



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

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AGENDA - GSA COUNCIL  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2009  
4:45 PM, UMSU COUNCIL CHAMBERS

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
2. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 18, 2009 MINUTES
3. COMMITTEE REPORTS
  - a. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
  - b. FINANCE COMMITTEE
  - c. BYLAWS & POLICY COMMITTEE
  - d. CAMPAIGNS COMMITTEE
  - e. AWARDS COMMITTEE
  - f. INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW COMMITTEE
  - g. GSA/HSC JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE OPERATIONS AND CONTINUED OPERATIONS OF THE HSC
4. EXECUTIVE REPORTS
  - a. PRESIDENT
  - b. VICE-PRESIDENT EXTERNAL
  - c. VICE-PRESIDENT INTERNAL
  - d. VICE-PRESIDENT ACADEMIC
  - e. VICE-PRESIDENT HEALTH SCIENCES
  - f. SENATORS
    - i. AMIR
    - ii. MAJID
    - iii. ARMAN
5. OTHER BUSINESS
6. DEPARTMENT UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
7. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS
  - a. GSA FESTIVUS PARTY IS WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2009 IN THE GSA LOUNGE (217 UNIVERSITY CENTRE)
  - b. GSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IS THURSDAY, JANUARY 21 AT 5 PM IN THE GSA LOUNGE
  - c. NEXT COUNCIL MEETING IS JANUARY 27, 2010 AT 4:45 PM IN THE UMSU COUNCIL CHAMBERS



Minutes  
GSA Council Meeting  
Wednesday, December 9, 2009  
4:45 pm, UMSU Council Chambers

Meeting called to order at 4:52 pm.

1. Approval of Agenda

***Motion***

**BIRT the agenda be amended to include item 3. Business Arising from the Minutes. All subsequent items to be renumbered.**

**In Item 8 General Announcements**

**The location of the Festivus Party be changed to UMSU Council Chambers, 176 Helen Glass Bldg.**

**Bonar/Yuan**

**Carried**

***Motion***

**BIRT the agenda be approved as amended.**

**Carried**

2. Approval of the November 18, 2009 GSA Council Meeting Minutes

***Motion***

**BIRT the minutes of the November 18, 2009 GSA Council Meeting be approved.**

**Wong/Melnyk**

**No Opposition. Carried.**

3. Business Arising From the Minutes

There was a motion that VPHSC turn over all financial records bank statements, account information, etc. concerning the Health Sciences Caucus to the HSGSA/GSA Committee chair before the next meeting. The meeting was held December 8, 2009. **Glenn** had not received the information before the meeting.

**Labine** apologised for not getting the info to the committee in time, she was not aware of the meeting date.

**Glenn** announced that the next meeting will be Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at 5:00 pm at the Bannatyne Campus. Notice has been given regarding the requirements as per the previous minutes.

4. Committee Reports

a) Executive Committee

Verbal report presented by **Bonar**.

1) Executive Committee meeting held today at 3:30pm. We did not meet quorum.

2) CFS Report handed out at meeting. Council members were given time to read the report. Much discussion followed.

We broke briefly for food. Samosas from City Heart, 2280 Pembina.

b) Finance Committee

Kelley away at a Conference. Report presented by **Bonar**.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, December 15, 5:00pm in the GSA Office.

- c) Bylaws & Policy Committee  
Kelley away. Report presented by **Bonar**.
- d) Campaigns Committee  
Report presented by **Moustafa**.  
Campaigns Committee is planning a Social Sciences and Humanities Fair on February 3 – 5 in the GSA Lounge, and February 12 at Bannatyne Campus, in the Brody Atrium.
- e) Awards Committee  
Verbal report presented by **Nawrot**.
- f) Internal Development and Review Committee  
Verbal report presented by **Moore**.  
An emergency meeting of the IDR Committee was held in the fall regarding Senators' attendance, a second emergency meeting was held in November regarding the October Council meeting.  
The mid-term IDR meeting will be held December 11. They will report their findings at the January Council.
- g) GSA/HSC Joint Committee on the Operations and Continued Operations of the HSC  
Verbal report presented by **Glenn**.  
Next meeting will be January 12, 5pm at Bannatyne Campus.

5. Executive Reports

- a) President – **Bonar** gave report.  
Delta Marsh Field Station has closed which will negatively impact a number of grad students. **Moore** recommended speaking with Dean Mark Whitmore of the Faculty of Science.
- b) VP External – **Moustafa** gave report.
- c) VP Internal – **Kelley** away at conference.
- d) Vice President Academic – **Nawrot** gave report.  
GSA Executive Committee voted to provide \$4,000 to Holiday Hampers. Currently >70 requests for hampers from grad students. UMSU will cover the shortfall.  
Thank you to UMSU for supporting grad students in their requests for Holiday Hampers.
- e) Vice President Health Sciences – **Labine** gave report
- f) Senators
  - i) **Birjandi** submitted his resignation from the GSA effective Dec 31.  
If anyone is interested in the position of Senator for the remainder of the year please email any executive member or the Office Manager, and it will be brought to next Council.
  - ii) **Ostadrahimi** gave report.
  - iii) **Vahedi** is in Iran. No report.

