
UMGSA Annual General Meeting Documents Index Page

Wednesday, December 7th, 2022 - 5:30 PM - Zoom

Index Page for the December 7, 2022, UMGSA Annual General Meeting Documents.....	1
Agenda for the December 7, 2022, UMGSA Annual General Meeting.....	2
Appendix I Minutes of the December 8, 2021, UMGSA AGM.....	Separate Attachment
Appendix II Full Listing of Committee, Council and Board Membership for All Executives	4
Appendix III Annual General Meeting UMGSA Committee Reports	8
Appendix IV Annual General Meeting HSGSA Report	17
Appendix V Annual General Meeting Senate Report	19
Appendix VI 2021/2022 End of Term Executive Reports (Past Exec).....	34

UMGSA Annual General Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, December 7th, 2022 - 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 membership approves the agenda for the December 7th, 2022 UMGSA Annual General Meeting as presented.

4. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the December 8th, 2021, UMGSA Annual General Meeting are included as Appendix I to this meeting agenda, in a separate document.

MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA membership approves the minutes of the December 8th, 2021 UMGSA Annual General Meeting as presented.

5. Introduction of Executive Members and Office Staff

5.1. Full Listing of Committee, Council and Board Membership for All Executives:

This listing is included as Appendix II to this meeting agenda.

6. Committee Reports

6.1. Annual General Meeting Committee Reports: These reports are included as Appendix III to this meeting agenda.

7. Health Sciences Graduate Students' Association Report

7.1. Annual General Meeting HSGSA Report: This report is included as Appendix IV to this meeting agenda.

8. Senate Report

8.1. Annual General Meeting Senate Report: This report is included as Appendix V to this meeting agenda.

9. New Business

9.1. External Organization Affiliations: The UMGSA Bylaws stipulate that our affiliations with external organizations shall be discussed at every General Meeting.

MOTION: BIRT UMGSA reaffirm the position on external organizations stipulated in the UMGSA bylaws.

10. Announcements

10.1. UMGSA General Election: The UMGSA General Election is held each year in the Winter Term to select the UMGSA Executives for the coming academic year. All current graduate students at the University of Manitoba have the right to vote and to run for any UMGSA Executive role. Further details will be sent out by the UMGSA Chief Returning Officer (CRO) directly to all graduate students before the start of the nomination period.

11. Adjournment

Appendix II :

Full Listing of Committee, Council, and Board Membership for All Executives

President - Silvia Sekander

- UMGSA Council
- UMGSA Executive Committee (Chairperson)
- UMGSA Bylaws and Policy Committee
- UMGSA Finance Committee
- UMGSA Awards Committee
- Senate Committee
- Senate Executive Committee
- UofM Board of Governors
- UofM Board of Governors Governance and Nomination Committee
- FGS Executive Committee
- FGS Graduate Student Experience Committee
- UofM Student Experience Committee
- UofM Budget Advisory Committee
- UofM Organizational Safety and Health Advisory Committee
- Selection Committee

Vice-President Finance & Administration (VPFA) – Rubel Talukder

- UMGSA Council
- UMGSA Executive Committee
- UMGSA Finance Committee (Chairperson)
- UMGSA Bylaws and Policy Committee
- FGS Faculty Council
- FGS Graduate Student Experience Committee

Vice-President Services & Support (VPSS) – Marianne Hajiloo

- UMGSA Council
- UMGSA Executive Committee
- UMGSA Events Committee (Chairperson)
- UMGSA Services & Support Committee (Chairperson)
- UMGSA Finance Committee
- UMGSA Awards Committee
- UMSU Board of Directors
- FGS Faculty Council

- Senate Committee on Appeals
- Sexual Violence Steering Committee (SVSC)
- Sexual Violence Communications Sub-committee

HSGSA President – Jamie Sookhoo

- HSGSA Executive Committee (Chairperson)
- HSGSA Council (Chairperson)
- HSGSA By-laws Committee
- HSGSA Finance Committee
- HSGSA Internal Development and Review Committee (Chairperson)
- HSGSA Research Days Committee
- Family Centre working group - Bannatyne
- FGS Executive Committee
- FGS Council
- UMGSA Executive Committee
- UMGSA Council

Vice-President Academic (VPA) – AKM Monsurul Alam

- UMGSA Council
- HSGSA Council
- FGS Faculty Council
- FGS Student Experience
- Senate Committee on University Research (SCUR)
- Senate Committee on Academic (SCOA)
- Academic Integrity Advisory Committee
- FGS Dean Search Committee
- Senate Committee on Appeals
- FGS Appeal Committee

Senator 1 – Uche Nwankwo

- UMGSA Executive Committee
- UMGSA Council
- Senate Committee on Curriculum and Course Changes
- Senate Committee on Appeals
- Senate Committee on Academic Computing
- Senate Committee on Admission (pending)

Senator 2 – William Dowie

As a Senator of the UMGSA I have spent the last, unpredictable (and still under mask mandate) year attending mostly virtual meetings and advocating for students regarding COVID Recovery policies and how these would affect our fellow graduate students. Certainly, there are ongoing programs (files that I oversee as a member of UMGSA Executive), and these continue year to year. However, although COVID-19 started to wane by the Spring of 2022, the mental health of “going back to normal” still affected most of the UManitoba community.

Notable files that were actively advocated as per Senate and Executives files include:

- The CRSC (Covid Recovery Steering Committee) has been meeting with wider participation, including UMGSA since late September 2020. This apex committee (that recommends policy to the President and Provost) met practically every Thursday morning and summarizes policy impacts from the information garnered from research, academic, operations, and health & safety stakeholders
- The Sustainability Committee together with the Office of Sustainability attempts to find policy and operational changes that can help animate sustainability and regenerative change on all campuses. Graduate students should refer to the U of M 2019-2023 Sustainability Strategy, as well as understanding new infrastructure plans on campus and adjacent – that is the old Southwood Golf Course (UMLands) to the north-west of Fort Garry campus. Several meetings / workshops concerning this plot of land were attended. Indeed, I personally was awarded the Sustainability Champion Award (as a graduate student), and am proud to be surrounded by faculty and fellow students that are enthusiastic about environmental and indigenous concepts.
- UMGSA executives (including myself personally joining the picket line) navigated the November+ 2021 UMFA strike. As a Canadian student, and raised in Manitoba, my perspectives helped advocate for domestic and international student concerns with respect to this education disruption.
- I continued to work with the VPSS position, along with the Events Committee, to explore opportunities for increasing UMGSA’s outreach with respect to mental health and education of counselling services available at UManitoba.
- Within Senate Executive, I continued to advocate for students during various meetings on academic policy – especially compassionate and fair dealings at the Advisor level.
- I am the active UMGSA Rep of the Manitoba Association of Post-Secondary Students (MAPSS) – a network of schools formed to create coalition lobbying to government
- I was designated to be the liaison with our legal team regarding any and all litigation

