
UMGSA Council Meeting Documents Index Page

Wednesday, September 22nd, 2021 – 5:30 PM – Zoom

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UMGSA Council Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, September 22nd, 2021 – 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 22nd, 2021 UMGSA Council Meeting as presented.

4. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the August 25th, 2021 UMGSA Council Meeting are included as Appendix I to this Council meeting agenda.

MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council approves the minutes of the August 25, 2021 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 Reports (Appendix IV)

8. Executive Reports

8.1. August Reports (Appendix V)

9. Departmental Reports

10. Unfinished Business

10.1. Sustainability Updates

11. New Business

11.3

12. Announcements

12.1. Next Council Meeting: Wednesday, October 27th, 2021 - 5:30PM – Zoom

12.2. Consent Culture Workshops: They have been posted on the UMGSA website.

12.3. October Newsletter: If anyone has anything they want to share e-mail

gcc@umgsa.org

13. Adjournment

Appendix II :

UMGSA Committee Reports August 1st – August 31st, 2021

Executive Committee

Chair: Silvia Sekander (UMGSA President)

Meeting Dates: August 20th, 2021

- Executives discussed about Student club membership at GSA (Context: Iranian Students Association).
- Logistics regarding ELC subsidy program was discussed.
- Mental health support (Increased number of counselling) for graduate students

Finance Committee (August 1st – August 31st)

Chair: Nora Ampomah (UMGSA VPFA)

Meeting Dates: August 12th, 2021

- The Committee reviewed Financial Reports for July.
- The Committee reviewed virtual Conference Grant applications

Bylaws and Policy Committee (August 1st – August 31st)

Chair: Nora Ampomah (UMGSA VPFA)

Meeting Date: August 5th, 2021

- The Committee re-visited the discussions on the revisions to the timelines for Council membership.
- The Committee continued the review on the article on audits and transparency in the Governance and Operations Manual.

Events Committee

Chair: Golnaz Shirzadi (UMGSA VPSS)

Meeting date: August 26th, 2021

- Informal meet and greet session with the new students, other students are also welcomed. (Last week of September) Kimia & Dustin will be volunteering.
- Next meeting will be on Thursday, September 30th, 2021.

Services and Support Committee

Chair: Golnaz Shirzadi (UMGSA VPSS)

Meeting Date: August 10th, 2021

- LinkedIn workshop in partnership with the HSGSA will happen in November.
- Discussed the agenda for my meeting with the President of the University.
- Discussed the meet & greet session for new students.
- Discussed how the university can help graduate students with their mental health needs.

Awards and Academic Affairs Committee

Chair: Rubel Chandra Talukder (UMGSA VP Academic)

- There were no Awards committee meetings during August.

The External Relations Fund Committee

Chair: Liujun Chen (Ph.D. student in Pharmacy)

- All ERF Ad-hoc Committee on August 26th, 2021 have been held by video conference, and not in person.
- The committee members discussed and approved the last two meeting's minutes and the revised timeline.
- Silvia's (UMGSA, president) commented on considering the External Relations Fund for graduate students for Mental Health programs.
- ERF proposal idea - FGS Scholarships for students who are at the end of their studies without stipends (more details about the applications time, deadline, the real state of the student's study time needs to be discussed)– Liujun/Silvia
- Bill Dowie, UMGSA Executive, – We need to consider the source of the fund; do we want it to stay in the same theme to distribute it for a long period for fewer people or distribute it to more people with a small amount?
- Bill raises the issue to have a survey about the above consideration---Have 5 survey questions – 2 open-ended, 3 closed-ended questions in a survey. The ERF Committee will send recommendations to Council to vote to decide on what to use the fund for.
- Bill supplemented the potential survey question- Are there graduate/student programs that UMGSA is missing that could be put in place or programs in other graduate school programs around the world we would like to see in the GSA?

