

## UMGSA Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022 - 5:30 PM – Zoom

### 1. Call to Order (5:30)

### 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 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022, UMGSA Council Meeting as presented.**

*Christopher/ Michael*  
*Carried*

### 4. Approval of the Minutes

**MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council approves the minutes of the August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022, UMGSA Council Meeting as presented.**

*Amy/ Sarah*  
*Carried*

### 5. Committee Reports

#### 5.1. August Committee Reports (Appendix II)

- i. Silvia mentioned in August we organized a collaborative orientation with Faculty of Graduate Studies, as well as released the 2022-23 UMGSA Handbook to the students.
- ii. Silvia announced that we are planning to have our annual general meeting Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm.
- iii. Our safety/ mental health of graduate students' survey has closed with 430 responses, and we are in the process of organizing workshops to support the mental wellbeing of our students.
- iv. Akshi (VP St. Boniface) asked what the action plan after summarizing the survey results is/ what are you particularly looking at? Marianne responded mentioning the main sections of the survey included student/supervisor relationships, campus safety, experiences with discrimination/ racism/ harassment, & how their program affects their mental health. The summary

will be shared with UMFA, the faculties and UM administration. The same was done last year and the results were successful (websites upgrades, more resources added, etc.).

- v. Rubel noted that the finance committee has been meeting twice a month due to the incline in conference grant applications.
- vi. The events committee is planning upcoming events such as a Halloween party, as well as a UMGSA meet & greet session.
- vii. Some students were curious regarding the student fee increases. Bill suggested that the administration do a town hall explaining the increases.
- viii. Oluwakemi (linguistics) asked why graduate students must pay for the U-Pass especially with many doing their research online. The executives explained that in 2020 there was a referendum held regarding continuing our agreement with UMSU and University of Winnipeg to cost share transit costs to allow ALL students to have access to Transit — it is also part of the climate change action plan that UMGSA supports. The referendum results were overwhelmingly in favour of continuing. The fee is there to support those who cannot afford external transportation (for the greater good). If we were to allow opt-outs, the U-Pass would be cancelled for every student (U of M & U of W). Once the contract is up another referendum can be held if enough students are passionate about the cancellation.
- ix. Monsurul noted that the awards committee has evaluated and selected the award winners and now are awaiting approval from FGS. Once FGS approves the recommendations, we can announce the winners.

## **6. HSGSA Report**

### **6.1. August HSGSA Report (Appendix III)**

- i. Jamie spoke on HSGSA's biggest project at the moment which is the Multidisciplinary Health Research Experience. The project director had applied for and received a special project grant of \$500.00 from UMGSA to support the instructor honorariums.
- ii. The Bannatyne orientation was a success.

## **7. Senate Report**

### **7.1. August Senate Reports (Appendix IV)**

- i. There were no senate meetings in August.
- ii. Bill added that they're part of a health/ safety ad-hoc committee that's working towards refreshing the safety messaging for campus as well as the city of Winnipeg.
- iii. Uche emphasised that the executives are elected to represent the student body, if you have an issue to discuss with us please reach out and we will discuss it in our meetings (no such thing as a stupid question).

## **8. Executive Reports**

### **8.1. August Reports (Appendix V)**

## 9. Departmental Reports

- i. Cara (History) announced that the History Graduate Students' Association hosted an incredibly well received free book giveaway in September. The HGSA is planning another event in January. All students and faculty welcome. Willow will promote this in our newsletter.

## 10. Unfinished Business

### 11. New Business

#### 11.1 Revision to Elections & Referendum Manual

- i. An update on the revision is needed before we can move forward with the motion. Rubel will take this back to Bylaws committee and prepare a new proposal for the November council meeting.

#### 11.2 Iran Crisis

- i. The University Administration has since provided messages of support regarding the recent events in Iran. After some reconsideration of the motion wording, we were able to approve it.

**MOTION: BIRT the University of Manitoba Graduate Students' Association (UMGSA) General Council supports the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and calls upon the UM Administration to continue to provide strong messaging and support (financial, mental, academic, etc.) for the Iranian student body, as well as anyone affected by this tragedy.**

*UMGSA Executive Committee/ UMGSA General Council  
Carried*

#### 11.3 Decision regarding Council Meetings, Fall 2022

- i. It was apparent that the council prefers to meet online for the time being.

### 11. Announcements

**11.1. Bringing In the Bystander:** Visit the link to sign up:

<http://www.umgsa.org/bringing-in-the-bystander/>

- i. Attendance is required for new councillors as well as councillors who didn't participate last year.
- ii. There is an alternative is to take UM's Sexual Violence Awareness course, available through UM Learn. [Login - University of Manitoba \(desire2learn.com\)](#) That would count towards your mandatory requirement.