My umbrella portfolio responsibilities included the following committees:

- Senate (voting)
- Senate Executive (voting)
- Student Senate Caucus
- Senate Committee on Admissions (SCADM, 2nd term)
- COVID Recovery Steering Committee (CRSC; Sept 2020+)
- Sustainability Committee (UMGSA rep)
- FGS Student Experience (ongoing)
- FGS Faculty Council (ongoing)
- Co-Curricular Record morphed into Student Experience
- Libraries (including open access sub-committee)
- UMGSA Student Support and Events (out-of-committee support)
- UM-FM radio station Board membership re-started

Policies and projects that were still affected by COVID-19 (a virus that triggered various shutdowns that started mid-March 2020), although borne out of a tragedy, relationships with Administration and UMSU continued to remain strong. UMGSA continues to build on cooperation to enhance communication and advocacy. I remain a strong voice to continue to think how to have win-win-win scenarios – student, administration, and faculty.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Dowie', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William Dowie, Senator 2, UMGSA

May 1st, 2021 – April 30th, 2022

Appendix III :

Annual General Meeting UMGSA Committee Reports

Executive Committee

Chairperson: Silvia Sekander (UMGSA President)

Here are the highlights:

- **ELC Subsidy:** We have run the English Language Center Subsidy program partnering with FGS for one year. This year we were successful in convincing VP students' office to partner with us in the program. We increased the number of students receiving the subsidy from 120 to 250 this year. FGS and VP students' office agreed to make a contract for continuing this program for upcoming 5 years.
- **Annual Budget:** I was actively involved in reviewing and preparing the final draft of our UMGSA annual budget. I made specific budget lines to support mental health initiatives of our graduate students. Our VPSS executed that plan of distributing the funds to the students with the help of the committee members.
- **Iran Crisis:** I along with my team supported the Iranian students during the crisis. We released a letter of support from UMGSA via email. I personally communicated with the Iranian student's association (UMISA) which is a registered student club under UMGSA. I advocated for the delaying of the tuition deadline for the students and the admins agreed to change the deadline. Finally, because of our continued advocacy, they have removed the penalty for the late tuition payment for Iranian students. With our senator Bill, we crafted a motion from UMGSA executives and passed it from UMGSA council. With the support of that motion, I demanded a letter of support from the admins for our students and students received that letter immediately after my meeting. I also advocated to the UMFA president to send a letter to the members of UMFA to support the students suffering due to the crisis. I am still in touch with UMISA, and our FGS dean Kelley has finalized a meeting to listen to the concerns from UMISA. I also attended the event organized from the Iranian community to support our students.
- **MHRE Project Funding:** I advocated for the continuous funding for the multidisciplinary health research experience program initiated by HSGSA. We are in the process of finalizing the logistics of the funding to create a smooth operation of the program.
- **Networking:** I maintain important networking with administration and other organizations. I regularly meet with the FGS dean and Vice provost students to discuss important issues in student life. I also meet with UMSU president and discuss important collaborations. I attend several programs to maintain good relationships with different groups and associations in the University. This year I joined the inauguration program of the UofM mosque, fireside chats with honorary degree recipients, opening of Multifith

center, Errol black chair fundraising invitation from UMFA, convocation, rally by UMISA etc.

- **GSA Forestry Initiative:** Our senator Uche has taken a forestry initiative to make our campus greener. I facilitated a meeting with the admins for their approval on the project and will be involved in the project to figure out next steps for the smooth execution of the initiative.
- **Fall Orientation:** I was involved in the planning and execution phase of the fall orientation for our students from FGS and International center. With the help of our governance and communication coordinator, I and Judy made it a successful event.
- **Fall Convocation:** I participated in the fall convocation this year and presented the UMGSA teaching award to the winner.
- **Legal Consultation:** I always keep in touch with our lawyer and make sure proper legal consultation is done whenever needed.
- **Student Advocacy:** I regularly meet with FGS dean and VP students to convey the concerns of our graduate students. This year our VPSS has initiated a student survey and I am addressing all the concerns raised by our students to the admins.

UMGSA Executive Committee Membership:

- Silvia Sekander, UMGSA President (Chairperson)
- Rubel Talukder, VP Finance and Administration
- AKM Monsurul Alam, VP Academic
- Marianne Hajiloo, VP Services and Support
- Jamie Sookhoo, HSGSA President
- Uche Nwankwo, Senator 1
- Bill Dowie, Senator 2

Bylaws and Policy Committee

Chairperson: Rubel Talukder (VP Finance and Administration)

The committee discussed Holiday Hamper donation acceptance through UM administration. The committee is evaluating CRO/DRO roles and salary. The committee has approved Executive honoraria adjustment in GOM. Committee is discussing adding Office Manager roles in GOM. The committee has approved GCC roles addition in GOM. Committee is finalized a revision of Election and Referendum Manual, now waiting for Council's approval. The revision is about including clause to allow executives perform their regular tasks like signing cheques etc. during the election/campaigning period.

Bylaws and Policy Committee Membership:

- Rubel Talukder, VP Finance and Administration (Chairperson)
- Silvia Sekander
- Akshi Malik
- Sobiya Aziz Badat
- Charitha Hansima
- Jose Almodovar
- Banke Oketola
- Christopher Yendt
- Mehraz Sarker
- Alejandra Diabb

Finance Committee

Chairperson: Rubel Talukder (VP Finance and Administration)

We held 11 meetings until November 2022 due to large number of applications this year compared to last 2 years. The committee evaluated special project grant applications. The committee also discussed arising matters of the 2022-2023 UMGSA Budget and approved accordingly.

Finance Committee Membership:

- Rubel C. Talukder, VP Finance and Administration (Chairperson)
- Silvia Sekander
- Marzieh Hajiloo
- Kayla Kostal
- Oluwakemi Kolapo
- Reegan McCheyne
- Amirmasoud Amirkabiri
- Zhe Shen
- Kiran Yendamuri
- Zakhar Kazmiruk
- Zi Zhang
- Christopher Yendt
- Adrian Frost
- Taiwo Funmilola Mary

Awards Committee

Chairperson: AKM Monsurul Alam (VP Academic)

I always try to connect with students in order to find out graduate student interests and present them to the university administration. I carefully review the FGS and senate meeting agendas and minutes and identify the best discussions related to graduate studies and share with students. As a VP academic, one the major task was to run the UMGSA awards competition which I did successfully and three additional awards are also provided this year. I tried to be flexible in reviewing UMGSA emergency grant and so far, a good number of applications has been approved. For last four years UMGSA awards luncheon was postponed due to Covid. This year I took the initiative to resume it and planning to arrange in December. Also, I am regularly participating many FGS and senate committees and raising issues that student are facing time to time.