6. Other Business

- a) WHEREAS some members of GSA Council are of a different opinion as to the validity and legality of the decision to appoint a new President and Executive-at-Large at the October 28<sup>th</sup> GSA Council meeting;

WHEREAS all parties would prefer to avoid any continuing conflict, including a potential legal conflict, in the best interests of the GSA membership.

WHEREAS GSA Council recognizes that by rescinding and redoing the appointment for the positions of President and Executive-at-Large, the question of whether the appointments were legitimate or not will be rendered moot;

***Motion***

**BIRT GSA Council rescinds the motion made at the October 28<sup>th</sup> meeting of GSA Council to appoint Andy Bonar as President of the GSA;**

**BIFRT GSA Council rescinds the motion made at the October 28<sup>th</sup> meeting of GSA Council to appoint Aaron Glenn as Executive-at-Large of the GSA.**

**BIFRT GSA Council immediately hold a second vote on the appointment of Andy Bonar as President of the GSA;**

**BIFRT GSA Council immediately hold a second vote on the appointment of Aaron Glenn as Executive-at-Large of the GSA.  
Labine/Nawrot**

Chair **Glenn** ruled the third and fourth items to be out of order.

Discussion resulted.

***Motion***

**BIRT the above first two motions be tabled until the next Council meeting on January 27, 2010.**

**Satchithanantham/Fynn**

**Carried.**

b) Striking a CFS Investigations Committee

***Motion***

**BIRT the GSA President seek legal opinion regarding CFS and whether we are obligated to pay the membership dues.**

**Labine/Moustafa**

**Carried.**

***Motion***

**BIRT we formally invite a representative from CFS to speak to Council in January to answer questions and issues brought before them.**

**Nawrot/Labine**

**Motion defeated.**

7. Department Updates and Announcements
  - Electrical Engineering held their Holiday Party last week.
  - Soil Science is getting together to watch a movie.

8. General Announcements
- a) GSA Festivus Pary is Wednesday, December 16, 2009 in the UMSU Council Chambers, 176 Helen Glass Bldg.
  - b) GSA Annual General Meeting is Thursday, January 21, 2010 at 5:00 pm in the GSA Lounge, 217 University Centre.
  - c) Next Council meeting is January 27, 2010 at 4:45pm in the UMSU Council Chambers.
8. Adjournment
- Motion**  
**BIRT the meeting be adjourned at 7:31 pm.**  
**Bonar/Nawrot**  
**No Opposition. Carried.**

**Attendance – GSA Council**  
**December 9, 2009**  
**4:45 pm**  
**UMSU Council Chambers, 176 Helen Glass Bldg.**

<b>GSA Executive</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Signature</b>
President	Andy Bonar	Present
VP Internal	Trish Kelley	Regrets
VP Academic	Peter Nawrot	Present
VP External	Mohamed Moustafa	Present
VP Health Sciences	Meaghan Labine	Present
Executive-at-Large	Aaron Glenn	Present
Senator1	Amir Hossein Birjandi	Present
Senator2	Majid Ostadrahimi	Present
Senator3	Arman Vahedi	Regrets
Office Manager (Non-voting)	Ruth Prokesch	Present (Non-voting)
<b>Councillors</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Signature</b>
UMSU (Non-voting)	Mitch Tripple	Present (Non-voting)
CUPE 3909 (Non-voting)	Qiuyan Yuan	Present (Non-voting)
<b>Agric &amp; Food Science</b>		
Agribusiness & Agric. Economics	Jason Jones Mark Fynn (Proxy)	Regrets Present
Animal Science	Jessica Brady	Present
Biosystems Engineering	Sanjayan Satchithanantham T. Senthilkimar	Present
Entomology		
Food Science	Roniele Cordeiro	Present

Plant Science	Tyler Guerrieri Muthu B.(Proxy)	Present
Soil Science	Rotimi Ojo	Present
<b>Architecture</b>		
Architecture	Steven Berry Dan Dufault	Present
City Planning	Lauren Lange	Present
Interior Design	Tamara Nyysola	
Landscape Architecture	Kelly Wojnarski	Regrets
<b>Arts</b>		
Anthropology	Jeniva Donaleshen	
Classics		
Economics		
English, Film & Theatre	Joel Hughes	
French, Spanish & Italian		
German		
History	Tamara Fleming	Present
Icelandic Studies		
Linguistics		
Native Studies		
Philosophy	Wes McPherson	
Political Studies and Public Administration	Justin Jones	Present
Psychology		
Religious Studies	Matt Sheedy	
Slavic Studies		
Sociology	Tim Melnyk	Present
Canadian Studies St. Boniface		
<b>Arthur Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice</b>		
Arthur Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice	Peter Karari	Present
<b>Management</b>		
Management 1 (MBA)		
Management 2	Muralidharan (Murli) Ek	Regrets
<b>Education</b>		
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		
<b>Engineering</b>		
Civil	Qiuyan Yuan	Present
Electrical & Computer	Shabnam Shahfar Amir Meghdadi (Proxy)	Present Regrets
Mechanical & Manufacturing	Shahab Shokrzodeh	Present
<b>Environment</b>		
Geography & Environment	Sally Wong	Present
Geological Sciences		
Nat Resources Inst	Sheldon Ratuski Maggie Sliwinski	Present
Disability Studies		
Food & Nutr Sciences		
Interdisciplinary		
<b>Human Ecology</b>		
Clothing & Textiles		
Family Social Sciences	Tammy Taillieu	Present
Human Nutritional Sciences	Danielle Stringer	Regrets
<b>Law</b>		
Law		
<b>Music</b>		
Music		
<b>Nursing</b>		
Nursing	Jenny Shnitka Kendra Seenandan	Present Regrets
<b>Phys Ed &amp; Rec Studies</b>		
Recreation Management & Kinesiology	Pavithra Rajan	Present
<b>Science</b>		
Biological Sciences	Cheryl Klassen	Present
Chemistry	Taras Babiak	
Computer Science		
Mathematics		



