

**UMGSA Council Meeting Documents  
27<sup>th</sup> of May, 2015, 17:00 UMGSA Lounge**

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## **UMGSA Council Meeting Agenda**

**27<sup>th</sup> of May, 2015**

**1. Call to Order**

**2. Council Chair Ratification:** BIRT the Council ratifies E. RoTimi Ojo as the Chair for the May 27, 2015 UMGSA Council meeting.

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

**MOTION:** BIRT the agenda for the May 27, 2015 UMGSA Council meeting be approved.

**3.1. Unanimous consent agenda**

3.1.1. Any item that has a  beside it denotes unanimous consent agenda

*Any member who wishes to debate an item that is listed below may have it removed from the consent agenda by contacting the Chair prior to the meeting or by asking that it be removed before the Chair calls for a mover and seconder for the following motions.*

**MOTION: BIRT all Executive Reports and Senate Report are accepted omnibus.**

**4. Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION: BIRT the minutes from the April 22, 2015 UMGSA Council Meeting be approved.**

**5. Business Arising from the Minutes**

5.1. **GU15 Report** (Attached)

5.2. **UMGSA Internal Committee Summer Spots** If you will be around for the summer please consider signing up for an internal UMGSA committee (Awards, Events, Campaigns, Etc...) which has vacancies due to summer absences, please email Ruth at [gsa@umgsa.org](mailto:gsa@umgsa.org) for information on which committees currently have vacancies. Committees will be re-struck and ratified in September so this is a great opportunity to get some experience on an alternate committee as well as learn about a committee you may want to join in September. **\*Please note, if you are applying for a UMGSA award you cannot sit on the Awards committee**

**6. New Business**

6.1. **Update to Committee Policy and Procedure Manual**

6.2. **University Budget Cuts Update** (BOG Budget Vote results 21 FOR 2 AGAINST)

6.2.1. Report budget cut related issues arising in your department to the UMGSA at [pres@umgsa.org](mailto:pres@umgsa.org)

6.2.2. The full budget document voted on by the Board of governors can be found online [here](#).

6.3. **UMGSA 2015-2016 Budget**

6.4. **Senate and FGS Committee Positions** There are several vacancies on senate and FGS

committees which currently need to be filled by graduate students. These committees are one of the primary ways that students can have direct input on varied matters of university administration such as admissions, curriculum, discipline, and dress; and to do so while they represent their fellow graduate students. Please email [pres@umgsa.org](mailto:pres@umgsa.org) for more information on how you can become a senate committee representative.

## **7. Verbal Committee Reports**

7.1. Executive Committee Report

7.2. Finance Committee Report

7.3. Bylaws and Policy Committee Report

7.4. Events Committee Report

7.5. Campaigns Committee Report

7.6. Awards Committee

7.7. Internal Development and Review Sub-Committee Report \*Amended (attached)

7.7.1. A portion of the IDRSC report has been amended to better reflect the excellent job done by outgoing UMGSA Senator Chido Uchime.

## **8. Senate Report**

Senate Report April \*Reprinted unamended from the March report to bring monthly reports in line with one another.

## **9. Executive Committee Reports**

Vice President Internal

Vice President Academic

Vice President Marketing and Events April

## **10. Department Reports**

## **11. Other Business/Announcements**

11.1. **GU15 Conference in late July/early August** This year the UMGSA has the privilege of hosting the fall meeting of the GU15, this is the first time since the UMGSA was invited in to the organization that we have been asked to host one of the conferences, and we plan to do our best to showcase all of the great people and places the U of M has to offer. If you would like to volunteer to help out during the conference please email Enoch A'iyeh, VP External, at [VPE@umgsa.org](mailto:VPE@umgsa.org).

## **12. Adjournment**

**MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council meeting be adjourned.**

Next Meeting is on Wednesday, June 24, 2015 at 5pm in the UMGSA Lounge.

## UMGSA Council Meeting Minutes April 22, 2015

### 1. Call to Order 5:03pm

### 2. Approval of the Agenda

**MOTION:** BIRT the agenda for the April 22, 2015 UMGSA Council meeting be approved.  
Gagandip Sidhu (Plant Science)/ Joseph Dipple (Native Studies)  
Carried.

#### 2.1. Unanimous consent agenda

2.1.1. Any item that has a  beside it denotes unanimous consent agenda

*Any member who wishes to debate an item that is listed below may have it removed from the consent agenda by contacting the Chair prior to the meeting or by asking that it be removed before the Chair calls for a mover and seconder for the following motions.*

**MOTION: BIRT all Executive Reports, and Senate Report are accepted omnibus.**  
Julie Hyde (Peace and Conflict Studies)/ Mario Solis Nepote (Biomedical Engineering)  
Carried.

### 3. Approval of Minutes

**MOTION: BIRT the minutes from the March 25, 2015 UMGSA Council Meeting be approved.**

Gagandip Sidhu (Plant Science)/ Megan Colwell (Entomology).

Carried.