Summary of Activities:

- Successfully completed UMGSA awards competition. Good number of UMGSA student awards are provided.
- Approved a good number of UMGSA emergency grant.
- Chairing UMGSA awards and academic affairs committee.
- Took initiative to resume UMGSA awards launched which was postponed for last three years due to Covid.
- Provided inspersion support to student who are suffering problems such as conflicts with supervisor, conflict with university administration and facing financial issues.
- Attending all senate and senate caucus meetings, UMGSA executive and council meetings.
- Analyzed Senate meeting agendas and minutes and, identify the important discussions that are beneficial for graduate student.
- Also, I regularly serving in many Senate and FGS committees

Awards Committee Membership:

- AKM Monsurul Alam, VP Academic (Chairperson)
- Nathan Glowach
- Lauren Dietterle
- Susan Egbert
- Ryan Baxter
- Navoda Rillagodage
- Richard Baffo Kodom
- Victor O Babarinde
- Clarisse Romera
- Abiola Asaolu
- Chima Onyeneke
- Ambihai Shayanthan
- Naomi Mengistu-Zelleke
- Farinaz Jonidi Shariatzadeh

- Ugonna Chigbo
- Brayden Schindell
- Timilehin Oluwajuyitan
- Dawei Yan
- Armin Aghajani
- Golnaz Sababipour Asi
- Sukhanjot Kaur

Events Committee

Chairperson: Marianne Hajiloo (VP Services & Support)

- Our main focus since May has been to come up with ideas of more events that would interest students to engage more with their academic life and have more interaction with each other. Distributing a relief fund that helped more than 180 students with 100 CAD gift cards of a local business was done over the summer.
- Collaboration with different services has been done to understand students' needs and their level of satisfaction from all services provided. This has been done by promoting different workshops, conducting surveys, and continuing providing subsidy for English Language Centre classes.
- An in-person Halloween event was held which went great thanks to our volunteered members, we had an evening of different games, movies, snacks, and prizes.
- A Christmas event is planned to be held in the same manner. We will also have watercolor Christmas card workshop.
- A couple of workshops has been planned to be held in the near future. Some are related to the general inquiries of the students and to help them out to find resources throughout the university and some others are targeting students in need of support (i.e., trauma related workshops for all students that have recently experienced high levels of distress)
- Another priority of ours has been encouraging and supporting different clubs and recognizing them. We are now in the process of finalizing the acknowledgement of three different clubs.

Events Committee Membership

- Marianne Hajiloo, UMGSA VP Services and Support (Chairperson)
- Silvia Sekander, UMGSA President
- Willow Josephson, Governance and Communications Coordinator
- Astrid Bravo- HSGSA VP Marketing and Events
- Blake Mueller
- Adam Snyder
- Amarzish Qadeer
- Behzad Fakour
- Debarati Nath
- Jessica Drakul
- Eva Miranda
- Farinaz Jonidi Shariatzadeh
- Cara Ginter
- Jeeth Reteesh
- Kadir Yanac
- Chamali Kodikara
- Sudhanshu Bhatnagar
- Wajahat Ali

Services and Support Committee

Chairperson: Marianne Hajiloo

The committee has been working hard to enhance graduate student experience. Below are some highlights:

- In overall our main focus has been to provide any form of support that we recognized to be vital at the time and by the help of our amazing committee members we had been having satisfying results.
- We had a thorough survey regarding students' mental health and safety on campus. The results had been shared to related centres to provide possible improvements for students.
- A similar survey regarding different services will be out in December.
- The distribution of 100 CAD relief gift cards have been done by the help this committee as well.
- Making decisions regarding providing monetary support for different clubs approved by UMGSA has been discussed through multiple sessions and the decision regarding its procedure will be finalized until December 2022.
- Conducting a survey from all students that have been enrolled in our ELC subsidy program provided useful insights regarding the program that encouraged us to continue the subsidy program and also allowed students to share their ideas of hoe to improve the program.
- We tried to communicate with students as much as we could and address their needs. In that case, we have discussed throughout multiple sessions the financial difficulty that most graduate students are dealing with. Multiple meeting has been held or planned to address this issue accordingly.
- Supporting Iranian students and trying to provide support from different resources have been another major concern during the past 64 days..

Services and Support Committee Membership

- Marianne Hajiloo, UMGSA VP Services and Support (Chairperson)
- Silvia Sekander, UMGSA President
- A.K.M. Monsurul Alam, UMGSA VP Academic
- Bill Dowie, UMGSA Senator
- Dustin Maydaniuk
- Abiola OlowolagbaAmy-Leigh Gray
- Damla Oz
- Hanieh Rezasoltani
- Maha Mehanna
- Anna McKinnon
- Michael Apata

- Minhee Kim
- Oluwakemi Omotosho
- Osamudiamen Olaye
- Shivam Tejaswi
- Krista Shofstall
- Shubham Sharma
- Morgan Taverner- VPE of HSGSA
- Ian Thompson

Executive Review Committee

Co-chairs: Breanne Semenko & Christopher Yendt

The UMGSA Executive Review (ERC), which conducts semi-annual reviews of the UMGSA Executive, met in October. On October 4th, 2022 the committee appointed Breanne Semenko & Christopher Yendt as the Co-Chairs of the ERC. The ERC presented its first review of the current UMGSA Executives at the November 23rd, 2022 Council Meeting.

Executive Review Committee Membership:

- Breanne Semenko, (Co-Chairperson)
- Christopher Yendt, (Co-Chairperson)
- Farinaz Jonidi Shariatzadeh
- Thilini Dissanayke
- Brydyn Mac Intyre
- Danie Wood
- Juliana Anderson

Appendix IV :

Annual General Meeting HSGSA Report

In May, the HSGSA's new executive team took office. Transition period for all team members was smooth and each member had started working towards their respective roles. In consultation with previous execs, HSGSA budget for 2022-23 was presented to council and was approved in May Council meeting. HSGSA new signing authorities (President, VP Internal, and VP Marketing and Events) were set up with BMO-HSGSA banking partner.