- Nora will provide a table of Budget line items – grants, programs, etc. in the next meeting that would show what funding opportunities are already available to graduate students.
- Have committee members put potential 5 survey questions together in a shared document which will be set up by the chair. Officially adopt a survey in the first meeting **on September 16th**.
- Recommendations firstly will be sent to the Finance at UMGSA to be accepted -- Have Council vote to accept the recommendations from the executive & the executive will have to vote to accept this from the council --Then the GCC put together survey questions via email.
- HSGSA Executives to look at the survey response with UMGSA Executives
- Feedback of the survey will be discussed **on September 30th**, which will be one guideline for the ERF committee to prepare the proposals.
- Feedbacks about the use of the funding will keep being discussed in the next meeting since there is no news from the committee members.
- Next Committee meeting date (**September 16th, 30th, 6:00-7:30 PM**).

Appendix III :

HSGSA Report August 1st – August 31st, 2021

HSGSA Executive Committee and Council

Chair: Akshi Malik

In August, HSGSA organised first social event-HSGSA BBQ Hangout, only for vaccinated students at Assiniboine Park. Event was attended by 30 students and was very well received. To bear the cost of event, HSGSA Council moved \$1000 from Fall Orientation budget (as it happened online) to summer activity budget.

HSGSA has received 26 applications for Graduate Student Excellence Award 2021. VP-Academic, Javad will chair the selection committee comprised of 6 Professors and a graduate student representative. This award will be given to one Masters and one PhD student during the Dr. P. Choy Distinguished Lecture 2021-22.

For September, HSGSA is planning to organise ‘Sexual Assault Prevention Workshop’ for both Bannatyne and St. Boniface campuses.

Akshi Malik
HSGSA President (2021-2022)

Appendix IV :

August Senate Report

Meeting Date: August 31, 2021

Link to Agenda:

https://umanitoba.ca/governance/sites/governance/files/2021-08/2021_08_31_Senate_agenda_Special%20Meeting.pdf

Please note that this report contains only relevant items discussed in Senate related to graduate studies and graduate students.

Report Includes:

1. Correspondence from the President

1. Correspondence from the President

- I write in strong support of the proposal from the Registrar to adjust the academic schedule to accommodate the University's closure on September 30 to honour the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. I have discussed this proposal with the University's executive team, and Dr. Diane Hiebert-Murphy, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) has engaged with the University's deans, and I can affirm that there is strong and consistent support to enable the University to move forward. In recognizing this day, all members of the University of Manitoba community will be able to participate in commemoration and reconciliation activities. The University, and the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation will offer events and resources to recognize this important day; further information will be available as details are finalized. I encourage all members of our community to make themselves aware of these opportunities and to use the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation for reflection, commemoration, learning and action.

Appendix V :

UMGSA Executive Reports August 1st – August 31st, 2021

President - Silvia Sekander

Executive Summary of Work:

- ELC Subsidy: Our VPSS Golnaz proposed the ELC subsidy program for our graduate students. I have communicated with FGS and University administration to work on the program. FGS was finally agreed to match the amount UMGSA will be providing. We decided to subsidize 40 students in this fall semester. FGS and UMGSA will cover 100\$ of the registration fees for each of these 40 students.
- FGS Orientation Workshop: All the UMGSA executives were invited in the orientation workshop. We met with the new students and introduced them about UMGSA activities. There was a long Q/A session after the orientation speech.

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting	Hours
August 3 rd , 2021	GCC Selection Committee Meeting	1 Hour
August 9 th , 2021	Meeting on ELC Subsidy Program	1 Hour
August 12 th , 2021	Finance Committee Meeting	1 Hour
August 13 th , 2021	Governance and Nomination Committee Meeting	1 Hour
August 17 th , 2021	Mandatory Vaccination Meeting	1 Hour
August 19 th , 2021	ELC Subsidy Meeting	0.5 Hours
August 20 th , 2021	UMGSA Executive Committee Meeting & get-together	3 Hours
August 24 th , 2021	Meeting with Michael Benarroch	1 Hour
August 25 th , 2021	UMGSA Council Meeting	1 Hour
August 31 st , 2021	FGS Orientation Workshop	1 Hour

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: N/A

Approximate Time Spent on Other Activities:

Activity	Hours
E-mail Correspondence & other activities	20 Hours

Total Hours Spent on the UMGSA in August 2021: 31.5 Hours

Vice-President Finance and Administration- Nora Ampomah.

