

UMGSA Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 24th, 2018 - 5:30 PM - UMGSA Lounge

1. Call to Order (5:31pm).

2. Traditional Territories Acknowledgement

The University of Manitoba campuses are located on original lands of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation. We respect the Treaties that were made on these territories, we acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and we dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Note: Agenda Items for Concurrence Without Debate

Any item that has a beside it denotes an item intended for Concurrence Without Debate. These items include reports and other routine matters, and are considered accepted or adopted by the UMGSA Council without debate or a vote. Any Council Member who wishes to remove any item so-noted from the list of items for Concurrence Without Debate may do so by contacting the Council Chairperson prior to the meeting, or by requesting that it be removed when the Chair asks if there is any opposition to accepting these items for Concurrence Without Debate, immediately prior to the motion to approve the agenda as presented or as amended.

MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council approves the agenda for the January 24th, 2018, UMGSA Council Meeting as presented.

Human Nutritional Science/Biological Sciences (*Carried*).

4. Approval of the Minutes: The minutes of the November 22nd, 2017, UMGSA Council Meeting are included as a separate attachment to the Council Documents Package as Appendix I to this council meeting agenda.

MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council approves the minutes from the November 22nd, 2017, UMGSA Council Meeting as presented.

English, Theatre, Film & Media/Biosystems Engineering (*Carried*).

5. Committee Reports

5.1. November Committee Reports (Appendix II)

5.2. December Committee Reports (Appendix III)

Bylaws & Policy Committee

- Created the Indigenous Student Representative position on Council.
- Worked on Elections Policy changes.

- Recommended that Council grant signing authority to VPME.

Awards Committee

- Worked on amendments to the Awards Policy, which will be presented later in the meeting.

Campaigns Committee

- Working on ways to strengthen student and supervisor agreements. Students are encouraged to approach members of the Campaigns Committee if they are aware of any student-advisor relationship issues.
- Optional summer U-Passes will be available for students. A “Smart Card” system will be implemented in the future to avoid U-Pass abuses.

Events Committee

- Held the Alumni Mentorship event in November, with over 80 graduate students and 5 alumni in attendance.
- Holiday Dinner on December 15th at the Hub was a success.
- Winter Orientation on January 2nd was similar to Fall Orientation but on a smaller scale.
- Currently planning a Valentine’s Day Social for February 14th.
- Considering hosting another Alumni Mentorship Event.

Executive Committee

- Looked at proposed amendments to the budget.
- Discussed how best to address the departure of the VPI and Executive-At-Large.

Finance Committee

- Approved conference grants.
- Examined the budget to assess the financial health of the UMGSA.

6. Health Sciences Graduate Students' Association Report: Andrew was not present to give a verbal report, but any questions regarding the written report should be forwarded to the HSGSA President.

7. Senate Report: Silvia gave a presentation outlining changes passed by University Senate. Five new awards were created in the past two months. Start and end dates for programs have been standardized within faculties. Fall and winter breaks will be one week long going forward; fall break will be moved back to the week of Remembrance Day. Fall and winter semesters will be the same length at 62 teaching days. The winter term will begin on the Monday following the University reopening. The last day to drop classes will be the 10th day of the semester, and the last day to add classes will be the 11th day of the semester.

7.1. November Senate Report (Appendix IV)

7.2. December Senate Report (Appendix V)

8. Executive Reports: No verbal Executive Reports were given.

8.1. November Executive Reports (Appendix VI)

8.2. December Executive Reports (Appendix VII)

9. Departmental Reports

Biosystems Engineering

- Recommendation that the UMGSA take an official position on tuition hikes. Carl and Ikra will discuss, and address the issue on next the next Council meeting agenda.

- Recommendation that the UMGSA advocate for equal student fees for domestic and international PhD students. Carl and Ikra will discuss the process to have this issue considered by the UMGSA.

10. Unfinished Business

None.