In June, the 35th Annual Canadian Health Research forum (CSHRF) was organized in collaboration with the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences. HSGSA was in charge of registration/information booths, networking sessions, student tours, reception events and student banquet as well. Student reception for ~100 Manitoba and national students was hosted at Tavern United downtown and students had the opportunity to network with fellow students from different universities across Canada. We organized many different student tours: Legislative building, the MINT, Fortwhyte alive and Fort Gibraltar as well as a virtual tour of the National Microbiology lab. Student banquet was organized for over 120 students at the Millenium center with a seated dinner, DJ and photobooth. All events were well received and students had many opportunities to network. All of this was possible because of over 15 volunteers and execs' team work. HSGSA also gave out 4 poster awards for \$200 each and two Forough Khadem Memorial Awards for 1000\$ each (one masters and one PhD) during the CSHRF awards ceremony. The HSGSA Ed-Kroger Mentorship Award 2022 was presented to Dr. Meghan Azad, at the CSHRF awards ceremony.

In July, the HSGSA execs met with Dr. Christine Zhang and another graduate student (Shifa) to discuss life sciences career development workshops/talks. VP External is taking the lead on the proposal.

In August, HSGSA hosted a summer event- pool party and bbq at Kildonan outdoor pool and park. The event was attended by over 30 graduate students and was well received. HSGSA also presented at UMGSA - FGS Orientation at Fort Garry campus.

In September, HSGSA - FGS organized Fall orientation at the Bannatyne campus. HSGSA was in-charge of food, presentation as well as campus tour. Orientation was attended by ~75 graduate students and students found it informative. HSGSA also had new councilors taking over and we structured our internal committees. HSGSA executives and councilors have set up a WhatsApp chat group to increase the communication amongst us and to not miss out on any information important to our grad students.

In October, HSGSA hosted a Halloween event with pizza, costume party and horror movie screening at Apotex center. The event was well attended and students had fun.

HSGSA 2021-22 initiative, 'Multi-Disciplinary Health Research Experience' (MHRE) to provide teaching opportunities to graduate students was concluded in the month of July. HSGSA and Toby le (VP External 2021-22) are now working towards continuing the project for 2022-23 as well.

HSGSA has received a few fundings for the project from FGS, RFHS Associate Dean's office and UMGSA. The funding for the project will be used to pay the honorarium for new MHRE Director (Camila Chacon), pay the graduate students (instructors) and to provide study resources to undergraduate students (trainees).

In the coming months of this year's term, HSGSA will hold a Distinguished Lectureship in January, poster competition for graduate students, HSGSA Gala and many more projects. HSGSA, with many exciting projects, is committed to support students financially, socially and professionally to complement their graduate student life.

Jamie Sookhoo

HSGSA President 2022-23

Appendix V :

Annual General Meeting Senate Report

Senate Summary – May to November 2022 - AGM

Link to the Senate agendas:

May:

https://umanitoba.ca/governance/sites/governance/files/2022-06/2022_05_18_senate_agenda_with-corrections-to-4cs-report_reduced_0.pdf

June:

https://umanitoba.ca/governance/sites/governance/files/2022-06/2022_06_22_senate_agenda_2.pdf

October:

http://umanitoba.ca/governance/sites/governance/files/2022-10/2022_10_06_Senate_minutes.pdf

May 2022

Report Includes:

1. President Report
2. Report of the Faculty Council of Graduate Studies on Course, Program, Supplementary Regulation
3. Report of Senate Committee on Awards

1. President Report

The president's report presented here is a summary of reports from the Vice-Presidents. The Vice-President External reported that the Covid-19 recovery updates continue to be among the most sought-after information each week especially on mandatory vaccination and return to campus. Between February 24th, 2022, to March 24th, 2022, External Relations interacted with about 58 reporters to developing stories involving UM. This effort resulted to 5,031 news stories in the media mentioning UM. This figure is about 3,143 higher in comparison with the same period in 2021. External Relations also introduced the work of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation to the All One Fund. The initial donation was \$50,000, with a promise to sustain and increase the donation amount in the future. In terms of fundraising, the Vice-President External reported that UM exceeded the \$41,84 M target for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2022, through donations from 7,285, including students, staff and faculty, alumni, among others.

The report by the Vice-President Indigenous included a family friendly Decolonizing Lens event held on March 27th with 107 people in attendance, 57 virtually and 50 in-person. The Vice-President (Academics) and Provost reported several awards opportunities and initiatives, events, and leadership appointments, as well as new resources for students. The Vice-President (Research and International) reported that during the pandemic, an interim solution was approved to facilitate the payment of stipend against tuition to international graduate students. The goal was intended to help them reduce the burden on international graduate students who could not come to Canada due to travel restrictions and the UM decision to offer courses remotely. With the border re-opening, the President recommended that the summer term courses will be held in-person except for designated DE courses, which will not be available in the summer term.

2. Report of the Faculty Council of Graduate Studies on Course, Program, Supplementary Regulation

The official summary of the 2022/2023 Academic Guide was presented by the Faculty of Graduate Studies. The guidelines contained the Application, Admission, and Registration policies. Some changes in the application process were noted including the removal of CanTEST requirement, restriction of UM staff at the rank of Instructor 1 and above from applying for admission in the same unit they are appointed. The new guidelines included the addition of Canadian University Graduate Transfer Agreement (CUGTA) and the possibility of one year admission deferment for domestic or international students while any course approved by the FGS will only be valid for one year. The new guidelines also stipulated that Oral exam will be held in English or French for Master's and PhD students until a new regulation is suggested. With some exceptions and with the approval of the dean of FGS, one member of the examination committee may be absent.

In the instance of a failure, a graduate student may decide to defend the thesis a second time regardless of whether the home department does not support the retake, with a submission of a detailed report the first attempt to the FGS by the Chair of the examination committee. The same condition is applicable to PhD students.

The guidelines restated that the minimum requirement for PhD admission is still 3.0 GPA or equivalent in the last 2 years of full-time study (60 credit hours). Just like in the case of MSc transfer credit, at the PhD level, a course may not be used for credit toward more than one degree, diploma, micro-diploma, or certificate, while the expiration of a credit of courses takes similar cue from the MSc stipulation.

It was recommended by the FGS Council that the Senate approve the changes listed in the guidelines, which was submitted by Dr. Kelley J. Main, Chair, Faculty Council of Graduate Studies.