Executive Summary of Work:

- **Review of UMGSA Governing Documents:** Reviewed Bylaws documents including articles in the Governance and Operations Manual for the Bylaws and Policy Committee.
- **Review of UMGSA Financial Reports:** Reviewed the financial reports for the previous month and processed Conference Grant applications.

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting	Hours
August 3 rd , 2021	UMGSA Selections Committee Meeting	1 Hour
August 3 rd , 2021	UMGSA Meeting with Ore Joda	0.5 Hours
August 5 th , 2021	UMGSA Bylaws and Policy Committee Meeting	2.5 Hours
August 12 th , 2021	UMGSA Finance Committee Meeting	0.5 Hours
August 17 th , 2021	Mandatory Vaccinations Meeting with Laurie Schnarr	0.5 Hours
August 20 th , 2021	UMGSA Executive Committee Meeting	1 Hour
August 24 th , 2021	UMGSA Meeting with Michael Benarroch	1 Hour
August 25 th , 2021	UMGSA Council Meeting	1 Hour
August 26 th , 2021	UMGSA ERF Ad-Hoc Committee Meeting	1 Hour
August 31 st , 2021	Student Life Workshop	1 Hour

Meetings Missed: None

Time Spent in Meetings in August: 10 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: ? Hours

Approximate Time Spent on Other Activities:

Activity	Hours
Preparing Documents for Meetings	15 Hours
e-mail Correspondence	5 Hours
Other	2 Hours

Total Hours Spent on the UMGSA in August 2021: 32 Hours

Vice-President Services and Support – Golnaz Shirzadi

Executive Summary of Work:

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting	Hours
August 10 th , 2021	UMGSA Services and Support Committee Meeting	1 Hour
August 12 th , 2021	UMGSA Finance Committee Meeting	1 Hour
August 19 th , 2021	ELC discussion with FGS	0.5 Hour
August 20 th , 2021	UMGSA Executive Meeting	1 Hour
August 23 rd , 2021	T&L Working Group – Post Pandemic Considerations	1 Hour
August 24 th , 2021	Meeting with University President	1 Hour
August 25 th , 2021	UMGSA Council Meeting	1.5 Hours
August 26 th , 2021	UMGSA Event’s Committee Meeting	0.5 Hours
August 27 th , 2021	National VP Meeting	1 Hour
August 31 st , 2021	Orientation session	1.5 Hours

Meetings Missed: 1

Date	Meeting Missed	Reason for Missing
August 26, 2021	UMSU BOD	I had to attend event’s committee

Time Spent in Meetings in August: 10 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

Approximate Time Spent on Other Activities:

Activity	Hours
Preparing Documents for Meetings	5 Hours
E-mail and Other Correspondence	4 Hours
Other	5 Hours

Total Hours Spent on the UMGSA in August, 2021: 24 Hours

Vice-President Academic – Rubel Chandra Talukder

Executive Summary of Work (August 2021):

- UM COVID-19 Graduate Student Pandemic Relief Fund: Introduced the idea of suspending the continuing fee in Summer-2021 until Summer-2022 and that push ultimately resulted in University Administration creating this new bursary for graduate students. This fund has provided eligible full-time students \$1000 and part-time students \$500 each. A total of 676 students have been helped with this fund. We hope that this will help graduate students a lot during this uncertain time.

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting	Hours
August 10 th , 2021	GSA Services and Support committee	1.5 Hours
August 20 th , 2021	UMGSA executive committee	1.5 Hours
August 24 th , 2021	Meeting with UM President	1 Hour
August 25 th , 2021	UMGSA Council meeting	1 Hour

Time Spent in Meetings in August: 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

Approximate Time Spent on Other Activities:

Activity	Hours
e-mail Correspondence, answering questions regarding UMGSA Awards 2021-22	25 Hours

Total Hours Spent on the UMGSA in August 2021: 30 Hours

HSGSA President - Akshi Malik

Executive Summary of Work:

- Chaired HSGSA Exec meeting
- Attended UMGSA Exec and Council Meeting
- Organized and planned HSGSA BBQ-Hangout with help of other execs
- Cleaned up HSGSA office
- Presented at Graduate Student Orientation