Abstention- Mehdi Rahimian (Education – PhD- Ad hoc)

### 4. Special Project Grant Presentation

4.1. Peace and Conflict Studies Request for \$500 for a Student Research Roundtable- Julie Hyde

Julie presented a very brief outline of the event that Peace and Conflict studies hosted in which a renowned speaker. 12 graduate students presented their work as part of a roundtable discussion and a luncheon with a visiting professor from the US.

**Finance committee moved and seconded the motion.**

**Council approved.**

## **5. Business Arising from the Minutes**

### **5.1. University Budget Cuts Update**

Laura gave an update of the current status of the budget cuts, there have been three confidential Budget Advisory Committee meetings and an additional meeting set for May 5, due to the delay of the Provincial budget being shared on April 30.

UMGSA has put a request in to the Senate Executive Committee meeting on April 29, where the President is an assessor, to make a presentation at Senate on May 13 on the student perspectives on the financial situation of the University and the proposed budget cuts. The committee must approve it to be included on the Senate agenda. This is the last opportunity for Senate to make a recommendation to the Board of Governors prior to the BOG deciding to approve or deny the budget on May 19.

Laura highlighted that UMGSA has accepted an invited to a meeting initiated by the Student Action Network to provide the student perspective in regards to budget cuts to President Barnard and financial team. UMSU was also invited. The meeting will take place April 30, 2015.

Student Action Network event: May 19, 2015 Funeral for Public Education at the University of Manitoba

<https://www.facebook.com/events/682997298493858/>

A question was raised by Education Ad-Hoc wondering what plans are in place to move a motion at Senate regarding budget cuts or for the President to move a motion in the Board of Governors. Laura will coordinate with the senators and Kristjan to plan this.

Rich From (Senator) gave some background on the January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 senate meeting where the student senate caucus submitted some strong questions to President Barnard, which he answered although reading fast and glossing over the hard-hitting nucleus of the questions.

Julie Hyde from Peace and Conflict studies shared that her faculty has lost one integral staff positions recently. Are any other departments feeling this? Laura commented that the AESES union (educational support staff) has lost 28 positions on campus in 2015, and these are prior to the anticipated 4% budget cuts.

### **5.2. GU15 Austerity Measures Presentation**

Kristjan Mann (VPA) gave a presentation outlining what Austerity measures are and what they are currently looking like at the University of Manitoba as presented for the GU15 conference. This information will be made available to students on the website in the near future.

## 6. New Business

### 6.1. Compensation for VPE Roles and responsibilities (Report in Appendix A)

Timi (Chair) provided some historical context to the absence of the VPE role in the UMGSA since his resignation in January 2015. Rich From (Senator) presented a document in which he compiled the VPE tasks taken on and hours spent on those tasks for each executive.

**BIRT the executive members (Kristjan Mann, Laura Rempel, Richard From and Beibei Lu) who took on VPE duties, beyond their own executive duties from January 28 to April 22, 2015 are allocated a proportion of the VPE honorarium as described in the VPE role distribution report (\$581.25 each)**

Mario Solis Nepote (Biomedical Engineering) / Jody Daniel (Natural Resources Institute)

**Carried.**

## 7. Verbal Committee Reports

### 7.1. Executive Committee Report

Most of the executive meetings have dealt with transitioning for new executives. The executive approved a GU15 partner request for support to ask the Tri Council funding agencies to return funding to 2007 levels and increase future investment. We had a meeting with Jay Doering where he informed us of changes to the FGS Travel Scholarship as of April 1, 2015 [http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/graduate\\_studies/funding/forms.html](http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/graduate_studies/funding/forms.html)

### 7.2. Finance Committee Report

#### 7.2.1. Year-end Budget Report

Laura presented the year end budget as VPI is out of the country. She highlighted that there were fewer students registered than we had budgeted for but we still under budget, total expenses were \$469,087.21 from a budget of \$687,775.00. The unspent funds typically go to the Capital fund or Endowment fund for longer term investment. There are a few expenses still pending (conference grants, paying the Gradzette) but will be completed in this budget year.

### 7.3. Bylaws and Policy Committee Report

#### 7.3.1. No report as VPI is away.

### 7.4. Events Committee Report

The last meeting was cancelled because there weren't enough members attending. The

hello / goodbye social is happening right after the Council meeting.

#### 7.5. Campaigns Committee Report

Members were encouraged to attend the Anit-budget Cuts Rally on April 1. The event was a success with more graduate students in attendance.

#### 7.6. Awards Committee

The committee did not meet this month as Kristjan was away at the GU15 conference in Calgary. The role of the committee had already completed its mandate's and the option was also given to attend the anti-cuts rally instead of a formal meeting.

#### 7.7. Internal Development and Review Sub-Committee Report

Mario (chair of IDRSC committee) presented a broad overview of the function of the IDRSC highlighting that the executives did a very satisfactory job.

Chido raised a question regarding some of her areas of opportunity in the IDRSC report. Specifically, she felt the recommendation on her individual report of 'elaborate on senate activities' wasn't justified and should be removed. Mario apologized if this was communicated as something specific to Chido when it was actually meant to apply to all senators. The committee will consider modifying this in the report and report back to Council.