The following points need to be highlighted for emphasis

- All regulations specified in the FGS Academic Guide are subject to modification or revision by the relevant bodies of the FGS.
- Programs administered through a Faculty (instead of a Department) will henceforth be expressed as Unit, thus, Department Head is now referred to as Unit Head
- University of Manitoba graduates are not required to submit a transcript before they can be admitted to graduate studies
- Acceptable English Language proficiency test score not older than 2 years is required from students who are not in the exemption categories.
- A UofM staff member in the category of Assistant Professor or Instructor 1 and above are ineligible to apply for graduate study admission at the same department/unit they held appointment.
- Re-registration is mandatory for all student in a degree program for the Fall, Winter, and Summer terms. Failure to re-register will result in discontinuation.
- The recommendation that the Senate Committee approve the Chair in Sustainable Protein in the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences with funding from a \$1,500,000 investment by Manitoba Agriculture

3. REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AWARDS

The Chair of the Senate Committee on Awards, Dr Jared Carlberg on behalf of Senate, the Senate Committee on Awards recommended that the Board of Governors approve 4 new offers, 16 revised offers and 4 withdrawals as set out in the *Report of the Senate Committee on Awards (April 7, 2022)*. The award decisions comply with the Student Awards Policy.

The four new offers are:

- Dr. N.S. Ramamurthy Memorial Scholarship
- E2B Scholarship in Jazz Performance
- Madhav and Sharda Sinha Prize for Quality Assurance
- The Collective Bursary for Indigenous Students in Interior Design

The amended offers are

- Alexander, Pauline and Sybil Shack Scholarship in English

- Betty Havens Centre on Aging Graduate Fellowship
- Douglas and Beverly Ruth Centenary Award in Engineering
- Eastern Grassland Society Inc. Bursary
- Enid Driben-Triller Memorial Scholarship in Social Work
- Eugene H. Lange Memorial Bursary
- Jal Tata Award
- James I. Elliot Bursary in Agricultural and Food Sciences
- Linda K. Park Memorial Bursary
- Major G.E.H. Barrett-Hamilton Memorial Scholarship
- Pharmacy Class of 2014 Bursary
- P.M. Shen Memorial Bursary
- Rossnagel Scholarship for Academic Improvement
- The Bud Harden Player's Award
- Walter and Maria Schroeder Foundation Scholarship
- Women's Health Research Foundation of Canada Part-Time Graduate Scholarship

The withdrawn offers are:

- John and Karen Friesen Bursary (At the request of the donor)
- Master of Physician Assistant Studies Academic Performance Scholarship (At the request of the donor)
- Master of Physician Assistant Studies Travel Support Prize (At the request of the donor)
- Rapid RTC Scholarship in Science (At the request of the donor)

New Program introduction for the Fall 2022 Semester

Master of Arts in Music Research, Desautels Faculty of Music *Effective*: Fall 2022
 Review and Approval: Senate (May 2021); BOG (June 2021); Province (Dec. 2021)

Program discontinued

Master of Science in Family Social Sciences, Max Rady College of Medicine *Effective*: Fall 2021

Review and Approval: Senate (June 2021); BOG (June 2021); Province (Sept. 2021)

Program with admission suspension

Master of Arts in Icelandic, Faculty of Arts

Review and Approval: Senate (May 2021); BOG (June 2021); President (July 2021)
 Province (Dec. 2021)

June 2022

Report Includes:

1. President Report
2. Report of the Senate Executive Committee
3. Report of the Faculty Council of Graduate Studies on Course, Program, Supplementary Regulation and Regulation Changes

4. President Report

The president's report presented here is a summary of reports from the Vice-Presidents. Dr. Michael Benarroch was formally installed as the 12th President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Manitoba in June at the Forth Garry campus. The in-person event included an Indigenous pipe ceremony and was live-streamed to the global community. The Vice-President (Academic) and Provost presented a report of some UM professors and graduate students who received awards. Professor Rotimi Aluko of the Food and Human Nutritional Sciences was elected a fellow of the International Academy of Food Science and Technology which serves as a body of experts for the International Union of Food Science and Technology (IUFoST). The induction ceremony will be in Singapore between Oct. 31 – Nov. 3, 2022.

Professor Aluko also bagged other international awards like the 2022 Protein and Co-Product Division Lifetime Achievement Award. The report also noted that Professor Michael Eskin of the Food and Human Nutritional Sciences will be the 2022 recipient of the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) Lifetime Achievement Award in honor of Nicolas Appert. Other Awardees include Natalie Riedger (Food and Human Nutritional Sciences) whose research article was selected as one of the Editor's Choice picks by the publishing journal, Selma Osmanovic who received the prestigious DAAD University Summer Course Grants for September 2022, and Avery Hallberg, a Sociology and Criminology student who received an Indspire Scholarship.

This award has been received three times by Avery since 2004 and it has provided \$154 million to support more than 49,000 First Nations, Inuit and Métis students.

The report also indicated that more than 30 graduate students in the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences were awarded graduate studentships. The award is offered to graduate students in their first or second year of the thesis-based Master's or Doctoral students who have displayed academic excellence achievement and significant research projects. The value for the Master students is valued at \$14,000 per year while the PhD award is valued at \$18,000 per year.

The Vice-President (Research and International) reported that Dr. B. Mario Pinto was appointed the UM next Vice-President (Research and International) with October 1, 2022, as the tenure commencement date. The current VPRI's tenure was extended till September 30, 2022. It was also reported a Master student Chenée Merchant who is doing a forensic research explorative study to discover new methods of identifying key features of the skull linked to ancestry.

Part of the report by the Vice-President noted that Dr. Miller, Associate Vice-President (Indigenous) made presentation on the meaning and importance of Land Acknowledgments at the Western Canadian Deans of Arts and Sciences Conference held on April 20, 2022. The report also noted that from March 1st to April 30th, the education unit participated in 2 conferences, made 25 presentations, and facilitated the Decolonizing Lens screening. Michael Campbell, a Master student of Human Rights is pursuing a practicum at the NCTR while Justin Vermette, a Law student is to undertake a service-learning project to review legal documents related to the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement (IRSSA), residential School history and other important legal materials, which will be stored in the NCTR archives.

The Vice-President External reported that UM achieved \$2.6 million in philanthropic funds against a target of \$56.4 million for the 2022/23 fiscal year, while the university continues to support victims of the war in Ukraine through fundraising.

Some significant award announcements include an \$87 M USD (\$110 CAD) funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to support the UM Institute of Public Health's partnership with the Government of Uttar Pradesh, India to improve Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child Health, and Nutrition outcomes.

5. Report of the Senate Executive Committee

The Senate Committee on Appeals re-appointed Professor Blunden as a Vice-Chair for a three-year term, while Professor Melanie Soderstrom of the faculty of Arts was also appointed Vice-Chair for a three-year term ending on May 31, 2025. In keeping with the university's determination to advance cultural, social, economic, and environmental wellbeing of the people of Manitoba, Canada, and the global community through education, research and community service, the Senate Committee Executive reaffirmed the commitment statement. The statement explained the activities underlying the service to the common good, and the specific dimensions

of that service, stating the core principles of university autonomy, academic freedom, and collegial governance.

