
UMGSA Council Meeting Documents Index Page

Wednesday, September 23rd, 2020 - 5:30 PM - Zoom

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UMGSA Council Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, September 23rd, 2020 - 5:30 PM - Zoom

1. Call to Order

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 September 23rd, 2020 UMGSA Council Meeting as presented.

4. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the August 26th, 2020 UMGSA Council Meeting are included as Appendix I to this Council meeting agenda.

MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council approves the minutes of the August 26th, 2020 UMGSA Council Meeting as presented.

5. Committee Reports

5.1. August Committee Reports (Appendix II)

6. HSGSA Report

6.1. August HSGSA Report (Appendix III)

7. Senate Report

7.1. August Senate Report (Appendix IV)

8. Executive Reports

8.1. August Executive Reports (Appendix V)

9. Departmental Reports

10. Unfinished Business

11. New Business

11.1. Funding for U-Pass Subsidy from Conference Grant Budget Line: This year we have saved \$69 705.00 from the start of Covid-19 until August from not distributing conference grants. During this time, we have only spent \$750.00 from the conference grant budget. Considering this, and the cancellation of the U-Pass for the Fall term it was discussed that we should spend a portion of this money to subsidize the purchase of bus passes by graduate students. At \$78.00 per subsidy – the difference between the U-Pass and a four-month post-secondary transit pass – for 500 students we propose that we move \$39 000.00 from the conference grant budget to this subsidy. If we proceed,

FGS has committed to matching our contribution, which would allow us to subsidize bus passes for up to 1000 graduate students.

MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council approves the use of \$39 000.00 from the conference grant budget line for the subsidizing of bus passes for up to 500 graduate students.

UMGSA Executive Committee

11.2. Funding for International Student Quarantine Plan: The University of Manitoba has set up a quarantine plan for International Students coming to Manitoba for school. They have requested that the UMGSA contributes \$1000.00 to the implementation of this plan in order to make it less costly for incoming graduates.

MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council approves the contribution of \$1000.00 to the University of Manitoba's International Student Quarantine Plan.

UMGSA Executive Committee

12. Announcements

12.1. Next Council Meeting: Wednesday, October 28th, 2020 - 5:30PM - Zoom

12.2. AGM Meeting Date: Wednesday, December 9th, 2020 - 5:30PM - Zoom

13. Adjournment

Appendix II :

UMGSA Committee Reports August 1st - August 31st, 2020

Executive Committee

Chair: Silvia Sekander (UMGSA President)

Meeting Dates: Aug 18th, Aug 25th, 2020

- All UMGSA meetings in May have been held by video-conference, and not in person.
- Executives provided regular updates on meetings attended and other activities.
- The Executives discussed on the survey regarding continuing fees in Summer 2021.
- International Students quarantine plan fund allocation was discussed.
- Virtual Conference Grant Project was discussed.
- U-pass subsidy along with FGS was planned.

Finance Committee

Chair: Nora Ampomah (UMGSA VPFA)

Meeting Dates: August 6th, 2020

- The committee reviewed the Financial Reports of the UMGSA for the month of July and finished discussions on the expenses the UMGSA made for the month of June.
- The Committee deliberated on an appeal from a graduate student. This appeal was about the new cap placed on the amount a graduate student can receive for Conference Grants in the new Conference Grant Program which was put in effect on May 1st, 2020.

Events Committee

Chair: Etinosa Osemwota (UMGSA VPSS)

Meeting Dates: August 27th, 2020

- Virtual Jazz class for beginners are to be organized every Mondays and Tuesdays.
- A Movie Night was organised by the Committee on the 28th of August
- Inline with our efforts to increase our social media presence and improve social engagement, a home office contest with the prize of a \$100 amazon gift card, was put on by the Committee.
- The committee discussed other ways the UMGSA could stay connected with graduate students, including having virtual meetings with executives or regular videos to inform graduate students on what the executives are currently working on.
- We also discussed future events that could be organised. However, we decided to repeat the discussion due to the absence of some members turnover of councillors.

Services and Support Committee

Chair: Etinosa Osemwota (UMGSA VPSS)

Meeting Dates: August 11th, 2020

- The committee discussed the revision of the mandate of the services and support committee. Committee members suggested that the third mandate of the services and support committee should be modified to "To organize support services including but not limited to Welcome Back Week / Orientation".
- Ideas on events to be organised to welcome new students as well as other possible events, were discussed.
- The committee concluded on organising a Q&A session for new students, which will include a panel of students from Bannatyne and Fort Garry campus, as well as a moderator.
- A virtual tour depicting life in Winnipeg will also be conducted for graduate students primarily through videos and other visual aids.
- The committee reviewed the drafted survey to be sent out to graduate students involving the revision of the **summer 2021 continuing fee increase imposed by FGS**.

