



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

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AGENDA - GSA COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2010

1. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL CHAIR
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
3. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 27, 2010 MINUTES
4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
5. EXECUTIVE REPORTS
 - a. *MOTION TO BIRT THE GSA DONATE \$1000 TO THE RED CROSS TO HELP THE PEOPLE OF CHILE.*
 - b. *MOTION TO RATIFY THE ELECTION RESULTS.*
6. OTHER BUSINESS
7. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS
 - a. NEXT MEETING IS APRIL 28, 2010 AT 4:45 IN UMSU COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

Minutes
GSA Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 24, 2010
4:45 pm, UMSU Council Chambers

Meeting called to order at 4:46pm.

1. Approval of Council Chair

Motion

BIRT Justin Jones be approved as Council Chair.

No opposition.

Carried.

2. Amendment to Agenda

Item 5b: be changed to **Motion to BIRT the GSA donate \$1,000 to the U of M Student Community Garden.**

Item 5c: **Motion to ratify the election results.**

Motion

BIRT the agenda be amended.

Guerrieri/Vahedi

No opposition. Carried.

Motion

BIRT the amended agenda be approved.

Moustafa/Shahfar

No opposition. Carried.

3. Approval of the January 27, 2010 GSA Council Meeting Minutes

Motion

BIRT the minutes of the January 27, 2010 GSA Council Meeting be approved.

Melnyk/Moustafa

No Opposition. Carried.

4. Business Arising From the Minutes

None

5. Executive Reports

- a) President **Bonar** reported. See attached report

The Provincial Budget was presented on March 23. There will be tuition fee increases.

ROSE and OARS will result in realignment of support staff.

- b) Vice-President Internal **Kelley** reported. See attached report.

The Gradzette, second issue will be out on Friday. Next year they will be hiring staff writers.

Student Recognition Forms should be in to Trish by April 19 for students to get Council and Committee memberships recognized on their transcripts.

Finance Committee met in February and March.

Motion

BIRT the GSA donate \$1,000.00 to the Canadian Red Cross to help the people of Chile after the earthquake.

Vahedi/Shahfar
No opposition. Carried.

Motion

BIRT the GSA donate \$1,000.00 to the U of M Student Community Garden.

Nawrot/Short

No opposition. Carried.

Bylaws Committee: The new bylaws are in the final stages and should be returned to us soon.

- c) Vice-President External **Moustafa** reported on Campaigns Committee.
See attached report.
- d) Vice-President Academic – **Nawrot** reported. See attached report.
Jay Doering has been reappointed as Dean of the Faculty of Grad Studies.
- e) Vice-President Health Science **Labine** reported. See attached report.
- f) Senators
Senator3 **Vahedi** reported. See attached report.
Senator2 **Ostadrahimi** reported. See attached report.
Senator1 **Gonsalves** was not in attendance. See attached report.
- g) Chief Returning Officer **Ojo** reported. See attached report.

Motion

BIRT the results of the GSA Election be accepted.

Melnyk/Ek

No opposition. Carried.

Effective May 1, 2010 the new GSA Executive will be:

President: Meaghan Labine

Vice-President Academic: Peter Nawrot

Vice-President External: Liz Gonsalves

Vice-President Internal: Farhoud Delijani

Vice-President Health Science: Pawan Sharma

Senator1: Raja Chakravorty

Senator2: Ning Ma

Senator3: Mohammad Al-Amin Sadek

Sincere thanks to CRO Rotimi Ojo for a job well-done.

6. Other Business

Department Grant applications for the second disbursement are due April 1.
This submission requires a financial report from the departments.

There will be a Party to celebrate the Changeover of Executive on Friday,
April 23 in the GSA Lounge. Catered by Degrees, with Karaoke.

Department Updates and Announcements

- Engineering – Contesting for new dean. Come to the presentations.
- Soil Sciences – Recommended that all council members report to their departments what goes on in the GSA Council.

