stipulated in the GSA Constitution.
- g. Serve as chair of GSA UMSU Caucus meetings to be held in advance of each UMSU Council meeting and attend UMSU Council meetings as possible.
- h. Serve as chair of ~~any GSA Committees required by the Bylaws~~, and attend meetings of the GSA Finance Committee.
- i. Act as liaison between the Association and the Faculty of Graduate Studies, and sit as an Executive member of the Association on the Executive Committee of the Faculty of Graduate Studies.
- j. Submit to Student Records the names of graduate students serving as active participants in organizations listed by the Student Records Office of the University of Manitoba.
- k. Assume responsibility on matters of University discipline as they concern the membership of the Association and sit on any Local Disciplinary Committee in the capacity of Student Advocate.
- l. Act in an advisory function to the Office of Student Advocacy on behalf of graduate students. Attend educational seminars on advocacy and appeals training conducted by the Office of Student Advocacy.
- m. Post and keep a minimum of 2 regular office hours per week, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., except when absent due to sickness, travel or some other reasonable eventuality, and see that notice is posted whenever the regular hours cannot be fulfilled.
- n. Attend all GSA Executive and Council meetings and present a written report at each Council meeting. Serve as alternate chair at Executive and Council meetings. Provide to each GSA Council meeting a written list of all internal and external meetings attended, noting scheduled meetings the Vice-President (Student Affairs) was unable to attend, and a record of office hours maintained. Failure to provide such lists regularly shall constitute grounds for a vote of no confidence under the terms of Bylaw IV.
- o. Oversee the organization of regular GSA socials, lectures and other events, and work in collaboration with any social coordinator to ensure their success.
- p. Oversee the operation of any mentoring program as may be established, and work in collaboration with any program coordinator to ensure its success.
- q. Oversee office access and security, including assignment and return of keys.
- r. Perform other tasks as assigned by the GSA Executive or Council.

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4. The Vice-President (Health Sciences Campus) shall perform the following duties:
 - a. Read and become familiar with the Bylaws and Constitution of the Association.
 - b. Serve as liaison and GSA advocate for graduate students at the Health Sciences Campus.
 - c. Work with the Vice-President (Student Affairs) to serve as advocate for graduate students at the Health Sciences Campus to the University administration and other bodies.
 - d. Serve on the Faculty of Medicine Sub-council of the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

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- e. Attend all Health Sciences GSA Council meetings, attend or designate an alternate to attend all Health Sciences GSA Caucus meetings, and serve on committees and subcommittees thereof. Assume any responsibilities stipulated in the Bylaws of the Health Sciences GSA.
- f. Act, or appoint a designate to act, as the Association's representative on all committees of boards of the Health Sciences Campus when so requested by those bodies. Forward names to GSA Council for approval as appropriate. Provide names of all graduate students who serve on committees at the Health Sciences Campus to the Vice-President (Student Affairs) regarding recognition by the Student Records Office.
- g. Serve on GSA committees as specified by GSA bylaws and defined in HSGSA bylaws.
- h. Attend all GSA Executive and Council meetings and present a written report at each Council meeting. Provide to each GSA Council meeting a written list of all internal and external meetings attended, noting scheduled meetings the Vice-President (Health Sciences Campus) was unable to attend, and a record of office hours maintained. Failure to provide such lists regularly shall constitute grounds for a vote of no confidence under the terms of Bylaw IV.
- i. Post and keep a minimum of 2 regular office hours per week between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., except when absent due to sickness, travel or some other reasonable eventuality, and see that notice is posted whenever the regular hours cannot be fulfilled, and/or take such steps as may be necessary to ensure their availability to graduate students of the Health Sciences Caucus.
- j. Perform other tasks as assigned by the GSA Executive or Council, or by the Council of the Health Sciences Caucus.

