

UMGSA Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday, February 26th, 2020 - 5:30 PM - UMGSA Lounge

1. **Call to Order** (5:36pm).

2. **Traditional Territories Acknowledgement**

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

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council approves the agenda for the February 26th, 2020 UMGSA Council Meeting as presented.

Peace & Conflict Studies/Applied Health Sciences (Carried).

4. **Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of the January 22nd, 2020 UMGSA Council Meeting are included as Appendix I to this Council meeting agenda.

MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council approves the minutes of the January 22nd, 2020 UMGSA Council Meeting as presented.

Plant Science/Statistics (Carried).

5. **Committee Reports**

5.1. January Committee Reports (Appendix II)

6. **HSGSA Report**

6.1. January HSGSA Report (Appendix III)

7. **Senate Report**

7.1. January Senate Report (Appendix IV)

8. **Executive Reports**

8.1. January Executive Reports (Appendix V)

9. **Departmental Reports**

10. **Unfinished Business**

10.1. Ratification of the Email Vote to Confirm Cody Ross as the CRO and Bolloite Offor as the DRO for the 2020 UMGSA General Election: As reported at the January Council meeting, the Selection Committee to choose a Chief Returning Officer (CRO) and a

Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) for the upcoming UMGSA General Election was not able to arrange interviews for the applicants in advance of that meeting.

We received seven applications, but one person withdrew themselves from the selection process before their interview. We interviewed all six remaining applicants. Two applied for the role of CRO, three applied for the role of DRO, and one was willing to serve in either role.

After deliberations, the Selection Committee recommended Cody Ross for the role of CRO and Bolloite Offor for the role of DRO.

In order to allow for the timely beginning of our Election and Referendum period the following week, the Council needed to hold an email vote right away to ratify Cody and Bolloite for the roles of CRO and DRO. The Council voted on the following motion via email:

BIRT the UMGSA Council approves the ratification of Cody Ross as the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) and Bolloite Offor as the Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) for the 2020 UMGSA General Election.

The Council unanimously ratified Cody Ross and Bolloite Offor as CRO and DRO with 20 votes of Yes for both.

The results of all email votes must be ratified at the next regular meeting of the Council.

MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council ratifies the results of the email vote to confirm Cody Ross as the CRO and Bolloite Offor as the DRO for the 2020 UMGSA General Election.

Entomology/Biosystems Engineering (Carried with 1 abstention).

11. New Business

11.1. Changes to the Audit Policy Section: Recommendations from BDO and changes to the Bylaws at the last UMGSA AGM require several changes to the Audits and Transparency section of the UMGSA Governance and Operations Manual. The proposed new wording of Point 1 in Article XVI is provided in full as Appendix VI to this Council meeting agenda. The existing wording of Point 1 is provided as Appendix VII.

MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council approves the proposed changes to Point 1 in Article XVI of the Governance and Operations Manual, as written, with all necessary changes needed for formatting and consistency.

Bylaws and Policy Committee (Carried).

11.2. UMGSA Position Statements: In 2018 the Campaigns Committee (now renamed Services and Support) began drafting statements for the UMGSA to help guide our Association and articulate our positions on graduate student-related issues. Since then, both the Bylaws and Policy Committee and the Services and Support Committee have contributed to the refinement of those statements. Excluded from the proposed statements was an additional section that we hope will be developed soon by the UMGSA Indigenous Ad-Hoc Committee. The UMGSA Position Statements, taken together, will exist as a stand-alone

document. The proposed UMGSA Position Statements are provided in full as Appendix VIII to this Council meeting agenda.

MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council approves the proposed UMGSA Position Statements, as written.

Bylaws and Policy Committee (Carried).