7. General Announcements
 a) Next Council meeting is April 28, 2010 at 4:45pm in the UMSU Council Chambers. This will be the final meeting for the current executive.

8. Adjournment

Motion

BIRT the meeting be adjourned at 5:49 pm.

Nawrot/Jason Jones

No Opposition.

Carried.

Attendance – GSA Council

March 24, 2010

4:45 pm

UMSU Council Chambers, 176 Helen Glass Bldg.

GSA Executive	Name	Signature
President	Andy Bonar	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	Aaron Glenn	Present
Senator1	Liz Gonsalves	Regrets
Senator2	Majid Ostadrahimi	Present
Senator3	Arman Vahedi	Present
Council Chair	Justin Jones	Present
Office Manager (Non-voting)	Ruth Prokesch	Present (Non-voting)
Councillors	Name	Signature
UMSU (Non-voting)	Alanna Makinson	Present (Non-voting)
CUPE 3909 (Non-voting)	Qiuyan Yuan	(Non-voting)
Agric & Food Science		
Agribusiness & Agric. Economics	Jason Jones	Present
Animal Science	Jessica Brady	
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
Architecture		
Architecture	Steven Berry Dan Dufault	
City Planning	Lauren Lange Aaron Short (Proxy)	Present Regrets
Interior Design	Tamara Nyysola	
Landscape Architecture	Kelly Wojnarski	Present
Arts		
Anthropology	Jeniva Donaleshen	
Classics		
Economics		
English, Film & Theatre	Joel Hughes	Present
French, Spanish & Italian		
German		
History	Tamara Fleming	
Icelandic Studies		
Linguistics		
Native Studies		
Philosophy	Wes McPherson	
Political Studies and Public Administration	Justin Jones	Council Chair
Psychology		
Religious Studies	Matt Sheedy	
Slavic Studies		
Sociology	Tim Melnyk	Present
Canadian Studies St. Boniface		
Arthur Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice		
Arthur Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice	Peter Karari	Present
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	Shahab Shokrzodeh	Present
Environment		
Geography & Environment	Sally Wong	Regrets
Geological Sciences		
Nat Resources Inst	Maggie Sliwinski	Present
Disability Studies		
Food & Nutr Sciences		
Interdisciplinary		
Human Ecology		
Clothing & Textiles		
Family Social Sciences	Tammy Taillieu	Present
Human Nutritional Sciences	Danielle Stringer	Present
Law		
Law		
Music		
Music		
Nursing		
Nursing	Jenny Shnitka	Present
Phys Ed & Rec Studies		
Recreation Management & Kinesiology	Pavithra Rajan	Present
Science		
Biological Sciences	Cheryl Klassen	Present
Chemistry	Taras Babiak	
Computer Science		
Mathematics		
Microbiology		

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

Report

From: Andy Bonar, President
To: Graduate Students of the University of Manitoba
Date: 2010-03-24
Re: March Meeting of Council

COMMITTEES, MEETINGS AND OFFICE HOURS

Meetings Attended:

2010-02-03 Senate
2010-02-10 Senate Executive
2010-02-11 GSA Executive Committee
2010-02-04-05 Research Fair at Fort Garry Campus
- Set up posters for the Research Fair, took 'em down and talked to a bunch of people.
2010-02-11-12 Research Fair at Bannatyne Campus
- Set up posters for the Research Fair, and sat at the information table
2010-02-23 Finance Committee Meeting
- We met to approve travel grants and discuss 1 special project and 2 donation applications
2010-03-03 Meeting with Dave Morphy
2010-03-03 Senate Executive
2010-03-07 Women's Day March
- March to support women's rights
2010-03-11 GSA Executive Meeting
- We mostly talked about upcoming parties; and talked health insurance.
2010-03-15 GSA Bylaws Meeting
- The committee met via email to proof-check the edited electronic version of the bylaws
2010-03-16 Board of Governors Meeting
2010-03-19 GSA Executive Committee Meeting
- We met to prepare for the party
2010-03-23 2010/2011 Budget Presentation
2010-03-24 GSA Executive Meeting
- We met to prepare for the Council Meeting
2010-03-24 Senate
2010-03-24 GSA Council Meeting

Meetings Missed

2010-03-16 GSA Finance Committee Meeting
- Was at the Board of Governors meeting.