Education Ad-Hoc expressed thanks to the IDRSC and gave on recommendation on the survey to graduate students which he found to be not as user friendly (forced to answer a question) as they could've been in terms of choosing an appropriate response to the questions.

##### 7.7.1. 2015-16 Chair Nominations by April 22 Council meeting

Timi (Chair) highlighted the IDRSC Chair vacancy and asked councilors to consider their interest for the next council meeting.

IDRC committee addresses all matters requiring ethical consideration, review and provide Council with direction on any material or issue Council calls into question regarding conduct or policy, development and adherence to GSA Awards terms of reference and consider development of new award categories, form subcommittee for bi-annual review of the current executive, hiring/termination of UMGSA employees.

##### 7.7.2. Co-curricular record reminder for participation in UMGSA

Laura explained that Mario (chair of IDRSC) has been looking into having recognition for sitting on UMGSA committees, so if councilors are interested

please apply to the co-curricular record using the below description.

Description for role of Councilors that can be submitted to co-curricular record. Council members are elected from their Departmental graduate students associations to represent their member interests and share information between the two organizations. They are required to attend monthly meetings (Council meetings and one internal committee) to participate in setting priorities that governing the non-profit organization.

**8. Verbal Senate Report**

Senate Report April

**9. Executive Committee Reports**

President

Vice President Internal

Vice President Academic

Vice President Health Sciences

Vice President External

Vice President Marketing and Events March

Vice President Marketing and Events April

Executive at Large

Senator 1

Senator 2

Senator 3

**10. Department Reports**

CUPE 3909 bargaining is ongoing- April 23, 10am, 12, 2, 4 and 6pm St. Johns commons room to present/discuss the tentative agreement.

Melissa (Med microbiology) - On April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at Bannatyne campus in theatre A there are talks about collaboration from 12-1, food is offered.

**11. Other Business/Announcements**

**12. Adjournment**

**MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council meeting be adjourned at 6:10pm.**

Joey Lussier (Chemistry)/ Lena Hong (Human Nutritional Sciences).

**Carried.**

Next Meeting is on Wednesday, May 27, 2015 at 5pm in the UMGSA Lounge.

<i>Position/Department</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Signature</i>
President	Laura Rempel	Present
VP Internal	Valery Agbor	Regrets
VP Academic	Kristjan Mann	Present
VP External	Position Not Filled	Resigned Jan 16/15
VP Marketing & Events	Beibei Lu	Present
VP Health Science	Melissa Rabb	Present
Exec-At-Large (Non-voting)	E. RoTimi Ojo	Present
Senator	Chido Uchime	Present
Senator	Diba Vafabakhsh	Present
Senator	Richard From	Present
Council Chairperson (Non-voting)	E. RoTimi Ojo	Present
Office Manager (Non-voting)	Ruth Prokesch	Present
<b><i>Agric &amp; Food Science</i></b>		
Agribusiness & Agric. Economics	Clement Adomah	Present
Animal Science	Elnaz Azad (Co-Councilors) Gustavo Mejicanos	Elnaz Present
Biosystems Engineering	Missed four meetings	No Rep
Entomology	Megan Colwell	Present
Food Science	Xinyang (Sheyna) Sun	Present
Human Nutritional Sciences	Lena Hong	Present
Plant Science	Cassandra Tkachuk Gagandip Sidhu (Co-councilors)	Gagan Present
Soil Science	Nicholson Jeke	Present
<b><i>Architecture</i></b>		
Architecture	David Anderson(Co-Council) Julia Evancio	David Present
City Planning	Evan Allan (Co-Councilors) Andrew Macauley	Both Present
Interior Design	Stephanie Prouse	Absent
Landscape Architecture	Meaghan Pauls	Present LE 5:30pm
<b><i>Arts</i></b>		

Anthropology	Anureet Lotay	Absent
Economics	Missed three meetings	No Rep
English, Film & Theatre	Karalyn Dokurno (Co-Councilors) Katelyn Dykstra Dykerman	Both Present
History	Nicole Courier Proxy: Ulysses Patola	Regrets Ulysses Present
Linguistics	Hai Tran	Present
Native Studies	Joseph Dipple	Present
Political Studies & Public Admin	Missed three meetings	No Rep
Psychology	Yunqiao Wang (Co-Council) Hayley Chartrand	Yunqiao Present
Sociology	Joseph Asomah (Co-Council) Matthew Sanscartier	Joseph Present
<b>Management</b>		
Management – PhD and MSc	Ji Zhou	Present
Management – MBA	Mike DeLuca	Absent
<b>Education</b>		
Education – PhD – Ad hoc	Mehdi Rahimian	Present
<b>Engineering</b>		
Civil Engineering	Sam Esfandianpour	Present LE 5:35pm
Electrical & Computer Engineering	Ahmad Byagowi (co-councilors) Hamid Reza Nasrinpour	Hamid Present
Mechanical & Manufacturing Eng.	Masoud Nasiri Sarvi	Present
<b>Environment, Earth &amp; Resources</b>		
Environment & Geography	Darcy McDougall	Present
Geological Sciences	Olivier Gagne	Absent
Natural Resources Institute	Jody Daniel	Present
<b>Graduate Studies</b>		
Applied Health Sciences	Navjot Pachu (Co-Councilors) Scott Kehler	Absent
Biomedical Engineering	Mario Solis Nepote	Present