Bylaws and Policy Committee

Chair: Nora Ampomah (UMGSA VPFA)

Meeting Date: August 13th, 2020

- The committee discussed making revisions to the mandates of Standing Committees in the Governance and Operations Manual (GOM).
- The committee also discussed making revisions to the Membership section of Standing Committees in the GOM.

Awards Committee

Chair: Rubel Chandra Talukder (UMGSA VP Academic)

Meeting Dates: No Meetings in August

Appendix III :

HSGSA Report August 1st - August 31st, 2020

HSGSA Executive Committee and Council

Chair: Akshi Malik

In August, 33rd Annual Canadian Health Research forum (CSHRF) was organised virtually in collaboration with the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences. This year participation was low compared to every other year as it held remotely. HSGSA was in charge of networking sessions. We hosted ‘student networking session’ and ‘plan your next milestone’ sessions for MB participants; invited individuals from MATICS, Manitoba Bioscience Association (BAM), BioTalent Canada and NML Govt. of Canada. Both these sessions were successful and participants had the opportunity to talk to the guests one-on-one in Zoom breakout room. For CIHR participants we hosted “Feed & Heal the World” Networking session and had good feedbacks from the participants. Along with all the execs, many students volunteered to moderate these networking sessions and its smooth execution. Volunteers will be rewarded with 20 CAD gift cards for their participation. HSGSA will give 3 poster awards for \$200 each; winners are yet to be announced. Javad, our VPA, has been following up with the distinguished lecturer Dr. Connie Eaves (Distinguished scientist, Terry Fox Laboratory) to finalize details about her virtual lecture in Jan 2021.

Akshi Malik

HSGSA President (2020-2021)

Appendix IV :

August Senate Report

Link to the Senate Executive agendas:
Agenda August 5th, 2020(Special Meeting):

https://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/media/2020_08_05_Senate_agenda_Special_Meeting.pdf

For academic changes regarding CoVid-19 that were passed at the Senate please see the University of Manitoba's CoVid-19 response page: <http://umanitoba.ca/coronavirus>

This special meeting agenda does not contain anything information for the graduate students or graduate studies.

The UMGSA Senators

Appendix V :

UMGSA Executive Reports August 1st - August 31st, 2020

President - Silvia Sekander

Executive Summary of Work:

- **International Student Quarantine Plan:** Met with Digvir and discussed plans where UMGSA can help.
- **Advocacy Work:** Planning for participating in Lobby Week with UMSU
- **U-pass Subsidy:** Planning on U-pass subsidy for graduate students

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting	Hours
August 5 th , 2020	Senate Meeting	2 Hours
August 6 th , 2020	UMGSA Finance Committee Meeting	1 Hour
August 11 th , 2020	UMGSA Services and Support Committee Meeting	1.25 Hours
August 14 th , 2020	Meeting with UMSU President	0.5 Hours
August 18 th , 2020	UMGSA Executive Committee Meeting	1 Hour
August 18 th , 2020	Meeting with Vice Provost	0.5 Hours
August 25 th , 2020	UMGSA Executive Committee Meeting	2 Hours
August 25 th , 2020	Board of Governors Meeting	1 Hour
August 26 th , 2020	Meeting with Digvir Jayas	0.5 Hours
August 27 th , 2020	UMGSA Events Committee Meeting	1.5 Hours

Meetings Missed: None

Time Spent in Meetings in August: 11.25 Hours

Office Hours:

All Executive Office Hours were suspended due to COVID-19 effective March 17th, 2020.

Time Spent in Official Office Hours in August: 0 Hours

Working Events Attended: None

Time Spent at Working Events in August: 0 Hours

Approximate Time Spent on Other Activities:

Activity	Hours
e-mail Correspondence & other activities	43 Hours

Total Hours Spent on the UMGSA in August, 2020: 54.25 Hours

Vice-President Finance and Administration - Nora Ampomah.

Executive Summary of Work:

- **Preparation of documents for Committee Meetings:** Prepared draft revisions on some sections in the Governance and Operations Manual and presented them to the Bylaws and Policy Committee for deliberations.
- **Presentation of an Appeal and Review of Financial Reports:** Reviewed the financial reports for the month of July and presented an appeal on behalf of a graduate student, to make a one-time exception with regards to the changes made to the cap of the new UMGSA Conference Grant Program, which came in effect on May 1st, 2020.

