

Graduate Students' Association Autonomy Agreement

History

- ♦ 5 successful referenda by Graduate Students since 1973
- ♦ Most recent in 2000 - 92% grad students in favour of autonomy from UMSA
- ♦ Every time, UMSU and the GSA have not been able to come to an agreement that was agreed upon by both parties

Why autonomy?

- ♦ Autonomy allows the Grad Students' Association to represent their members to the university and all levels of government.
- ♦ Under-represented by UMSU – primarily undergraduate focused with respect to representation, services, events
- ♦ GSA issues differ from UMSU
 - Structure of their studies
 - Different fees
 - Different academic regulations and issues

Difference...

- ♦ Continuing fees
- ♦ Graduate students are funded, in many cases, through national granting councils (NSERC, SHIRC)
- ♦ Tend to work as TA's or RA's during studies
- ♦ Thesis work and compulsory courses
- ♦ Work with advisors and committees that oversee thesis

Issues affecting Graduate Students

- ♦ Intellectual property rights
- ♦ Commercialization of Research
 - Influence of private funding on research
- ♦ Department grants
- ♦ Copyright restrictions
- ♦ Advocacy issues relating to student-supervisor relationships
- ♦ Host of other issues that arise from having a membership that tends to be older, more likely to have children, indebted from undergrad degrees etc.

UMGSA currently...

- ♦ Part of UMSU – unique in Canada
- ♦ 30 out of 32 Graduate student associations are autonomous
- ♦ UMGSA is 1 of 2 incorporated Graduate student bodies that are still members of their undergraduate student bodies
- ♦ Autonomous; Queens, U of T, Calgary, U of Alberta, U of Sask., Waterloo, York...

Autonomy

- ♦ Situations in which institutions are primarily undergraduate students don't have autonomous Grad Student Association - ex. U of Wpg, Ryerson
- ♦ Generally, once universities grad programs are well developed and there is a certain critical mass of grad students, the issues become predominant enough for an autonomous GSA
- ♦ UMGSa has been at that point for decades

UMSU Act

- ♦ UMSU is defined as an official act of legislation through the UMSU Act
- ♦ Currently, in the UMSU Act, UMSU is the sole representative of students recognized by the University
- ♦ Next steps in autonomy would be getting the Board of Governors to recognize GSA as a representative of graduate students
- ♦ Already existing at other institutions with autonomous grad student organisations

Non-Financial Aspects of Autonomy

Representation

- ♦ Board of Governors:
 - One voting seat allocated to UMSU shall be reserved for president of GSA or their designate, until U of M establishes a separate seat for GSA on BoG.
- ♦ Representation on Councils:
 - The President, or designate, of each Party shall be a non-voting member of the Council of the other Party. The representative shall exercise all rights of, and assume all responsibilities of, a Council Member, except that of committee membership unless provided for in the terms of reference of the committee.

Use of Space

- ♦ The GSA shall be entitled to the exclusive use of the GSA office and GSA lounge space (known as rms 221 and 217 respectively) without charge.
- ♦ UMSU could relocate the GSA operations to a space of similar size and value if mutually agreed by both parties
- ♦ GSA shall also have access to UMSU space in Helen Glass at no cost in recognition of Graduate Students' contributions to date.

UMSU Student Groups and Student Service Groups

- ♦ Graduate Students shall continue to be eligible for membership and executive/coordinator positions in UMSU recognized student groups and student service groups.

UMSU Businesses

- ♦ UMSU will have full ownership rights to space we currently own, and any future space we will own
- ♦ GSA and graduate students will have the right to access these services and receive employment in the establishments

Finances & Autonomy

Agreement

- ♦ Currently graduate students pay the full complement of UMSU fees.
- ♦ Under autonomy, Graduate students will no longer pay this to UMSU, but instead pay fees to the GSA
- ♦ Graduate Students will no longer be members of UMSU effective May 1, 2007

All UMSU Fees

- ♦ Under autonomy, graduate students will no longer pay into and shall not be eligible to receive funding from the following funds
 - UMSU Operating Fund
 - UMSU Endowment & Scholarship and Bursary
 - UMSU Capital Fund
 - UMSU Capital Sinking Fund
 - Nursing Building Fund
 - Reallocation Fund

Remittance of Fees

- ♦ UMSU recognizes that Graduate Student Fees belong to GSA and that the University should transfer Graduate Student Fees directly to the GSA.
- ♦ GSA recognizes that it will be solely accountable and responsible for fees received and will assume the responsibility for auditing these fees.
- ♦ Student fees UMSU receives from graduate students will be transferred to the GSA until recognition by the Board of Governors

UMFM, Manitoban, WUSC, UMREG, World Wise

- ♦ Graduate students will continue to pay the following established fees as set by referenda:
 - UMFM
 - Manitoban
 - WUSC
 - UMREG
 - World Wise

Student Services (Cont'd)

- ♦ Referenda for new fees (levies), or fee changes shall be run through independent referenda of both GSA and UMSU.
- ♦ The results of referenda for one organisation shall not be binding on the membership of the other.

Health & Dental Plan

- ♦ Graduate students will continue to participate in the UMSU Health & Dental Plan, unless successful referenda are held by graduate students, in accordance with GSA by-laws to change or terminate this participation

Health & Dental Plan (cont'd)

- ♦ If GSA leaves the health plan before the deficit created within the health & dental plan fund between 2002-2006 has been eliminated, the GSA agrees to transfer to UMSU the amount equivalent to 14.1% of the remaining deficit, payable at termination of participation in the Health and Dental Plan.
- ♦ The current deficit of the Health and Dental Plan is \$765,000

Health & Dental Plan (cont'd)

- ♦ UMSU Health Insurance Plan Committee
 - As long as GSA members participate in the UMSU Health & Dental Plan, the President of the GSA, or designate, shall hold a voting seat on the UMSU Health Insurance Plan Committee

Compensation

- ♦ In recognition of the contribution made by graduate students to date, UMSU will provide a portion of its assets to the GSA.
- ♦ The Compensation is based on the average enrolment of graduate students over the last 10 years, which is 14.1%

Compensation (cont'd)

- ♦ GSA will receive 14.1% of the net value of the following funds:
 - UMSU Capital Sinking Fund
 - Fund certain expenses of the Union; \$12,489.64
 - UMSU Endowment Fund
 - Provides grants and awards, funds services for students; \$508,760.01

Compensation (Cont'd)

- UMSU Operating Fund
 - Reports the assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses related to the Union's operations; \$78,017.27
- UMSU Capital Fund
 - Finances renovations and other building improvements; \$88,544.62

Executive Recommended Fees Under Autonomy

Operating Fees

- ♦ Graduate students currently pay a combined \$89 in operating fees to UMSU and the GSA
- ♦ Executive recommends a \$14 net decrease in operating fees through establishing one \$75 operating fee paid to the GSA

Endowment Fund

- ♦ The Executive recommends the creation of a parallel GSA Endowment Fund, with graduate students continuing to pay \$30 per year
- ♦ Endowment Fund to be used mainly for conference grants, ensuring no net loss of travel funding available to graduate students

Capital Fund

- ♦ The UMSU Capital Fund was established to pay for large capital projects, such as University Center
- ♦ The Executive recommends the establishment of a parallel GSA Capital Fund, with graduate students continuing to pay \$6 per year
- ♦ Fund to be used for future capital project on campus, such as a pub or grad house

Current Student Fees

GSA Fees	GSA Operating Fund	\$47.00
	UMSU Fees	
	UMSU Operating Fund	\$42.00
	UMSU Endowment Fund	\$30.00
	Capital Fund	\$6.00
	Capital Sinking Fund	\$1.00
	Faculty Fee Allocation Fund	\$0.76
	Nursing Building Fund	\$11.00
Student Services	UMFM	\$5.00
	Manitoban	\$6.00
	UMREG	\$2.00
	WUSC	\$0.50
	World Wise	\$0.50
Other	Health & Dental Plan	\$226.55
	Grand Total	\$378.31

Recommended Fees With Autonomy

GSA Fees	GSA Operating Fund	\$75.00
	GSA Endowment Fund	\$30.00
	GSA Capital Fund	\$6.00
Student Services	UMFM	\$5.00
	Manitoban	\$6.00
	UMREG	\$2.00
	WUSC	\$0.50
	World Wise	\$0.50
Other	Health & Dental Plan	\$226.55
Grand Total		\$351.55
Net Reduction		\$26.76

Report

From: Bylaws and Policy Committee
To: GSA Annual General Meeting
Date: January 12th, 2006

The Bylaws and Policy Committee met on December 2nd to review the Constitution of the Association. It was a long day but very productive. We approached the Constitution by identifying a number of areas that needed review including the executive, elections, committee composition and updates for autonomy. The committee felt that the executive would need restructuring as a result of hiring an office manager and autonomy.

