

Minutes
GSA Council Meeting
Wednesday August 26, 2009
4:45 pm, UMSU Council Chambers

Quorum. Meeting called to order at 4:55 pm.

In the interest of "going green" only agendas for this meeting were printed for each individual. The rest of the information will be projected on the screen.

1. Approval of Agenda
Amend agenda to add Lois Ward from the International Centre for Students request for Special Project Grant.
Motion
BIRT the agenda be amended to include request for Special Projects Grant by Lois Ward.
Vahedi/Fynn
Carried
2. Round of introductions and review of meeting procedures. Abas welcomed all the new members to council, and welcomed back returning members.
3. Approval of the May 13, 2009 GSA Council Meeting Minutes
Motion
BIRT the minutes of the May 13, 2009 GSA Council Meeting be approved.
Shahfar/Fynn
All in favour. Carried.
4. Committee Reports
 - a) Executive Committee
Report presented by Abas.
 - b) Finance Committee
Report presented by Trish.
Motion
BIRT the Special Project Grant for \$500.00 for ICS Intercultural Day be approved.
All in favour. Carried.
 - c) Bylaw Committee
Report presented by Trish.
 - d) GSA/HSGSA Committee
Report presented by Andy.
 - e) Award Committee
Report presented by Peter.
Motion
BIRT the amended list of 2008-2009 GSA Award Winners be approved.
Approved.
5. Executive Reports
 - a) President
 - b) Vice President (Internal)
 - c) Vice President (Academic)
 - d) Vice President (External)

- e) Vice President (Health Sciences)
- f) Senators
 - 1 . Amir
 - 2 . Majid
 - 3 . Arman
- 6. Department Reports/Announcements

Mitch Tripple of UMSU invited everyone to their Orientation "Party At The Parkade" on Sept. 18th , \$20.00 with a BBQ at 6 pm and Lupe Fiasco Concert at 8 pm.
- 7. Other Business
 - a) Permission to post Councilor's email and photo on website
Permission forms have been created. Once signed Majid will post the information to the website.
 - b) Abas sought feedback on the use of the projector instead of printing copies of the materials for every council member.
- 8. Announcements
 - a) Next Meeting – September 23 at 4:45pm in UMSU Council Chambers
 - b) HSGSA Speaker, Ann McNabb will be at the Fort Garry campus on Friday, September 18th at 10:30 am. Location TBA.
 - c) GSA Handbooks – are available in the GSA Office.
- 9. Adjournment

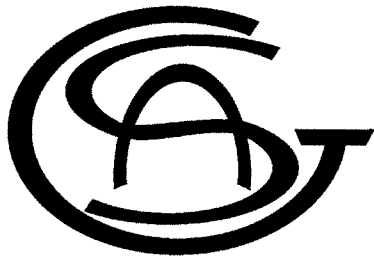
Motion
BIRT the meeting be adjourned at 6:33 pm.
Kelley/Nawrot
Carried.

Attendance – GSA Council
May 13, 2009
4:45 pm
UMSU Council Chambers, 176 Helen Glass Bldg.

GSA Executive	Name	Signature
President	Abas Sabouni	Present
VP Internal	Trish Kelley	Present
VP Academic	Peter Nawrot	Present
VP External	Mohamed Moustafa	Present
VP Health Sciences	Meaghan Labine	Present
Executive-at-Large	Andy Bonar	Present
Senator1	Amir Hossein Birjandi	Present
Senator2	Majid Ostadrahimi	Present
Senator3	Arman Vahedi	Present
Office Manager (Non-voting)	Ruth Prokesch	Present
Councillors	Name	Signature
UMSU (Non-voting)	Mitch Tripple	Present
	Sid Rashid	Regrets
CUPE 3909 (Non-voting)	Muthukumar Bagavathiannan	Present
Agric & Food Science		
Agribusiness & Agric. Economics	Jordan Templeton Mark Fynn	Present
Animal Science	Jessica Brady	Present
Biosystems Engineering	Sanjayan Satchithanantham T. Senthilkimar	Present Present
Entomology		
Food Science	Roniele Cordeiro	Absent
	Daniella Alejo	Present
Plant Science	Muthu B.(Proxy)	Present
Soil Science	Baljeet Singh	Present
Architecture		
Architecture	Steven Berry	Present
	Dan Dufault	Present
City Planning	Lauren Lange	Present
Interior Design	Michelle Zelickson	
Landscape Architecture	Kelly Wojnarski	Present
Arts		