**11.2. Next Council Meeting:** Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022 - 5:30PM – Zoom

**11.3. October Newsletter:** If anyone has anything they want to share please e-mail [gcc@umgsa.org](mailto:gcc@umgsa.org)

**Adjournment (7:00)**

<b>UMGSA Council Meeting Attendance</b>		<b>September 28, 2022</b>
<b>Position/Department</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Signature</b>
President	Silvia Sekander	Present
VP Finance & Administration	Rubel Chandra Talukder	Present
VP Academic	AKM Monsurul Alam	Present
VP Services & Support	Marianne (Marzieh) Hajiloo	Present
HSGSA President	Jamie Sookhoo	Present
Senator1	Uche Nwankwo	Present
Senator2	Bill Dowie	Present
Chairperson (No Vote)	Kavisha Manoj Mehta	Present
Office Manager (No Vote)	Ruth Prokesch	Present
Gov & Comm Coordinator, Minute Taker (No Vote)	Willow Josephson	Present
<b><i>Agric &amp; Food Science</i></b>		
Animal Science	Oluwakemi Omotosho	Present
Biosystems Engineering	Shubham Sharma (Co-Councillors) Shivam Tesjaswi	<b>Absent</b>
Entomology	Danie Wood	Present
Food & Human Nutritional Science	Thilini Dissanayake (FS) (Co-Councillors) Breanne Semenko	Both Present
Plant Science	Jacob Kolody (Co-Councillors) Md. Ehsanul Haq	Md. Present
Soil Science	Clemence Muitire (Co-Councillors) Curtis Cavers	Clemence Present
<b><i>Architecture</i></b>		
Architecture	Benita Kliewer	<b>Absent</b>
City Planning	Anna Mckinnon (Co-Councillors) Colt Maddock	Julian Loutsik as proxy
Interior Design	Juliana Anderson	Present
Landscape Architecture	Jeeth Reteesh	<b>Absent</b>
<b><i>Arts</i></b>		
Economics	Michael Apata (Co - Councillors) Shantanu Debbarman	Michael Present
English, Theatre, Film & Media	Amy-Leigh Gray	Present
History	Cara Ginter	Present
Linguistics	Oluwakemi Kolapo	Present
Political Studies & Public Administration	Jessica Drakul (Co-Councillors) Nabila De la Cruz Garcia	<b>Absent</b>

Psychology	Jessa Hogarth (Co-Councillors) Reegan McCheyne	Cici Guo as proxy
Sociology & Criminology	Mehraz Sarker	Present
<b>Management</b>		
Management PhD & MSc	Jingnan Li (Co-Councillors) Zhe Shen	<b>Absent</b>
Management – MBA Interdisciplinary	Meenakshi Sharma	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Education</b>		
Education - PhD	Christopher Yendt	Present
Education – AFP	Abiola Olowolagba	<b>Absent</b>
Education - CTL	Minhee Kim	Present
<b>Engineering</b>		
Biomedical Engineering	Farinaz Jonidi Shariatzadeh	Present
Civil Engineering	Kadir Yanac	Dana as proxy <i>Left at 6:30</i>
Electrical & Computer Engineering	Abolfazl Babaei (Co-Councillors) Amirmasoud Amirkabiri	<b>Absent</b>
Mechanical Engineering	Osamudiamen Olaye (Co-Councillors) Behzad Fakour	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Environment, Earth &amp; Resources</b>		
Environment & Geography	Fowzia Ahmed (Co-Councillors) Nicole Loeb	Fowzia Present
Geological Sciences	Adam Snyder	<b>Absent</b>
Natural Resources Institute	Brendan Middel (Co-Councillors) Sobiya Aziz Badat	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Graduate Studies</b>		
Applied Health Sciences	Brenda Tittlemier (Co-Councillors) Banke Oketola	Brenda Present
Peace & Conflict Studies	Maha Mehanna	Present
<b>Kinesiology &amp; Recreation Mgmt.</b>		
Kinesiology & Recreation Mgmt.	Ganesh Tailor (Co-Councillors) Sarah Howe	Sarah Present
<b>Law</b>		
Master of Human Rights	Diana Ubokudom	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Nursing</b>		
Nursing	Trinh Nguyen-Lu (Co-Councillors) Hannah Mohammed	Both Present
<b>Science</b>		
Biological Sciences	Krista Shofstall	Present
Chemistry	Hanieh Rezasoltani	Present
Mathematics	Ian Thompson	Present
Microbiology	Dustin Maydaniuk	Present
Physics & Astronomy	Brydyn Mac Intyre	Present

<b><i>CUPE3909</i></b>		
CUPE3909 (No Vote)	Garett Williams	
<b><i>Indigenous Engagement</i></b>		
<b><i>Guests</i></b>		
Physiology and Pathophysiology	Akshi Malik	HSGSA VP St. Boniface