Peace and Conflict Studies	Brett Mallon (Co-Councilors) Shorsh Palani	Regrets Proxy: Julie Hyde
<b><i>Human Ecology</i></b>		
Family Social Sciences	Missed four meeting	No Rep
<b>Kinesiology &amp; Recreation Mgmt.</b>		
Kinesiology & Recreation Mgmt.	Travis Hrubeniuk (Co-Council) Ramesh Dutta	Absent
<b>Nursing</b>		
Nursing	Alexa Barrett	Absent
<b>Science</b>		
Biological Sciences	Michael Gaudry	Present
Chemistry	Joey Lussier	Present
Microbiology	Mac Kohlmeier	Present
Physics & Astronomy	Mohammad Hussein	Present
Statistics	Missed Four Meetings	No Rep
<b>Social Work</b>		
Social Work	Kaladhar Battepati	Present
<b>UMSU (Non-Voting)</b>		
President or Designate	Christian Pierce	Absent
<b>CUPE 3909 (Non-Voting)</b>		
President or Designate	Jen Black	Present
<b>FGS Rep (Non-Voting)</b>		
Dean or Designate	Jay Doering	Absent
<b>Student Life (Non-Voting)</b>		
Office of Student Life	Cora Dupuis	Absent
<b>Guests</b>		
Hadeesha Piyadasa	Incoming HSGSA Senator	Present
Enoch A-iyeh	Incoming VPE	Present
Carly Isaak	Incoming Food Science Rep	Present

David Terrazas	Incoming VPA	Present
Kathryn Marcynuk	Incoming Senator	Present LE 5:45pm

## Executive Reports

### Executive Reports

#### Kristjan W. K. Mann, Vice President Academic

##### Executive Summary of Work:

- The Anti-Cuts Rally took place April 1st which was well attended and delivered the message to the administration that the student body is concerned with the impact the upcoming cuts will have on academics and services.
- On April 30th myself, the UMGSA VPI, and representatives from UMSU and SAN met with the president's executive team to voice student concerns over the upcoming budget cuts. The primary concern that was raised was that no one on the student side of the table felt that genuine meaningful consultation with students had taken place, with many consultations occurring confidentially and leaving student representatives unable to communicate intentions with the rest of the student body for broader input. The university administration noted it has future plans to offer a "budget book", and implied that transparency would be of greater importance in the future. Though these potentialities will not impact the most immediate rounds of cuts.
- Much of the first half of this month was taken up preparing for, travelling to, and attending the annual spring conference of the GU15. Many pertinent issues to the graduate student body were address including funding, student-advisor relationships, mental health, and "limited resource" academic environments. I gave a presentation on behalf of the UMGSA on austerity measures within the context of post-secondary institutions and the effects on graduate students (See attachment). Another highlight is that, for the first time since we were invited to join, the U of M has been asked to host the upcoming GU15 conference. This conference will take place in late summer and will be attended by graduate student representatives from 14 other comprehensive research universities in Canada.
- The Awards Committee did not meet this month due to my travelling to attend the GU15 and subsequent end of year and transition related tasks which required attention. Instead the members were asked to attend the anti-cuts rally held April 1st. The same option was given to the campaigns committee which I have been chairing the VPE's absence.

- In light of vacant VPE position I have continued to manage the following duties of the VPE portfolio in addition to those in my own portfolio a) Chairing the Campaigns Committee, b) Working on the Anti- Cuts Campaign c) Siting on the Student IT Experience Committee, d) Managing Website/IT related issues, e) Liaising with the Office of the Minister of Education and Advanced Learning, f) Managing GU15 Participation and Research, g) Organizing all Transition Materials Related to the Aforementioned Duties.

01/04/2015	12:00:00 PM	7:00:00 PM	Anti-Cuts Rally (4), UMGSA Office (1), Executive Meeting (2)	7
02/04/2015	1:00:00 PM	2:00:00 PM	UMGSA Office (1)	1
03/04/2015	4:00:00 PM	8:00:00 PM	GU15 Prep, Pick up car	4
04/04/2015	3:00:00 PM	11:00:00 PM	GU15 Travel Time	8
05/04/2015	9:00:00 AM	10:00:00 PM	GU15 Travel Time (8), Meet and Greet in Calgary (3)	11
06/04/2015	8:00:00 AM	10:00:00 PM	GU15 Presentation work, GU15 Meeting, GU15 Delegate Social Event (4)	14
07/04/2015	8:00:00 AM	10:00:00 AM	GU15 Presentation Work	2
	1:00:00 PM	11:00:00 PM	GU15 Meeting, GU15 Delegate Social Event (3)	10
08/04/2015	8:00:00 AM	4:00:00 PM	GU15 Meeting	8
09/04/2015	4:00:00 PM	1:00:00 AM	GU15 Travel Time	9
10/04/2015	3:00:00 AM	1:00:00 PM	GU15 Travel Time, Returning Rental Car (2)	10
13/04/2015	12:00:00 PM	12:30:00 PM	Phone call With Laura	0.5
15/04/2015	2:00:00 PM	7:00:00 PM	UMGSA Office (1), Office Hours (2), Executive Meeting (2)	5
16/04/2015	10:00:00 AM	3:00:00 PM	UMGSA Transition Day (3), UMGSA Office (2)	5
22/04/2015	2:00:00 PM	9:00:00 PM	Office Hours (2), UMGSA Office (1), Council(1.5), Transition Social (2.5)	
24/04/2015	12:00:00 PM	3:00:00 PM	UMGSA Office (1), VPE Transition (2)	3
27/04/2015	1:00:00 PM	3:30:00 PM	UMGSA Office (2.5)	

