

**Special General Meeting Minutes
October 30, 2012. 5:00pm
Senate Chambers (E3-262)**

1. Call to Order

5:09pm

2. Approval of the Agenda

Chad Cowie (VP Internal)/ Jennifer Chen (VP Academic)

E. Rotimi Ojo (President): Additions to the Agenda: Under Item 3., add Opening Address By the President; add Item 4. Recognition of Guests

Carried

3. Introduction of UMGSA Executive Members and Opening Address by the President

All members of the Executive introduced themselves.

E. Rotimi Ojo (President):

In line with University Policy, we acknowledge that we are on the Treaty 1 territory, the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe people, and the homeland of the Metis nation. The university and the Forks of the City of Winnipeg sit at the crossroads of the Anishinaabe, Metis, Cree, Dakota, and Oji-Cree Nations. The decision today is a crucial one in the history of the UMGSA, and we have options to choose from. In all of our discussion, we need to put into perspective what we decide will be in place for graduate students who come after us.

4. Recognition of Guests

- I. Tony Gonsalves, father of Liz Gonsalves, UMGSA Researcher
- II. Mohamed Abdel Karim Ammoumou, current Chairperson of CFS-MB
- III. Marakary Bayo, former chairperson of CFS-MB. Bayo dealt with most of the issues the GSA had with the CFS last year.

MOTION: BIRT the GSA consider the attendance of all three guests.

Tonia Bates (VP External)/ Pouria Jabari (Civil Engineering)

8 in favour 18 against, 5 abstain

Defeated

MOTION: BIRT the GSA allow Mr. Gonsalves to stay for the Special General Meeting.

Kendra Magnusson (English, Film and Theatre)/Tonia Bates (Vice President External)

MOTION: BIRT the motion regarding Mr. Gonsalves' attendance be amended to state: BIRT the GSA allow Mr. Gonsalves to stay for the Special General Meeting, but that he leaves the meeting before discussion of Item 5b. Research Staff Employment.

Kurt Hildebrand (Physics and Astronomy)/Chad Cowie (Vice President Internal)

2 abstain

Carried

MOTION: BIRT the GSA allow Mr. Gonsalves to stay for the Special General Meeting, but that he leaves the meeting before discussion of Item 5b, Research Staff Employment.

Calistus Ekenna, Social Work. (Against) What we are doing tonight is a package, nothing is in isolation from any other part of the meeting.

1 abstain

Carried

MOTION: BIRT the GSA allow Mr. Marakary Bayo, former CFS-MB Chairperson to stay for the Special General Meeting.

Ahmed Byagowi (Electrical and Computer Engineering)/ Daniel Labine (Sociology)

MOTION: BIRT the motion regarding Mr. Marakary Bayo's attendance at the SGM be amended to read: BIRT the GSA allow Mr. Marakary Bayo, former CFS-MB Chairperson be allowed to stay for the Special General Meeting.

BIFRT Mr. Marakary Bayo be given speaking rights during the discussion on CFS-MB and CFS, and leave the meeting when discussion on Item 5b, Research Staff Employment, begins..

Chad Cowie (Vice President Internal)/ Jennifer Chen (Vice President Academic)

Carried

MOTION: BIRT the GSA allow Mr. Marakary Bayo, former CFS-MB Chairperson be allowed to stay for the Special General Meeting.

BIFRT Mr. Marakary Bayo be given speaking rights during the discussion on CFS-MB and CFS, and leave the meeting when discussion on Item 5b. Research Staff Employment, begins.

2 abstain

Carried

MOTION: BIRT the GSA allow Mr. Mohamed Abdel Karim Ammoumou, the current CFS-MB Chairperson, to stay for the Special General Meeting.

Tonia Bates (Vice-President External)/Calistus Ekenna (Social Work)

MOTION: BIRT the motion regarding Mr. Mohamed Abdel Karim Ammoumou's attendance at the SGM be amended to read: BIRT the GSA allow Mr. Mohamed Abdel Karim Ammoumou, the current CFS-MB Chairperson, to stay for the Special General Meeting.

BIFRT Mr. Mohamed Abdel Karim Ammoumou be given speaking rights during the discussion on CFS-MB and CFS, and leave the meeting when discussion on Item 5b. Research Staff Employment, begins

Chad Cowie (Vice President Internal)/Kurt Hildebrand (Physics and Astronomy)

Carried

MOTION: BIRT the GSA allow Mr. Mohamed Abdel Karim Ammoumou, the current CFS-MB Chairperson, to stay for the Special General Meeting.