Anthropology	Jeniva Donaleshen	
Classics		
Economics		
English, Film & Theatre	Joel Hughes	
French, Spanish & Italian		
German		
History	Tamara Fleming	
Icelandic Studies		
Linguistics		
Native Studies		
Philosophy	Wes McPherson	
Political Studies and Public Administration		
Psychology		
Religious Studies	Matt Sheedy	
Slavic Studies		
Sociology	Gosia Parada	Present
Canadian Studies St. Boniface		
Arthur Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice		
Arthur Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice		
Management		
Management 1 (MBA)		
Management 2	Muralidharan (Murli) Ek	Present
Education		
Curr: Hum. & Soc. Sc.		
Curr: Math & Nat Sc		
Curr: Teaching & Learning		
Educ. Admin & Foundations		
Educational Psychology		
Educ. Adm. Fnd. & Psy		
Faculty based PhD		
Educ. St. Boniface		
Engineering		
Civil	Qiuyan Yuan	
Electrical & Computer	Shabnam Shahfar	Present

Mechanical & Manufacturing	Richard Lozowy	
Environment		
Geography & Environment	Sally Wong	
Geological Sciences		
Nat Resources Inst	Sheldon Ratuski	Present
Disability Studies		
Food & Nutr Sciences		
Interdisciplinary		
Human Ecology		
Clothing & Textiles		
Family Social Sciences	Mika Kawaguchi	Present
Human Nutritional Sciences	Danielle Stringer	Regrets
Law		
Law		
Music		
Music		
Nursing		
Nursing	Jenny Shnitka	Present
Pharmacy		
Pharmacy		
Phys Ed & Rec Studies		
Recreation Management & Kinesiology	Jill Hnatiuk	Present
Science		
Biological Sciences	Cheryl Klassen	Regrets
Chemistry	Taras Babiak	
Computer Science		
Mathematics		
Microbiology		
Physics & Astronomy	Neil Moore	Present
Statistics		
Social Work		
Social Work		



University of Manitoba Graduate Students' Association
Local 96 of the Canadian Federation of Students

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Agenda - GSA Council
Wednesday August 26, 2009
4:45 pm, UMSU Council Chambers

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Round of introductions and review of meeting procedures.
3. **Motion: Approval of May 13, 2009 GSA Council Meeting Minutes**
4. Committee Reports
 - a) Executive Committee
 - b) Finance Committee
Motion: Approve Special Project Grant for ICS intercultural day
 - c) Bylaw Committee
 - d) GSA/HSGSA Committee
 - e) Award Committee
Motion: Approval of 2008-2009 GSA award winners
5. Executive Reports
 - a) President
 - b) Vice President (Internal)
 - c) Vice President (Academic)
 - d) Vice President (External)
 - e) Vice President (Health Sciences)
 - f) Senators
 - 1 . Amir
 - 2 . Majid
 - 3 . Arman
6. Department Reports/Announcements
7. Other Business
 - a. Permission to post Councilor's email and photo on website
8. Announcements
 - a. Next Meeting – September 23 at 4:45pm in UMSU Council Chambers
 - b. HSGSA Speaker, Ann McNabb
 - c. GSA Handbook
9. Adjournment

REPORT

From: GSA Executive Committee

To: GSA Council

Date: August 26, 2009

Re: Monthly Report

Meetings

May 28, 2009

June 25, 2009

July 15, 2009

August 13, 2009

August 19, 2009

Fall 2006 Orientation/Welcome Back Week

The GSA Executive has been busy the past couple of months planning and organizing the Fall Orientation/Welcome Back week for Grad students at the U of M, to be held from September 11 to September 18. Events planned include: pancake brunch, campus tours, BBQs, movie screening, academic workshops and information sessions, Ultimate and Soccer games, trivia social, and more! (See attachment 1). We are in the process of putting the final touches on promotional materials and are seeking the help of volunteers to help us pull off the event.

Gradzette Restructuring Program

Objective:

To restructure the Gradzette so as to best utilize the new monies available.

Structure:

A team of individuals with a communal objective as well as specific and independent job descriptions will run the Gradzette.

Managing Editor:

The Managing Editor will be the primary Editor of the publication and will have the following responsibilities:

1. Ensuring the operations of the Gradzette team
2. Finalizing each issue of the Gradzette to ensure it is free of errors and meets the standards of the Gradzette.
3. Liaising with other publications to ensure product and practice are each at the highest standards.
4. Securing non-campus content.
5. Securing non-campus advertising.

Campus Editor:

The Campus Editor will be the secondary Editor of the Gradzette and will have the following responsibilities:

1. Ensuring the full coverage of all GSA events and pertinent campus events.

2. Liaising with the GSA Executive to ensure that communal concerns are being expressed.
3. Liaising with non-GSA Executive to ensure that communal concerns are being met.
4. Securing campus content.
5. Securing campus advertisers.

Design Editor:

The Design Editor will be the tertiary Editor and will be responsible for:

1. Securing all artwork and photographs for the Gradzette.
2. Liaising with pertinent authorities as to copyright regulations regarding all artwork and photographs.
3. Liaising with the publisher to ensure the best quality and most efficient prices are being attained for the publication.
4. Designing the layout and structure of each issue of the Gradzette.
5. Liaising with the Distribution Manager to ensure the Gradzette is distributed to all locations in a reasonable amount of time.