Microbiology		
Physics & Astronomy	Neil Moore	Present
Statistics		
<b><i>Social Work</i></b>		
Social Work		
<b><i>HSGSA Departments</i></b>		
Pharmacology & Therapeutics	Ngoc On Meaghan Labine (Proxy)	Present
Immunology	Ivan Landego	
Pathology	Tamara Young Meaghan Labine (Proxy)	Present
Human Anatomy and Cell Science	Leilanie Clayton	
Physiology	Sijo Joseph Natasha Paddock	
Medical Physics (Non-Voting)	Krista Chytyk	
Medical Microbiology	Melissa Herman Meaghan Labine (Proxy)	Present
Pharmacy	Daryl Fediuk Meaghan Labine (Proxy)	Present
Occupational Therapy & Medical Rehabilitation	Jeanette Logan Danean Herdman Meaghan Labine (Proxy)	Present
Community Health Sciences	Natalie Riediger Meaghan Labine (Proxy)	Present
Biochemistry & Medical Genetics	Alexander Graves Meaghan Labine (Proxy)	Present
Oral Biology	Sai Prasad Pydi Meaghan Labine (Proxy)	Present
Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery		
Orthodontics		
Periodontics		
Physicians Assistant Program	Peter Wojciechowski	



## CFS Report

Over the last few years, the UMGSA has become increasingly wary of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) and its subsidiary the Canadian Federation of Students Services (CFSS), as well as its provincial branch, the Canadian Federation of Students Manitoba (CFS-M). From the awful Health and Dental plan that they sold us (via UMSU) to their general disregard for our input on the organization and their strong Ontario bias at the federal level, the CFS, CFS-M and CFSS have not done much to warrant the ~\$60,000 a year that we send them. However, the UMGSA has tolerated this because we believe in a national student movement, which is what this corporation sells. Also, the CFS had a vested interest in convincing UMSU to put through the autonomy agreement, as UMSU was previously not forwarding checks to the CFS on behalf of the GSA (to be fair, we are not really members of the CFS [cf. President's Year End Report, 2001-2002], so it is not as if UMSU wasn't acting responsibly at the time). We generally believed the CFS to be a fairly inert entity, but this has rapidly changed.

On October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009, the University of Manitoba Graduate Students' Association (UMGSA) became aware of an "Education Action Plan" lobbied to government on our behalf by the CFS that sought to tax graduate student income. Andy Bonar, President of UMGSA, immediately contacted the CFS via listserv and requested an apology from the document's authors for having signed our name to a document that we did not support (nor had we even seen it before it was lobbied). He was told that the document was "informed by other positions" that the CFS held, as outlined in the document "Money Does Matter" (available for free online; \$50.00 for a print copy). However, "Money Does Matter" does not include any mention of the elimination of the tax-free status of graduate student research money (the summary charts from each document are attached). Having reviewed the document, it is abundantly clear that the "Education Action Plan" is indeed not merely "informed" by "Money Does Matter", but is actually a recycled lobby effort that's only real difference is the attack on graduate students.

We sent Trish Kelley, Mohamed Moustafa, Aaron Glenn and Andy Bonar to the 2009 CFS Annual General Meeting with the hopes that we could get some answers to our questions and see some progressive changes made to the corporation.

When the "Education Action Plan" was brought up for discussion at the National Graduate Caucus by the University of Calgary Graduate Students' Association, it was immediately dismissed and we were fed the above line about the document being "informed by past positions". This refrain proved to be a strong mantra as the meeting progressed, as all caucuses and subcommittees repeated it whenever questioned about how it was developed, and why the graduate student locals were not consulted.

The majority of the main meeting centered on a reform package for the CFS that was put forward by the McGill PGSS, which included many important reforms such as the implementation of a Conflict of Interest Policy, and several other important changes to increase transparency in both the CFS and its subsidiary the CFSS. In response to the multitude of schools (13) attempting to defederate from the CFS, Carleton University's

graduate students' association (who is attempting to block their undergraduate students association [the very first members of the CFS] from holding a defederation vote) put forward a motion to double the required percentage of students signing the petition necessary to hold a referendum from 10% to 20%, to limit the number of referenda occurring across the country at the same time to two, and to increase the minimum number of years between referenda held at a school from three to five. The majority of these motions were referred to the Organization and Services Development (OSD) committee. We were, by luck of the draw (literally) and against the wishes of the provincial component of the CFS (who clearly did not see the value of having the only graduate students association in the province on the committee) able to get one representative (Trish Kelley) onto the provincial voting component of that committee. The other two positions went to an undergraduate executive from the University of Manitoba Students' Union (UMSU) and a staff member from the Brandon University Students' Union (BUSU). While we were initially upset about the exclusion of our elected members and the inclusion of a staff member, it became clear when talking to members from other schools that the "stacking" of committees was a common occurrence.