11. New Business

11.1. Approval of Leaving the Two Vacant Executive Positions Empty and the Temporary Splitting of the Former VPI's Honorarium: Both the VPI, Chandan Howlader, and the Executive-at-Large, Richard From, have resigned their positions effective January 1st. Because we are already into the final four months of the current Executive term, and based on past precedent, the Executive committee has divided the duties and committee commitments of both former Executives between the UMGSA President, Senator 1, and Senator 2. The UMGSA Executive recommends that both positions not be filled for the remainder of this Executive term, and also based on past precedent, they request Council approval to split the former VPI's honorarium between the three listed Executives. The remainder of the money for the Executive-at-Large's honorarium will be available for reallocation.

Discussion ensued regarding why the Executives left, whether enough notice was given, whether there is a policy in place that requires Executives to give adequate notice before vacating their position, and whether students who know they will be graduating should be barred from running during the election. The VPI and Executive-At-Large both left as they had graduated and had opportunities elsewhere. The VPI gave little notice of his resignation, while the Executive-At-Large told the President of his intentions to leave well in advance of his departure. The current UMGSA policy currently recommends that Council and the Executive choose how to proceed in the event of an executive resignation after October 1st. It is suggested that individuals running for election be required to disclose whether they are planning to leave midway through their term during the election period. Bylaws and Policy will consider these issues at a future meeting.

Questions were asked regarding the amount of the VPI's honorarium, and whether it is more beneficial for the President, Senator 1 and Senator 2 to split the VPI's duties rather than selecting a councillor or student at large to fill the position. The VPI's honorarium is \$1000.00 per month and would be split equally between those taking on his duties. The Executive recommends splitting the VPI's duties between themselves rather than taking on a new Executive, as the learning curve for the position is steep and the Executives already have a good idea of what is involved in the position. There are concerns that if a by-election is called to fill the position with a councillor or student at large, the position will be filled too late in the term.

MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council approves leaving the two vacant Executive positions empty for the remainder of the current Executive term, and also approves splitting the former VPI's honorarium equally between the UMGSA President, Senator 1 and Senator 2 from January 1st to April 31st, 2018.

English, Film, Theatre & Media/Mechanical Engineering (*Carried, with 2 opposed and 4 abstentions (Biomedical Engineering, President, Senator 1, Linguistics)*).

11.2. Amendment to the Executive Policy to Grant the VPME Signing Authority: The VPME is currently the only Vice-President without signing authority for the UMGSA. In addition to being inconsistent without cause, this has made it more difficult to obtain the required two signatures on cheques and other documents in a timely manner, particularly when any Executive is taking a Leave of Absence. Particularly since the UMGSA Executive expects to be operating without a VPI for the remainder of the current Executive term, granting the VPME signing authority is even more important. The policy amendment is as follows:

Executive Policy and Procedure Manual

Article III - Executive Roles and Responsibilities

6. The Vice-President (Marketing and Events) shall perform the following duties:

add: "r. Have signing authority for the UMGSA."

MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council approves this amendment to the Executive Policy and Procedure Manual as written.

English, Theatre, Film & Media/Landscape Architecture (*Carried, with 1 abstention (VPME)*).

11.3. Amendments to the Awards Section of the Financial Policy: The Awards Committee supports changes to the number of awards granted by the UMGSA, including differential amounts based on their ranking within a given award category. The Committee is also making a minimum GPA of 3.75 an official policy. Once passed by Council, these changes must be approved by the University Senate before they come into force. The policy amendments are as follows:

Financial Policy and Procedure Manual

Article IV - Grants and Awards

IV. Awards

II. Graduate Student Awards

6. Masters Award:

rewrite: "a. Three (3) awards valued at \$11,000 CAD, \$8,000 CAD, and \$6,000 CAD will be offered for each of the first, second, and third place selected award winners who:"

7. Doctoral Award:

rewrite: "a. Two (2) awards valued at \$13,000 CAD and \$9,000 CAD will be offered for each of the first and second place selected award winners who:"

8. Part-Time Award:

rewrite: "a. One (1) award valued at \$3,000 CAD will be offered to the selected award winner who:"

For each of 6.a, 7.a, and 8.a, add the following as sub-point iii., and renumber the following sub-points accordingly:

add: "iii. Has a minimum GPA of 3.75 based on credit hours completed at the University of Manitoba."