Office Hours:

Tuesday: 1:00-3:00pm and by appointment.

PROVINCIAL BUDGET AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR GRAD STUDENTS

I will report on this orally.

ROSE AND OARS AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR GRAD STUDENTS

I will report on this orally.

PARTY ON APRIL 23rd

The year end extravaganza will be held on April 23rd. Book the night off and let's celebrate having made it through the year.

COUNCIL CHAIR

We are looking at having a new Council chair for the next two meetings because Aaron's workload as Executive-at-Large is too great to have him continue in that capacity without further compensation. This is also a result of the treatment that Aaron has received from members of the Executive. This will be handled at the start of the meeting.

Report

From: Trish Kelley, Vice-President Internal
To: Graduate Students of the University of Manitoba
Date: 2010-03-24
Re: March Meeting of Council

COMMITTEES, MEETINGS AND OFFICE HOURS

Meetings Attended:

- 2010-02-11 GSA Executive Committee
 - This meeting was to prepare the Executive for the upcoming elections
- 2010-02-11-12 Research Fair at Bannatyne Campus
 - Set up posters for the Research Fair, and sat at the information table
- 2010-02-12 GSA Elections Committee Meeting
 - As a past CRO I was there to help out with any questions the CRO had.
- 2010-02-23 Finance Committee Meeting
 - We met to approve travel grants and discuss 1 special project and 2 donation applications
- 2010-02-26-27 National Graduate Caucus (NGC) Annual General Meeting
- 2010-03-07 Women's Day March
 - March to support women's rights
- 2010-03-11 GSA Executive Meeting
 - Planned parties and such.
- 2010-03-15 GSA Bylaws Meeting
 - The committee met via email to proof-check the edited electronic version of the bylaws
- 2010-03-16 GSA Finance Committee Meeting
 - We met to approve travel grants and discuss 2 donation applications
- 2010-03-19 GSA Executive Committee Meeting
 - We met to discuss health insurance and prepare for the party
- 2010-03-24 GSA Executive Meeting
 - We met to prepare for the Council Meeting
- 2010-03-24 GSA Council Meeting

Meetings Missed

Office Hours:

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

GRADZETTE

There will be a new issue of the Gradzette out within the next few weeks. The editors are always looking for new content, so if you have any story ideas, contact them at gradzette@umgsa.ca.

STUDENT RECOGNITION FORMS

Please get your student recognition forms in to me by April 19th so that you can get recognition on your transcript for Council and Committee memberships. If you or your colleagues forgot about this in past years, I can take care of those for you too.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee met to discuss 7 conference travel grants in February, totalling \$2450 and 11 in March, totalling \$2650. The total amount we've awarded as travel grants this year is \$50915.21 of a budget of \$65,000.

We discussed 4 donations and 1 special project grant.

Special Project Grants

The Finance committee approved a special project grant for the Faculty of Social Work Student Research Symposium for \$245.

Donations

The GSA donated \$455 to the UNIFEM Winnipeg Chapter for an event to fundraise to support programs to end violence against aboriginal women.

There was a 'Raise the Roof' party for the people of Chile on March 20. The Finance Committee recommends a donation of \$1000 to help the people of Chile affected by the earthquake. All funds raised will be donated to the Red Cross

BIRT the GSA donate \$1000 to the Red Cross to help the people of Chile.

The University of Manitoba Student Community Garden is setting up for the new growing season. The garden provides hands-on experience for students in crop growing and sustainable food production, as well as locally-grown produce to the community. The garden is looking for \$1000 donation to help purchase required equipment.

BIRT the GSA donate \$1000 to the U of M Student Community Gardens.