Editorial Team Objective:

The Editorial team will work together to ensure that:

1. The best product is put out.
2. All available streams of cost recovery are explored.

Gradzette Editorial Team

Three positions for the Gradzette Editorial team was posted at (August 21). We received many applications for these positions and have not conducted interviews. The deadline is on Friday August 28, 2009. We hope to have the first issue of the year out by middle of September.

GSA Legal Name

Our legal corporation name in companies office in province is 4410882 Manitoba Association Inc. We are in the last stage of changing the name to the University of Manitoba Graduate Students' Association.

T-shirt design competition

For the first time we have announced a contest to create the 2009-2010 UMGSA T-Shirts. We received 23 design and between them three top design has been selected (Butterfly, Equation, Thesis). Winners are: Rhanissa Hirawan, Michael Rodyniuk, and Alex Korotkov. These winners will receive a certificate, be presented with the t-shirt they have designed and be given a cheque for \$150.00 at the 2009-2010 GSA Awards Luncheon.

The 200 T-shirts has been ordered and are at the screen-printer. Approximate total cost: \$1,700.00.

GSA Website:

Significant change has been done in GSA website. Majid OstadRahimi (GSA Senator) and Mohammed Zak. (VPE) took responsibility of GSA website and working hard to make the website more useful and active. All activity and reports of the GSA will be posted through the website.

Annual Manitoba Skills Symposium

The Annual Manitoba Skills Symposium from Friday, July 17 to Sunday, July 19 at Brandon University in Brandon, Manitoba. Seven executive members of GSA and HSGSA are attended on this meeting. Abas, Mohamed, Trish, Peter, and Majid from GSA, Marco and Cordula from HSGSA.

Awards Luncheon

The GSA Awards Luncheon will be held in Marshall McLuhan Hall, 204 U Centre on Tuesday, September 1/09 at 12:00. Details will be presented by Peter (VPA).

Finance Committee Report**From:** Trish Kelley, (Vice-President Internal)**To:** GSA Council**Date:** August 26, 2009**Re:** Monthly Report

Meetings:

May 27, 2009

June 16, 2009

July 13, 2009

August 25, 2009

The Finance Committee met monthly over the summer to approve Conference Travel Grants and Special Project Grants. In total, we approved 87 Conference Travel Grants, totalling \$28,873.00.

Special Project:

- a. The Committee approved a Special Project Grant to help fund the Western Physiologist Conference to be held by the Faculty of Kinesiology in September, 2009. This Special Project Grant came to the Finance Committee endorsed by the GSA Council.
- b. A funding request of \$500 to the U of M ICS intercultural day was approved at the August Finance Committee meeting. ICS holds an intercultural day at Camp Cedarwood annually, and the GSA has supported their request for funding for the past 2 years. (See attachment 2)

MOTION:

Be it resolved that the GSA approve funding the U of M ICS intercultural day project grant for \$500.

Bylaws Committee Report**From:** Trish Kelley, (Vice-President Internal)**To:** GSA Council**Date:** August 26, 2009**Re:** Monthly Report

The Bylaws for the Graduate Students Association of the University of Manitoba have been with our lawyer for the last year. He met with members of the Executive Committee on August 12 to go over the changes that were made last year. There are some revisions to be made, and we expect the bylaws to be returned to us within two weeks. When we receive the updates bylaws, the Bylaws Committee will meet to review them and suggest changes.

Award Committee Report

From: Peter Nawrot, Vice-President (Academic)

To: GSA Council

Date: August 26, 2009

Re: Monthly Report

The award winners are as follows:

Name: Jacqueline Ripat

Student # : 6008128

Graduate Students' Association Award for Full Time Doctoral Student

Value: \$16,000.00CAD

Name: Vanessa Lozecznik

Student # : 6830342

Graduate Students' Association Award for Full Time Master's Student

Value: \$12,000.00CAD

Name: Graham Stinnett

Student # : 6784457

Graduate Students' Association Award for Full Time Master's Student

Value: \$12,000.00CAD

Name: Michelle Kowalchuk

Student # : 5611303

Graduate Students' Association Award for Part Time Master's Student

Value: \$5,000.00CAD

Name: Sheena Braun

Student # : 5406753

Graduate Students' Association Award for Part Time Master's Student

Value: \$5,000.00CAD

Name: Dr. Dana Medoro

Department: English, Film, and Theatre

Graduate Students' Association Teaching Award

Value: \$200.00CAD

HSGSA/GSA committee

From: Andy Bonar

To: GSA Council

Date: August 26, 2009

Re: Monthly Report

GSA/HSGSA committee meeting June 22, 2009

GSA/HSGSA committee July 29, 2009

GSA/HSC Committee on the Operations and Continued Operations of the Health Sciences Caucus Report