Discussion ensued about the value of raising the GPA requirement from 3.5 to 3.75. Currently, the UMGSA does not have a written GPA requirement in the policy, but has been acting in accordance of an unwritten rule disqualifying applicants with a GPA under 3.5. Members of the Awards Committee do not consider GPA when choosing award recipients; FGS uses GPA to eliminate applicants who do not meet the minimum threshold before forwarding the applications back to the Awards Committee. The Awards Committee then selects recipients by evaluating their CV, their level of community involvement, their statement of interest, reference letters from members of the community, their research, and a letter from their academic supervisor.

The Awards Committee received 44 applications for Full Time Masters awards this year, and raising the GPA requirement could help to limit the amount of applications received. Concerns were raised that increasing the minimum GPA requirements would disqualify students who might otherwise be deserving of these awards. Some councillors suggested that the Awards Committee use another method to limit the amount of applications received. Concerns were raised that students who are already ineligible for UMGF or other major awards would also be made ineligible for UMGSA Awards if the GPA requirement were increased.

Money for the UMGSA Awards comes from an endowment fund. The donor who set up this fund created rules to govern the awards, and stated that students who are the recipient of a UMGF be ineligible for a UMGSA Award. The award is designed to recognize excellence, and is not based on financial need. It is recommended that the Awards Committee investigate the specific requirements set up in the endowment fund.

Some councillors had concerns that current regulations automatically disqualify students enrolled in a one-year graduate program from applying for the award.

MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council approves these amendments to the Financial Policy and Procedure Manual as written.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council approves the above amendments to the Financial Policy and Procedure Manual as written, excepting that subpoints 6/a/iii, 7/a/iii and 8/a/iii will read "Has a minimum GPA of 3.5...[etc.]".

Physics/Electrical & Computer Engineering (*Amendment fails, with 14 opposed, 13 in favour, and 1 abstention*).

VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council approves these amendments to the Financial Policy and Procedure Manual as written.

Human Nutritional Sciences/Biological Sciences (*Motion fails, with 14 opposed, 13 in favour, and 2 abstentions*).

MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA accepts the above changes to the Financial Policy

and Procedure Manual, but excluding subpoints 6/a/iii, 7/a/iii, and 8/a/iii.
Entomology/Biomedical Engineering.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA accepts the above changes to the Financial Policy and Procedure Manual, excepting that subpoints 6/a/iii, 7/a/iii and 8/a/iii will read “Has a minimum of GPA of 3.5...[etc.]”.

Proposed by the President (*Carried, with 1 opposed and 1 abstention (Asper Master of Finance)*).

11.4. Budget Amendments: Based on updated actual revenues and expenditures, as well as changes to anticipated expenditures, the UMGSA Executive recommends amendments to the UMGSA Budget for the current fiscal year, as written in the attached budget revision table in the "Proposed" column. The Budget Revision Table is included in the Council Documents Package as Appendix VIII.

MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council approves these amendments to the UMGSA Budget for 2017-18 as written.

Asper Master of Finance/Landscape Architecture (*Carried*).

11.5. Amendments to the Election Policy and Referendum Manual, as well as to the Elections Committee Policy: Both the Election Policy, as well as the portion of the Committee Policy dealing with the Elections Committee, have both undergone extensive revisions by the Bylaws and Policy Committee. Both policies are interconnected, and so changes to each should be approved together. The proposed Election and Referendum Policy and Procedure Manual is included as a separate attachment to this council meeting agenda as Appendix IX. The current Elections Policy and Procedure Manual is included as a separate to this council meeting agenda as Appendix X. Both the proposed and current versions of the portion of the Committee Policy dealing with the Elections Committee are included in the Council Documents Package as Appendix XI.

MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council approves these amendments to the Election Policy and Referendum Manual, as well as to the Elections Committee Policy, as written.

English, Theatre, Film & Media/Electrical & Computer Engineering (*Carried, with 1 abstention (President)*).

11.6. Confirmation of the CRO and DRO for the 2018 UMGSA Annual General Election: The UMGSA Council must ratify both the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) and the Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) for each UMGSA election and/or referendum. Both the CRO and the DRO are selected from the Elections Committee's own membership in accordance with the stipulations of the Elections Committee Policy. The Elections Committee has voted to select Sixtus Ekezie as the CRO and Dipana Maharjan as the DRO for the 2018 UMGSA Annual General Election.

MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council ratifies Sixtus Ekezie as the CRO and Dipana Maharjan as the DRO for the 2018 UMGSA Annual General Election.

Elections Committee/Biological Sciences (*Carried, with 1 abstention (President)*).

11.7. Proposed Referendum Question for an Increase to the UMGSA Operating Budget Fee:

No UMGSA fees have changed for over ten years, but prices for most goods and services have risen over that period. Unlike the student fees charged by UMSU, UMGSA fees do not automatically rise based on increases to the cost of living. In addition, the \$30,000 per year commitment for ten years towards the construction of the Campus Daycare expansion was made two years ago without any new sources of funding to support that new and sizable contribution. Even after finding significant savings over the course of this year, the UMGSA Executive believes that in the absence of new sources of funding, the Association will have insufficient funds to cover their expenses in coming years unless severe cuts are made to one or more sections of the budget. After conducting a financial analysis of the Association's finances, the Executive proposes that Council approve a Referendum question to be posed to all graduate students during the 2018 UMGSA Annual General Election, requesting that the graduate student fee for the UMGSA Operating Budget be increased by \$4.62 per semester for each of the Fall and Winter semesters, to commence in the Fall of 2018. If this increase is approved, graduate students would still be paying more than \$20 less than undergraduates already pay to UMSU each semester. This proposal and financial analysis have been reviewed and approved by the Finance Committee.

MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council approves a referendum question to be posed to all graduate students during the 2018 UMGSA Annual General Election, phrased as follows:

Do you support an increase to the UMGSA Operating Budget Fee of \$4.62 per semester for each of the Fall and Winter semesters?

English, Theatre, Film & Media/Nursing (*Carried*).

11.8. Presentation of the First UMGSA Executive Review Report for the 2017-18

Executive Term: The co-chairpersons of the Internal Development and Review Subcommittee (IDRSC) will present the UMGSA Executive Review Report for the period covering the beginning of May to the end of September, 2017. The UMGSA Executive Review Report is included as a separate attachment to this council meeting agenda as Appendix XII.

BIRT the UMGSA Council accepts the First UMGSA Executive Review Report for the 2017-2018 Executive Term.

Landscape Architecture/Human Nutritional Sciences (*Carried, with all Executives abstaining*).

12. Announcements

12.1. Next Council Meeting: Wednesday, February 28th, 2018 - 5:30PM - UMGSA Lounge

12.2. Valentine's Day Social: Wednesday, February 14th, 2018 - 6:00PM - UMGSA Lounge

13. Adjournment (7:05pm).

GSA Council Meeting Attendance

January 24, 2018

Position/Department	Name	Signature
President	Carl Neumann	Present
VP Internal	Vacant	Vacant
VP Academic	Md Emrul Hasan	Present
VP External	Albert Boakye	Present
VP Marketing & Events	Obiajulu Nnaemeka	Present
VP Health Science	Andrew Plesniarski	Regrets
Senator1	Silvia Araujo	Present
Senator2	D Skye Kushner	Present
Senator3	Nour Eissa	Will be Attending HSGSA Council Mtgs
Exec at Large	Vacant	Vacant
Chairperson	Karalyn Dokurno	Present
Office Manager (No Vote)	Ruth Prokesch	Present
Office Assistant (No Vote)	Jayne Hammond (Minute Taker)	Present
Agric & Food Science		
Animal Science	Yue (Yvette) Shang (Co-Councilors) Dipana Maharjan	Dipana Present
Biosystems Engineering	Ikra Iftekhar Shuvo	Present
Entomology	Thais F Silva Guimeraes	Megan Colwell - Proxy
Food Science	Pamela Drawbridge	Present
Human Nutritional Sciences	Matt Granger (Co-Councilors) Roxie Koohgoli	Both Present
Plant Science	Kenny So (Co-Councilors) Win Jian (Daniel) Chan	Kenny Present
Soil Science	Mauli Gamhewage (Co-Councilors) Marufa Fatema	Mauli Present
Architecture		