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

Also, the second round of department grant disbursements is coming up. Applications are due April 6.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

The Bylaws Committee met via email to make sure all changes I made to the electronic copy of the bylaws were correct and I didn't miss anything the committee agreed on. The bylaws will be sent to the lawyer and returned to us soon.

Report

From: Mohamed Moustafa, Vice-President External
To: Graduate Students of the University of Manitoba
Date: 2010-03-24
Re: March Meeting of Council

COMMITTEES, MEETINGS AND OFFICE HOURS

Meetings Attended:

2010-02-03 to 2010-02-04 GSA Research Fair in Fort Garry Campus
2010-02-11 GSA Executive Meeting
2010-02-12 GSA Research Fair in Bannatyne Campus
2010-02-23 GSA Finance Committee Meeting
2010-02-26 to 2010-02-27 National Graduate Caucus (NGC) Annual General Meeting
2010-03-07 International Women's Day March
2010-03-11 GSA Executive Meeting
2010-03-16 GSA Finance Committee Meeting
2010-03-19 GSA Executive Meeting
2010-03-24 GSA Executive Meeting

Office Hours:

Thursdays: 11:00-1:00pm and by appointment.

EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

NGC Annual Meeting

The annual general meeting of the National Graduate Caucus was held in Ottawa between the 25th and 27th of February 2010. Three members from the GSA (Trish Kelly, Cordula Buse and me) were present in the meeting. The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the issues facing the graduate students in their campuses. For more details about the meeting, please contact me at vpe@umgsa.ca or during my office hours.

International Women's Day March

The GSA was present in the march as well as other organizations from the province of Manitoba. The march is in response to the call of the World March of Women. The objective of this year match is to defend demands to combat poverty and violence against women.

Website:

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

Email: vpe@umgsa.ca , senator2@umgsa.ca,

Campaigns Committee Report

GSA First Research Fair (NSERC / CIHR / SSHRC):

The GSA First Research occurred between February 3rd and 4th at the Fort Garry Campus in the GSA Lounge (Room 217 University Centre) and February 12th at the Health Sciences Centre in the Brodie Centre Atrium.

Fifty seven students (among them 20 students were from the health science campus) participated in the event by presenting posters showing their research in different topics (Social Sciences, Humanities, Natural Sciences, Engineering, Health Sciences, etc.).

I would like to thank most of the campaigns committee member for their active and hard work during the preparation and the research fair days. Also, I would recommend that the GSA will adopt the Research Fair as one of the main annual events and try to improve it over the next years.

Report

From: Peter Nawrot, VP Academic
To: Graduate Students of the University of Manitoba
Date: 2010-03-24
Re: January Meeting of Council

Report

From: Peter Nawrot, Vice-President (Academic)
To: Graduate Students of the University of Manitoba
Date: March 24, 2010
Re: Council Report

COMMITTEES, MEETINGS AND BUSSINESS MATTERS

Meetings Attended and Missed:

Graduate Students' Association Executive Meeting – March 11, 2010.
Faculty of Graduate Studies Faculty Council Meeting – March 9, 2010.

MISSED: Graduate Students' Association Executive Meeting – March 19, 2010. – This meeting was missed because it was called with 24 hours notice without an agenda or stated purpose.

I was on a leave of absence during the 2010 election campaign.

GSA Awards and Teaching Award Nominations

The applications for the 2010 GSA Awards are available online. The deadline to submit applications and nominations is March 31, 2010. The GSA Awards Committee will review the submissions and make an announcement in the summer of 2010.

Advocacy:

Strictly confidential.

For general questions or information concerning advocacy, or to book an appointment to see me, please e-mail vpa@umgsa.ca. To book an appointment by phone, please call 474-9181. Members are also welcome to stop in during office hours, listed below.

Office Hours:

Wednesdays: 0900-1100 Hrs.