A committee of GSA members has met twice this summer and will meet a minimum of twice more before the next meeting of the GSA Council. Concerns over the financial operations of the Health Sciences Caucus were raised by the Vice-President Health Sciences, Meaghan Labine. The Executive Committee felt her concerns to be reasonable, and raised concerns of their own, and so a joint committee was struck to determine a course of action for addressing them. This committee's task is to determine a working model for the Health Sciences Caucus, which is to include a clear delineation of the funding responsibilities and structure for that Caucus, as well as to ensure that proper representation and equitable provisions are provided for members of the GSA whose primary or sole base of academic study is at the Bannatyne and/or St. Boniface campus of the University of Manitoba. As of this point, the Committee can report that it has come together to outline a primary initiative for the rehabilitation of the GSA office at the Brody Centre.

REPORT

From: Abas Sabouni, President
To: GSA Council
Date: August 26, 2009
Re: Monthly Report

Meetings attended

Manitoba Provincial CFS Meeting: Saturday, May 16, 2009
Graduate Caucus Meeting: Monday, May 18, 2009
National Canadian Federation of Students: May 16 – May 19, 2009
UMSU preparation about board meeting: May 19, 2009
Board of Governors: May 19, 2009
130th Annual Convocation: May 27, 2009
Meeting with the Honourable Diane McGifford: May 28, 2009
GSA Executive Meeting: May 28, 2009
Convocation ceremony: May 29, 2009
University discipline committee: June 9, 2009
UMSU and GSA meeting: June 9, 2009
Faculty of Graduate Studies Executive Committee: June 10, 2009
Board of Governors: June 16, 2009
GSA Executive Meeting: June 25, 2009
Meeting with Dean Ruth (Dean of Engineering): June 29, 2009
Meeting with Dean Doring (Dean of Faculty of Graduate Studies): July 7, 2009
GSA Finance Meeting July 14, 2009
GSA Executive Meeting: July 15, 2009
Manitoba CFS Manitoba Skills Development Symposium in Brandon: July 17-18, 2009
Leadership workshop July 21, 2009
GSA/HSGSA committee July 29, 2009
UMSU meeting about GSA Autonomy August 10, 2009
Meeting with Don (UMSU finance) about Manitoban reallocation money August 10, 2009
Meeting with Lawyer about GSA Bylaw, August 12, 2009
CFS Campaigns Planning Session, August 13th, at Collège Universitaire De Saint-Boniface
GSA Executive Meeting: August 13, 2009
GSA Executive Meeting: August 19, 2009

Meetings missed

GSA Finance Meeting May 27, 2009 due to the 130th Annual Convocation
Office hours: Wednesday June 3, 2009 due to a conference in US.
GSA Finance Meeting June 16, 2009 due to the Board of Governors meeting
GSA/HSGSA committee meeting June 22, 2009, due to a conference in Edmonton

Office Hours

My office hours continue to be held from 1:30 pm to 3:30pm on Wednesdays. I missed my office hours on June 3 (due to a conference) and July 8 (I was sick).

Other Information

New student residence building

Mrs. McCallum informed the Board of a donation of \$6.9 million towards the new student residence building from the College Housing Holdings Inc. Board. The College Housing Holdings Inc. Board had decided it was in the best interest to sell the apartment at 99 Dalhousie Drive and found a vendor who is willing to continue to operate it as cooperative housing.

Operating budget 2009-2010

Board of Governors approve the operating budget based on total revenue and expenditures of \$487,161,820 for the year ending March 31, 2010.

For the operating budget for 2009-2010 the factors upon which the budget development had been based; including the COPSE base grant increase of 4.5%, a tuition increase of 4.5% inclusive of ancillary fees, a 22% increase to undergraduate international student fees and 1% basic budget reduction applied to most academic and administrative units. In addition, the proposal to increase graduate students continuing fees by \$150 was pending COPSE approval in September COPSE meeting and that if approved, all the funds collected would be directed towards graduate student support.

University Shuttle Bus service

Through an arrangement with the City of Winnipeg, transit services between the two campuses on the #36 bus had been increased to every 30 minutes and that it was a factor which impacted the decision to no longer offer the University Shuttle Bus service free of charge.

Fee reallocation from Manitoban

The Board of Governors approved the redirecting of \$3 per term that graduate students pay into the Manitoban student newspaper into a fund to operate a University of Manitoba graduate students' magazine. This money is approximately \$18,000.

Meeting with Minister of Advanced Education

We had a meeting with Diane McGifford, Minister of Advanced Education, we discussed some issues such as Tuition Fees and Freeze, Right to Organize Legislation, International Student Fees, Extending Public Health Benefits for International Students, Residence Student Protection, Aboriginal Access.