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting	Hours
August 6 th , 2020	UMGSA Finance Committee Meeting	1 Hour
August 11 th , 2020	UMGSA Executive Committee Meeting	1.4 Hours
August 13 th , 2020	UMGSA Bylaws and Policy Committee Meeting	1 Hour
August 18 th , 2020	UMGSA Executive Committee Meeting	0.9 Hours
August 25 th , 2020	UMGSA Executive Committee Meeting	2 Hours
August 26 th , 2020	UMGSA Council Meeting	1.5 Hours

Meetings Missed: None

Time Spent in Meetings in August: 7.8 Hours

Office Hours:

**All Executive Office Hours were suspended due to COVID-19 effective March 17th, 2020. **

Time Spent in Official Office Hours in August: 0 Hours

Working Events Attended: None

Time Spent at Working Events in August: 0 Hours

Approximate Time Spent on Other Activities:

Activity	Hours
Preparing Documents for Meetings	17 Hours
e-mail Correspondence	15 Hours
Other	3 Hours

Total Hours Spent on the UMGSA in August, 2020: 42.8 Hours

Vice-President Services and Support - Etinosa Osemwota.

Executive Summary of Work:

- **Communication with executives from other Universities across Canada:** I have maintained contact with other executives across Canada, in order to be informed about how they plan on supporting their students in various forms including through programming and events. In addition, this relationship could bring about opportunities for collaboration with other universities in the future.
- **Updating the Sexual Violence Information Section of the U of M website**
- **Established contact with Departmental Executives:** In order to encourage an open line of communication which could help me be more conversant with the needs of graduate students at the departmental level, and also have knowledge of their future plans as a department, I have established and tried to maintain contact with most departmental executives.

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting	Hours
August 6 th , 2020	UMGSA Finance Committee meeting	1 Hour
August 11 th , 2020	UMGSA Executive Committee meeting	1.5 Hours
August 11 th , 2020	UMGSA Services and Support Committee meeting	1.5 Hours
August 12 th , 2020	GSA Vice-presidents' Meeting	1.5 Hours
August 17 th , 2020	Sexual Violence Communications Subcommittee meeting	1 Hour
August 17 th , 2020	UMSU Member Services Meeting	1.5 Hours
August 18 th , 2020	UMGSA Executive Committee meeting	1 Hour
August 19 th , 2020	Sexual Violence Steering Committee	1.5 Hours
August 25 th , 2020	UMGSA Executive Committee meeting	2 Hours
August 26 th , 2020	UMGSA Council Meeting	1.5 Hours
August 27 th , 2020	UMGSA Events Committee meeting	1 Hour

Meetings Missed: None

Time Spent in Meetings in August: 16.5 Hours

Office Hours:

All Executive Office Hours were suspended due to COVID-19 effective March 17th, 2020.

Time Spent in Official Office Hours in August: 0 Hours

Working Events Attended: None

Time Spent at Working Events in August: 0 Hours

Approximate Time Spent on Other Activities:

Activity	Hours
Preparing Documents for Committee Meetings	3 Hours
Preparing Council Reports	2.5 Hours
e-mail Correspondence	36 Hours

Total Hours Spent on the UMGSA in August, 2020: 58 Hours

Vice-President Academic - Rubel Chandra Talukder

Executive Summary of Work:

- **Awards Committee:** Selected the short-listed candidates for student and teaching award in July and sent it to FGS for their verification.
- **Continuing Fee:** Introduced the idea of suspending the continuing fee in Summer-2021 until Summer-2022 to the executive committee and hope it will lead to something cheerful for the students during this stressful COVID time. GSA ran a survey about it and most of the students are in favor of suspending the continuing fee in Summer-2021.

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting	Hours
August 11 th , 2020	UMGSA Executive Committee meeting	1.5 Hours
August 11 th , 2020	Services and Support Committee meeting	2 Hours
August 18 th , 2020	UMGSA Executive Committee meeting	1 Hour
August 25 th , 2020	UMGSA Executive Committee meeting	2.25 Hours
August 26 th , 2020	UMGSA Council meeting	1.5 Hours
August 31 st , 2020	Student Senate Caucus meeting	0.5 Hours

Meetings Missed: None

Time Spent in Meetings in August: 8.75 Hours

Office Hours:

All Executive Office Hours were suspended due to COVID-19 effective March 17th, 2020.