6. Report of the Faculty Council of Graduate Studies on Course, Program, Supplementary Regulation and Regulation Changes

The Dept. of Biosystems Engineering proposed M.Sc., M.Eng and PhD Supplementary changes which was approved by the Senate Committee. The changes were deemed necessary because though the Department of Biosystems Engineering has allowed students to transfer from the MSc to the PhD, the written policy, which was produced on June 15, 2011, appeared to have some wording flaws. After a review by the Department's Graduate Committee reviewed the policy and recommended changes to be consistent with the number of credit hours required before any student can be granted the transfer.

The Dept. of Community Health Sciences also proposed changes related to the admission review process for the MSc, MPH, and PhD programs with the goal of providing a more transparency application and review process. Four main changes in and application and review process, including changes in the advisory committee structure for the MSc and PhD programs were suggested for Senate Committee approval. The Dept. of Computer Science also proposed the MSc. And PhD. Supplementary Regulation Changes seeking the deletion of its MSc Coursework Route. The Regulation Changes also included the MSc. thesis proposal and PhD admission. The proposal was approved by the Senate Committee.

The Dept of Occupational Therapy proposed the introduction of a 3-credit hour Indigenous Content course required for admission to the MOT to be phased in 2023-2025. Within the period, either a minimum of 3-credit hours in Indigenous Content OR 3-credit hours in Social Sciences will be accepted as a pre-requisite course for admission to the MOT program. Beginning in 2026, a minimum 3-credit hours Indigenous Content pre-requisite course will be required. The proposed changes were approved by the Senate Committee.

The Asper School of Business proposed the introduction of a Supply Chain Management concentration in the PhD and MSc program for the introduction of four courses (SCM 7016, SCM 7018, SCM 7020, SCM 7030). Since 2004, the Asper School of Business has offered a successful Supply Chain Management concentration in the MSc and a Master of Supply Chain Management & Logistics program since 2021. The recommendation by the Faculty Council of

Graduate Studies for the program changes from the Asper Scholl of Business was approved by the Senate Committee. Also, the Senate Committee approved the report of the Senate Planning and Priorities Committee concerning graduate course changes beyond nine credit hours for the Asper School of Business with course changes and modifications to the Master of Science in Supply Chain Management effective for the next available term and the introduction of Supply Chain Management Core in the PhD in Management starting Fall 2023 Term.

The History Department, through the Joint Senate Committee of the University of Manitoba and University of Winnipeg proposed a Joint M.A Supplementary Regulation Changes (Archival Stream) for approval by the Senate Committee. The changes, which reflected the recommendations of two consecutive external review of the program, were approved accordingly.

The following points need to be highlighted for emphasis

- The Asper School of Business is supporting curriculum development for Graduate Micro-Diploma in Integrated Leadership.
- Master in Leadership and Management Change: Starting in 2023, the Asper School of Business will be supported in developing a new Masters degree in Leadership and Managing Change, which will be available to eligible candidates.

October 2022

Report Includes:

1. President's Report
2. Report of the Senate Executive Committee
3. Proposal to Establish two Research Groups
4. Scholarships and Awards
5. Scholarship and Awards Amendments
6. Matters to be Considered in Close Session

7. President's Report

The president's report presented here is a summary. The President reported as follows:

- The formation of a working group to review the Senate Committee process which is to be chaired by Mr. Lecleric, the University's Secretary. The review process will commence in late October. A discussion paper has been prepared to guide discussions of the review committee. Senate would be able to provide feedback on the recommendations.

- Masking mandate at the campuses are working well. Compliance by the University community is meeting expectations. Masking mandate to be reviewed periodically.
- A strategic planning process is to be implemented with the establishment of a Strategic Planning Committee. The committee will be chaired by the President, Provost, and the Vice-President (Academics). Committee members would include three (3) Senators to be elected under item XI (2) on the meeting agenda. An external consultant to be hired to accelerate the review process involving board consultations with the University.
- An update on the University's Climate Action Plan was provided to the President by the Associate Vice-President (Administration Ms. Dhaliwal to the President's Executive Team. Report presented included the strategic action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent before 2030 and by 100 percent by 2050.
- The report included the internal structures and resources necessary for achieving the set goals. The cost estimate for achieving the goals was put at \$100 million in 2019. It is anticipated that the cost must have increased in the current period. The bulk of the greenhouse gas emissions are generated from the older buildings at the University.
- The Climate Action Plan is identified as a critical component. A presentation would be made in the future to the Senate Committee by Ms. Dhaliwal. The Senate will make suggestions on the Climate Action Strategy.
- In late summer, the province informed the University about a plan to establish a Post-secondary Accountability Framework, with some measurement indices that will be applicable to the University and postsecondary institutions. The University was invited to provide input, questions, or suggestions by October 14th, 2022. The province indicated that metrics will be developed unilaterally if the University failed to provide inputs by the October 14th deadline. The President encouraged suggested a timely response. If there is some flexibility in the process, Senate and Board of Governors will examine the draft response and provide feedback before it is sent to the province.
- The November Senate meeting will be chaired by Dr. Hiebert-Murphy because the President would be on a University-related travel assignment.
- In response to the Post-secondary Accountability Framework, the position of UMSU when asked by the province to provide input was that it did not support a performance-based funding strategy because it can compromise public education.

- The University’s overall communication strategy for COVID-19 still places emphasis on the need for everyone to keep their vaccine status updated, including receiving the latest version of vaccines when available. Opportunities to collaborate with Shared Health to offer vaccine clinics on campuses is still a priority. Shared Health has been very supportive in offering vaccine clinics. A clinic one at the beginning of the Fall Semester to deliver the monkeypox vaccine was operated by the Shared Health.

8. Report of the Senate Executive Committee: Reports of other Committees of Senate, Faculty and School Councils

a. Report of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Graduate Studies RE: Proposal for a Micro-Diploma in Science Communication, Department of Immunology

- The Department of Immunology, through the Acting Dean, introduced a Micro-Diploma in Science Communication.
- The program’s objective is to give current graduate students the opportunity to learn how to communicate their scientific research findings in the simplest manner.
- Two courses (IMMU 7000 Science Communication: Foundations and Writing Methodologies and IMMU 7010 Science Communication: Audio-Video Methodologies) will be introduced as part of the program.
- Admission into the program is open to all graduate students and applicants would be assessed based on a writing or video sample and Grade Point Average.
- Enrollment into the program would also require a permission from the home department of successful applicants.
- The Acting Dean referred Senators to consult the program proposal for more details on the enrollment criteria and the resources required by the Department and the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences for the successful delivery of the proposed program.