UMSU and GSA autonomy agreement:

There has been the autonomy agreement between the GSA with UMSU in April 2007. This agreement submitted to the university administrator in order to the GSA recognized as a student organization, and the membership fees can be allocated directly to GSA. Two years ago the university lawyers made an agreement between UMSU, GSA and UofM. There were some concerns raised by GSA and UMSU on that agreement. This process has been stop since 2007 and has been left to the current Executive to deal with. We have been meeting with the UMSU regarding those concerns and review all of them. I had a conference call with our Lawyer (Jeffery J. Palamar) about it. We will continue to work on that with UMSU and GSA Lawyers on this issue.

Meeting with Lawyer for Bylaw:

We had meeting with our lawyer Mr. Taylor Mccaffrey for bylaw. He finally made the changes that were recommended 3 years ago. We made some terminology based on our association and clear for him. We are hoping to have the update version of the bylaw ready in the earlier September in order to be send to the bylaw committee.

Report**From:** Trish Kelley, Vice-President Internal <vpi@umgsa.ca >**To:** GSA Council**Date:** August 26, 2009**Re:** Monthly Report

Meetings Attended and Missed

May 27 - Finance Committee Meeting
June 16 – Finance Committee Meeting
June 22 – GSA/HSGSA Joint Committee Meeting
June 25 – Executive Committee Meeting
July 13 – Finance Committee Meeting
July 15 – Executive Committee Meeting
July 17-18 – CFS Manitoba Skills Symposium (Brandon, MB)
August 13 – Executive Meeting – Missed (Field Work)
August 19 – Executive Meeting – Missed (Field Work)
August 25 – Finance Committee Meeting

Office Hours – Held and Missed

May 18 – 1:30-3:30
May 25 – 1:30-3:30
June 1 – Missed (Dr. Appointment)
June 2 – 1:30-3:30
June 8 – 1:30-3:30
June 15 – 1:30-3:30
June 22 – Missed
June 24 – 12:30-3:30
June 29 – 1:30-3:30
July 6 – 1:30-3:30
July 13 – 1:30 – 3:30
July 20 – 1:30 -3:30
July 27 – 1:30 - 3:30
August 4 – 1:30-3:30
August 10 – Missed (Field Work)
August 24 – Missed
August 25 – 12:30 – 4:30

I'm leaving for the field again on August 29, 2009. I will likely be away for 2 weeks, and hope to make it back in time for orientation.

REPORT

From: Peter Nawrot, Vice-President (Academic)
To: GSA Council
Date: June, July, & August 2009
Re: Monthly Report

Meetings attended and missed

Senate Meeting: Wednesday May 13, 2009
GSA Council Meeting: May 13, 2009
National Canadian Federation of Students: May 16 – May 21, 2009
Manitoba Provincial CFS Meeting: Saturday, May 16, 2009
Open Plenary of CFS: Sunday, May 17, 2009
Current Issues in Higher Education: Sunday, May 17, 2009
Manitoba Provincial CFS Meeting: Sunday, May 17, 2009
Mature and Part Time Constituency Group Meeting: Monday, May 18, 2009
Graduate Caucus Meeting: Monday, May 18, 2009 (AM)
Briefing on Public Opinion Polling: Monday, May 18, 2009
Workshop on Ethical Purchasing: Monday, May 18, 2009
Manitoba Provincial CFS Meeting: Monday, May 18, 2009
National CFS Budget Committee: Monday, May 18, 2009
Graduate Caucus Meeting: Monday, May 18, 2009 (PM)
Mature and Part Time Constituency Group Meeting: Tuesday, May 19, 2009
Women's Constituency Group Meeting – Sisters In Spirit: Tuesday, May 19, 2009
Manitoba Provincial CFS Meeting: Tuesday, May 19, 2009
National CFS Budget Committee: Tuesday, May 19, 2009
Mature and Part Time Constituency Group Meeting: Wednesday, May 20, 2009
Graduate Caucus Meeting: Wednesday, May 20, 2009
Manitoba Provincial CFS Meeting: Wednesday, May 20, 2009
Briefing on Canada Student Grant: Wednesday, May 20, 2009
Closing Plenary of CFS: Wednesday, May 20, 2009
CFS prep meeting for meeting with Honourable Diane McGifford: Tuesday, May 27, 2009
Meeting with the Honourable Diane McGifford: Wednesday, May 28, 2009
130th Annual Convocation: Wednesday, May 28, 2009
GSA Executive Meeting: Wednesday, May 28, 2009
Senate Meeting: Wednesday, June 24, 2009
GSA Executive Meeting: Thursday, June 25, 2009
Meeting with the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies: Tuesday, July 7, 2009
UMSU Council meeting: Thursday, July 16, 2009
2009 Manitoba Skills Development Symposium: July 17 – July 19, 2009
I attended this symposium. I attended the following workshops:
The Top5 Issues in Post-secondary Education
Who's Who in Post Secondary Education
Making the News ...By Learning How to Play (and Win) the Spin Wars
A Poverty Reduction Plan for Manitoba: Education is Key
Building Social Movements: Solidarity
Copyright
The ABC's of Contracts: How not to get Fleeced
Understanding Finances and Human Resources
Regional Visioning Session
CFS Provincial Executive Meeting: Sunday, July 19, 2009