	7:00:00 PM	1:00:00 AM	Email, EC Agenda	6
28/04/2015	3:30:00 PM	5:00:00 PM	Meeting With Laura	1.5
	7:00:00 PM	1:00:00 AM	Email, Strategic Planning, Meeting Prep for 30th	6
29/04/2015	12:00:00 PM	4:30:00 PM	Transition meeting with Laura (2), UMGSA Office (2.5)	4.5
30/04/2015	9:15:00 AM	6:30:00 PM	Meeting with the UM President (1), Finance Committee (1.5), Meeting with UMSU VPA (1), Meeting with Laura to sign Cheques (1.5) (Mileage 25, not counted in fiscal year 2014-2015), UMGSA Office (4.25)	9.25
Monthly Total (33 hrs @ GU15 Travel time + 98.75 Meetings and other UMGSA Business)				131.75

## COMMITTEES, MEETINGS, AND BUSINESS MATTERS

### Meetings Attended:

April 1st, 2015	Anti-Cuts Rally	4 hours
April 1st, 2015	Executive Meeting	2 hours
April 5th, 2015	GU15 Meet+Greet	3 hours
April 6th, 2015	GU15	6 hours
April 7th, 2015	GU15	6 hours
April 8th, 2015	GU15	8 hours
April 13th, 2015	Meeting with President	1/2 hours
April 15th, 2015	UMGSA Executive	2 hours
April 16th, 2015	Transition Day	3 hours
April 22nd, 2015	UMGSA Council	1 1/2 hours
April 24th, 2015	VPE Transition	2 hours
April 28th, 2015	Pres Transition	1 1/2 hours
April 29th, 2015	Pres Transition	2 hours
April 30th, 2015	UM+SAN+UMSU	1 hour
April 30th, 2015	UMSU VPA	1 hour
April 30th, 2015	Meeting w Pres Downtown	1 1/2 hours
April 30th, 2015	Finance Committee	1 1/2 hours

**Time spent in meetings:** 46.5 hours (23 hrs @ GU15)

### Meetings Cancelled:

**Meetings Missed: April 4th - 10th was away on UMGSA business at the GU15 and was unable to attend regularly scheduled meetings.**

FGS Faculty Council            April 15, 2015            President attended

**Office Hours:**

Wednesdays: 2pm - 4 pm

**Time spent in the office: 20.25 hours**

**Total Hours Spent on UMGSA for August: 131.75 hours (33hrs @ GU15 Travel Time + 23hrs @ GU15 Meetings + 75.75hrs Local UMGSA Meetings, Tasks, and Office Time)**

## **VALERY AGBOR, UMGSA VPI**

### **Executive Summary of Work:**

Attended the Executive meeting on Wednesday the 1st.  
Revised UMGSA Statement of Investment Policy with UMGSA Lawyer on retainer via telephone call and emails.  
Review applications for conference grants.  
Scheduled and plan Finance and Bylaws and Policy committee meeting for the End of April .  
Received processed departmental grants from the office manager.  
Reviewed expenses for the GU15 conference and signed advance cheques to be used for vehicle rental.  
Responded to all student requests to submit conference grants close to end of the fiscal year.  
Followed minutes from Bylaws committee to make changes on the executive policy manual.  
Sent the policy manual to the president to be included with the council documents.  
Took a two weeks' vacation to Cameroon but was still available by email.  
Processed hardship fund application by email and discussed and treated the hardship fund applications upon my return.  
Sign checks for staff, executive and expenses of the association.  
Meet with Bill from IST to restore my access to our computer network.  
Held finance committee meeting for the month of April on the 30th of April  
Responded to rejected and pending applications for a conference grant.  
Processed late applications for departmental grants.  
Attended the meeting with David Barbarn (Absent) on Budget Cuts.