To: GSA Council
From: Meaghan Labine – VP HSC
Date: March 24th, 2010
Re: Monthly report

Meetings Attended:

19-03-2010: GSA Executive Meeting
19-03-2010: PAEP Progress Committee
18-03-2010: HSGSA IDR Committee
16-03-2010: HSGSA Executive meeting
16-03-2010: Student Transit Meeting
10-03-2010: Graduate Student Seminar Series
10-03-2010: Faculty of Medicine Executive Council
11-03-2010: GSA Executive Committee Meeting
09-03-2010: FGS Council Meeting
05-03-2010: HSGSA Executive Meeting
04-04-2010: HSGSA By-laws & Constitution Meeting
02-03-2010: Meeting with Dr. Kroeger regarding Research Days
01-03-2010: Faculty of Medicine Accreditation Self Study Task Force
12-02-2010: GSA Elections
12-02-2010: Research Days Committee Meeting
10-03-2010: Business and Science Workshop

Meetings Missed

11-03-2010: HSC-FGS Executive Meeting
09-03-2010: Research Days Committee Meeting

Office hours: Thursdays 11-1pm

Report:

Business and Science Workshop – February 10th, 2010

The HSGSA partnered with LSAM to provide a business and science workshop for graduate students in order to provide them with the skills necessary to commercialize their research ideas and/or find a job within industry. The afternoon workshop covered the areas of how to start a business, venture capital, intellectual property, commercialization, job skills and funding opportunities. Following the workshop, we hosted a wine and cheese mixer to provide students the opportunity to talk with industry professionals one-on-one.

Life Sciences Association of Manitoba -Student Events : March 9-10th, 2010

- Reverse Trade Networking Reception
- Engineering Lunch and Learn Seminar: Imaging and Medical Devices (>50 grads attended)
- Pharmacology Lunch and Learn Seminar: Pharmaceutical Commercialization (20 grads attended)

Faculty of Medicine Accreditation Task Force

This group is tasked with finding ways to improve medical education and update the medical program prior to the official accreditation process which will begin in the summer. Areas that medical students have identified as problematic and needing improvement, are similar to the concerns raised by many graduate students and include; study/student space, access to medical care, administrative support.

Elements of Teaching Workshops & TIPS for Graduate Students

HSGSA has coordinated with Continuing Medical Education to develop a series of professional development workshops for graduate students. These workshops are designed to teach graduate students how to teach and learning how to effectively communicate their research and include; how to write a research paper, how to put together an effective poster and presentation and TIPS (Teaching improvement program). The TIPS program has been confirmed for May 20th and 21st, and is being covered by FGS and the Faculty of Medicine. The TIPS program is now going to be offered every year as a mandatory course for PhD students. The logistics of how Continuing Med Ed will be offering this course to all PhD students is still under development. Progress is being made with regards to getting programs for graduate students that focus on improving their teaching ability and overall academic performance.

Graduate Student Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

At the recent HSC-FGS meeting the document was reviewed and there are many revisions that need to be made to the document prior to it going to the FGS and Senate for approval. The HSC-FGS supports the document and is working with the HSGSA to get it finalized.

Student Transit

In an attempt to improve Winnipeg Transit for students, the HSGSA is working with UMSU to draft an online questionnaire and proposal for Winnipeg Transit and the university to adopt a U-pass/eco-pass for students and faculty/staff. So far we have completed the questionnaire, and are preparing to send it out to students to get their feedback on transit services, and if they'd support a U-pass if affordable.

Upcoming Events

- HSGSA AGM – April 16th, 2010
- Spring it up Social Event – April 16th, 2010
- Curling Bonspiel – March 27th
- Research Days – May 30th – June 3rd

Arman Vahedi, Senator

Office hours:

Friday 9-11 am

Senate Meetings

Senate executive meeting, January 30, 2010

Senate, February 3, 2010

Senate executive meeting, February 24, 2010

Senate meeting, March 3, 2010

Executive and committee meetings

GSA executive meetings

Campaign committee meetings

UMSU health and dental committee, February 10, 2010

I was out of office for two weeks of GSA elections campaign as I was nominated for one of the positions.