The Acting Dean moved the Motion, seconded by Professor Oliver, That Senate recommends that the Board of Governors approve a proposal to establish a Micro-Diploma in Science Communication in the Department of Immunology, Max Rady College of Medicine. The Motion was Carried by simple majority.

b. Report of the Senate Committee on Nominations

- The Senate Committee on Nominations (SCN) met online on September 12th, 2023, to consider nominations to filling vacancies on several Senate standing committees.
- Before the meeting, the student nominated to serve on the Senate Committee on Academic Freedom resigned and withdrew.
- There are still openings for graduate students to serve in several committees.

Professor Simonot-Maiello on behalf of the committee, moved that Senate approve the Report of the Senate Committee on Nominations (dated September 12, 2022), as amended.

c. Strategic Planning Committee – Election of Senate Members

- Election is required to select three Senators from different Faculties and Schools to serve on the Strategic Planning Committee
- The roles of the committee members were reviewed by Dr. Hiebert-Murphy.
- Some Faculty members were nominated to the committee, and they are: Professor Hudson (Faculty of Arts), Professor Greidanus (Asper School), Professor Sorenson (Faculty of Science), Dean Pflugmacher Lima (Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources), and Professor Prentice (Faculty of Arts),
- Indigenous perspective would be included on the committee.
- The Graduate Students' Association would be invited to nominate student representatives to serve on the committee
- A vote was called for the nominated Faculty members and the following were voted: Professor Prentice, Dean Pflugmacher Lima, and Professor Sorenson were elected.

d. Candidates for Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates - October 2022

- There was a review of the request from the two academic units to award students a degree regardless a deficiency.
- The Faculty of Graduate Studies was recommended that a student be graduated posthumously a Master of Arts (Psychology though the student had not defended their thesis.

9. Proposal to Establish SIMTReC Group as an approved Research Group of the University of Manitoba and Urban Mobility and Transportation Informatics Group (UMTIG) as an approved Research Group of the University of Manitoba

Proposals were received to establish the above named research groups.

The SIMTReC Group is ideally positioned through its training of highly qualified graduate and postgraduate students and mature postdocs to help facilitate growth and build capacity for industry. Members of committee for the SIMTReC Group will include graduate students.

The formation of UMTIG is intended to provide unique research partnership with the Government of Manitoba to deliver its traffic monitoring program, the Manitoba Highway Traffic Information System (MHTIS). Through this partnership and other research initiatives. Students will be opportune to work with data to produce real-world products while pursuing their degrees. Committee membership of the UMTIG will include graduate students, funding for this research group have been secured from various donour agencies.

10. Scholarships and Awards

Several new scholarship schemes were announced as well as new awards. The following Scholarships were announced:

a. International Graduate Scholarship in Education

This Scholarship is made available by Paula Achtemichuk (B.A./'65,B.Ed./'68), an endowment fund valued at \$69,512.26 was established at the University of Manitoba in 2022. This Scholarship will target academic achievements of international graduate students in the Faculty of Education. Each year, beginning in 2022-2023, the available annual income from the fund will be used to offer one or more scholarships to graduate students

b. Susan Williams Peet Scholarship

This Scholarship is established by Susan Williams Peet as an endowment fund at the University of Manitoba in 2022. The purpose of the fund is to reward the academic achievements of graduate students specializing in Counselling Psychology in the Faculty of Education at the University of Manitoba. Each year, beginning in 2024-2025, the available annual income from the fund will be used to offer one or more scholarships to graduate students.

c. Wilhelm Guenter Fellowship

This Fellowship is in honour of Wilhelm Guenter, established by the Western Nutrition Conference Planning Committee. The Fellowship has an initial funding of \$52,000 in 2021. The purpose of the fund is to reward the academic achievements of students pursuing graduate studies in Animal Science in the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences.

d. Treaty One Scholarship in Indigenous Studies

This scholarship was created through The Winnipeg Foundation to mark the 150th Anniversary of Treaty One. It is inspired by the formation of the Metis Nation under the leadership of Louis Riel. The award will support graduate students focusing their research on the history of Canadian government policy respecting Indigenous (First Nation, Métis, and Inuit) peoples, including studies on Residential Schools, Truth and Reconciliation. Each year, starting from 2022-2-23, one or more scholarships will be offered to graduate students.

e. Michael and Nella Eskin Graduate Travel Award

This Award was established as an endowment fund by Michael and Nella Eskin, to assist graduate students in the Department of Food and Human Nutritional Sciences to cover travel costs for conference established an endowment fund at the University of Manitoba to assist graduate students in the Department of Food and Human Nutritional Sciences with travel costs for attending a conference. Each year, from 2023-2024, the available annual income from the fund will be used to offer one travel award to a graduate student.

f. Master of Physician Assistant Studies Bursary

The Max Rady College of Medicine created a yearly \$40,000 bursary in 2022. The Max Rady College of Medicine and Department of Family Medicine will each contribute \$20,000/ year for five years. The Award is to support MSc Physician Assistant Studies program. From 2022-2023 and ending in 2026-2027, one or more bursaries will be offered to graduate students each year.

g. Manitoba Graduate History Scholarship

This scholarship is established by the Winnipeg Foundation, through its Centennial Institute, established a scholarship. The award is intended to encourage students pursuing a Master of Arts degree in the Joint Master's Program offered by the History Departments, UofM and UofW.

h. Eileen Zhu and Jeff Liu Graduate Scholarship in Mechanical Engineering

This scholarship is founded by Eileen Zhu (M.Sc./'94) and Jeff Liu (M.Sc./'93) as an endowment fund. With an initial amount of \$25,000 in 2021. The scholarship is intended to

reward academic achievement of graduate students in Mechanical Engineering in the Price Faculty of Engineering. From 2023-2024, the available annual income of the fund will be used to offer one scholarship to a graduate student each year.

11. Scholarship and Awards Amendments

The following Awards and Scholarships were amended:

- Clara Kemila Anderson Memorial Award
- Emőke Szathmáry Graduate Scholarship in Music
- Margaret Tobin Bursary for Single Parents in Social Work
- Child Health Graduate Studentship in Nursing
- Women in the Physical Sciences Scholarship
- Esther Seidl Scholarship
- Nevin Estate Fellowship
- Nature Manitoba Scholarship
- John Glanville Memorial Scholarship

Withdrawals

The following Awards and Scholarships were withdrawn:

Manitoba Hydro Thesis Prize (Electrical) - At the request of the donor

Master of Physician Assistant Studies Travel Support Prize - At the request of the donor

Master of Physician Assistant Studies Academic Performance Scholarship - At the request of the donor

12. Matters to be Considered in Closed Session

a. Report of the Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees (August 25, 2022)

Based on the previous precedent, the minutes of this agenda item are often excluded from the circulated minutes. However, it will appear in the original minutes available for inspection by Senate members.