## **COMMITTEES, MEETINGS, AND BUSINESS MATTERS**

### **Meetings Attended:**

Finance Committee meeting	1.5h
Executive meeting April 1st	2 hs
Meeting with Bill	0.5 hr
Meeting VPA for hardship fund	1 hs
Time spent replying emails	5 h
Time on spent the Phone	2h
Time spent processing departmental and conference grants	5h
Anti Cuts Meeting with David Barnard (absent)	2h

**Time spent in meetings:** 18.5 hours

### **Meetings Cancelled:**

Bylaws meeting for April , 2015 (malfunction of Doodle pool)

### **Meetings Missed:**

April, 2015                      Council Meeting on FGS                      (Not available)

**Office Hours:**

Wednesday: 12 - 2:00 pm

**Time spent in the office: 17 hours**

**Total Hours Spent on UMGSA for April 1st - April 30th: 34.5 hours**

## Beibei Lu, VP Marketing and Events

### Executive Summary of Work:

#### 1. UMGSA Hello& Goodbye Social on April 22, 2015

- **UMGSA 2015 Hello& Goodbye Social:** Organize the Hello and Goodbye social successfully with a great attendance at the HUB. Based on the suggestions from the incoming and outgoing executive teams, we made it a great opportunity to have students to thank the outgoing executives and know about the incoming executives, and provide a recreational addition to the UMGSA executive team transition.

#### 2. Fulfill the job responsibilities of VPME

- **Newsletter update** including current issues about graduate students, general GSA news, upcoming scholarships and funding application, etc.
- **Website update:** Update the recent UMGSA events and activities on home website, including the UMGSA 2015 Hello & Goodbye social, etc. These content was update on UMGSA website and UMGSA social media and newsletter.
- **Marketing:** Work on the current cooperation of GSA Reestablishing relationship with offices & organizations on campus for the new term, which include TED\*UMANITOBA, the HUB, UMFm, etc.
- IDRSC report finished
- Suggest professional development (e.g. professional training workshops), taking chances from outsider professional workshops as a training for all executives to better serve GSA.
- Order food for Council meeting/Purchase drinks and snacks for UMGSA office, etc.
- UMGSA design software update purchase

#### 3. UMGSA & the Gradzette relationship

- After meetings with the Manitoban chief editor / UMGSA president, Gradzette hiring committee is expected to form and organize the interview for Gradzette chief editor and contract update. Communications within mainly focused on future cooperation, more coverage on UMGSA/graduate students related issues.
- Update with the Bylaws committee referring to VPME's participation with the Gradzette issue.

#### 4. Share the VPE role and responsibilities

- Take on some part of the VPE role and responsibilities.
- April1 Anti-cuts rally organizing & photography, follow-up promotion
- Wrap up with the role of VPE with senator-Rich and prepare transition materials, including organizing campaigns, external relationships, etc.

## COMMITTEES, MEETINGS, AND BUSINESS MATTERS

### Meetings Attended:

April15, 2015 Executive Meeting	2 hours
April16, 2015 Transition	8 hours
April22, 2015 UMGSA Council Meeting	2 hours
April21, 2015 Meeting with HUB about social setting	1 hour

**Time spent in meetings:** 13 hours

**Meeting missing:**

UMFM board meeting (re-scheduled)

UMFM board sub-committee meeting (re-scheduled) to May 13, 6:30

**Events attended:**

April 22, 2015          UMGSA Hello & Goodbye Social

**Time spent in events:** 4 hours

**Office Hours:**

Tuesdays: 12:00 am – 14:00 pm

April 7, April 14, April 21, April 28

8 hours

**Additional Time:**

April 1    Photography & Design for Anti-cuts rally    4 hours

Editing and follow up    6 hours

**Time spent in addition:** 10 hours

Detailed Schedule:

Date	Task	Time
15-4-1	Campaign material preparation Anti-cuts rally DAY Anti-cuts rally material preparation: design, print, update	6 hours
15-4-2	Work on the anti cuts rally promotion and follow up materials -contact UMFM, the Manitoban, GRADZETTE, record	8 hours
15-4-3	Finish VPE related part for GSA peer evaluation/ executive report writing/self-evaluation for IDRSC edit anticuts rally pics/edit interview	5 hours
15-4-4	Prepare material for GU15-International students' related services executive report/IDRSC peer evaluation	3 hours
15-4-7	Office hour Newsletter released Website update Prepare material for GU15-International students' related services	3.5 hours
15-4-8	Communicate with CRO about feedbacks on UMGSA VPE & VPME role suggestions	1.5 hours
15-4-9	Prepare transition materials related to VPE role	2 hours
15-4-14	Office hour Newsletter released Website update	2 hours
15-4-16	Transition day	5 hours

15-4-19	Work on VPE role wrap-up report	1 hours
15-4-20	VPE role transition and wrap-up	2 hour
	Office hour Newsletter released Website update	4 hours
15-4-21	Social preparation Social shopping Meeting with HUB manager	
	Council meeting	4 hours
15-4-22	HUB-hello/goodbye social	
	Office hour Newsletter released	3 hours
15-4-28	Website update	

**Total Hours Spent on UMGSA for April: 53 hours**

## Senate Report

### April 2015 Senate Report

Written by: Gagan Sidhu (Incoming Senator)

Reviewed by: R. From (Outgoing Senator)

To: Graduate Students of the University of Manitoba

Date: April 22, 2015

Re: April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 Senate Meeting

### Link to senate agenda:

[http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/senate/agendas/2010\\_2019\\_senate\\_agendas\\_index.html](http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/senate/agendas/2010_2019_senate_agendas_index.html).