Report

From: Majid Ostadrahimi, Senator
To: Graduate Students of the University of Manitoba
Date: 2010-03-24
Re: November Meeting of Council

COMMITTEES, MEETINGS AND OFFICE HOURS

Meetings Attended:

GSA Executive Meeting – Mar. 11th, 2010

Finance Committee Meeting – Mar. 16th, 2010

GSA St. Patrick's Day social – Mar. 19th, 2010

Meetings Missed

University Senate – Feb. 3th, and Mar. 3th, 2010

- I was out of the office during February until Mar. 4th.

GSA Executive Meeting – Mar. 19th, 2009

- I had a TA. Regret had been sent in advance.

Office Hours:

Mar. 18th, Thursday 12-2 pm. I was out of the office during February until March 4th.

Report:

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, vpe@umgsa.ca

Report

From: Liz Gonsalves, Senator
To: Graduate Students of the University of Manitoba
Date: 2010-3-21
Re: February Meeting of Council

COMMITTEES, MEETINGS AND OFFICE HOURS

Meetings Attended:

- 2010-01-27 GSA Executive Meeting
- Teleconference interview for Senator position
(informed of appointed position 2010-01-29 via e-mail)
- 2010-02-11 GSA Executive Meeting
- Met to discuss the new Gradzette and its future direction, and alternatives for meeting procedures
- 2010-03-11 GSA Executive Meeting
- Met to discuss chair for future council meetings, health plan for graduate students and future events (only able to be present for 1 hour of meeting because of an appointment)
- 2010-03-Senate Committee on Instruction and Evaluation Meeting
- Met to discuss revisions and modifications for requirements in Asper School of Business, Faculty of Education and Faculty of Medicine
 - Looked at options for SEEQ, and reports regarding exam deferrals and term-spanned courses
- 2010-03-19 GSA Executive Meeting
- Met to prepare for Council Meeting

Meetings Missed:

- 2010-02-03 University Senate
- Unable to schedule this in on short notice (informed Feb 1), could not attend this meeting.
- 2010 03-03 University Senate
- Could not attend this meeting due to irreconcilable scheduling conflict

Office Hours:

Fridays: 13:00 – 15:00 as of March 5, 2010

2010-02-01 (13:00) Met with Office Manager and VP-Academic re: position requirements and contact info. I was away from Winnipeg February 15, 2010-March 2, 2010.

Chief Returning Officer's (CRO) Report
UMGSA General Election 2010

From: Chief Returning Officer, Emmanuel Rotimi Ojo
To: GSA Council
Date: March 24, 2010
Re: Final Report

This is a report outlining the processes and the results of the 2010 UMGSA General Election. Please note that the CRO-HSC, Krista Chytyk, has presented her results to the HSC council and it has been ratified.

Preparation for the General Election

The Elections Committee (EC) met on Friday, February 12 2010 to appoint a CRO for the UMGSA General Election. At this meeting, I, Emmanuel Rotimi Ojo, was nominated and approved as the CRO. Other members of the EC were: Angela Kroeker, Senthil Kumar, Mohamed Hasaballa and Krista Chytyk (who doubles as the CRO- HSGSA). Coincidentally, the date was the last day of the nomination period and the 'All Candidates Meeting' was held by 5pm same day. At this meeting, the constitution and bylaws regarding the conduct of the election were discussed and a copy of these was given to all candidates. Also, the election schedules were finalized.

NOMINATION PERIOD

(Monday February 1, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. to Friday February 12, 2010 at 4:30 p.m.)