This became abundantly clear when the National Graduate Caucus (NGC) elected delegates to sit on the OSD committee: two of the three delegates were not graduate students – they were graduate school dropouts who were working as staff members for student unions in Ontario. Moreover, all of the delegates the NGC sent to the OSD committee were from Ontario.

The horrible part about the lack of graduate student representation, as well as the lack of concern for graduate student issues, is that graduate student issues are Federal issues and thus the existence of a federal group to represent those issues is necessary (why we have supported the CFS in the past). Ironically, graduate issues and treaty issues are the only explicitly federal education issues, and the NGC and Aboriginal Caucus both meet at the same time at the end of the day (usually around 11pm). Aaron Glenn has repeatedly asked that this not occur, but there has been no effort to change this on the part of the corporation.

To make matters worse, the task of the OSD committee was only to make recommendations on the motions (a seemingly nonsense task until it is revealed that the real purpose is to stack the committee and then attempt to convince non-committee members that the recommendations of the committee should be adopted without debate). The Manitoba delegation operated in such a manner as to eliminate any discussion about how we were voting on any motions. The dynamics of the delegation were such that our member Trish Kelley had to excuse herself from the committee (which at this point, given the sheer number of CFS/student union staff members on the committee, was a seemingly senseless committee). This turned out to be a good thing, as we needed to find Trish a new room to stay in (she had been placed with a non-student CFS member), as safety had become an issue (see next paragraph). The OSD committee met until 6:30 the following morning, which, arguably, limited the members' abilities to make rational arguments or make sense of the changes being made to motions or the language

contained in most of the motions. While these committees typically end at predetermined times, and any motions not dealt with at the committee level go to the plenary without committee recommendations, it was apparent that the committee was forced to go through all motions to limit the debate at the plenary – the first motion put to the plenary by a delegate was to omnibus the recommendations of the OSD committee, despite the varying levels required for a majority vote on the motions (50% vs. 2/3) .

A major problem with the CFS meeting is the lack of ability for individuals or locals with dissenting opinions to voice their concerns. On more than one occasion at the meeting members of UMGSA were told that we were not there to represent the concerns of graduate students. Given that we were having such a hard time getting our concerns heard, the UMGSA, with the support of a number of schools from Quebec, sought out any available forum in which we could voice these concerns. Aaron Glenn ran for National Chairperson, Andy Bonar ran for National Deputy Chair person and Trish Kelley ran for National Treasurer so that we could use the ten minutes allotted for election speeches to address the concerns we saw with the corporation (CFS). In our election speeches we spoke out against the Carleton motion, the private (and political) interests that were controlling the corporation, and the general disregard for individual students.

It gets worse: Following the elections forum, Trish Kelley was verbally threatened by another delegate at the conference. She discussed this with the Harassment Officer, but her concerns were dismissed. Trish Kelley, Mohamed Moustafa, and Andy Bonar were also verbally accosted by a CFSS staff member; the harassment advisor informed us that she was not there to hear complaints about staff members.

When closing plenary finally rolled around, there was an immediate motion to reject all the motions put forward by schools from Quebec, a motion to accept all the committee recommendations without debate and, though the speaker's list was limited to two for and two against, multiple motions to call the question (which is supposed to be used only when debate is unproductive and is not to be used, as employed time and again at CFS meetings, in order to stop someone from speaking). Fortunately, the chair did not entertain these ridiculous and childish acts. Unfortunately, she did accept a vote of two-thirds that failed to receive two-thirds of the members voting *and* present in order to pass the Carleton motion. When this motion was illegally carried, we and another six or so schools walked out of the meeting in protest. While "walk-outs" are promoted by the CFS as a political tool for dissent, we were named-called and cussed at as we left (demonstrating the general childishness and lack of understanding on the part of a good many of the people affiliated with the CFS)

And this is what it boils down to: The CFS/CFSS is a multinational corporation (with holdings in both Canada and the United States) that sells multiple "services" to students—from cell phone plans to water bottles to health insurance to Travel Cuts promotions—but does not sustain itself through its sales (Travel Cuts alone loses in the millions). Rather, the CFS funds its corporate branch (CFSS) through mandatory, non-negotiable fees levied to all students (regardless of income, interest, or political

allegiance) registered at universities with which it has a partnership (generally via student associations). It then brands itself (the CFS) as representing the “Student Movement®”, which clearly ought not to be aligned with a corporation that garners its money off of students. Moreover, this corporation is not politically neutral; the chair of the last AGM is the chair of the federal New Democrat Party meetings. Many of the policies (such as the taxation of graduate students) have less to do with student representation than they do with advancing the careers of student politicians who hope to gain office in/through the NDP, or at the very least garner a cushy student union job or, better yet, a job with CFSS.