Consequently, we decided on having four Vice Presidents, specifically Internal, External, Academic and Health Sciences. The descriptions of each can be found in the attachments. We also thought it would be a good idea to increase the responsibility of the Senators and Executive-At-Large. Senators will now have to maintain office hours (starting in May, 2007) and sit on more internal committees while the Exec-At-Large will take over chairing council. As this will increase their workloads we also decided that an increase in their honoraria. The following motions are a result of the meeting:

Motion to approve constitutional amendments to reflect the autonomy agreement

Motion to approve constitutional amendments to take effect immediately with the exception of the executive restructuring which will apply starting with the 2007/2008 executive

Motion to amend Bylaw V(1) effective May 1st, 2007 to provide the following honoraria pending approval of applicable constitutional amendments:

- **\$1800 per year for Senators and Executive-At-Large**
- **\$8400 per year for the President, Vice President (Internal), Vice President (External), and Vice President (Academic)**
- **\$4200 per year for the HSGSA representation to the Association**

Motions which reflect the autonomy agreement are indicated with a double strike through and mainly reflect the removal of UMSU Councilors.

All other amendments, outside of Article V, will be effective immediately

Amendments to Article V will be effective when the new executive takes over.

CONSTITUTION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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As last amended at the December 1, 2005 General Meeting of the Association.

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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.

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)e~~, 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.

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;
 - a. President
 - b. Vice President (Internal)
 - c. Vice President (External)
 - d. Vice President (Academic)
 - e. Vice President (Health Science)
 - f. Senators of the Association
 - g. ~~Representatives of the Association to the Council of the University of Manitoba Students' Union (UMSU).~~
 - h. 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.

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- 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.
- ~~e. 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). The UMSU President, or designate, shall be a non-voting member of council~~
- d. The president or designate of CUPE Local 3909 shall be a non-voting member of council

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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.
- b. Executive Responsibilities to the Committees of the Association:
 - i. The Executive Committee must ensure that a report or its brief is distributed to all Council representatives 5 days prior to the next meeting.
- 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. Internal Development & Review

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- viii. Awards
- ix. Selections
- 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.

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:
 - 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 GSA General Election 10 working days proceeding the last Friday before Reading Week.
 - d. Voting shall take place within one month of the close of nominations as stipulated in the bylaws.
 - e. 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

Deleted: the President, Vice President (Student Affairs), Vice-President (Finance), Vice-President (Health Sciences Campus), UMSU Councillors and Senators

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Deleted: <# > 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. ¶ 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

- i. Any vacant positions prior to November 1st will be filled by a by-election. Council will have the ability to appoint someone in the interim.
 - i. For positions left vacant after the general election, the incoming executive shall make a recommendation to be voted on by council.
 - ii. For position vacated after changeover the sitting executive shall make a recommendation to be voted on by council.
 - j. For positions left vacant after November 1st council shall fill the position for the remainder of the year.
 - i. Recommendations for appointment can come from the executive or from council
 - k. Any executive appointments will require a 2/3 majority vote of council.
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 recommend 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 recommend an experienced Councilor of the Association for the position of Executive-at-Large. As with any executive appointments, a 2/3 majority vote of council is required.
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. 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.
 - b. GSA Senators and UMSU representative shall assume responsibility with the respective bodies in accordance to their bylaws.
 - 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. Represent the Association both internally and externally in adherence to Association policy on all matters.
- c. All members of the Executive shall report to the Council such decisions and activities that effect the general operational policies of the Association.
- d. All members of the Executive shall be responsible for developing policy recommendations pertaining to their portfolio.
- e. The Executive must prepare an annual budget for the Association. This budget must be presented in the May meeting of Council for approval.
- f. The Executive must respect the fiscal constraints in the budget as approved by Council.
- g. 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.
- h. 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 and Vice-Presidents, 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.
- i. 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.

2. The President shall perform the following duties:

- a. Supervise the day-to-day business of the Association.
- b. Have signing authority for the Association.
- c. Be the official spokesperson for the Association
- d. Manage staff relations
- e. Attend all meetings of the Association.
- f. Serve on and chair committees as specified in the Bylaws of the Association.
- g. Sit on all internal committees of the Association.
- h. Serve on the Faculty of Graduate Studies Executive Committee and Council.

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- i. Serve on, or find designates to serve on, committees of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, both ad hoc and permanent.
 - j. Serve on, or find designates for, University committees
 - k. 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 (Internal) regarding recognition by the Student Records Office.
 - l. Be prepared to perform duties of the Vice-President (Internal), Vice-President (External) and Vice-President (Academic) in case of illness, schedule conflict, etc., on an interim basis.
 - 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. 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 Bylaws.
 - o. Perform other tasks as assigned by the GSA Executive or Council.
3. The Vice-President (Internal) shall perform the following duties:
- a. Has signing authority for the association
 - b. Serve on and chair committees as specified in the Bylaws of the Association.
 - c. Oversees internal communication
 - d. Coordinates social events
 - e. Liaises with the Gradzette Editor
 - f. Coordinates orientation activities
 - g. Ensuring the Association's official documents are up to date and available.
 - h. Responsible for production of the handbook
 - i. Act as joint authority and share responsibility with the President for the daily affairs of the Association.
 - j. Perform duties of the President in case of illness, schedule conflict, resignation, etc., on an interim basis.
 - k. 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.
 - l. 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 (Internal) 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 the Bylaws.
 - m. Supervise the keeping of all necessary financial records of the Association, including but not limited to bills, cheque books and monthly accounting.
 - n. Submit the budget prepared by the Executive to Council for its approval.

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Deleted: <# >Serve on the Senate Executive, as an assessor to the Senate, on Senate committees, and as chair of the GSA Senate Caucus.†

Deleted: at least 2 external committees, including the University's Budget Advisory Committee and others as may be necessary.

Deleted: <# >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.†

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- o. 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.
 - p. Submit the financial records of the Association for an annual audit upon notice from Council.
 - q. Ensure financial records are available to any Council member, upon arrangement
 - r. Coordinate the process of awarding of regular and special GSA grants, subject to approval by GSA Council
 - s. Post and keep a minimum of 2 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.
 - t. Perform other tasks as assigned by the GSA Executive or Council.
4. The Vice-President (External) shall perform the following duties:
- a. Serve, or find a designate, as the official representative of the Association in external matters pertaining to the relationship of the Association with other graduate and university student associations.
 - b. Have signing authority for the Association
 - c. Serve on and chair committees as specified in the Bylaws of the Association.
 - d. liaises with coalition partners and external organizations
 - e. Responsible for outreach events
 - f. Perform other tasks as assigned by the GSA Executive or Council.
 - g. acts as a representative at external events
 - h. organizes campaigns
 - i. public relations officer
 - j. liaison with the government and the public at large
 - k. responsible for liaising with provincial and national office of the Canadian Federation of Students
 - l. Act as the local representative on the provincial executive of the Canadian Federation of Students
 - m. monitor related socio-political/economic issues
 - n. Post and keep a minimum of 2 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.
 - o. 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 (External) 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 the Bylaws.
 - p. Perform other tasks as assigned by the GSA Executive or Council.
5. The Vice-President (Academic) shall perform the following duties:
- a. Serve on the Senate Executive, as an assessor to the Senate, on Senate committees, and as chair of the GSA Senate Caucus.

- b. Serve on and chair committees as specified in the Bylaws of the Association.
 - c. Coordinate academic events
 - d. advocates for students on academic issues
 - e. communicates with senate
 - f. 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 (Internal) 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 the Bylaws.
 - g. 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.
 - h. 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.
 - i. 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.
 - j. 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.
 - k. Perform other tasks as assigned by the GSA Executive or Council.
6. 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.
 - 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.

Deleted: <# >Read and become familiar with the Bylaws and Constitution of the Association. ¶

<# >Represent the Association both internally and externally in adherence to Association policy on all matters. ¶

<# >Act as joint authority and share responsibility with the President for non-fiscal decisions in the daily affairs of the Association. ¶

<# >Be prepared to perform duties of the President in case of illness, schedule conflict, resignation, etc., on an interim basis. ¶

<# >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 Gradzete editor to ensure up-to-date contact information and notices are provided in time for publication. ¶

<# >Work to ensure all departments, and UMSU Council, elect GSA Council representatives as stipulated in the GSA Constitution. ¶

<# >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. ¶

<# >Serve as chair of any GSA Committees required by the Bylaws, and attend meetings of the GSA Finance Committee. ¶

<# >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. ¶

<# >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. ¶

<# >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. ¶

<# >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. ¶

<# >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 reason ... [1]

- 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.
7. Each Senator of the Association shall perform the following duties:
- a. Attend all Senate, Student Senate Caucus, and GSA Senate Caucus meetings.
 - b. Serve on at least one Senate Committee.
 - c. Represent the interests of graduate students and the Association to the Senate and on Senate Committees.
 - d. Attend all GSA Executive and Council meetings.
 - e. Work with other GSA Senators to ensure a Senators' Report is written and presented at each GSA Council meeting.
 - f. Serve on at least two internal committees.
 - g. 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.
 - 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 the Bylaws, 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. Each Representative of the Association to the University of Manitoba Students' Union (UMSU) shall perform the following duties:
- 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.