There were no major issues during the nomination period. The EC received nomination forms for the positions of President (Dewa Mangal, Meaghan Labine and Tim Melnyk), Vice-President Internal (Farhoud Delijani, Majid Ostadrahimi and Valery Agbor), Vice-President External (Arman Vahedi, Liz Gonsalves and Naresh Redhu), Vice-President Academic (Justin Jones and Peter Nawrot), and seven Senators (Alireza Mokhtari, Azin Shahab, Mohammad Sadek, Ning Ma, Peter Karari, Raja Chakraborty and Sahar Mirfakhraei). However, Peter Karari and Sahar Mirfakhraei withdrew their nomination for Senator.

CAMPAIGN PERIOD

(Monday February 15, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. to Friday February 26, 2010 at 4:30 p.m.)

This campaign period was quite eventful. The All Candidates' Forum was held at the Fort Garry and Bannatyne campus on Monday and Tuesday, Feb 22 and 23, 2010 respectively. The candidates were interviewed by The Manitoban, published on Feb 24 and the election dates were announced on the UMFm as well as through the GSA list-serve. However, we encountered some problems with the mis-interpretation of the bylaws by some candidates.

VOTING PERIOD

(Wednesday February 24, 2010 to Friday February 26, 2010)

This period like the others went by smoothly. There were no issues at the polling stations with voters, candidates, or volunteers. Four volunteers (and every member of the election committee) helped out with the polls at the Fort Garry campus.

Voting was generally improved this year. There were about 100 ballots cast on the first day, 150 on the second day and another 150 ballots on the last day, making a total of 400 voters. This is 44.4% increase from last year's election and about 12.5% of the entire registered graduate students.

COUNTING

(Friday February 26, 2010)

All the election committee members were present to count ballots. No scrutineer was requested by the candidates. 400 ballots were counted.

The ballot count showed:

President:

*Labine, Meaghan : 235 (110 + 125)
*Melnyk, Tim : 119 (109 + 10)
*Mangal, Dewa : 24 (19 + 5)
Void : 22

VP Health Sciences:

*Sharma, Pawan : Yes - 117
No - 19
Void - 4

(Votes only from students at Health Sciences=140)

VP External:

*Gonsalves, Liz : 192 (110 + 82)
*Vahedi, Arman : Disqualified
*Redhu, Naresh : 74 (26 + 48)
Void : 31

VP Academic:

*Nawrot, Peter : 205 (104 + 101)
*Jones, Justin : 151 (126 + 25)
Void : 44

VP Internal:

*Delijani, Farhoud : 197 (92 + 105)
*Ostadrahimi, Majid : 110 (97 + 13)
*Agbor, Valery : 69 (54 + 15)
Void : 24

Senator:

*Chakraborty, Raja : Yes – 286 (162 + 124)
: No - 61
: Void - 53

Senators:

*Sadek, Mohammed : 234 (139 + 95)
*Ma, Ning : 208 (104 + 104)
*Shahab, Azin : 126 (98 + 28)
*Mokhtari, Alireza : 98 (84 + 14)

Note that the figures in the parentheses represent votes from the Fort Garry and Bannatyne campus respectively which makes up the total vote count for each candidate.

COMPLAINTS

The EC, to date, has not received any complaints. Results of the election await ratification by the GSA Council. Five days following the ratification, the ballots will be destroyed.

SPENDING OF THE EC and UNITE!

A total of \$761.30 was spent on the election. Of this amount, campaign expenses by the candidates were \$521.48. This was due to the fact that many candidates contested at the election. \$239.82 was spent by the election committee for the running of the election and paid each volunteer at the Fort Garry polling

station, a \$10.00 honorarium per time-slot, in return for their help with the election. The total amount given to volunteers was \$140.00.

Recommendation:

Based on the events of this year's election, I will like to recommend that the GSA bylaws and policy committee (BPC) should look into the following areas for possible amendment or inclusion of some articles:

1. That the campaign period (officially set for 10 working days) should be amended to provide for the Louis Riel Day.
2. That online voting procedure should be deliberated on for possible inclusion in subsequent years.
3. All candidates should be given a copy of the constitution and bylaws when they request for nomination forms to ensure that they understand the duties of the position they want to run for.