- reduce tuition fees whilst increasing revenue for public universities and colleges
- meet Canada's obligations to First Nations and Inuit peoples by increasing support by \$197 million
- create a federal Department of Post-Secondary Education and Research with an advisory council
- increase data collection for accountability and evidence-based decision-making

The proposal to shift spending from universal expenditures on tax credits and savings schemes to need-based grants adds significant progressivity to federal student financial aid. The model proposed here requires no new expense by the federal treasury, but is at least six times more generous than the allocation currently disbursed to provincial governments by the Millennium Scholarship Foundation.

Table 4.1. Summary of proposals and cost

Program	Cost (million)	Note
Creation of Department of Post-Secondary Education and Research	nominal	
Creation of Pan-Canadian Council on Post-Secondary Education and Research	nominal	
Creation of new pse transfer	\$ 0	
Increase to new pse transfer	\$ 3,000	Over three years plus escalator, legislation to reduce fees, total transfer by 2010 = \$6.2 billion
Creation of system of need-based grants	\$ 2,104	Funding generated by eliminating universal tax credits and savings schemes
Post-Secondary Student Support Program	\$ 197	
Debt Reduction in Repayment improvements	\$ 0	Already budgeted for by previous governments. DRR uptake would fall as grant is phased in
Statistics Canada's Centre for Education Statistics	\$ 10	
Reduction in the federal government's borrowing	\$ (130)	
Savings from insufficient debt management measures	\$ (64)	Improved DRR replaces Interest Relief program
Eliminate Textbook tax credit	\$ (82)	
Eliminate RESP tax haven	\$ (215)	
Eliminate CESC	\$ (540)	
Eliminate Tuition Fee and Education Tax Credits	\$ (1,270)	Does not include Student Loan Interest Credit
<b>Total investment in learning</b>	<b>\$ 3,010</b>	<b>Approx. 5% of surplus through 2010</b>

## Post-secondary education: a good investment

With an annual investment of less than \$1.5 billion—with an additional \$208 million the first year—the federal government can dramatically reshape Canada's system of higher education and drastically reduce student debt, create national standards, improve access for Aboriginal peoples, ensure Canada remains a leader in research and innovation and track the effectiveness of government policy.

Program	Cost (million)	Note
Creation of new PSE transfer	\$ 0	
Increase to PSE transfer	\$ 1,200	to restore funding to 1992 levels
Increase funding for Aboriginal education	\$ 216	to be administered through the PSSSP
Statistics Canada's Centre for Education	\$ 10	
Double number of Canada Graduate Scholarships	\$ 125	
Increase in up-front grants	\$ 2,421	sum of expenditures on tax credits and saving schemes
Eliminate textbook tax credit	\$ (82)	redirected to upfront grants
Eliminate scholarship tax credit	\$ (38)	redirected to upfront grants
Eliminate RESP savings scheme	\$ (230)	redirected to upfront grants
Eliminate CESG	\$ (540)	redirected to upfront grants
Eliminate tuition fee and education tax credits	\$ (1,531)	redirected to upfront grants
<b>TOTAL ANNUAL INVESTMENT</b>	<b>\$ 1,551</b>	
<b>ONE TIME INVESTMENT</b>	<b>\$ 208</b>	Clear backlog of PSSSP



## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### **Finance Committee Report**

**From:** Trish Kelley, Vice-President Internal <vpi@umgsa.ca >

**To:** GSA Council

**Date:** December 9, 2009

**Re:** Monthly Report

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Meetings:

The Finance Committee has not met since the last GSA Council meeting. The next meeting date is scheduled for December 15 at 5:00 pm.

### **Committee Membership**

All Committee positions have been filled.

### **Bylaws Committee Report**

**From:** Trish Kelley, Vice-President Internal <vpi@umgsa.ca >

**To:** GSA Council

**Date:** December 9, 2009

**Re:** Monthly Report

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Meeting – December 3- 5:00pm

The Bylaws Committee met and suggested changes to the new Bylaws that we received from the lawyers. Suggested changes are being incorporated in to the documents, and will be reviewed again when all changes have been made. The reformed bylaws will then be brought to council for approval.

We will be scheduling a meeting with the lawyer to discuss some of the changes that we need to make, and clear up some confusion about certain passages of the bylaws.

### **Membership**

All committee positions have been filled.

### **Campaigns Committee Report**

**From:** Mohamed Moustafa, Vice-President (External)

**To:** GSA Council

**Date:** Dec 9, 2009

**Re:** Monthly Report

Meetings - November 19, 2009

Campaigns for 2009/2010 academic year:

The committee decided to organize SSHRC, CIHR and NSERC fairs to display the research of graduate students.

The committee choose February 3rd to 5th in Fort-Garry campus and February 12th for the Bannatyne campus.

Financial support will be provided to the graduate students who are willing to print a poster for the research fair in the case that it is requested by the student.

A certificate of appreciation will be issued to the students presenting their posters.

An invitation will be sent to the research chairs requesting their participation in the event.

#### Membership

The Campaigns Committee has no position limit.