Deleted: ¶

~~<#>The Vice-President (Finance) shall perform the following duties:¶~~
~~<#>Read and become familiar with the Bylaws and Constitution of the Association. ¶~~
~~<#>Supervise the keeping of all necessary financial records of the Association, including but not limited to bills, cheque books and monthly accounting. ¶~~
~~<#>Make payments promptly as funds are available. ¶~~
~~<#>Submit the budget prepared by the Executive to Council for its approval. ¶~~
~~<#>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. ¶~~
~~<#>Submit the financial records of the Association for an annual audit upon notice from Council. ¶~~
~~<#>Make financial records available to any Council member, upon arrangement. ¶~~
~~<#>Serve as chair of the Finance Committee and of sub-committees as designated by the GSA Bylaws. ¶~~
~~<#>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. ¶~~
~~<#>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. ¶~~
~~<#>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. ¶~~
~~<#>Attend all Treasurers meetings held by UMSU. ¶~~
~~<#>Represent the Association both internally and externally in adherence to Association policy on all matters. ¶~~
~~<#>Perform other tasks as assigned by the GSA Executive or Council. ¶~~

Deleted: ¶

~~Read and become familiar with the Bylaws and Constitution of the Association~~

Deleted: ~~one other internal or external committee as designated by the GSA President.~~

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- ~~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.~~
9. The Executive-At-Large shall:
- a. Serve as an advisor to the incoming executive.
 - b. Attend all GSA Executive meetings.
 - c. Act as chair of the council and of general meetings.
 - d. Chair and attend any committee meetings required the Bylaws of the Association
 - e. Perform other duties as assigned by the GSA Executive or Council.
10. 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 (Internal) 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.
11. 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.

Deleted: ~~<# >~~Attend GSA Council meetings as possible and present a written report during these meetings.†

ARTICLE VI — MEETINGS

1. General Meetings:

- a. At least one General Meeting shall be held each year between October 1st and January 31st in the city of Winnipeg Manitoba.
- 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.

Deleted: in October.

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.

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.

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 made available in print and electronic to members of the association two 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.

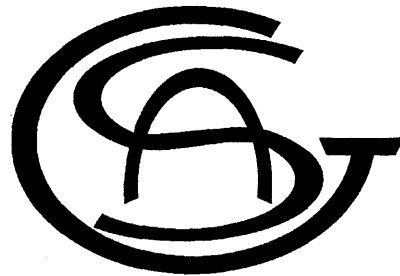
Deleted: must be submitted in writing two (2) weeks in advance of a vote of amendment.

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.
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

Graduate Students' Association
Executive Committee

Annual Report



January 12, 2007

Internal Committees

Bylaws and Policy Committee

The Bylaws and Policy Committee had its first meeting on July 20th. At this meeting the committee discussed how best to approach its work. It was decided to break the bylaws into sections and work through them one at a time, bringing amendments forward as each section is completed. It was decided that a review of the constitution was also necessary, with amendments to be brought forward to the Annual General Meeting. The committee also briefly discussed some new policies and bylaws that may need to be developed during the year and set priorities for the coming months.

The Bylaws and Policy Committee met on October 10th to discuss the elections section of the bylaws. Although there is reference to elections in the constitution, it was decided that the constitution should be discussed on its own.

There was significant discussion on Bylaw VII (4c), and whether or not candidates or campaigners who held elected positions in other student groups should be asked to take a leave of absence from that group during elections. It was felt that the rest of the bylaws deal with any potential conflicts that could arise from an individual sitting in an elected position in another student group and that we should not require them to take a leave.

At the November 15th meeting the Committee continued the review of the elections bylaws in order to clarify several issues: how the CRO may assess the value of campaign materials, who was considered a campaign volunteer and the responsibility that candidates have regarding their volunteers, and the layout of the elections ballot.

At the December 2nd meeting the Committee reviewed the Constitution. The committee felt that the Executive would need restructuring as a result of hiring an office manager and of autonomy. Consequently, the committee drafted recommendations for four Vice Presidents, specifically a Vice

President (Internal), Vice President (External), Vice President (Academic) and Vice President (Health Sciences). The descriptions for each were developed and forwarded to the General Meeting. The Committee also recommended increasing the responsibility of Senators and the Executive-At-Large. The Committee recommends that Senators maintain office hours (starting in May 2007) and sit on more internal committees while the Executive-at-Large will chair Council meetings. As this will increase their workload, an increase to their honoraria has been recommended.

Further discussion is underway within the committee regarding policies on the use of a potential credit card, donations, and ways to ensure the GSA is acknowledging the correct representative from a department to the Council.

Office Committee

The Office Committee met on July 19th to discuss the re-creation of the Office Manager position. This position, which has existed in the past, is unionized through the Canadian Office Professionals Employees Union (COPE) Local 342, and the collective agreement is still valid. The committee worked on revising the collective agreement, suggested changes to the agreement and entered into negotiations with COPE Local 342.

The Office Committee met on October 17 to determine a response to COPE 342's response to our bargaining proposals. The bargaining committee then sat down on October 23 with a representative from COPE 342 to review the proposals. The committee was able to come to an agreement on all of the subjects that they had initially differed on.

The Office Manager position was posted, with the deadline for applications set at November 27. Six applications were received, and the Committee interviewed all candidates.

The Office Committee met during the week of November 27 to conduct interviews with all applicants. Following the interviews, the committee met and decided to hire Meeghan Gavin for the position.

Gavin has years of experience in the student movement, including several years on the executive of the Brandon University Students' Union (one as president) and several years on the Canadian Federation of Students provincial executive (three as chair or co-chair). She has also worked for other non-profit organizations where she has coordinated communications, events and general responsibilities. The committee is confident that she will be an excellent office manager.

Gavin began work in the beginning of January.

Finance Committee

Audit

The auditors have reviewed our files, all information needed has been provided to them, and the GSA received the finished auditor's report in December. No major concerns were raised by the auditors.

Budget

The Executive Committee presented a budget to Council in May for approval, and a revised budget was presented to Council, by the Finance Committee, for approval at its November council meeting. The November Finance Committee meeting was advertised as an open meeting, inviting non-members to attend and to provide input for the committee on budget issues. Attached to this report are the amended budget and the current budget actuals.

Finance Policy Guide

The Finance Committee has begun a review of the Finance Policy Manual. So far, four areas have been identified for new policy: ethical purchasing, local purchasing, retained earnings and credit card use.

The committee proposed amendments to the existing Special Projects Grants policy to eliminate confusing and redundant or unnecessary clauses. Additionally, the committee recommended dropping the requirement for all receipts to be provided in applications for these grants, and requires a final budget instead. The committee felt that requiring copies of receipts was both unreasonable and unnecessary. These

amendments were subsequently approved by council.

The Finance Committee has begun to review the guidelines for Conference Grants and Departmental Grants and anticipated proposing changes before the end of the term.

Donations

In August the GSA made donations to the Youth Activist Retreat, The International Centre for Students and the Rainbow Pride Mosaic. In December donations were made to icePERG and PlayCare.

Ethics Committee

The Ethics Committee met in October to strike a sub-committee to perform the semi-annual Executive Performance Review. This review was presented to the GSA Council at its December meeting.

Awards Committee

The Awards Committee was divided into two sub-committees: a PhD and Master's subcommittee. The committees reviewed the applications for each award and recommended a first and second candidate for each award. Recommendations were forwarded to the GSA Council at the December meeting.

HSGSA

Canadian Student Health

Research Forum – June 6th to 8th

From June 6th through June 8th the annual Canadian Student Health Research Forum was held in the Brodie Centre. Throughout the event there were in total three poster competitions, and a series of guest lecturers discussing a range of health related topics. Two students from the area of HIV-1 research from The University of Manitoba won gold metal awards during the forum for their poster presentations.

The HSGSA also coordinated the annual boat cruise, which was well attended by local students and conference participants.

The Research Forum ran very smoothly, and was really well attended by both

Manitoba and out of province graduate students.

HSGSA Orientation

The HSGSA planned a Graduate orientation on September 22nd, in the Buhler Atrium. Three speakers discussed services available to graduate students, and the event featured carnival style games, food and beverages, and prizes.

St. Boniface/Bannatyne Transportation

In previous years the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, Dr. Ed Kroeger has donated \$1000 towards bus tickets for students with classes at Bannatyne. Because of budget delays, students were unable to receive tickets until November/December. In addition, due to the growing amount of students requiring the service, more money is needed. To alleviate these set-backs, the HSGSA has purchased the bus tickets for the first semester, and the Dean has purchased the tickets for the second semester.

HSGSA Council

A by-election was held in the fall for the positions of VP Communications and VP Academic.

The Council was involved in organizing the Distinguished Visiting Speakers forum for the spring.

Student Services

Department Grants

Department grants are available to departmental graduate students' associations whose members are represented on the GSA Council. Department grants are allocated in two disbursements, one in December, the second in May. Qualification for department grants is based on regular attendance at Council, participation in an internal GSA Committee, and completed applications which are due November 1st and April 1st.

Most department applicants met their council and internal committee requirements

and submitted their applications on time and received their December disbursements.