BIFRT Mr. Mohamed Abdel Karim Ammoumou be given speaking rights during the discussion on CFS-MB and CFS, and leave the meeting when discussion on Item 5b. Research Staff Employment, begins.

Carried

5. GSA-CFS Report Presentation

a. There are four options currently open to the UMGSA:

- I. Decide that the UMGSA is a full member of the CFS/CFS-S and the CFS-MB.
This
may include a) assigning all fees collected in trust to be remitted to the CFS/CFS-S
and the CFS-MB and to continue collecting and remitting these fees from the UMGSA
students, and/or b) pursuing decertification from the CFS/CFS-S and the CFS-MB.
- II. Decide that the UMGSA is not a member of the CFS/CFS-S and the CFS-MB.
This
may include a) continuing to collect and hold the fees in trust (for any length of time),
or b) requesting that the University of Manitoba Board of Governors discontinue collecting those fees from graduate students (which may lead to a decision about what
to do with the current funds sitting in trust and/or a decision on when this issue should
be reconsidered by the membership).
- III. Seek the decision from an external authority (i.e. in court) to declare whether or not
the UMGSA is a member of the CFS. This may include a) continuing to collect and
hold the fees in trust (for any length of time), or b) requesting that the University of
Manitoba Board of Governors discontinue collecting those fees from graduate students
(which may lead to a decision about what to do with the current funds sitting in trust
and/or a decision on when this issue should be reconsidered by the membership).
- IV. Continue with the mandate of the last UMGSA general meeting to continue research and attempt to acquire relevant information in pursuit of an agreement

on the
question of membership between the legal counsels of the University of
Manitoba, the
UMGSA and the CFS/CFS-S and the CFS-MB. This may include a) continuing to
collect and hold the fees in trust (for any length of time), or b) requesting that the
University of Manitoba Board of Governors discontinue collecting those fees from
graduate students (which may lead to a decision about what to do with the
current
funds sitting in trust and/or a decision on when this issue should be reconsidered
by
the membership).

Presentation by Ms. Liz Gonsalves, UMGSA Researcher.

**MOTION: BIRT the GSA reconsider the original motion to allow Mr. Mohamed
Abdel Karim Ammoumou to stay during this part of the meeting.**

Kurt Hildebrand (Physics and Astronomy)/Johanu Botha (Senator)

Carried.

**MOTION: BIRT the GSA allow Mr. Mohamed Abdel Karim Ammoumou to stay for
the Special General Meeting, and leave the meeting when discussion of Item 5b.
Research Staff Employment, begins.**

Tonia Bates (Vice President External)/Shannon Price(Linguistics)

6 in favour, 3 abstain

Motion defeated.

**MOTION: BIRT the University of Manitoba Graduate Students' Association
(UMGSA) maintain the position that it is not, in fact, a member of the Canadian
Federation of Students (CFS), the Canadian Federation of Students-Services
(CFS-S) or the Canadian Federation of Students-Manitoba (CFS-MB), herein
referred to as CFS/-S/-MB and in that regard if and when necessary it shall
dispute all statements, claims, indications and suggestions of membership (full
or otherwise) in the CFS/-S/-MB; and
BIFRT the UMGSA President is authorized in his sole discretion to communicate
the position of the UMGSA on membership in the CFS/-S/-MB immediately to
the CFS/-S/-MB in writing, with the President having full discretion as to when
and whether to communicate the UMGSA position to the CFS/-S/-MB and the
appropriate manner of doing so, and that the UMGSA President is authorized in
his discretion to take such advice from legal counsel to UMGSA and the
University of Manitoba as he shall deem appropriate in making all
determinations as to communication of the position of UMGSA with respect to**

said membership issues ; and

BIFRT the UMGSA membership approve the use of fees which have been to date and may in the future be collected from the UMGSA members in respect of possible membership in CFS/-S/-MB, and held in a contingency fund, toward the reasonable costs associated with the process of defending the position of UMGSA regarding membership in the CFS/-S/-MB until such time that the membership status is officially conceded, in writing, between the legal counsels of the CFS/-S/-MB, the University of Manitoba and the UMGSA or determined by the courts, whichever is sooner; and

BIFRT the UMGSA continue to collect and hold related fees from the UMGSA members in a contingency fund, up to and including the completion of the 2017-2018 academic term (for a total of seven [7] full academic terms) or until such time that the membership status is officially conceded, in writing, between the legal counsels of the CFS/-S/-MB, the University of Manitoba and the UMGSA or determined by the courts, whichever is sooner; and

BIFRT the UMGSA revisit and determine the use of all remaining related fees collected from the UMGSA members and held in a contingency fund at each annual general meeting of the UMGSA membership until the issue of membership in the CFS/-S/-MB is finally resolved; and

BIFRT the UMGSA immediately cease to participate as a member of the CFS and the CFS/-S; and

BIFRT the UMGSA immediately cease to participate as a member of the CFS-MB; and

BIFRT the UMGSA Bylaws Committee be charged with presenting Bylaw updates, for approval at the next general membership meeting, that reflect the aforementioned decisions on membership (fees) and participation in the CFS/-S/-MB.