11.3. Changes to the Conference Grant Program: Last year, the conference grant program was changed to constrain spending to the budgeted amount approved by the UMGSA Council. In that respect, those changes were successful. Student complaints about the complexity of the program and increased administrative burden has led to recommendations to simplify the program – making it much easier to apply and easier to process. We suspect that these changes will increase the number of applicants. The UMGSA also intends to more widely advertise the program so that a larger portion of the graduate student body is familiar with the program. To compensate for increased demand and to reach more students, more modest awards are being presented. The dollar value of awards that each student is eligible to receive still exceeds the UMGSA student fees that they will pay in most cases – not accounting for any of the other services that the UMGSA offers. As such, these changes will continue to constrain the budget. They will also allow the program to reach more students, and allow pre-conference applications that students can reliably consider in their financial planning. These changes have been reviewed by both the Finance Committee and the Bylaws and Policy Committee. These changes will not take effect until the start of the new UMGSA budget year, on May 1st, 2020. The proposed new wording of Section I (Conference Grants) in Article XIII is provided in full as Appendix IX to this Council meeting agenda. The existing wording of Section I is provided as Appendix X.

MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council approves the proposed changes to Article XIII - Section I (Conference Grants) of the Governance and Operations Manual, as written, with all necessary changes needed for formatting and consistency. These changes will not take effect until May 1st, 2020.

Bylaws and Policy Committee (Carried).

11.4. Discussion of the UPASS Referendum: The meeting moved into a closed session to discuss available options for the UPass referendum. Moving back into an open session, and Councillors already considering the available options, the arrived at conclusion is to annul the questions of the previously agreed on referendum. These changes are being made because the City of Winnipeg has officially informed the UMGSA of the unavailability of the extension of the UPass into the Summer due to the outcome of the UMSU referendum.

MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council annuls the referendum question that was passed at the Council's January 22nd, 2020 meeting. BIFRT the UMGSA Council approves the initiation of a new referendum, with "Week 1" starting on March 2nd, 2020, and with the following wording:

The U-PASS (Universal Bus Pass) is a program offered by the City of Winnipeg in which all full-time students within the transit service area pay a subsidized bus pass fee and have unlimited access to transit in the months of September through April. It has been in existence since 2016 and the first contract expires at the end of this academic term. Please fill out the following ballot concerning the U-PASS program.

Q: Do you support continued enrollment in the U-PASS program?

- YES - Continued enrollment in the U-PASS program at a rate of \$160.75 per term (Fall and Winter Terms Only).
- NO - No further enrollment in the U-PASS program.

VP Academic/Computer Science (Carried with 1 abstention from the VP Finance & Administration).

11.5. UMGSA Council's UPass endorsement: The Council has agreed to approve and endorse the continuation of the UPass program option that does not include the Summer extension.

MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council endorses the continuation of the UPass program Environment & Geography/Statistics (Carried).

12. Announcements

- 12.1. Next Council Meeting:** Wednesday, March 25th, 2020 - 5:30PM - UMGSA Lounge
- 12.2. Grad Student EDI Consultation Session:** Wed, March 11th -3PM -UMGSA Lounge
- 12.3. UMGSA Election Campaigning Period:** Monday, March 9th - Tuesday, March 17th
- 12.4. UMGSA Fort Garry Election Forum:** Wed, March 11th - Noon - UMGSA Lounge
- 12.5. UMGSA Bannatyne Election Forum:** Thurs, March 12th - 1PM - TBD
- 12.6. UMGSA Election Voting Period:** Monday, March 16th - Tuesday, March 17th