Special Project Grants

Special project grants are available for projects, events or items which could benefit the graduate student population. Past projects have included guest speakers, professional development workshops, and graduate publications. Applications are also available online and at the GSA office, and grants are disbursed three times per year, after the following application deadlines: November 17th, March 17th and July 17th.

Four Special Project Grant applications were received for the Summer (FY2006) disbursement of the GSA Special Project Grants. These included applicants from students from Agribusiness /Agricultural Economics and from the Natural Resources Institute who were hosting guest lectures, students from Biosystems Engineering who held student-industry workshops, and from the Canadian Coalition of Graduate Employee Unions to support their second annual conference, which was co-hosted by the GSA and CUPE Local 3909.

Two Special Project Grant applications were received for the winter term. The Canadian Association of Planning Students requested funding towards the cost of hosting the Canadian Association of Planning Students national conference. The conference will take place at the Winnipeg Art Gallery, and is concentrated on two themes, 'Urban Aboriginal Planning' and 'Arts & Culture Planning.' The second request was from the Manitoba Anthropology Students Association to assist them in hosting this year's APALA student conference. The conference is being held at the University of Manitoba in January of 2007.

Conference Grants

Conference grants are available for graduate students attending or presenting at conferences. Applications are available online and at the GSA office, and grants are be disbursed three times per year, after the following application deadlines: November 17th, March 17 and July 17.

Upon reviewing the summer conference grant applications the Finance committee recommended 80 conference grants for approval, out of 104 applicants, totaling \$13,026.77.

The finance committee considered fifty-three conference grant requests from the winter term, and from these recommended thirty-eight for approval, totaling \$5,937.29. This year's budget for conference grants is \$29,000, of which \$13,785.63 was disbursed in August.

ISE Award

The GSA administers the Innovation, Stewardship, and Excellence (ISE) awards. These are one-time awards available to support students without external funding and who have demonstrated excellence in many areas of student life, innovation in their research, and a strong commitment to their community. Applications and award guidelines were made available in the fall on the GSA website, in the GSA office, in the Faculty of Graduate Studies, and through departmental administrative assistants.

The ISE award recipients have been decided and the GSA is currently waiting to confirm that the recipients do not receive outside grants before announcing the recipients' name.

ISIC Cards

The International Student Identity Card (ISIC) is a free discount card available to all full-time members of the Canadian Federation of Students. The card provides 25% off greyhound bus travel, 35% off Via Rail and up to 40% off air travel when booked with Travel CUTS. The GSA organized ISIC drives in September. Additionally, ISIC's are available in the GSA office.

Student Savers Discount Cards

Student Saver Cards allow all students (full-time or part-time) to access retail discounts from coast to coast. This year there are over 150 discounts throughout the province. A listing of student Saver discounts is available in the back section of the GSA handbook.

Handbooks

For the two years the GSA has been providing graduate students with a student handbook. Inside students can find information on the GSA, UMSU, CFS and the U of M. The colorful calendar section helps students stay organized and informed. The GSA is a member of the common handbook service offered by the Canadian Federation of Students, which allows member locals to purchase handbooks at a reduced rate due to the purchasing power of Federation members.

Health Care Plan

Each year, the cost of prescription drugs and basic health and dental services, not covered by provincial health plans, take increasingly larger portions out of the limited budgets of many students. To address this problem, the Canadian Federation of Students-Services created the National Student Health Network. Established in 1985, the Federation's health, dental and vision plan assists students' associations with the design, negotiation, promotion, and administration of campus health and dental plans. GSA members currently pay \$226.55 for a health and dental plan through the National Student Health Network.

Homes4students.ca

Homes4students.ca is a national online housing database owned and operated by the Federation. With vacancy rates in many Canadian cities and towns being at an all-time low, it is difficult for many students to find affordable accommodation. By bringing listings for many regions together in one place, homes4students.ca enables students to search for housing anywhere in the country quickly and efficiently.

Searching the site is free and students can search by city, type of accommodation, number of bedrooms and date available. Particular features such as wheelchair accessibility, laundry facilities, and parking can also be identified. In addition, information about tenants' rights and housing advocacy associations in each province can be found on the site.

The GSA is pursuing the addition of this service to our website.

Gradzette

To keep graduate students informed of important graduate-student-related events and developments, the GSA produces a news magazine, which is also intended to serve as a forum for graduate students to express their views and opinions on important themes. The Gradzette is free to all graduate students. The Gradzette has published twice this academic year and will publish two more issues.

Student Activities

GSA BBQ

The GSA held a BBQ on August 23. This BBQ was a way of reaching out our members who were on campus this summer.

Orientation Events

September 11th – Rights as a Student Discussion Panel 12:00 – 2:00

This event featured guest speakers from Student Advocacy, the Faculty of Graduate Studies, CUPE Local 3909 and the Graduate Students' Association, covering issues of Academic Integrity, Student/Advisor Relationships, Student Worker Rights and Student Advocacy. Pizza was available for free.

September 13th – Student Services Fair 12:00 – 3:00

Tables were set up from various organizations that provide services to graduate students. This included TravelCuts, CFS, the international Center for Students and the GSA.

September 15th – Commercialisation/Intellectual Property Discussion and Movie Professor Stephane McLauchlan spoke about his, and his graduate student's, experience in attempting to have their research video *Seeds of Change* release. The video's delay raised questions of the intellectual property rights of students and faculty on campus, and the influence of private funding on university decisions. Meghan Gallant spoke about increasing

commercialization of research in Canada, and the potential impact of these changes for student researchers. The presentations were followed by a screening of "Seeds of Change" with free popcorn.

September 15th – GSA Meet and Greet Social

The GSA held a meet and greet, with free pizza and alcoholic beverages for sale. The event was very well attended.

GSA Seminar Series

Last term the GSA launched a monthly Seminar Series which has been well received. The Speaker Series has been held on the last Friday of each month, beginning at 4:30 pm. Speakers come from a variety of departments and it makes for an interesting evening. The series will continue this term. Free food and non-alcoholic drinks are available after the presentations, with alcoholic beverages available for sale.

GSA Radio Show

The GSA now hosted a weekly radio show. The show aired at 6:00pm on Wednesday at 101.5 UMFM.

Boreal Ecology Night

There was a Boreal Ecology night on November 22nd at 7:00pm in Marshall McLuhan Hall, University Centre. The theme of the event was "How rural communities are impacted by large-scale natural resource industries in the boreal." It was well attended and the talks were pretty interesting.

Campaigns

Day of Action – February 7, 2007

Through the 1990s, the Federal Government cut billions of dollars from transfers to the provinces for postsecondary education. In addition to a loss of funds for universities and colleges, this resulted in massive hikes in tuition fees; average tuition fees in Canada have nearly tripled in the last 15 years. While Manitoba has been a leader in encouraging access to post secondary education by freezing tuition fees and further reducing them by 10% in 2000, many cracks have appeared in the tuition fee freeze. Differential fees for international students

have been allowed to skyrocket, tuition fees in professional programs have been hiked and ancillary fees have been introduced for all students.

February 7, 2007 was declared a national Day of Action at the May National General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students, and organising has been underway ever since to promote awareness of the need for lower fees and increased funding, and to encourage students and the larger community to attend the Day of Action.

The Graduate Students' Association has been working with the University of Manitoba Students' Union through a joint Day of Action Planning group. The group has focused on mobilising efforts and preparing campaign materials, including buttons and scarves that indicate the wearer's intent to attend the Day of Action.

The Graduate Students' Association has also been participating in a city-wide planning group that has been coordinating logistics for the day.

With a minority federal government and the possibility of both federal and provincial elections in the near future, the need to send a clear message to the government is evident.

Freeze Means Freeze: Ancillary Fees and Differential Fee Increases

In the spring of 2005, Universities in Manitoba circumvented the tuition fee freeze by imposing Ancillary Fees on students. These fees, while named as though to fund specific services, were collected centrally and are no different than tuition fees. The University of Manitoba proposed an increase in fees of \$465 although these were reduced to \$150 after the Province of Manitoba provided a grant to the University. This grant was in response to students' work in highlighting the issue.

This spring, the University of Manitoba again increased ancillary fees in their budget. Further, differential fees for international undergraduate students were hiked to

180%. The Graduate Students' Association, with the University of Manitoba Students' Union, organized to ensure students were aware that the increases were forthcoming, that students attended the meeting to have their voices heard, and spoke against the fee increases at the meeting. Concerns regarding the process through which the budget was derived were also raised. Hundreds of students attended the meeting and had a significant impact on the Board discussion.

Both the ancillary fee and differential fee increases were approved by the Board. Similar increases occurred at the Collège universitaire de St Boniface and the University of Winnipeg. At Brandon University, Ancillary Fee increases were approved while the proposal to increase differential fees was rejected.

A petition and letter-writing drive were organized in response to these increases as well as an action on June 26, the day the University of Winnipeg Board of Regents were to vote on fee increases. Dozens of students rallied at the provincial legislature, left pledge forms for Members of the Legislative Assembly to sign expressing their commitment to the tuition fee freeze, and marched to the University of Winnipeg in time to greet regents at their Board meeting.