City Council Meeting on the Municipal Corporate Utility: Wednesday, July 22, 2009
Purchase of lounge furniture and office desk: July 28, 2009
CFS Provincial Campaigns Meeting: Thursday, August 13, 2009
GSA Executive Meeting: Wednesday, August 19, 2009
UMSU Council Meeting: Thursday, August 20, 2009

Regrets- SCIE meeting: Professional Unsuitability by-laws: Tuesday, May 19, 2009
Regrets- SCIE meeting: Professional Unsuitability by-laws: Tuesday, May 20, 2009
Regrets – UMSU and GSA Meeting: Tuesday, June 9, 2009
Regrets – FGS Executive Meeting: Wednesday, June 9, 2009
Regrets – 28th Annual Winnipeg Walk For Peace: Saturday, June 13, 2009
Regrets – CFS Provincial Executive Meeting: Tuesday, June 23, 2009
Regrets – GSA Executive Meeting: Wednesday, July 15, 2009
Regrets – GSA Autonomy Agreement Meeting: Monday, August 10, 2009
Regrets – GSA Executive Meeting: Thursday, August 13, 2009

Briefs

A graduate student came by my office to express their concern that graduate students were being evicted from their study spaces on campus to make room for students of larger departments as a residual effect of the Duff Roblin fire. I had asked the student to write an email so this matter could be dealt with in the correct manner and procedure. I have not received any further communication with the student.

University Senate

I sit on University Senate as an assessor and nonvoting member and representative of the GSA. I attended this meeting which included a number of appointments, elections, and a powerpoint presentation on the new residence building over Pembina Hall. The graduands of 2009 were ratified by Senate. Senate takes a recess for the summertime.

Canadian Federation of Students

I attended the Canadian federation of Students Semi Annual General Meeting in Ottawa, with 84 different Universities and Colleges across the country. The meetings were hosted at Carleton University, Local 1 of the Canadian Federation of Students, and united over 300 students from coast to coast. The meetings were an opportunity to network with other campuses nationwide and to learn about a wide variety of issues that affect students across the country. My role at this meeting was to sit on the budget committee to review and create the operating budget for CFS within the upcoming year.

CFS prep meeting for meeting with Honourable Diane McGifford

This meeting was an opportunity for the members involved, to focus to the important issues that Manitobans are facing in post-secondary education and to bring these issues up at the upcoming meeting with the Minister of Advanced Education and Literacy. There were representatives from CFS-Manitoba, GSA, UMSU, University of Winnipeg, Brandon University, and College Universitaire de St. Boniface in attendance for this meeting.

Meeting with the Honourable Diane McGifford

This was a cordial and respectful meeting. The locals present expressed their sentiments of disappointment in the thaw of the freeze and the 4.5% increase. Discussion expanded to the area of the marginalized groups, especially women and Aboriginal students, where the tuition increases could exclude these groups. The Minister attempted to alter the course of the meeting, but was redirected to the agenda of the meeting.

Meeting with the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies

This meeting was an initial meeting to meet the dean. The topics for discussion were:

- Study space for graduate students
- Student's concerns regarding the Faculty of Graduate Studies
- Professional Unsuitability bylaws for faculty and students

New Furniture

A new desk and hutch was purchased for my office space. The old desk was broken and was not of practical use. Two sofas and 2 loveseats with matching pillows were purchased for the lounge. This furniture is custom built to commercial standards and is locally made by Lord Selkirk Furniture. Expected delivery date will be September 4, 2009.

Awards Luncheon

The Graduate Student Association Awards Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, September 1, 2009 in Room 204 (Marshall McLuhan Hall), University Centre. Invitations have been sent out to the recipients, their respective departments, councils, representatives, and University Administration to attend the event.

Graduate Student Representation

A massive email was sent out to graduate students to participate in joining various student governance committees. I have received an overwhelming response of Graduate Students who are interested in becoming involved. All the committees have been filled except for the University disciplinary Committee. This committee typically meets more often than others to address issues ranging from assault to cheating on exams at the University.