Not available  
on 3rd.  
Booked  
4-6 & 8-10

## EXECUTIVE REPORTS

### Report

From: Andy Bonar, President  
To: Graduate Students of the University of Manitoba  
Date: 2009-11-18  
Re: November Meeting of Council

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### COMMITTEES, MEETINGS AND OFFICE HOURS

#### Meetings Attended:

- 2009-11-19 GSA Campaigns Meeting
- The Canada Research Grants Fair was planned.
- 2009-11-24 CFS Preparation Meeting
- We went through the 90+ motions that we would have to deal with in Ottawa.
- 2009-11-26-28 CFS Annual General Meeting
- This corporation is a major problem that we will need to seriously re-evaluate having any relationship to. See attached report.
- 2009-12-2 GSA Executive
- The Executive discussed the Hamper project, developments in our relationship with UMSU/CFS, and, of course, the annual Festivus Party.
- 2009-12-3 GSA Bylaws and Policy Committee
- This Committee met to review the new Bylaws that are being developed for the Association.
- 2009-12-8 Committee of Election Meeting
- This Committee met to elect a new Chancellor for the University.
- 2009-12-3 GSA Executive Meeting
- Preparations for Council.

#### Meetings Missed:

- 2009-12-3 Farewell Dinner in honour of Dr. William Norrie
- Was unable to attend this dinner.
- 2009-12-9 Farewell Reception in honour of Elaine Goldie
- Executive meeting was at the same time.

#### Office Hours:

Tuesdays: 1100-1300 hrs. and by appointment.

## **IMPORTANT EVENTS, DEVELOPMENTS AND ISSUES**

### Delta Marsh Field Station Closed:

Many issues will be coming forward as we deal with the impact of the ROSE and OARS projects. One of the first research areas targeted in the ROSE project was the Delta Marsh Field Station. This will negatively impact a number of graduate students and we are monitoring this situation closely.

### Canadian Federation of "Students"

The annual general meeting of this corporation was eventful and memorable, for all the wrong reasons. A report has been attached. Please also take a minute and Google things such as "CFS+corruption", "CFS+truth", etc.

### **Report**

From: Mohamed Moustafa, Vice President External  
To: Graduate Students of the University of Manitoba  
Date: 2009-11-18  
Re: November Meeting of Council

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## **COMMITTEES, MEETINGS AND OFFICE HOURS**

### Meetings Attended:

2009-11-18 GSA Executive Meeting

- This meeting was called to prepare for November council meeting.

2009-11-19 GSA Campaigns Committee Meeting

- This meeting was called to prepare for the GSA research fair.

2009-11-24 CFS preparation meeting

- This meeting was called to prepare for the CFS annual meeting.

2009-11-25 to 2009-11-28 CFS Annual General Meeting

- The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) annual general meeting.

2009-12-2 GSA Executive Meeting

- This meeting was called to discuss the latest issues related to the GSA.

2009-12-5 GSA Bylaws Committee Meeting

- This meeting was called to discuss the latest proposed changes to the GSA bylaws.

### Meetings Missed:

No meetings were missed.

### Office Hours:

Thursdays: 1100-1300 hrs.

- I missed my office hours on November 26, 2009 due to my participation in the CFS Annual meeting.

## **IMPORTANT EVENTS, DEVELOPMENTS AND ISSUES**

### CFS Annual General Meeting:

See attached report.

### GSA Website

The website has been updated weekly with the news happening in the GSA and the university. For any suggestions, please contact:

Mohamed Moustafa – Vice President External: [vpe@umgsa.ca](mailto:vpe@umgsa.ca)

Majid Ostdrahmi – Senator: [senator2@umgsa.ca](mailto:senator2@umgsa.ca)

## **Report**

From: Trish Kelley, Vice-President Internal

To: Graduate Students of the University of Manitoba

Date: 2009-11-18

Re: November Meeting of Council

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## **COMMITTEES, MEETINGS AND OFFICE HOURS**

### Meetings Attended:

2009-11-18 GSA Executive Meeting

- This meeting was called to prepare for the Council meeting on November 18.

2009-11-25 to 2009-11-28 CFS Annual General Meeting

- This 4 day meeting marathon took place in Gatineau, ON. The meetings involved a package of reforms to the CFS, most of which were defeated.

2009-12-02 GSA Executive Meeting

- The executive met to discuss the CFS AGM, Holiday Hampers, and start planning for the Festivus party

2009-11-16 GSA Bylaws and Policy Committee Meeting

- This meeting addressed changes to be made to the first draft of the Bylaws that we received updated from the lawyer.

### Meetings Missed

2009-12-09 Sorry I'm not here – I'm at a conference in Victoria

Office Hours:

Monday: 1:30-3:30pm and by appointment.

On November 30, I was out of the office during my office hours for about half an hour, attending a Faculty Council Meeting. I stayed until 5 to make up for the missed time.

**IMPORTANT EVENTS, DEVELOPMENTS AND ISSUES**

Gradzette:

The Gradzette staff has been working on collecting content for the first issue.

Finance Committee:

The Finance Committee meets on the third Tuesday of every month. The committee has not met since the last council meeting. The next meeting is on December 15.

If you haven't yet done so, please pick up your department grant cheques in the GSA office.

Bylaws Committee:

The Bylaws Committee is meeting regularly to discuss changes to the bylaws. A new, updates version of the bylaws will be coming before council soon for approval.