These ancillary fee and differential fee increases have been a focus at all provincial lobby meeting and ongoing work on this issue has been incorporated in planning for the Day of Action on February 7, 2007.

"Students Say..." Student Consultations

The provincial component of the Canadian Federation of Students coordinated consultations with students throughout the month of November. Topics of fee levels, operating and capital funding for universities, student assistance, and funding for graduate students were the focus of ballot-style surveys.

The Graduate Students' Association coordinated lunch-hour sessions through the week of November 13-17, with the sessions

on November 14 being held on the Bannatyne and St Boniface Campus. Many graduate students filled out the surveys, which have been submitted in order to develop a provincial report and campaign materials.

Differential Tuition Fees for International Graduate Students

Effective September 2006, international graduate students' fees are double those of domestic students. Through the process of implementing these fees, the Graduate Students' Association has raised concerns about the impact these increased fees will have in the ability of international graduate students to access post secondary education at the University of Manitoba.

Scholarships were created as a result of these fee increases, in an attempt to partly offset the impact of the increases.

2006 saw a small reduction in the number of graduate students enrolled at the University of Manitoba, after years of significant increases. Further, international graduate students have expressed difficulty in accessing the scholarships that should be available to them.

The Graduate Students' Association has been working to highlight the impact of these fee increases and has raised concern about changes proposed to the terms of reference to the scholarship through the University Senate.

Continuing Fees

Continuing fees refer to the reduced fees paid by graduate students in the later years of their program, once course work is complete and a student moves into the research and writing stages of their degree.

Continuing fees were common across Canada until the 1990s when Ontario universities began moving away from this system, toward fee models where full fees were paid every year. This resulted in significant increases to the costs of a graduate degree; in some cases the cost of a 5-year PhD tripled.

The University of Manitoba had initiated a review of the continuing fee structure in 2005 and the GSA has been closely following developments in this area. A plebiscite asking graduate students if they supported keeping a continuing fee structure was held in conjunction with the 2006 general election. Nearly 4 out of 5 graduate students that voted were in favour of keeping continuing fees.

A letter was sent to various interested parties, announcing the results of the plebiscite held last March. A response was recently received from the Minister of Advanced Education, in which she indicated she was aware that a fee restructuring was under discussion, but was not sure what the recommendation would be. She stated that she was glad to know student opinion on the matter, and we will continue to follow up with her and other members of the provincial government.

The letter was also sent to Dave Morphy, chair of the fee restructuring committee. He has sent a response to the letter which indicates that a report has been forwarded to the Vice President (Academic), but does not specify the contents of the report. In addition, last December Dr Morphy had committed to addressing concerns identified with the process undertaken by the committee. We have not received any indication that this has happened yet.

A FIPPA request has been filed for any documents relating to fee restructuring but did not yield much of use.

After an unrelated meeting, an update on the review of continuing fees was requested from Dr. Morphy. Dr Morphy said that the report is still being drafted and that it will include research and a few different options for fee structure, including maintaining the status quo. Consultations will follow to determine which option will be implemented.

This is a victory in our ability to have a full public discussion on graduate fees. The GSA will continue to research the implications of various fee models in an effort to prepare for these discussions. The GSA produced a pamphlet on continuing fees that we will continue to circulate, and

we will continue to raise this issues as often as possible.

Whistle Blowers

In recent years, a number of prominent Canadian university researchers have been subjected to public smear campaigns, reprisals, and academic censorship as a result of their refusal to remain silent about research findings that conflicted with the interests of their corporate sponsors or research institution administrators. Dr. David Healy, Dr. Nancy Oliveri, Dr. David Noble and Dr. Ann Clark are researchers who have boldly resisted institutional pressure to suppress their research findings or to curb their analysis in order to protect private donations. The Whistle Blowers campaign supports the protection of academic freedom. The GSA has been circulating campaign materials – including a poster on industry partnerships – and educating members on their academic rights and the support that is available to them.

Federal Funding

The Federal Government cut billions of dollars in transfer payments to the provinces through the 1990s, at the same time combining dedicated programs funding into one Health and Social Transfer to allow provinces the 'flexibility' of determining which programs to cut. Post secondary education was significantly affected by these cuts; operating budgets for universities and colleges were dramatically reduced and tuition fees nearly tripled in the 15 years that followed.

Although there has been some reinvestment, the level of funding for post secondary education remains below that of the early 1990s. With the creation of the Canada Health Transfer, post secondary education no longer competes for the same transfer payment as health care. However, many social services remain lumped under the same transfer. The campaign for a dedicated federal transfer payment seeks to establish a transfer payment to the provinces solely for post secondary education, governed by a Post Secondary Education Act that would ensure national standards for post secondary education. The GSA has distributed information on this

issues and continues to raise it in lobby meetings.

Students' Unions' Right to Organise

After the administration at the University of Winnipeg proposed that membership fee payment to the University of Winnipeg Students' Association, Local 8 of the Canadian Federation of Students, become voluntary, students in Manitoba and across Canada sent letters against voluntary membership in the students union. In other jurisdictions where this has been enforced it has reduced students' unions to social clubs who are forced to spend the majority of their time on membership drives rather than on providing representation and services to their members.

While the University of Winnipeg decided not to follow through on the proposal this spring, students have been reminded of how little protection is afforded to their right to organize. A campaign has been developed highlighting the need for legislation protecting students' unions' right to exist in Manitoba. The GSA has raised this issue in provincial lobby meetings, has sent letters of support to the University of Winnipeg Students' Association, and has circulated fact sheets on the issue.

Take Back the Night

On September 21 members of the GSA participated in the Annual Take Back the Night march to end violence against women. The march began at the North End Women's Resource Centre and participants marched through Winnipeg's North End before listening to presentations and speeches at the Red Road Lodge. The event was very successful, with over dozens of women and children participating in the event.

No Means No

The No Means No campaign is an awareness campaign about date rape and the use of date rape drugs. It is estimated that 1 in 6 Canadian women will be the victims of sexual assault in their life time. Date rape drugs have been found in Manitoba bars and on university and college campuses. The GSA has launched the No

Means No campaign on campus; providing informational materials, posters, stickers and buttons. Additionally, they have raised safety concerns on a variety of university committees, pushing for further measures to ensure the safety of everyone on campus.

Millennium Scholarship Foundation

Announced in the 1998 education budget, the Millennium Scholarship Foundation was a belated acknowledgement by the federal government of the student debt crisis in Canada. In the face of average debt levels of \$25,000 the Millennium Scholarship Foundation was to be the centrepiece of the federal government's student debt reduction strategy. At the time of its introduction, Finance Minister Paul Martin declared in the House of Commons that the Foundation would help those in greatest need and reduce average student debt by \$12,000. However, the Foundation was implemented without consultation with provincial governments and much of the funding has been misused. Additionally, the number of students the scholarships were supposed to aid has been drastically reduced. The auditor general has raised concerns over the Foundation's management and finances. The GSA has distributed fact sheets on the issue and has continued to lobby the federal government to eliminate the Millennium Scholarship Foundation and replace it with needs-based grants.

Income Contingent Loan Repayment Schemes

Graduates with lower levels of income would repay their loans over a longer period of time, while those in high-paying jobs could repay their loans quickly and pay less interest. Those who could afford to pay their tuition fees up front would avoid the high interest rate payment after graduation, and end up paying less for post-secondary education. ICLR's negatively affect lower-socio economic groups including women who often earn less than men and leave the workforce due to pregnancy. The GSA has distributed fact sheets about ICLR's to members. ICLR's are not currently the policy of the federal or provincial governments, however both have raised ICLR's in lobby meetings in the past. The GSA continues to

lobby both levels of government about the negative effects of ICLR's.

Registered Education Saving Plans

(RESP) are investment accounts that allow contributors to avoid taxes on post-secondary education savings. The foregone tax revenue is tantamount to a grant payable to RESP investors. This indirect grant is only useful to individuals or families wealthy enough to set aside thousands of dollars each year. Since 1998, the Government of Canada has been paying 20% of the first \$2,000 in contributions made into an RESP each year on behalf of an eligible beneficiary. This grant is called a Canada Education Savings Grant (CESG). If every eligible parent participated in the CESG program and invested the maximum \$2,000 per year, the federal government would spend \$2.9 billion every year. The projected federal expenditure for a needs-based grants program, which could replace the Canada Student Loan Program, is between \$1.8 and \$3 billion annually. Such a program would provide non-repayable grants to post-secondary students. The GSA has distributed fact sheets on the issue and has continued to lobby the federal government to eliminate RESP's and replace it with needs-based grants.

Government Relations

Lobby Meeting with Kerri Irvin-Ross – May 17

Representatives of the GSA met with Kerri Irvin-Ross, MLA for Fort Garry, along with representatives from UMSU, to discuss expectations around fee proposals at the University of Manitoba. Her response was very positive, and she committed to follow up with members of government.