Tonia Bates (Vice President External)/Johanu Botha (Senator)

MOTION: BIRT the GSA table the vote on the standing motion regarding the UMGSA's potential membership in the CFS.

Kurt Hildebrand (Physics and Astronomy)/Jessica Rebizant (Senator)

MOTION: BIRT the GSA debate the four options regarding the UMGSA's potential membership presented in the agenda.

Kurt Hildebrand (Physics and Astronomy)/ Joey Lucier (Chemistry)

MOTION: BIRT the speaker's list be extended by five people.

Chad Cowie (Vice President Internal)/ Valery Agbor(Biosystems Engineering)

Carried

MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA consider the first option regarding our relationship to CFS presented on the agenda.

E. Rotimi Ojo (President)/Chad Cowie (Vice President Internal)

Carried

MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA affirm full membership in the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), the Canadian Federation of Students – Services (CFSS), and the Canadian Federation of Students – Manitoba (CFS-MB).

BIFRT the UMGSA remit all membership fees collected and held in trust on behalf of those organizations for the 2011-212 academic term including any interest accrued to the CFS, CFSS and CFS-MB.

BIFRT the UMGSA continue to collect and remit those fees until such time that we cease to be a member through the relevant decertification processes outlined in the bylaws of all three organizations or until the dissolution of the relevant organizations, whichever is sooner.

BIFRT the UMGSA participate as a full member of CFS and CFSS.

BIFRT the UMGSA participate as a full member of CFS-MB.

BIFRT the UMGSA President immediately inform those bodies of the UMGSA position on membership in the CFS and CFS-MB in writing.

BIFRT the UMGSA pursue decertification from those bodies via membership referendum according to the bylaws of those bodies to be initiated as soon as reasonably practical.

BIFRT the UMGSA Bylaws Committee be charged with presenting bylaw updates for approval at the next general membership meeting that reflect the aforementioned decisions on membership and participation in those organizations.

E. RoTimi Ojo (President)/Calistus Ekenna (Social Work)

MOTION: Amend the motion to read: “BIRT the UMGSA affirm full membership in the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), the Canadian Federation of Students – Services (CFSS), and the Canadian Federation of Students – Manitoba (CFS-MB).

BIFRT the UMGSA remit all membership fees collected and held in trust on behalf of those organizations for the 2011-212 academic term including any interest accrued to the CFS, CFSS and CFS-MB.

BIFRT the UMGSA continue to collect and remit those fees until such time that we cease to be a member through the relevant decertification processes outlined in the bylaws of all three organizations or until the dissolution of the relevant organizations, whichever is sooner.

BIFRT the UMGSA participate as a full member of CFS and CFSS.

BIFRT the UMGSA participate as a full member of CFS-MB.

BIFRT the UMGSA President immediately inform those bodies of the UMGSA position on membership in the CFS and CFS-MB in writing.

BIFRT the UMGSA Bylaws Committee be charged with presenting bylaw updates for approval at the next general membership meeting that reflect the

aforementioned decisions on membership and participation in those organizations.”

Propser Koto (Economics)/Shannon Price (Linguistics)

Defeated (2 in favour)

Vote on Original Motion:

6 for, 4 abstain

Motion Defeated.

MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA dissolve as a corporation.

Shannon Price (Linguistics)/ Kendra Magnusson (English, Film and Theatre)

Motion Defeated.

MOTION: BIRT the University of Manitoba Graduate Students' Association (UMGSA) maintain the position that it is not, in fact, a member of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), the Canadian Federation of Students-Services (CFS-S) or the Canadian Federation of Students-Manitoba (CFS-MB), herein referred to as CFS/-S/-MB and in that regard if and when necessary it shall dispute all statements, claims, indications and suggestions of membership (full or otherwise) in the CFS/-S/-MB; and

BIFRT the UMGSA President is authorized in his sole discretion to communicate the position of the UMGSA on membership in the CFS/-S/-MB immediately to the CFS/-S/-MB in writing, with the President having full discretion as to when and whether to communicate the UMGSA position to the CFS/-S/-MB and the appropriate manner of doing so, and that the UMGSA President is authorized in his discretion to take such advice from legal counsel to UMGSA and the University of Manitoba as he shall deem appropriate in making all determinations as to communication of the position of UMGSA with respect to said membership issues ; and