**Report**

From: Peter Nawrot, Vice-President, Academic  
To: Graduate Students of the University of Manitoba  
Date: 2009-11-18  
Re: November Meeting of Council

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**COMMITTEES, MEETINGS AND OFFICE HOURS**

Meetings Attended:

2009-11-25 Learning Commons Committee Meeting

- This meeting was cancelled by the chair of the committee

2009-11-30 Meeting with Financial Aid and Awards

- This meeting was to acquire a list of students requesting hampers through the Provincial Student Loan Program and those who requested a hamper through the University of Manitoba Financial Aid and Awards Office

#### 2009-12-02 GSA Executive Meeting

- This meeting facilitated a vote for \$4000 to be allocated from the budget towards the GSA Hampers for Graduate Students requesting hampers over the holiday season. A GSA Festivus Social will be held on December 16, 2009 in the GSA lounge and proceeds from the event will be donated to charity

#### Meetings Missed:

#### 2009-12-01 Student Senate Caucus Meeting

- I was unable to attend this meeting because I was in respectful workplace and privacy training.

#### 2009-12-02 Senate

- I was unable to attend this meeting because I was in respectful workplace and privacy training.

#### Office Hours:

Wednesday: 900-1100 hrs. and by appointment.

- I was not in the office for November 18, 2009, because I was sick with the flu.

### **IMPORTANT EVENTS, DEVELOPMENTS AND ISSUES**

#### Holiday Hampers:

As of this report, there are 53 Graduate Students requesting hampers over the holiday season. The GSA Executive has decided to provide hampers to all GSA students requesting hampers. A massive email was sent to Graduate Students and the replies have included Graduate Students requesting to help and donate/sponsor hampers as long as requests for hampers.

#### Re-Appointment of the Dean of Faculty of Graduate Studies:

In the upcoming days there will be a massive email mail out to Graduate Students to complete a survey to solicit their voice, opinions, and impressions for the re-appointment of Jay Doering as the Dean of Faculty of Graduate Studies.

#### Speaker Series:

I am looking at bringing in Vandana Shiva to Winnipeg for our Speaker Series. This event involves multiple stakeholders, volunteers and participants.

Vandana Shiva has fought for changes in the practice and paradigms of agriculture and food. Intellectual property rights, biodiversity, biotechnology, bioethics, genetic engineering are among the fields where Shiva has contributed intellectually and through activist campaigns. She has assisted grassroots organizations of the Green movement in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Ireland, Switzerland and Austria with campaigns against genetic engineering. In 1982, she founded the Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology, which led to the

creation of Navdanya. Her book, "Staying Alive" helped redefine perceptions of third world women. Shiva has also served as an adviser to governments in India and abroad as well as non governmental organisations, including the International Forum on Globalisation, the Women's Environment & Development Organization and the Third World Network. Vandana Shiva participated in the Stock Exchange of Visions project in 2007. She is a councillor of the World Future Council.

In 1993, Shiva received the Right Livelihood Award for placing women and ecology at the heart of modern development discourse. Other awards she has received include the Global 500 Award of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in 1993, and the Earth Day International Award of the United Nations (UN) for her dedicated commitment to the preservation of the planet as demonstrated by her actions, leadership and by setting an example for the rest of the world.

Additional awards include:

- Vandana Shiva in Johannesburg, 2002
- 1993: Order of the Golden Ark, by his Royal Highness Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands for outstanding services to conservation and ecology
- VIDA SANA International Award, Spain, for her contribution to Ecology and Food Security
- 1995: "Pride of the Doon" Award from Doon Citizen Council, Dehra Dun, India, in recognition of distinguished contributions to the region
- 1997: The Golden Plant Award (International Award of Ecology), Denmark, for the remarkable contribution for Ecology and Environment
- Alfonso Comin Award, Barcelona, Spain, for important contribution both scientifically and personally to the ecologist and feminist movement in India
- 1998: Commemorative Medal by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand on the occasion of the Celebration of the 18th World Food Day, organised by FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok
- Medal of the Presidency of the Italian Republic from the International Scientific Committee of the Pio Manzu Centre at Rimini, Italy during the XXIV Pio Manzu International Conference on "The Horizons of Hermes"
- 2000: Pellegrino Artusi Award, Italy for original contribution to reflections on relations between humans and food
- 2001: HORIZON 3000 Award of Austria in recognition to rendering useful service for defending Human Rights and Preservation of Peace and for the vision of a world wide fair development in the third millennium
- 2009: received the Save The World Award

Advocacy:

Currently there are 2 outstanding advocacy issues that I am currently working and investigating on helping students resolve.



## **Report**

From: Meaghan Labine, VP-HSC  
To: Graduate Students of the University of Manitoba  
Date: 2009-11-18  
Re: November Meeting of Council

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### **COMMITTEES, MEETINGS AND OFFICE HOURS**

#### Meetings Attended:

09-12-2009: HSC-FGS Committee Meeting  
09-12-2009: GSA Executive Meeting  
09-12-2009: Faculty of Medicine Executive Committee (Designate)  
04-12-2009: HSC Graduate Student Holiday Social  
02-12-2009: GSA Executive Meeting  
03-12-2009: Social event meeting  
30-11-2009: HSGSA Executive Meeting  
25-11-2009: Business & Science Symposium Planning  
20-11-2009: Food Hamper planning session

Office hours: Thursdays 11-1pm

#### **No meetings missed**

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#### **Shuttle Bus Petition**

The HSGSA has created an online petition to send around to med-all in order to get their support to push the university to provide the students with better/cheaper shuttle bus services between campuses.