Advisory Committee of the International Student Off-Campus Work Permit Program – June 1

A representative from Citizenship and Immigration Canada presented an overview of the program to Committee members and

representatives from each of the student organizations in the province. The requirement that a student's advisor sign off on their academic standing was questioned and the staff from the International Centre for Students at the University of Manitoba responded that this was a way to indicate that a student was in good standing, and refusal to sign would have to be substantiated. However, graduate students undergo annual reviews and these could be used to indicate academic standing. A follow-up meeting is being scheduled between representatives from the ICS, UMSU and the GSA to discuss this and other aspects of the implementation of the program at the University of Manitoba.

Canadian Federation of Students Lobby Meetings: October 2-4

The Canadian Federation of Students coordinated a series of lobby meetings with Members of Parliament and Senators on parliament hill from October 2-4. Over 50 students from across the country met with nearly 100 MPs and Senators during those three days. Lobby meetings focused on the need for a dedicated federal transfer for post-secondary education, the winding down of the Millenium Scholarship Foundation into a national system of needs-based grants, and the Conservative's cuts to the Summer Career Placement Program. Meetings with Senators focused on bill C-2, the Federal Accountability Act, and the Federation's proposals to include whistleblower protection for university researchers in the Act.

Representatives from the GSA met with MPs Steven Fletcher (Charleswood-St James-Assiniboia), Anita Neville (Winnipeg South Centre), Joy Smith (Kildonan-St Paul), and Rod Bruinooge (Winnipeg South). There was a reasonable amount of support for a dedicated transfer payment among the Conservative MPs, and frustration about the funding cuts among the Liberal MPs.

NDP Caucus: October 16

The provincial component of the Canadian Federation of Students made a presentation to the NDP Caucus. A full brief on the state of post-secondary education in Manitoba, with recommended actions was developed. The presentation covered tuition fees and

grants, operating funding, capital funding, federal transfer payments, graduate student funding and students' unions' right to organize and was well received by caucus members.

Manitoba Student Aid

The GSA attended a meeting with Manitoba Student Aid, along with student and administrators from most of the publicly funded post secondary institutions in Manitoba. A lot of the discussion focused on why students are opting for student lines of credit from banks. Thoughts surrounding causes include a lack of information available to new students, the ease of just going to a bank, quick access to money, more flexible pay back options, potentially lower interest rates and bad experiences with student aid.

Issues that are of particular concern to graduate students included the length of time that a student should remain in interest free status will still attending post secondary education. There was support around the table for such an idea, as long as students were progressing in their studies; however no commitment for such an initiative was forth coming. There was also a discussion surrounding the 'pre-study' period for graduate students. Apparently, if we are full time students we have no pre-study period between years, thus if we're applying for a student loan we have no pre-study contribution. However, this is not clear in the language of the forms and it was suggested that language regarding graduate students applications be created, as there are little guidelines available to date.

Lobby meeting: Hugh McFadyn (Leader of the Opposition):

October 18

Representatives of Locals of the Canadian Federation of Students met with Hugh McFadyn, Leader of the Opposition in the Manitoba Legislature. In September, McFadyn stated that if the Conservative Party formed government in the next provincial election they would not immediately get rid of the tuition fee freeze. McFadyn clarified this statement to say that his party would maintain the tuition freeze while reviewing options on fee policies. This

was far from a commitment to uphold the freeze, but McFadyen welcomed input from the Canadian Federation of Students for policy development.

Provincial Speech from the Throne: November 15

The Throne Speech marks the beginning of a new legislative session and is an opportunity for the sitting government to announce their priorities for the session. The provincial government announced their intention to introduce an initiative that would see students who stay in Manitoba after graduating university receive a reimbursement of up to 60% of their tuition fees. Although details were unclear at the time of the speech, it has since been suggested that this will likely be implemented as a tax credit of up to 10% of tuition fees per year. The rebate will apply to any recent student living in the province, whether they attended a post secondary institution in Manitoba or not.

While this is an important recognition of the fact that the cost of post secondary education leaves many graduates in difficult financial positions, it is clearly a provincial retention strategy and not an initiative to improve access to post secondary education. It is interesting to note that medical students are eligible for grants that cover the cost of their tuition up front if they agree to practice in rural Manitoba for two years after graduation. Should a graduate decide not meet these criteria, the grant must be repaid. While this type of a system may be unfeasible on a large enough scale to encompass most students, it could be adapted in a way to address both accessibility and retention.

Presentation to COPSE for University of Manitoba Budget Estimates: October 19

The provincial Council on Post-Secondary Education undertakes budget consultations each year to find out the needs of Universities in advance of the provincial budget. COPSE came to the University of Manitoba and representatives of UMSU and the GSA presented on student priorities. The presentation focused on the need for education to remain accessible though low

fees, the need for increased funding for operations and capital costs, and the need for increased funding for graduate students.

Council on Post-Secondary Education Staff

May 19

Representatives from UMSU, the University of Winnipeg Students' Association, l'Association etudiante du College universitaire de Saint-Boniface, Brandon University Students' Union, the Red River College Student Association, CFS-MB and the GSA met with representatives of the Council on Post-Secondary Education to discuss fee increases seen or anticipated at each institution. At this meeting, an update was provided to COPSE on what was happening at each institution. The representatives we met with assured us that the government would come down on the side of access. Clearly, though, their definition seems not to have agreed with ours.

August 29

This was students' first meeting with the new secretary to the Council, Sid Rogers, and was used as an introductory meeting. Rogers was generally supportive of student issues, and committed to looking into right to organize legislation.

October 20

At this meeting, Sid Rogers, Secretary to the Council, and Dan Smith, Policy Analyst, provided us with information on the implementation of summary budgeting that will require more frequent reporting from the Universities to the province. Discussions continued regarding students' unions' right to organize legislation and the implementation of working groups to focus on issues in post-secondary education in Manitoba.

Council on Post Secondary Education: September 8

The provincial component of the Canadian Federation of Students set up a presentation with COPSE's full Council. The presentation focused on the importance of accessibility and funding for post secondary education, as well as reviewing the current state of post

secondary education in Manitoba and the need for right to organise legislation. The presentation was very well received by Council members.

Canadian Federation of Students

CFS Preparation Meeting – May 17

Our delegates to the CFS national meeting met and discussed the resolutions being addressed at the CFS national annual general meeting. Members of the provincial executive and federation staff advised first-time delegates of the structure of the meeting and brief them on a variety of issues facing post secondary education, current campaigns and policies, history of the student movement and Robert's rules of order.

CFS National Meeting – May 24-28

This meeting sets the budget, policies, campaigns, services, and the general direction of the CFS for the next six months. Of the approximately 250 delegates to the meeting, representing the 85 member locals of the CFS, most were members of the executive at their students' union, while some were staff. Most locals were represented by multi-person delegations composed of two and six members.

The delegates debated a wide range of motions including policy motions on whistle blower protection, the privatization of our public institutions, motions to lobby provincial governments to include housing provided by education institutions in legislations governing tenant-landlord legislation, and to lobby MacLean's magazine to stop its biased rankings of Canadian Universities.

In addition, to participating in the Annual General Meeting delegates from the GSA also participated in the National Graduate Caucus (NGC) meetings. Chummer Farina, the Executive Director of the Expert Panel on Commercialization, spoke to NGC members at a lunch time session, providing an overview of the work of the panel.

Evidently, the panel was focused on how to encourage commercialization as quickly as possible with no consideration of the negative implications of this process. Deceased scholarly communication resulting from confidential research, lack of access to privatized research findings, the lack of focus on basic research, slowed research progress by restrictions from patents and intellectual property protection, and the lack of significant returns promised by commercialization were not considered, and the complete lack of consultation with students to date was not seen as a concern.

Overall, delegates expressed that the session was useful as an eye-opener on the climate of unchallenged and unfettered commercialization that currently exists. Ensuring that students are protected, and that the negative aspects of commercialization are at very least considered is no small task.

A later meeting of the NGC saw the executive report presented, discussion around the current status and implementation of NGC campaigns and a roundtable on local issues. The NGC executive report and campaign documents are available in the GSA office for those that are interested.

If you would like more information on the CFS National AGM please stop by the GSA office to receive a copy of the full report.

CFS Provincial Executive

September 22

The Provincial Executive discussed ongoing work around municipal elections, government relations, campaigns, services and solidarity work and heard reports from each local. The CFS has been involved with organizing the Winnipeg Community Round Table, and committed to supporting a Fair Trade Conference in November. A number of government relations meetings were set up for the following weeks and planning for these was discussed.

October 20

The provincial executive reviewed reports from the at-large members and local

representatives of the provincial executive and updates were provided on ongoing campaigns, government relations, events and solidarity work. The 'Students Say...' consultations were discussed in detail, as was organizing for the Day of Action in February.

International Students' Gathering: November 12

The provincial component of the Canadian Federation of Students organized a gathering of international students on Sunday, November 12. International students face a number of unique concerns compared to their domestic counterparts, including higher fees, restricted ability to work off campus, and a requirement to pay into basic health coverage, for example. The intent of the day was to bring students together to discuss these issues and others, and workshops were held on international students' issues, building campaigns, and ideas for future work.