Architecture	Steven Hung (Co-Councilors) Matthew Rajfur	Matthew Present
City Planning	Andrew Treger (Co-Councilors) Felipe Mogollon	Both Present
Interior Design	Eugenia Amoako	Absent
Landscape Architecture	Alyssa Magas	Present
Arts		
Anthropology	Analucia Vucic	Regrets
Economics	Francis Dzikpe (Co-Councilors) Siavash Taheri	Francis Present
English, Theatre, Film & Media	Shaylyn Maharaj-Poliah Kasey Morgan (Co-Councilors)	Both Present
Linguistics	Iuliia Rezvukhina (Co-Councilors) Tasheney Holness	Both Present
Native Studies	Laura Forsythe (Co-Councilors) Timothy Maton	Timothy Present
Political Studies & Public Administration	Ryan Shibley	Present
Psychology	Michelle Ward (Co-Councilors) Brenna Henrikson	Justine MacLean-Proxy
Sociology & Criminology	Wanda Hounslow	Present
Management		
Asper - Master of Finance	Qing Qiu (Co-Councilors) Meer (Farhan) Shahriar	Rogério DeLeon Pereira - Proxy
Management - PhD & MSc	Zulfiquer Ali Haider	Absent
Management – MBA	Udit Khanna	Present
Education		
Education – PhD	Kazutoshi (Koe) Yoshino	Present
Educ - Admin, Fndtns & Psychology	Tyler Kelsch	Absent
Educ - Cirric, Teaching & Learning	Erica Hildebrand	Absent
Engineering		
Biomedical Engineering	Ahmed Elwali (Co-Councilors) Mehrangiz Ashiri	Ahmed Present
Civil Engineering	Alexander Afuberoh	Present

Electrical & Computer Engineering	Nozhan Bayat (Co-Councilors) Ehsan Tahmasabian	Both Present
Mechanical & Manufacturing Eng.	Shahriar Bagheri	Present
Environment, Earth & Resources		
Environment & Geography	Tonya Burgers (Co-Councilors) Maddie Harasyn	Tonya Present
Geological Sciences	Cody Ross	Present
Natural Resources Institute	Anderson Assuah (Co-Councilors) Zachary Rempel	Zachary Present
Graduate Studies		
Applied Health Sciences	Caryne Torkia (Co-Councilors) Brittany Semenchuk (Streuber)	Caryne Present
Peace and Conflict Studies	Mathias Ateng	Absent
Kinesiology & Recreation Mgmt.		
Kinesiology & Recreation Mgmt.	Laura Ceccarelli (Co-Councilors) Yash Rawal	Laura Present
Law		
Law	Kelechi Okorafor	Present
Nursing		
Nursing	Chloe Shindruk (Co-Councilors) Tanja Scharnagl	Tanja Present
Science		
Biological Sciences	Gwangseok Yoon	Present
Chemistry	Haben Gabir	Present
Computer Science	Md Momin Al Aziz (Co-Councilors) Md S. R. Mahdi	Toufique Morshed-Proxy
Mathematics	Jane Breen (Co-Councilors) Mohammad Shirazi	Mohammad Present
Microbiology	Mac Kohlmeier	Present
Physics & Astronomy	Darren Flynn	Present
Statistics	Kanika Grover (Co-Councilors) Shamsia Sobhan	Both Present
Social Work		

Social Work - Indigenous Knowledge	Kyra Wilson	Absent
UMSU (Non-Voting)		
President or Designate		Absent
CUPE 3909 (Non-Voting)		
President or Designate	Abdulrazaki Abu	Absent
FGS Rep (Non-Voting)		
Dean or Designate	Dr. Todd Mondor	Absent
Student Life (Non-Voting)		
Office of Student Life	Cora Dupuis	Absent
Indigenous Student Centre		
Indigenous Student Centre	Trevor Phillips	Regrets
Guests		
IDRSC Co-Chair	Sakib Rahman	Present
Biosystems Eng. (Possible Co-Councilor)	Hrishekes Banik	Present

President **Date**

Office Assistant **Date**