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5. The Vice-President (Finance) shall perform the following duties:

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- a. Read and become familiar with the Bylaws and Constitution of the Association.
- b. Supervise the keeping of all necessary financial records of the Association, including but not limited to bills, cheque books and monthly accounting.
- c. Make payments promptly as funds are available.
- d. Submit the budget prepared by the Executive to Council for its approval.
- e. Present bi-annual financial reports to Council, to be given at Council meetings held before December 1 and before May 1 of each academic year.
- f. Submit the financial records of the Association for an annual audit upon notice from Council.
- g. Make financial records available to any Council member, upon arrangement.
- h. Serve as chair of the Finance Committee and of sub-committees as designated by the GSA Bylaws.
- i. Coordinate the process of awarding of regular and special GSA grants, subject to approval by GSA Council. Ensure all related forms are up-to-date and available to graduate students. Work with the Vice-President (Student Affairs) to ensure graduate students receive notice of grant deadlines.
- j. Post and keep a minimum of 5 regular office hours over no less than 2 days per week, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., except when absent due to sickness, travel or some other reasonable eventuality, and see that notice is posted whenever the regular hours cannot be fulfilled.
- k. Attend all GSA Executive and Council meetings and present a written report at each Council meeting. Provide to each GSA Council meeting a written list of all internal and external meetings attended, noting scheduled meetings the Vice-President (Finance) was unable to attend, and a record of office hours maintained.

Failure to provide such lists regularly shall constitute grounds for a vote of no confidence under the terms of Bylaw IV.

- l. Attend all Treasurers meetings held by UMSU.
- m. Represent the Association both internally and externally in adherence to Association policy on all matters.
- n. Perform other tasks as assigned by the GSA Executive or Council.

6. Each Senator of the Association shall perform the following duties:

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- a. Read and become familiar with the Bylaws and Constitution of the Association.
- b. Attend all Senate, Student Senate Caucus, and GSA Senate Caucus meetings.
- c. Serve on at least one Senate Committee.
- d. Represent the interests of graduate students and the Association to the Senate and on Senate Committees.
- e. Attend all GSA Executive and Council meetings.
- f. Work with other GSA Senators to ensure a Senators' Report is written and presented at each GSA Council meeting.
- g. Serve on at least one other internal or external committee as designated by the GSA President.
- h. Failure to attend or to designate a proxy to attend 2 or more Senate meetings and/or GSA Senate Caucus meetings shall constitute grounds for a vote of no confidence. Failure to attend 2 or more GSA Executive meetings without good reason and sending regrets, or failure to attend 2 or more GSA Council meetings without good reason and sending regrets, shall also constitute grounds for a vote of no confidence. Such a vote of no confidence for failure to attend meetings will occur as per Bylaw IV, except that such vote shall occur at either a special meeting of the GSA Council or without notice at the next regularly scheduled GSA Council meeting.

7. Each Representative of the Association to the University of Manitoba Students' Union (UMSU) shall perform the following duties:

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- a. Read and become familiar with the Bylaws and Constitution of the Association.
- b. Attend all UMSU Council and GSA UMSU Caucus meetings.
- c. Serve on at least one UMSU standing committee.
- d. Represent the interests of graduate students and the Association to UMSU Council and on UMSU Committees.
- e. Attend all GSA Executive and Council meetings.
- f. Work with other GSA UMSU Representatives to ensure an UMSU Representatives' Report is written and presented at each GSA Council meeting.
- g. Serve on at least one other internal or external committee as designated by the GSA President.
- h. Failure to attend or to designate a proxy to attend 2 or more UMSU Council meetings and/or GSA UMSU Caucus meetings shall constitute grounds for a vote of no confidence. Failure to attend 2 or more GSA Executive meetings without good reason and sending regrets, or failure to attend 2 or more GSA Council meetings without good reason and sending regrets, shall also constitute grounds for a vote of no confidence. Such a vote of no confidence for failure to attend meetings will occur as per Bylaw IV, except that such vote shall occur at either a special meeting of the GSA Council or without notice at the next regularly scheduled GSA Council meeting.