Time Spent in Official Office Hours in August: 0 Hours

Working Events Attended: None

Time Spent on Working Events in August: 0 Hours

Approximate Time Spent on Other Activities:

Activity	Hours
e-mail Correspondence & other activities	30 Hours

Total Hours Spent on the UMGSA in August, 2020: 38.75 Hours

HSGSA President - Akshi Malik

Executive Summary of Work:

- Chaired HSGSA meetings; attended UMGSA meetings; worked with CSHRF planning team; attended CSHRF sessions

Meetings Attended:

August 4 th , 2020	HSGSA Executive Meeting	1 Hour
August 7 th , 2020	Meeting with BMO Executive	1.5 Hours
August 11 th , 2020	UMGSA Executive Council Meeting	1 Hour
August 18 th , 2020	UMGSA Executive Council Meeting	1.5 Hours
August 25 th , 2020	UMGSA Executive Council Meeting	2.5 Hours
August 26 th , 2020	UMGSA Council Meeting	2 Hours
August 31 st , 2020	HSGSA Executive Meeting	2 Hours

Meetings missed: none

Time Spent in Meetings in August: 11.5 Hours

Office Hours:

All Executive Office Hours were suspended due to COVID-19 effective March 17th, 2020.

Time Spent in Official Office Hours in August: 0 Hours

Working events attended

August 21 st , 2020	CSHRF Networking Sessions (Manitoba)	2.5 Hours
August 28 th , 2020	CSHRF Networking Sessions (National)	2 Hours
--	International Student Support Group	2 Hours

Time Spent in Working Events in August: 6.5 Hours

Approximate time spent on other activities:

HSGSA Meetings Prep	3 Hours
Email correspondence	6 Hours
CSHRF Planning	2 Hours

Total hours spent on the UMGSA & HSGSA for August, 2020: 29 hours

Senator 1 - Akeem Azeez

Executive Summary of Work:

- **Summary:** I participated in the meetings below; the necessary information gotten was disseminated to the right quarters.

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting	Hours
August 11 th , 2020	UMGSA Executive Meeting	1 Hour
August 13 th , 2020	Appeal Committee Hearing Meeting	2.5 Hours
August 18 th , 2020	UMGSA Executive Meeting	1 Hour
August 25 th 2020	UMGSA Executive Meeting	1 Hour
August 31 st , 2020	Senate Student Caucus Meeting	0.5 Hours

Meetings Missed: None

Time Spent in Meetings in August: 6 Hours

Office Hours:

All Executive Office Hours were suspended due to COVID-19 effective March 17th, 2020.

Time Spent in Official Office Hours in August: 0 Hours

Working Events Attended: None

Time Spent at Working Events in August: 0 Hours

Approximate Time Spent on Other Activities:

Activity	Hours
Preparing Documents for Meetings	3 Hours
e-mail Correspondence	6 Hours

Total Hours Spent on the UMGSA in August, 2020: 14 Hours

Senator 2 - William Dowie

Executive Summary of Work:

- **Senator Meetings:** attended Student Senate Caucus, Senate Executive, and Senate
- **UMGSA portfolio – other committees:** attended various committees on zoom sessions: Sustainability, Co-Curricular Record, Counselling Services (Bullying workshop; PPTx available)

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting	Hours
August 5 th , 2020	Senate Meeting (Special Summer Session)	2 Hours
August 11 th , 2020	UMGSA Executive Committee Meeting	1.5 Hours
August 18 th , 2020	UManitoba President Zoom – Senate group	0.75 Hours
August 20 th , 2020	Phone Meeting with VPSS; Re-booting Indigenous Comm.	0.5 Hours
August 25 th , 2020	UMGSA Executive Committee Meeting	1.25 Hours
August 26 th , 2020	UMGSA Council Meeting	1.5 Hours
August 28 th , 2020	Co-Curricular Record Committee	1.5 Hours
August 31 st , 2020	Student Senate Caucus	0.5 Hours

Meetings Missed:

Date	Event	Hours
August 18 th , 2020	Extra (unscheduled) UMGSA Executive Meeting	1 Hour

Time Spent in Meetings in August: 9.5 Hours

Office Hours:

All Executive Office Hours were suspended due to COVID-19 effective March 17th, 2020.

Time Spent in Official Office Hours in August: 0 Hours

Working Events Attended: None

Time Spent at Working Events in August: 0 Hours

Approximate Time Spent on Other Activities:

Activity	Hours
Preparing for Council – Review Tasks, Prepare Summary Report	1 Hours
Preparing & Debriefing Senate meetings (all types)	3 Hours
Preparing & Debriefing Committees under my prevue	1 Hour
Email / WhatsApp correspondence (one hour per week allotted)	4 Hours

Total Hours Spent on the UMGSA in August, 2020: 18 Hours

Ongoing activities: NEW: Steering Committee of Covid Recovery on campus; reviving of the UMGSA Indigenous Outreach Committee. PREVIOUS: outreach project regarding ‘mature’ students (to promote graduate research opportunities); expansion of CCR categories for CV enhancement (esp. MITACS workshops); continuing advocacy of mental health services’ workshops (esp. geared to graduate students in varying scenarios); more marketing of ‘sustainability on campus’ opportunities.