The University of Manitoba Graduate Students' Association is nominating the following people to the following committees:

University Disciplinary Committee:

Peter Nawrot (Masters)	Social Work
Erica Jung (Masters)	Education
Sara Dias (Masters)	Social Work

Faculty of Graduate Studies Appeals Committee:

Abdelhalim Mohamed (PhD)	Electrical and Computer Engineering
Marc Cadieux (PhD)	Environment and Geography
Sunday Oghiakhe (PhD)	Entomology

Alternate Students for Faculty of Graduate Studies Appeals Committee:

Sandra Salem (PhD)	Psychology
Lisa Mary-Quigley (Masters)	Human Ecology

Faculty Council of Graduate Studies:

Debra Lall	Psychology
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Faculty of Graduate Studies Guidelines and Policy Committee:

Muthukumar Bagavathiannan	Agriculture and Food Sciences
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Dean of Agriculture Committee:

Anthony Tyler Guerrieri

Department of Plant Science

Office Hours Held

Wednesdays: 0900-1100 Hrs.

I was on holidays from June 9, 2009 – June 16, 2009.

Report

From: Mohamed Moustafa, Vice-President (External)

To: GSA Council

Date: Aug 26, 2009

Re: Monthly Report

Events & Meetings attended and missed

55th Semi-Annual general meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students - May 16-20, 2009;
GSA Finance committee meeting - May 27, 2009;
GSA Executive meeting - May 28 2009;
GSA/UMSU meeting - June 9, 2009;
Public meeting on the proposed corporate utility model for the water and waste department – June 11, 2009;
28th Annual Winnipeg walk for peace - June 13, 2009;
GSA Finance committee meeting - June 16, 2009;
CFS-MB Provincial Executive orientation meeting - June 23, 2009;
Meeting with the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies - July 7, 2009;
CFS-MB Provincial Campaigns strategy meeting - July 9, 2009;
GSA Finance committee meeting - July 14, 2009;
GSA Executive meeting - July 15, 2009;
Manitoba Skills Development Symposium- July 17-19, 2009;
CFS-MB Special General meeting– July 19, 2009;
CFS-MB Provincial Executive meeting – June 19, 2009;
CFS-MB Provincial Campaigns planning meeting – August 13, 2009;
GSA Executive meeting – August 19, 2009;
GSA Finance committee meeting – August 25, 2009;

Office hours held

My office hours are on Thursdays from 11am to 1pm.

Other information

1. CFS-MB Campaigns Meetings

I. Campaigns priorities:

1. Tuition fees and Funding:

Campaign goals:

- The re-instatement of a fully funded tuition fee freeze for all students in all programs.
- Government funding increase for post secondary education, to bring operating funding from public sources as a percentage of total costs back to the 1985 level of 83%.
- An adequate system of student financial aid, with grants distributed on the basis of need and income.

2. Building a discrimination free campus:

Campaign goals:

- Raise awareness of discrimination in all forms in post secondary communities in Manitoba.
- Oppose discrimination in campuses across Manitoba.

- Ensure that governments and universities and colleges in Manitoba make the necessary changes in policy and practices to end discrimination in all forms at post-secondary institutions in Manitoba.

3. Aboriginal Student issues:

Campaign goals:

- Ensure that the federal government implements the recommendations of the *No Higher Priority* report on Aboriginal post-secondary education.
- Lower tuition fees and student debt in Manitoba.
- Increase the number and value of grants as well as the funding for Aboriginal students,

II. Day of action on November 5, 2009.

2. GSA Orientation

I am working with the rest of executive members to organize the GSA orientation week (11-19 September 2009). The complete program should be released soon.

REPORT

From: Meaghan Labine – VP HSC
To: GSA Council
Date: August 26, 2009
Re: Monthly Report

Meetings Attended:

Meetings Attended:

HSGSA Executive meeting – August 24th, 2009
Visiting Speakers committee – August 24th, 2009
GSA Executive meeting – August 19th, 2009
HSGSA Executive meeting – August 18th, 2009
GSA Executive meeting – August 12th, 2009
HSGSA Executive meeting – July 27th, 2009
HSGSA/GSA Committee – July 29th, 2009
HSGSA/GSA Committee – June 22, 2009
HSGSA Executive Committee – July 20th, 2009
HSGSA Executive Committee – July 9th, 2009
HSGSA Executive meeting – June 18th, 2009
HSGSA executive meeting – June 25th, 2009

Meetings Missed:

GSA Executive Meeting – July 15th, 2009

Report:

The HSGSA is currently in the process of organizing a few major events which are taking place in September.

HSGSA Executive Activities:

The HSGSA executive are in the process of organizing our events set out, as well as getting ready for our first council meeting of the year on September 2nd, 2009. At the end of June, our Vp-Communications resigned from his position, so we are holding a by-election to fill that position

HSGSA Orientation:

Orientation at the Bannatyne and St. Boniface campuses will take place from September 21-23rd. Events include a pancake breakfast, two information sessions with lunch, campus maze game, a movie night and social party with a DJ.