8. The Executive-At-Large shall:

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- a. Serve as an advisor to the incoming executive.
 - b. Attend all GSA Executive meetings.
 - c. Chair and attend any committee meetings required the Bylaws of the Association.
 - d. Attend GSA Council meetings as possible and present a written report during these meetings.
 - e. Perform other duties as assigned by the GSA Executive or Council.
9. Each Councillor of the Association shall perform the following duties:
- a. Represent the interests of graduate students in her/his department in Council meetings and committee meetings of the Association.
 - b. Report to the graduate students of his/her department on the proceedings of Council meetings and committees of the Association.
 - c. Serve on at least one committee of the Association, or provide an alternate from her/his department, as per Article III(5)c.i.
 - d. Report to the Vice-President (Finance) of the Association activities and expenditures carried out in his/her department for which said department has received a departmental allocation.
 - e. Conduct an election for an incoming departmental representative to the Association Council upon completion of his/her term of office, or appoint an alternate to do so.

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10. Each Executive member and Councillor must submit an annual report by March 20 to be distributed at the March meeting of the GSA Council. These annual reports will be open for discussion at the April meeting of the GSA Council. Only upon submission of these reports and fulfillment of all other duties within the GSA Constitution and Bylaws will any final honoraria or departmental allocations be disbursed. Furthermore, for Executives with paid honoraria positions, if duties are not fulfilled consistently throughout the year, Executive members may be subject to further penalties upon the discretion of the GSA Executive.

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ARTICLE VI — MEETINGS

- 1. General Meetings:
 - a. At least one General Meeting shall be held each year in October.
 - b. The Executive or the Council shall have the right to call additional General meetings at their discretion.
 - c. A General Meeting shall be convened upon the written request of twenty-five (25) or more members of the Association.
- 2. Council Meetings;
 - a. The regular meetings of the Council shall be conducted at least once a month, except in June, July, and December, at a time and place designated by the President.
 - b. The President shall have the right to call an emergency meeting of the Council upon notification of two-thirds (2/3) of the Council Membership.
- 3. Executive Meetings shall be held at least monthly.
- 4. Rules of Order;
 - a. All meetings of the Association shall be governed by Robert's Revised Rules of Order subject to the Bylaws of the Association and the terms of this Constitution.

5. Voting Rights;
 - a. All members of the Association are entitled to vote at General Meetings of the Association.
 - b) Only members of the Council of the Association are entitled to vote at Council meetings of the Association.

ARTICLE VII — REFERENDA

1. The Association's Council may, from time to time, hold referenda of the Association's members.
2. The Association's Council shall establish a procedure in the Bylaws whereby a referendum can be initiated upon the petition of a reasonable number of the Association's members.
3. At least two (2) weeks public notice of any referendum shall be given. No referendum shall be held from May 1 - Oct 1
4. Quorum for any referendum held by the Association shall be ten per cent (10%) of the Association's total full- and part-time membership.
5. The majority vote in a referendum shall be binding upon the Association's Executive and Council and shall be the plenary authority in the Association.

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ARTICLE VIII — QUORUM

1. The quorum of the General Meeting shall be 1% of the total membership of the Association.
2. The said required number arrived at in the previous section shall be inclusive of Council members.
3. The quorum of the Council meetings shall be one half (1/2) of the Council.
4. The quorum for all committee meetings shall be one half (1/2) of the total membership of the committee.

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ARTICLE IX — AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

1. The Constitution of the Association may be amended only at General meetings of the Association subject to the following;
 - a. Notice of Motion to amend the Constitution must be submitted in writing two (2) weeks in advance of a vote of amendment.
 - b. A motion to amend the Constitution requires a two thirds (2/3) majority vote of the General Meeting to pass.

ARTICLE X — BYLAWS OF THE ASSOCIATION

1. All decisions of the Council or of a General Meeting of the Association, intended to stand as having the force of law within the Association, rather than having the force of resolution expressing the opinion of the Association, shall be enacted and recorded as Bylaws.

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2. Bylaws may be enacted, amended or repealed at any Council meeting or General meeting of the Association.
3. The enactment, amendment or repeal of any Bylaw shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Council or General Meeting.