13. Adjournment (6:50pm).

UMGSA Council Meeting Attendance
February 26, 2020

<i>Position/Department</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Signature</i>
President	Carl Neumann	Present
VP Finance & Administration	Cody Ross	Present
VP Academic	Tanjit Nagra	Present
VP Services & Support	Okechukwu Efobi	Regrets
HSGSA President	Mahder Teffera	Present
Senator1	Julia Minarik	Regrets
Senator2	Ehsan Tahmasebian	Present
Chairperson (No Vote)	Kavisha Manoj Mehta	Present
Office Manager (No Vote)	Ruth Prokesch	Present
Gov & Comm Coordinator (No Vote)	Colin Ijebor (Minute Taker)	Present
<i>Agric & Food Science</i>		
Agribusiness & Agric Economics	Justin Daniels (Co-Councillors) Damla Oz	Damla Present
Animal Science	Daphne McKnight (Co-Councillors) Bingqi Dong	Bingqi Present
Biosystems Engineering	Benitt Sharey Uthiria Raj Md Shadhin (Co-Councillors)	Benitt Present
Entomology	Lavanya Ganesan	Present
Food Science	Yi Xie	Absent
Human Nutritional Sciences	Luis Codero-Monroy	Absent
Plant Science	Nathaniel (Nate) Ort (Co-Councillors) Madison McCausland	Nate Present
Soil Science	Lanny Gardiner (Co-Councillors) Jess Nicksy	Jess Present
<i>Architecture</i>		
Architecture	Emily Jones (Co-Councillors) Jonathan Bailes	Jonathan Present LE-6:05pm
City Planning	Justin Grift (Co-Councillors) Dom Comps	Both Absent
Interior Design	Ethan Loewen	Absent
Landscape Architecture	Ian Laya	Present
<i>Arts</i>		
Economics	Francis Dzikpe (Co-Councillors) Siavash Taheri	Both Absent
English, Theatre, Film & Media	Amy-Leigh Gray	Present
French, Spanish & Italian	Semiyu Adegbite	Absent
Linguistics	Iuliia Rezvukhina (Co-Councillors) Tasheney Francis	Tash Present
Political Studies & Public Administration	Eric Gagnon (Co-Councillors) Meagan Greentree	Lobarkhon Ibragimova Present Proxy
Psychology	Nicolas Brais (Co-Councillors) Lauren Kaminski	Lauren Present
Sociology & Criminology	Labe Songose	Absent

Management		
Asper School - Master of Finance	Evelyn Zhang	Absent
Management - MBA	Shakti Vyjayanthi	Neelakantan Subramanya Kumar Present Proxy
Education		
Education - PhD	Md. Shayeekh-Us Saleheen	Absent
Educ - Admin, Fndtions & Psych.	Rebecca Balakrishnan	Present
Engineering		
Biomedical Engineering	Farahnaz Hajipour (Co-Councillors) Muhammad Masud Rana	Both Absent
Civil Engineering	Ahmed Gaber Bediwy	Absent
Electrical & Computer Engineering	Nozhan Bayat	Present
Environment, Earth & Resources		
Environment & Geography	Lisa Matthes (Co-Councillors) William Dowie	Agoston Fischer Present Proxy
Geological Sciences	Claire Morrow (Co-Councillors) Max Day	Both Absent
Natural Resources Institute	Kaitlyn Duthie-Kannikkatt Michael Bagamery (Co-Councillors)	Both Absent
Graduate Studies		
Applied Health Sciences	Kevin Boreskie (Co-Councillors) Zach Henderson	Zach Present
Peace & Conflict Studies	Darryl Zuend	Present
Kinesiology & Recreation Mgmt.		
Kinesiology & Recreation Mgmt.	C. Nolan Turnbull (Co-Councillors) Ganesh Tailor	Both Absent
Law		
Nursing		
Nursing	Kim Sefton (Co-Councillors) Stephanie Betker	Kim Present
Science		
Biological Sciences	Alexandra Schoen	Eric Mullen Present - Proxy- LE-6:05pm
Chemistry	Scott Legare	Present
Computer Science	Kimia Shadkami	Present
Mathematics	YG Liang	Absent
Microbiology	Abdul-Rahman Adamu Bukari	Absent
Physics & Astronomy	O. Jephthah Iyaro	Present
Statistics	Scott White	Present
CUPE3909		
CUPE3909 (No Vote)	Garett Williams	Present
Indigenous Engagement		
Guests		
UPass Ref - YES Side Rep	Saeideh Mirzaei	Present LE-5:55pm