Winnipeg Day of Action Planning Committee: November 13, 29

A planning committee has been struck to get ready for the February 7 Day of Action, consisting of two representatives from each Local of the Canadian Federation of Students in Winnipeg (Local 8: University of Winnipeg Students' Association, Local 38: l'Association étudiante du Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface, Local 96: University of Manitoba Graduate Students' Association and Local 103: University of Manitoba Students' Union) and the at-large members of the CFS Provincial Executive. The Committee has met twice to begin planning the logistics of the day, coalition work, and to hear report-backs from each Local's work at their campus. A separate committee has been established in Brandon by Local 37 Brandon University Students' Union.

The rally on February 7 will be held at the legislature, details as to time are being finalized. We will be organizing buses to shuttle from the University of Manitoba to the Legislature.

Autonomy

Graduate students have been striving for autonomy from UMSU ever since they were incorporated into the organisation in 1966. Five referenda have been held on the topic, with the most recent, in 2000, seeing 92% of graduate students support autonomy. To date, UMSU and the GSA had not been able to reach a mutually-agreeable settlement.

Negotiations around autonomy began in the 2005-2006 academic year and when a final agreement was not reached by the end of the year, despite significant progress, UMSU agreed to a partial transfer of graduate students' fees to the GSA for the 2006-2007 year.

These discussions continued in the summer and fall of 2006, and a draft agreement was finally reached. While lawyers for both parties are still finalising the wording of the last sections, both UMSU and the GSA are comfortable with the content of the agreement as it stands. The UMSU Council has approved the necessary financial aspects of the agreement and the details of the agreement and necessary changes will be presented to the GSA Annual General Meeting.

Board of Senior Sticks

The Board of Senior Sticks meets monthly and is an opportunity for the presidents of faculty councils to meet and discuss issues of common concern. Many of these meetings have been fora for the promotions of faculty events, although lengthy discussions around endowment funds – structure and amounts of contributions in particular – have been had.

Internal University Committees

University of Manitoba Annual General Meeting: September 19

The University of Manitoba held their Annual General Meeting at the Bannatyne campus on September 19. The President and each Vice President highlighted development in each of their portfolios over the last year. Minister of

Advanced Education, Diane McGifford, also gave a presentation.

Board of Governors

May 23

At this meeting, the University's budget was brought forward for approval by the Board. In the meeting documents that Board members received five days before the meeting, three budget models were outlined, while one more (budget model 4) was discussed in greater detail and was recommended for acceptance.

At the meeting, a motion was moved immediately to switch to budget model 3. This amendment was proposed at the beginning of question period and, rather than entertain questions and discussion on the amendment separately from the main motion, question period dealt with both the budget itself and the motion to amend. Student members of the Board did not support the budget.

Flaws in the process were highlighted, including the removal of the UMSU president from the last Budget Advisory Committee, the removal of the student representative on the Finance Committee, and the extreme secrecy surrounding the budget process that prevents members of the Budget Advisory Committee from being able to take documents out of the meetings to properly analyze them, or provide any alternatives.

Several amendments to the budget to reduce the fees were suggested, but all were defeated. A student member of the Board tried to defer her speaking rights to international students who had waited hours in hopes of speaking, but the chair ruled against this and a challenge to the chair was defeated.

After hours of discussion, the budget passed. As a result, all students will see a \$100 flat fee increase in September 2006, and differential fees for international undergraduate students will increase to 180%. Although some new funds will be allocated to bursaries for international students, the amount is low compared to this massive increase.

It was extremely reassuring to see and hear students as we arrived at the meeting, and during the meeting. Thanks to all who came

out, it definitely made an impression on Board members.

September 19

The Board approved several new awards, as well as sites for the Dafoe Library Annex, Sport and Active Living Precinct, and Indoor Soccer Complex. Policies on temporary absences for work and research/study leaves for academic staff excluded from bargaining units were also approved.

November 21

This meeting began with a presentation from UMSU and the GSA, highlighting what each organization does including how we're structured, services provided, representation, and our work through the Canadian Federation of Students. The presentation also mentioned our work towards GSA autonomy. The presentation was well-received by Board members.

Board of Governors Executive Committee

The Board of Governors Executive Committee meets between Board of Governors meetings for general 'housekeeping' purposes: generally staff appointments. These meetings are held in closed session.

Student Senate Caucus Meetings

The Student Senate Caucus, made up of all student senators, meets on the Monday before each Wednesday Senate meeting to discuss the agenda from a student perspective.

Senate

May 17, 2006

The Senate elected representatives for the Senate Executive Committee. Tommy from Science and Suresh Neethirajan from the GSA were elected to the Senate Executive Committee. The Senate Executive Committee meets 2 weeks ahead of Senate meetings to discuss and approve the upcoming agenda.

The Senate board approved honorary degrees and 2853 student candidates (graduands) for May 2006 convocation.

June 28, 2006

Several curriculum and course changes were approved. One of the more interesting changes involved a proposal from the Asper School of Business, introducing co-op program. It was confirmed that international students are also eligible for this program, and the co-op working hours off campus are considered as course elements, and are not accounted to the permitted off campus working hours for international students.

A point of debate was why international students get less entrance awards than domestic students. The administration responded that these awards come from different pools of money, and are administered separately.

September 6, 2006

Senate Committees requiring students to serve on them, as well as current vacant positions on such Committees, were discussed. Members of the Student Senate Caucus had volunteered to serve in some of the different Committees. Vacancies in the remaining Senate Committees, not taken up by Caucus members, were to be advertised to the student populace.

The University of Manitoba (U of M) announced its withdrawal from the McLean's survey. This is because U of M considers McLean's ranking methodology inadequate. In addition, it costs the University quite a huge amount of money and time to compile all the numerous information required by McLean to publish their magazine. Therefore, the University does not consider it worthwhile to invest that much in a survey that does not represent the true image of the University. Currently, there are a total of 22 Canadian Universities that have pulled out of the McLean survey for similar reasons. Ten out of these 22 Universities are Medical Doctoral schools while the other 12 are classified under Comprehensive category.

October 4, 2006

Senate Board approved honorary degrees, diplomas and candidates (graduands) for October 2006 convocation. Department of Botany, Zoology and Introductory biology will be merged to form a new department of biological sciences, effective July 1, 2007. Senate Board also approved the students senators to sit on the various senate sub-committees.

Nov. 1, 2006

Staff from the Learning Technology Centre of the U of M gave a presentation on "The Virtual Learning Commons". Basically, the Virtual Learning Commons is a website that combines student support resources with tools designed to help students achieve academic success within a social networking environment. It provides students, faculty, and staff a unique opportunity to connect with each other, and form social communities of practice. The Virtual Learning Commons contains a wide range of learning resources for both undergraduate and graduate students. Resources for the graduate student community could be found under the section headings titled: graduate life cycle, resources, and services. Please visit the website below to see what is actually going on in the Virtual Learning Commons:
<https://www.umanitoba.ca/virtuallearningcommons/workshops>

The faculty of Science is intending to establish a B.Sc. joint honours degree in Chemistry and Physics (i.e., Chemical Physics) beginning in the 2007-2008 academic year. This new interdisciplinary field, if adopted, will accommodate students who are interested in atomic and molecular physics as well as physical chemistry. Outside the school environment, graduates of this program could find jobs in areas such as scientific equipment design, manufacture, and sales. The proposal is still awaiting approval from the Provincial Council on Post-Secondary Education.

Faculty of Graduate Studies Executive Committee

September 29

The FGS Executive heard a few routine updates and approved a minor course modification in social work. In addition, a change was made such that if a student is required to withdraw due to academic deficiency, the comment added to their transcript will read "Required to Withdraw" rather than "Required to Withdraw: Academic Deficiency". The designation for the M.Sc. in Oral Biology was switched from a one-year to a two-year degree, as it relates to fees. The list of graduands for the October convocation was also approved.

October 26

There was little on the agenda for this meeting and so the committee held an electronic vote. These were limited to a few course modifications in the Faculty of Arts and a change in the terms of reference to the Faculty's Guidelines and Policy Committee to account for the change in the way Associate Dean's responsibilities are divided since the term of the new Dean began.

Faculty of Graduate Studies Orientation

The Faculty of Graduate Studies held their annual orientation for new graduate students on September 28 and the GSA was among those invited to speak. We provided the usual overview of GSA structure, services and campaigns and handed out handbooks to new students.

Dafoe Users Committee

The GSA attended the Dafoe Users Committee on June 13 to discuss the general state of the Dafoe library. In particular they discussed the libraries push to help foster 'Information Literacy'. Dafoe has hired Betty Braaksma as 'Information Literacy Coordinator', and it is her job to help professors teach students how to do proper, critical research (ie. Not using google and wikipedia). In particular this will mean working with University 1 in the redevelopment of the Introduction to University course. This course will rely heavily on TA's, the GSA has been assured that all the resources would be made available to TA's (who are our members) for them to properly teach 'information literacy'.

The library is also in the process of moving some volumes into storage which will be available on request within 24-48 hours. The GSA is continuing to monitor this situation and make sure this short timeframe is being upheld, as it could prove a major inconvenience to graduate students.