BIFRT the UMGSA membership approve the use of fees which have been to date and may in the future be collected from the UMGSA members in respect of possible membership in CFS/-S/-MB, and held in a contingency fund, toward the reasonable costs associated with the process of defending the position of UMGSA regarding membership in the CFS/-S/-MB until such time that the membership status is officially conceded, in writing, between the legal counsels of the CFS/-S/-MB, the University of Manitoba and the UMGSA or determined by the courts, whichever is sooner; and

BIFRT the UMGSA continue to collect and hold related fees from the UMGSA members in a contingency fund, up to and including the completion of the

2017-2018 academic term (for a total of seven [7] full academic terms) or until such time that the membership status is officially conceded, in writing, between the legal counsels of the CFS/-S/-MB, the University of Manitoba and the UMGSA or determined by the courts, whichever is sooner; and BIFRT the UMGSA revisit and determine the use of all remaining related fees collected from the UMGSA members and held in a contingency fund at each annual general meeting of the UMGSA membership until the issue of membership in the CFS/-S/-MB is finally resolved; and BIFRT the UMGSA immediately cease to participate as a member of the CFS and the CFS/-S; and BIFRT the UMGSA immediately cease to participate as a member of the CFS-MB; and BIFRT the UMGSA Bylaws Committee be charged with presenting Bylaw updates, for approval at the next general membership meeting, that reflect the aforementioned decisions on membership (fees) and participation in the CFS/-S/-MB.

Kurt Hildebrand (Physics and Astronomy)/ Sem Moreno (Senator)

Motion carried.

b. Research Staff Employment

MOTION: Whereas a motion to approve and continue the employment of a research assistant was carried at the February 2, 2012 UMGSA Annual General Meeting

Whereas staff employment or termination should not be tied to the occurrence of an Annual General Meeting

Whereas the position is estimated to cost about \$30,000/annum

Whereas the membership can vote to increase the budget line for staff salary

BIRT the UMGSA membership terminates the employment of Ms. Elizabeth Gonsalves, the Association's current research assistant with immediate effect.

BIFRT the position of research assistant, if needed, be determined by an ad hoc hiring committee who will advertise the position, conduct interviews for applicants and recommend the best candidate to the UMGSA Council for ratification.

Chad Cowie (Vice President Internal)/ Aiman Syed (Education)

MOTION: BIRT the UMGSa allow Vice President External, Tonia Bates, to speak on behalf of a student, Deborah Lawless from the Department of Psychology, who could not be present at the meeting.

Dan Levin (Sociology)/Kurt Hildebrand (Physics and Astronomy)

Carried

MOTION: BIRT the motion regarding a research staff position at the UMGSa be amended to read: Whereas a motion to approve and continue the employment of a research assistant was carried at the February 2, 2012 UMGSa Annual General Meeting

Whereas staff employment or termination should not be tied to the occurrence of an Annual General Meeting

Whereas the position is estimated to cost about \$30,000/annum

Whereas the membership can vote to increase the budget line for staff salary

BIRT the UMGSa membership terminates the employment of Ms. Elizabeth Gonsalves, the Association's current research assistant with immediate effect.

BIFRT the position of research assistant be determined by an ad hoc hiring committee who will advertise the position, conduct interviews for applicants and recommend the best candidate to the UMGSa Council for ratification.

Kurt Hildebrand (Physics and Astronomy)/ Valery Agbor (Biosystems Engineering)

13 for, 18 against, 7 abstain.

Motion defeated

Vote on original motion:

7 abstain

Carried

6. Other Business

7. Announcements

- a. Halloween Social- October 30, 2012 at 7:30pm at the HUB.
- b. Leadership Speaker Series with Spencer West- November 1, 2012 at 7pm (seating begins at 6:30pm) at the Engineering Atrium.
- c. GSA/FGS Workshop Series: Using Reference Management Software (pre-registration required).
 - Fort Garry:* November 6, 2012 at 1pm at the Science and Technology Library.
 - Bannatyne:* November 14, 2012 at 1pm at the Paterson Lab, Neil John Maclean Health Sciences Library.
- d. UMGSa Council Meeting- November 27, 2012 at the GSA Lounge.



Graduate Students' Association



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- e. Holiday Hamper Program- Registration Deadline November 30. Fill out online form at <http://umgsa.ca/section/43>

8. Adjournment.

MOTION: BIRT the Special General Meeting of the UMGSA adjourn.

Tonia Bates (Vice President External)/Trish Kelley (Environment and Geography)

Carried

Meeting adjourned at 8:09pm