### Link to senate minutes:

[http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/senate/minutes/2010\\_2019\\_senate\\_minutes\\_index\\_page.html](http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/senate/minutes/2010_2019_senate_minutes_index_page.html).

## ITEMS OF INTEREST TO GRADUATE STUDENTS IN GENERAL:

### **M.Sc. program suspension (Family Social Sciences)**

At its meeting on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015 the President notified senate of his acceptance of the recommendation from Dr. Jay Doering, Vice-Provost (Graduate Education) and Dean of the faculty of Graduate Studies that admission to the **M.Sc. program in Family Social Sciences** be suspended. Accordingly, the suspension will be effective from May 2015- May 2016. Further details can be found on page 19 of the senate agenda.

### **Changes in required credit hours**

The **Department of Entomology** proposed reductions in required credit hours from the 12 credit hours to 6 credit hours. The credit hours changes are proposed for both the M.Sc. and Ph.D. programs. Additionally, students entering the direct entry Ph.D. program or students transferring from M.Sc. to Ph.D. within the first 18 months would be required to complete 12 credit hours. The rationale behind the proposed changes is that it would allow students to focus on their research and makes the program more consistent to credit requirements of similar departments at the University of Manitoba and other Canadian Universities. The motion was approved.

The **Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics** proposed reductions in required credit hours. For the M.Sc. program the proposed reduction is from 12 credit hours to 9 credit hours and for the Ph.D. program the proposed reduction is from 12 credit hours to 6 credit hours. Students entering the direct entry Ph.D. program or students transferring from M.Sc. to Ph.D. within the first 18 months will be required to complete 15 credit hours. The proposed changes

are made in response to the desire of new faculty and in conjunction with the recommendations from a graduate review of the department. Additionally, these changes would be in line with the trend of requirements in the Faculty of Health Sciences and similar programs across Canada. These changes will also allow students to focus on research and self-direct their learning. The motion was passed.

### **New funding awards**

At a Senate Committee on awards meeting on February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 the Senate Committee on Awards approved 12 new offers of potential awards, 26 amended offers, and the withdrawal of two awards. A summary of the new awards available to graduate students are listed below. For details please see Appendix A of the *Report of the Senate Committee on Awards* – pages 4-17 in the senate agenda.

#### ***Dalgarno Graduate Fellowship***

To support graduate students who are conducting research in the area of plant or fungal biology, and to support the William F. Hanna Lecture Memorial Lecture and special plant/fungi speaker(s) or events. Must be enrolled in M.Sc. degree program (thesis option) or PhD program in the Department of Biological Sciences with minimum grade point average of 3.5 (or equivalent) based on the last 60 credit hours of study.

#### ***Physics and Astronomy Centennial Graduate Fellowship***

To recognize graduate students for academic excellence during the first year of graduate studies by offering a fellowship to one graduate student in their second year of study in the Faculty of Graduate Studies in the Department of Physics and Astronomy; minimum grade point average of 3.75(or equivalent) based on the last 60 credit hours of study.

### **Presidents Report**

The President outlined the launch of a new funding campaign whose goal is to promote the culture of philanthropy within our internal community. This campaign will be promoted by faculty and staff ambassadors and through the web and social media channels until March 31st. Full description in agenda (page 20),

***Question:*** (pre-submitted from Tina Mei Chen from the Faculty of Arts)

How does the university administration justify asking faculty and students for monetary donations, and the funds spent on promoting this campaign, given the current issue of budget cuts? These ongoing budget cuts place a burden on professors and students through reduced staff, larger class sizes and under maintained classrooms. Not to mention less courses being offered and increased anxiety from all.

***Response:*** (prewritten, verbal response from the President)

Well, everyone who is invited to participate can say no. It is a common practice to promote philanthropy at Post-Secondary Institutions. In fact 1.4 million has been donated over the last 3

years through this initiative with the rationale from donors being that even more can be accomplished with their help. As of March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015, 36 million was raised through this campaign, which is even above our target of 28 million.

**Open discussion period (re: the President's statement of response to the recent CAUT (Canadian Association of University Teachers) report on the Department of Economics**

As a preamble, the situation in the Department of Economics is that there are two polarized groups of faculty members that hold alternative viewpoints on economics (orthodox [right or straight opinions] vs. heterodox [other opinions]). In the Feb 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015 senate meeting the President issued a verbal, although prewritten, statement of response to the CAUT Report which was later uploaded to the University's website.

In this open discussion period several Deans and Professors from a wide range of Faculty's both in Arts and Science presented their opinions and recommendations to the President. Several speakers argued that the way the President was trying to discredit the report was unsavory and close-minded with the administration completely failing to understand the gravity of the situation whereby a minority was being discriminated against when they should be protected.

The President re-iterated that the timing of the CAUT report and the manner in which it was carried out was poor timing and overly infringed on the ongoing remediation efforts of the Dean of Arts (Dean Taylor). Questions have been raised about the arduous length of time Dean Taylor has been in charge of largely unsuccessful remediation efforts in this department and at one point Dean Taylor spoke in response to a comment in order to "defend his integrity".