Meeting with Human Resources and Comptroller – May 16

The GSA met with Terry Voss, Executive Director of Human Resources and Tom Hay of Financial Services (comptroller) to discuss issues surrounding graduate student payment, specifically UMGF's. We were told it was an unforeseeable one time problem that will not

happen again. We also came to an agreement that a better system of informing students about changes to pay systems needs to be developed, including student input prior to any changes being implemented. It was also agreed that a more acceptable means of dealing with crisis situations should also be developed, once again with student input.

Convocation Dinner – May 31

The GSA attended the convocation dinner that is held for the honorary degree recipients and was seated at a table with the winner of the GTA award.

Meeting with Student Advocacy – June 12

The GSA met with Student Advocacy to discuss upcoming issues for the 2006/2007 academic year.

Graduate Student Pay – August 2006

The GSA has been in regular contact with Human Resources who have proven to be very useful in terms of discussing graduate student payment issues. They have developed a solution and are working out the final bugs before informing students what to expect. A communication package will be sent out shortly.

Preparation for Student Relations Committee with David Morphy: October 19

The Student Relations Committee is a committee whose composition is half students and half administrators. The committee discusses issues of concern to both that are not necessarily addressed through other channels. Garry Sran, UMSU President, and Meghan Gallant, GSA President met with David Morphy, Vice Provost (Student Affairs), to choose topics for the next meeting of the Student Relations Committee. The committee will discuss follow-up to the implementation of Aurora, security on campus, U1 orientation.

Senate Committee on University Research

This was the first time this committee has met this year. Most of the agenda was updates on events arising from the last meeting. Most of the discussion was not directly relevant to graduate students however there was some

discussion about the significance of the Conservative Governments policy on 'value for money' regarding tri-council funding. Some of the faculty expressed concerns on how this could impact research that is not market ready and feel that the University should make some statement.

Welcome and Safe Environment Committee

This was the first meeting for this committee for this year. Most of the agenda was spent reviewing the report that was published last year. We also started to look at potential area's we can start working on, however we did not get very far into this discussion. Some members of the committee thought that it was not pertinent to do any further analysis on the report; however the GSA felt that it should be further analyzed into themes that are relevant towards specific interest groups (Graduate Students, International Students, Women, etc).

Learning Commons Task Force: November 29

A task force was struck last year to begin developing a Learning Commons at the University of Manitoba. This Learning Commons would be a physical space where students would have access to resources and support in their studies, and could use the space for group or individual study. The Virtual Learning Commons has already been established, and is quite successful, and the members of the task force discussed the need to ensure that the physical space is developed as well. An implementation sub-group has been created and will be meeting in the coming weeks.

External Affairs

CCGEU August 3-5

The GSA co-hosted, with CUPE Local 3909, the 2nd meeting of the Canadian Coalition of Graduate Employee Unions, which brought together representatives of student associations, employee unions, and union drives. Workshops were held on numerous issues, including, but not limited to, coalition building. The GSA hopes to use some of the skills learned at the conference to help build coalitions on our campus with other student groups and employee unions.

CUPE AGM/Social - Sept 22

A discussion took place on various issues, including the long-term viability of organizing research assistants.

Winnipeg Community Roundtable - Sept 27

The GSA was part of the large delegation coordinated through CFS Manitoba to act as facilitators and note takers for the forum. The forum was an opportunity for community groups and individuals to discuss a vision for the city of Winnipeg in advance of the municipal election. A report was developed from the feedback received at the meeting. GSA delegates were assigned to groups working on safety & security, and took part in some very interesting discussions on these issues. The WCRT was co hosted by CFS-Manitoba with labor unions and community groups in Winnipeg.

CUPE 3909 General Meeting and Social Event: September 22

CUPE 3909 represents teaching assistants, grader/markers and student lecturers on campus, and has been a frequent coalition partner of the GSA. They invited representatives of the GSA to attend their general meeting and the following social event; the meeting was productive in keeping communication open between our organizations

Canadian Association of University Teachers Conference

Controlling Intellectual Property: The Academic Community and the Future of Knowledge:

October 27-29, 2006

The Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) organized this conference to bring together academic staff, students, policy makers and the general public to discuss and debate the place of intellectual property in the academic environment and the role the academic community should play in controlling its presence on campus.

It was evident throughout the conference that there is much work to be done on issues of copyright, intellectual property ownership and open access. As domestic laws and international treaty and trade obligations

increasingly regulate the use and sharing of information, the academic community has a pivotal role to play to ensure that the exchange of ideas is not hindered and that the public mission of academic institutions is not undermined by private ownership of knowledge.

Regarding copyright, there was concern that academic staff and students were not fully aware of their rights under the 'fair dealing' exceptions provided in the *Copyright Act* and that there was a need for more information on these exceptions. In addition, the government is expected to initiate a review of the *Copyright Act*, which could result in far-reaching implications for academics in Canada.

For students in particular, there is a lack of protection of intellectual property rights. There is ongoing debate on ownership of intellectual property between faculty and institutions, often manifested in language being negotiated at the bargaining table. Despite this, students are often not factored into the equation, leaving many uncertain of their rights as researchers. The CFS and the CAUT have begun work on a best practice guide for student-faculty research teams which will begin to address this gap, albeit in an informal manner.

Finally, there was much discussion around the need to develop open access archives, especially in the face of exponentially increasing costs for academic journals.

Canadian Association for Graduate Studies: November 1-4

The Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS) is a non-profit organization whose membership consists mainly of deans/directors of faculties/schools of graduate studies. National student organizations, granting councils and other affiliates may apply for membership as well; the National Graduate

Caucus of the Canadian Federation of Students has been a member since this was allowed.

CAGS organizes an annual conference and general meeting; this year's meeting was held from November 1-4 in Quebec City. Numerous sessions were held, including sessions on effective graduate supervision, thesis examination practices, and recruitment of graduate students.

There has been much concern in recent years about the way the graduate student representative on the CAGS executive committee is selected. It has occurred in the past that the graduate deans have selected the student representative against the decision of the graduate students present at the meeting. Last year, the executive committee initiated a review of the CAGS constitution, and specifically the composition and selection of the executive committee.

The proposed changes to the constitution broke the executive committee into a small executive and a board of directors whose composition resembled that of the previous executive committee. The proposed changes also stated that the graduate student association member should reach a consensus each year as to who their representative should be, or the nominating committee (with no student members) would select the representative.

Students in attendance at the conference met several times to discuss our position on this proposal. Our concern with the word 'consensus' was that it could give one student association a veto over the others. Students proposed alternate language that would allow the graduate student association members to vote on the representative, this was moved as a friendly amendment to the proposed constitutional changes by the CAGS executive committee and passed at the general meeting.

GSA FY2006 Current Financial Status - January 8, 2007

	Budget Line	Budgeted Amount Approved November 2006	Actual Amount from May 2006 to Present
Income			
	Student fees	\$130,000.00	\$100,000.00
	UMSU agreement	\$40,000.00	\$0.00
	Total Income	\$170,000.00	\$100,000.00
Executive			
	Honoraria	\$37,800.00	\$24,500.00
	External Meeting Expenses	\$7,000.00	\$4,977.74
Elections			
	General Elections	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
	CRO	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Grants			
	Departmental Grants	\$20,000.00	\$9,630.10
	Conference Grants	\$29,000.00	\$19,703.26
	Graduate Teaching Award	\$100.00	\$100.00
	Special Projects	\$3,000.00	\$1,922.06
	Donations	\$3,000.00	\$1,975.00
Promotions			
	Gradzette	\$6,500.00	\$3,000.00
	Handbook	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Social Programming	\$3,600.00	\$913.20
	Orientation	\$5,952.45	\$954.45
	Advertising/Sponsorship	\$500.00	\$239.00
	Website Administration	\$40.00	\$0.00
	Campaigns	\$3,000.00	\$63.31
Office Staff			
	Wages & Benefits	\$16,500.00	\$250.00
	ISE Awards Officer	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Professional Development	\$800.00	\$0.00
Fees and Charges			
	Bank	\$150.00	\$29.80
	Audit	\$1,700.00	\$0.00
	Insurance	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
	Subscriptions, Etc	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Professional Consulting	\$1,500.00	\$306.08
	Revenue Canada	\$2,900.00	\$1,009.16
Council & Committees			
	Venue Booking & Equipment	\$200.00	\$0.00
	Hospitality	\$1,500.00	\$414.28
Office Supplies & Expenses			
	Stationery & Office Fees	\$3,000.00	\$1,406.11
	Ikon Lease	\$4,900.00	\$2,804.39
	Photocopies	\$500.00	\$264.38
Bannatyne Campus			
	HSGSA Disbursement	\$5,000.00	\$2,500.00
Capital Expenses			
	Office Furniture	\$3,000.00	\$0.00
	Computer Centre	\$1,500.00	\$1,469.45
Retained Earnings			
	Retained Earnings Fund	\$3,400.00	\$0.00
	Total Expenses	\$169,542.45	\$78,431.77