Meetings Attended:

August 3 rd , 2021	GCC Selections Committee	1.5 Hours
August 14 th , 2021	HSGSA Office clean-up	2 Hours
August 19 th , 2021	HSGSA Executive Meeting	2 Hours
August 20 th , 2021	UMGSA Executive Meeting & get-together	3 Hours
August 24 th , 2021	Meeting with President Michael and Dean Kelley	1 Hour
August 25 th , 2021	UMGSA Council Meeting	1.5 Hours
August 28 th , 2021	HSGSA BBQ Hangout	6 Hours
August 31 st , 2021	Student Services Orientation	1 Hour

Meetings missed:

Date	Meeting

Time Spent in Meetings in May: 14 Hours

Office Hours:

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

Time Spent in Official Office Hours in May: 0 Hours

Working events attended: None

Approximate time spent on other activities:

Event Planning	10 Hours
E-mail correspondence & housekeeping	10 Hours

Total hours spent on the UMGSA & HSGSA for August, 2021: 38 hours

Senator1 – AKM Monsurul Alam

Executive Summary of Work:

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Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting	Hours
August 20 th , 2021	UMGSA Executive Meeting	1 Hour
August 24 th , 2021	Meeting with President Benarroch	1 Hour
August 25 th , 2021	UMGSA Council Meeting	1.5 Hours
August 31 st , 2021	FGS Orientation	1.5 Hours
August 31 st , 2021	Special Senate Meeting	0.5 Hours

Time Spent in Meetings in August: 5.5 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

Approximate Time Spent on Other Activities:

Activity	Hours
Responding emails, reviewing meeting agendas and minutes, preparing senate reports etc.	10 Hours

Total Hours Spent on the UMGSA in August, 2021: 15.5 Hours

Senator 2 - William Dowie

Executive Summary of Work:

- **Senator Meetings:** Student Senate Caucus, Senate Executive, Regular Senate, Admissions (SCADM),
- **UMGSA portfolio – other committees:** Virtual sessions: Covid Response Steering Committee (CRSC), Health and Safety research, President’s check-in (+ vice Provost + FGS), Sustainability (including extra climate action planning), Manitoba Alliance for Post-Secondary Students (MAPSS), Indigenous scholarship and leadership activities

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting	Hours
August 5 th , 2021	Teaching remote webinar	1.5 Hours
August 11 th , 2021	Indigenous Reconciliation webinar	2 Hours
August 12 th , 2021	CRSC	2 Hours
August 12 th , 2021	Indigenous Reconciliation webinar	1 Hour
August 12 th , 2021	Sustainability Committee – Climate Action Plan	1.25 Hours
August 16 th , 2021	CRSC – Special Meeting	1.75 Hours
August 19 th , 2021	CRSC	2 Hours
August 20 th , 2021	CRSC – Communications sub-committee	1.5 Hours
August 21 st , 2021	GSA Executive Committee	2 Hours
August 24 th , 2021	UM President’s Office Check-in	1 Hour
August 25 th , 2021	CRSC – Communications sub-committee	1 Hour
August 25 th , 2021	GSA General Council	1.25 Hours
August 26 th , 2021	CRSC	2 Hours
August 26 th , 2021	Health & Safety webinar – COVID-19 + mental health	1 Hour
August 26 th , 2021	GSA External Relations Fund	1 Hour
August 31 st , 2021	CRSC – Special Meeting	2 Hours
August 31 st , 2021	(FGS) Student Services Workshop	1 Hour
August 31 st , 2021	Full Senate – special meeting (reconciliation)	1 Hour

Meetings Missed: One - family obligation

Time Spent in Meetings in August: 26.25 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:

August, 2021		Hour
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Time Spent at Working Events in August: 0 Hours

Approximate Time Spent on Other Activities:

Activity	Hours
Preparing for Council – Review Tasks, Peer Review, and Reports	2 Hours
Email / WhatsApp correspondence (one hour per week allotted)	4 Hours

Total Hours Spent on the UMGSA in August, 2021: 32.25 Hours