Visiting Speakers Series:

Our visiting speakers committee has invited Dr. Ann McNabb to the Bannatyne and Fort Garry campuses to give talks on endocrine disruptors in the environment. The Bannatyne presentation will be held on Sept 17th, and another similar talk is being give at Fort Garry on Sept 18th. The speaker will meet with both graduate students and faculty from numerous departments to discuss research, collaborations and career planning.

TIPS:

The first TIPS workshop for graduate students was held at the end of May this year, and it was a great success. Funding was provided by both faculty of Medicine and Graduate Studies. We are currently in the process of setting up additional workshops for the coming year at the Bannatyne campus.

HSGSA Website:

We have just recently updated our website to be more functional and include up to date information on events, notices and HSGSA/GSA activities.

Logo Competition:

The HSGSA is holding a logo competition for the health sciences graduates. Winning logos will be put up on the HSGSA website, and winners will receive a cash prize along with an HSGSA t-shirt with the new logo.

HSGSA Office:

Starting in September the HSGSA office will be up and running. HSGSA executive will hold office hours during the week during which time free coffee will be available to grad students who want to drop in.

REPORT

From: Majid Ostadrahimi, GSA Senator

To: GSA Council

Date: August 22, 2009

Re: Monthly Report

Meetings attended

University Senate meeting– May 13, 2009
Programs and Planning Committee (FGS PPC) – May 19, 2009
Finance Committee (GSA) – May 27, 2009
Finance Committee (GSA) – June 17, 2009
University Senate meeting – June 24, 2009
Finance Committee (GSA) – July 14, 2009 (Late attendance)
CFS: Manitoba Skills Development Symposium in Brandon – July 17-19, 2009
August 25 – Finance Committee Meeting

Meetings missed (Regret)

UMSU GSA Meeting – June 9, 2009
Student Senate Caucus Meeting – June 22, 2009

UMGSA.ca website

- Although it's not visible for visitors, all files, media contents, links, and reports were sorted in folders.
- Website content is updated weekly. Minutes, agendas, and required documents are available in the website.
- Lots of spam emails were blocked. There are still some survivors!
- Committees and councilors will be added to website including contact information which depends on approval from council.
- Statistics of web site has been monitored since July 22, 09. Here are some details so far (Aug. 22, 09):
 - o 45.10% direct visitors, 22.42% visitors from referring websites, and 32.47% by search engines.
 - o Most visitors are from Canada. With a big difference, next ranks belong to United States, India, Iran, Sri Lanka, and Egypt.
 - o Favorite pages are main page, downloads, executives, services, and finally council page.
 - o The average number of visitors is 20 per day.

Major issues in University Senate Meeting June 24, 2009:

- Microbiology Chemistry Joint Bachelor of Science (4 year Major) in Biotechnology was approved.
- Faculty of social work professional unsuit ability by-law, faced a lot of discussion regarding student accusation. A couple of situations were discussed. There were also discussions on revealing the names and legal side of vulnerable behaviors. It's been 2 years under work but it was postponed again.
- FGS: Candidacy exam within the first 2 years of PhD program and in no case 1 year prior to graduation. There was a discussion on the admission process for graduate students.
- Discussion on strategic Framework planning with a report on why does the University of Manitoba exist? There were discussions on the goals for Net Promoter Score (NPS). For

example some researchers are hot and some are not which affect the score of university and budget preferences.

What happened in PPC:

- Approval of M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering
- Approval of Ph.D. in nursing

Finance Committee news:

- Mainly approval of conference grants

Manitoba skills development symposium:

- One of the best lectures I enjoyed was related to how communicate with news agencies presented by Nora Loreto. For example, if they contact you and you don't have enough information, just ask them when your deadline is and ask them to call you back before their deadline. In the mean time, collect important information and stay consistent with others.

REPORT

From: Amir Birjandi, GSA Senator

To: GSA Council

Date: August 22, 2009

Re: Monthly Report

Last week we had a meeting about the orientation week. We tried to put fun programs that bring graduate students together, in the list in the same time it was in our attention to improve the quality of the programs. Famous faces of the university have been invited to some of the programs.

REPORT

From: Arman Vahedi,
To: GSA Council
Date: August 25, 2009
Re: Monthly Report

Meetings attended

CFS Semi-Annual National Meeting-May 16-21
University Senate Meeting-June 24
UMSU Health and Dental Committee Meeting-July 26

Meetings missed

Senate Caucus Meeting-June 22 (away for a conference)

University Senate meeting

Numerous topics were discussed in the meeting. The discussion about the claims between the professors and students was interesting. The details are available if needed.

Committees

I am a member of the following committees

- FGS award and scholarships committee
- GSA campaign committee
- GSA policy committee
- UMSU Health and Dental Committee

The first three committees have had no meeting so far. The UMSU health and dental committee had one meeting.