#### **HSC Graduate Student Holiday Social: Dec 4th, 2009**

To celebrate the holidays, the HSGSA held a holiday social for all the graduate students at the HSC campus. It was a great success with over 70 students in attendance. Students donated money towards the holiday food hampers as well as food. In addition students signed the shuttle bus petition.

#### **Holiday Food Hampers: Dec 17-19th, 2009**

Working with Peter Norwat and UMSU to coordinate food hamper donations, student sign-up, volunteers, making of the hampers and delivery. Food packing will begin on Dec 17th – 19th, and delivery will take place on Dec 19th.

#### **HSC-FGS Committee:**

Attended meeting just prior to council meeting and will report

**HSGSA Curling league:**

Starting January 23rd – March 27th, 2010.

**Student Advocacy work** - confidential

**Report**

From: Amir Hossein Birjandi, Senator  
To: Graduate Students of the University of Manitoba  
Date: 2009-11-16  
Re: November Meeting of Council

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**COMMITTEES, MEETINGS AND OFFICE HOURS**Meetings Attended:**Meetings attended**

Bylaws committee Nov 16  
GSA executive meeting- Nov 18  
Senate committee on admission- Nov 24  
Senate meeting- Dec 2  
GSA executive meeting- Dec 2

**Meetings missed (Regret)**

Bylaws committee Dec 3

**Important notes**

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**Senate committee on admission**

- A proposal from the Faculty of Arts regarding the admission requirements for the newly proposed 90 credit hour undergraduate program: Bachelor of Arts (Integrated Studies).
- A proposal from the Faculty of Pharmacy requesting changes to the admission requirements for the Bachelor of Science (Pharmacy) program.

The current process for calculating AGPA is overly complex and a simplified process was felt by the committee to be desirable. In addition, in evaluating admission data, the committee noted the following:

- A trend for students to repeat multiple required core courses in an attempt to make their applications' more competitive. The committee felt that the act of repeating core courses simply inflated the AGPA, and did not reflect an applicant's academic ability.
- Students repeating core subjects are 'rewarded' in two ways: first, the core course average increases, and second, sessions with one or more repeated courses usually result in better sessional averages, and better sessions are more heavily weighted under the current AGPA formula.
- Students who needed to raise their admission AGPA by repeating several core courses tended to have the most difficulty achieving academic success in Pharmacy.
- The current process is not as discriminating as it might be. The AGPA for the 2008/2009 cohort lacked variability, ranging from 3.7 to 4.4.

## **Report**

From: Majid Ostadrahimi, Senator  
 To: Graduate Students of the University of Manitoba  
 Date: 2009-11-18  
 Re: November Meeting of Council

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## **COMMITTEES, MEETINGS AND OFFICE HOURS**

### Meetings Attended:

2009-11-20 GSA Midterm Social

2009-12-2 University Senate

- Agenda of this meeting is available online:  
[http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/media/senagenda\\_dec2009.pdf](http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/media/senagenda_dec2009.pdf)
- Honorary degrees approval and changes in thesis submission were important issues. The senate approved that Grad. Students submit an electronic version of thesis into MSpace and one paper copy.

### Meetings Missed:

2009-12-1 Student Caucus Meeting

- After a late announcement the date of this meeting changed from Nov. 30 and I couldn't make it.

2009-12-2 GSA Executive Meeting

- I couldn't attend the entire meeting and was there for about 15 minutes. I sent email and called the office in advance.

Office Hours:

Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009. Thursday 12-2 pm.

**IMPORTANT EVENTS, DEVELOPMENTS AND ISSUES**

Website:

The website is updated weekly by Mohamed and me. If you have any concern about it, please let us know.

Email: [Senator2@umgsa.ca](mailto:Senator2@umgsa.ca), [vpe@umgsa.ca](mailto:vpe@umgsa.ca)

WHEREAS some members of GSA Council are of a different opinion as to the validity and legality of the decision to appoint a new President and Executive-at-Large at the October 28<sup>th</sup> GSA Council meeting;

WHEREAS all parties would prefer to avoid any continuing conflict, including a potential legal conflict, in the best interests of the GSA membership.

WHEREAS GSA Council recognizes that by rescinding and redoing the appointment for the positions of President and Executive-at-Large, the question of whether the appointments were legitimate or not will be rendered moot;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT GSA Council rescinds the motion made at the October 28<sup>th</sup> meeting of GSA Council to appoint Andy Bonar as President of the GSA;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT GSA Council rescinds the motion made at the October 28<sup>th</sup> meeting of GSA Council to appoint Aaron Glenn as Executive-at-Large of the GSA.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT GSA Council immediately hold a second vote on the appointment of Andy Bonar as President of the GSA;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT GSA Council immediately hold a second vote on the appointment of Aaron Glenn as Executive-at-Large of the GSA.