The overall takeaway from the discussion was that some points are valid in both the CAUT report and the Presidents response to the report. Now, each of those involved must bring their best selves and work through this situation to the best of their abilities. Different opinions can co-exist in various departments and in fact, should be present to present all available viewpoints to students.

## Appendix

### A. Updated Committee Policy Manual

#### 8. Internal Development and Review Committee

##### a. Membership

- i. The President of the Association as Chairperson.
- ii. The Vice President (Internal) of the Association.
- iii. One HSGSA designate.
- iv. One Senator of the Association.
- v. The Executive at Large as a non-voting resource member.
- vi. No fewer than six representatives of the Association, with at least one representative from each the following disciplines:
  1. Humanities: i.e. History, English, Philosophy, French and Spanish, Religion, German, Icelandic, Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, Slavic Studies, Classics, etc.
  2. Social Sciences: i.e. Economics, Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology, Geography, Political Studies, etc.
  3. Natural and Agricultural Sciences: i.e. Geological Sciences, Human Ecology, Mathematics, Statistics, Microbiology, Chemistry, Physics, Biological Sciences and Agriculture, etc.
  4. Professional Studies: i.e. Administrative Studies, Computer Science, Engineering, Education, Architecture, Law, Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Social Work, etc.

##### b. Mandate

- i. Address all matters requiring ethical consideration within the Association.
- ii. Review and provide Council with direction on any material or issue Council calls into question regarding conduct or policy.
- iii. Oversee the Association's continued development of, and adherence to, the UMGSA Award terms of reference in order to ensure the best distribution as more monies become available, with special consideration given to developing new award categories.
- iv. Form an Internal Development and Review Subcommittee to perform the bi-annual review of the current Executive (see 8.e.i-xi).
- v. Hiring of UMGSA Employees
  1. The IDRC will conduct the hiring of the UMGSA employees
  2. The President and Vice President (Internal) of the UMGSA shall formalize employment postings and criteria for a position, with final approval given by the IDRC before being released
  3. The President and Vice President (Internal) of the UMGSA shall formalize the contract for UMGSA employees, with final approval given on the contract's terminology by the IDRC

4. IDRC will require employees to sign a Confidentiality Agreement with the UMGSA due to the information a UMGSA employee will have access to
5. Any member of the IDRC who knows a possible contender for an employee position must declare a conflict of interest
6. Preference for UMGSA employee positions will be given to a University of Manitoba student who is a current Masters or Doctoral graduate student
7. The IDRC will be given the ability to review the work of the UMGSA employees rather than the UMGSA executive in order to avoid bias and possible conflict-of-interest
8. IDRC must be considered in the termination of employees in order to provide security to employees who may report inappropriate behaviour from members of the UMGSA executive, council, and/or staff

c. Meetings

- i. The Internal Development and Review Committee shall meet in May to determine a meeting schedule for each academic term.
- ii. The Committee shall meet at least twice per academic term.
- iii. The Internal Development and Review Committee shall determine its own meeting parameters and schedule.

d. Reporting and Authority

- i. The Chairperson of the Internal Development and Review Committee shall report to Council at each scheduled monthly meeting to provide an update on Committee activities.

e. Internal Development and Review Subcommittee

- i. The Internal Development and Review Committee shall meet in May to form the Internal Development and Review Subcommittee.
- ii. The Internal Development and Review Subcommittee shall include only those six non-Executive members outlined in the membership section.
- iii. The HSGSA designate should have no standing on either the Executive or the HSGSA Executive; that member is to be included in the Internal Development and Review Subcommittee.
- iv. The Chairperson of the Internal Development and Review Subcommittee will be elected at the April Council meeting, to take office beginning in May.
- v. The Internal Development and Review Subcommittee shall perform three reviews of the Executive, with special regard to attendance and participation.
- vi. The first review will cover from May 1 to August 31 and will be presented at the October Council meeting by the Chairperson of the Internal Development and Review Subcommittee.
- vii. The second review will cover from September 1 to November 30 and will be presented at the February Council meeting by the Chairperson of the Internal Development and Review Subcommittee.

- viii. The third review will cover from December 1 to March 31 and will be presented at the April Council meeting by the Chairperson of the Internal Development and Review Subcommittee.
- ix. The Internal Development and Review Subcommittee will make recommendations to Council for the development and maintenance of the review process.
- x. It is the responsibility of the President of the Association to turn over all requested UMGSA review documents to the Chairperson of the Internal Development and Review Subcommittee.
- xi. It is the responsibility of the HSGSA designate to turn over all requested HSGSA review documents to the Chairperson of the Internal Development and Review Subcommittee.

**B. UMGSA 2015-2016 Budget**

See attachment in the email.

**C. IDRSC Executive Evaluation Report**

See attachment in the email.

**D. Austerity Measures PowerPoint Presentation**

See attachment in the email.

**E. GU15 Written Report**

See attachment in the email.