The above are considered to be a true and accurate recording of all items discussed. Please advise the recorder of any ambiguity, discrepancy, inconsistency, error or omission noted. Questions and concerns are welcome,

Uche Nwankwo
Senator 1

Willaim Dowie
Senator 2

Appendix VI:

UMGSA Executive End of Term Annual Reports May 1st 2021 - April 30th, 2022

UMGSA President – Silvia Sekander

Committees

- UMGSA Council
- UMGSA Executive Committee (Chairperson)
- UMGSA Bylaws and Policy Committee
- UMGSA Finance Committee
- UMGSA Awards Committee
- UMGSA Services and Support Committee
- UMGSA Events Committee
- Senate Committee
- UofM Board of Governors
- UofM Board of Governors Governance and Nomination Committee
- University of Manitoba Senate (Assessor - Non-Voting)
- FGS Executive Committee
- FGS Graduate Student Experience Committee
- UofM Student Experience Committee
- UofM Budget Advisory Committee
- UofM Organizational Safety and Health Advisory Committee
- External Relations Fund Committee
- Covid 19 Recovery Research Team
- Vice-President (Research and International) Search Committee

2021-2022 Highlights

- **Strike Relief Fund:** We have communicated the financial struggle with administration after conducting a survey and advocated for more bursary options for our students.
- **U-pass Subsidy:** We took the initiative to help the students' bear the additional cost of U-pass. We approached FGS with the proposal of matching fund and they approved our request. Luckily, UMGSA need not contribute and it has become a part of FGS throughout the year. We have maintained communication to continue the subsidy.
- **ELC Subsidy:** Along with FGS, we have continued to provide graduate students subsidy for attending English Language Center courses.
- **Holiday Hamper:** We have started the communication in our executive committee to help all the students who have applied for the hamper this year. I am keeping my communication channel open with the administration for their support.

- **UMFA Strike:** Along with the pandemic, we were threatened by the ongoing faculty strike. We have done our best to prevent the strike by taking part in several conversations with UM admins, Faculty, UMSU. During the strike, we supported UMFA to quickly end the strike. We listened to the students with specific concerns and resolved their problems after communicating these with the FGS. We have been in constant communication with UM admins, UMFA members and FGS.
- **Vice-President (Research and International) Search:** I was in the VP RI Search committee to represent graduate students.
- **External Relations Fund Issue:** I have been part of the ad-hoc committee that was formed to receive graduate students' perspective on the usage of the fund. I have been in constant communication with our lawyer regarding this.

HSGSA President – Akshi Malik

Committees:

- HSGSA Executive Committee (Chairperson)
- HSGSA Council (Chairperson)
- HSGSA By-laws Committee
- HSGSA Finance Committee
- HSGSA Internal Development and Review Committee (Chair)
- HSGSA Research Days Committee
- HSGSA Special Project Grant Ad-hoc committee
- HSGSA MHRE Project Ad-hoc committee
- COVID-19 Support Working Group – Rady Faculty of Health Sciences
- FGS Executive Committee
- FGS Council
- UMGSA Executive Committee
- UMGSA Council
- UMGSA GCC Selections Committee

HSGSA Report 2021-22:

This year HSGSA executives started their tenure remotely starting from the transition period to day-to-day functioning due to COVID-19 pandemic and we worked hard to ensure Health Sciences graduate students stayed connected and well during these unprecedented times. We sent out student opportunities survey to students to address their needs and inquire about opportunities and events they would be interested in attending. Students had emphasised on social events and academic awards.

We held the 34th Annual Canadian Health Research Forum (virtual conference) in collaboration with the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences in August. HSGSA organized networking and round table discussion sessions for both Manitoba and National participants. We invited guests from MATICS, Manitoba Bioscience Association (BAM), BioTalent Canada and NML Govt. of Canada, faculty members, PostDocs and entrepreneurs to provide students with a broad perspective. The sessions were very successful, and we received great feedback from attendees. We got a handful of students to volunteer for the conference who were able to get credit hours towards their co-curricular records. This year we gave out 3 awards valued at \$200 for the poster competitions. Additionally, HSGSA in collaboration with Rady Faculty awarded Dr. Forough Khadem Memorial awards in amount of \$1000 (one PhD and one Masters) to honor the life, spirit and work of Dr. Khadem, who was an outstanding PhD student in the Department of Immunology. In addition to CSHRF awards, HSGSA gave out two Graduate Student Excellence Awards in the amount of \$1000 for one Masters and one PhD student.

HSGSA co-hosted the Fall and Winter orientation with FGS, for Bannatyne campus graduate students over Zoom. Newly admitted students had the opportunity to have Q&A after the session. HSGSA in collaboration with UMGSA and FGS committed to provide subsidy for U-pass to graduate students as it was not covered by the University due to the pandemic. This

bursary was available for all the terms in 2021-22 as well. HSGSA led the panel discussion on the RFHS Graduate studies open house 2022 and represented the graduate student life at RFHS. HSGSA was able to organise two social events this year, Summer bbq event and Halloween social. Both events were attended by fully vaccinated students in adherence to provincial and university COVID-19 guidelines. In-person social events were very well received, and students finally had the chance to meet fellow graduate students. We also organised in-person three days sexual assault prevention workshop at St. Boniface campus.

In October, we had new councillors taking over and we structured our internal committees. HSGSA executives and councillors have set up a WhatsApp chat group to increase the communication amongst us and to not miss out on any information important to our grad students.

HSGSA organized two Dr. Patrick Choy Distinguished Lectureships on March 10th and March 11th. First lecture was given by Dr. Vincent Munster on the ecology of emerging coronaviruses, from host reservoir to disease. Second lecture was by Dr. Srinivas Murthy who is a lead investigator on the Canadian treatments for COVID-19 (CATCO) trial. Both lectures were a success and were attended by faculty members and students. Lectures were then followed by networking sessions for students.

Another interesting project was launched with the help of an ad-hoc committee and is led by Toby Le (VP-External), 'Multi-Disciplinary Health Research Experience' to provide teaching opportunities to graduate students. HSGSA received funding (\$1200) for this project from Science Students' Association and the seminar series started in February. Ad-hoc committee was in-charge of selecting candidates for lectures and from 40 applications, 12 graduate students were selected. HSGSA also received \$5000 funding from Dr. Hope Anderson's office. This extra budget is to be used for social events, special projects and extended education for graduate students. This budget's fiscal term will be April 2022-March 2023.

HSGSA Annual General Meeting 2021-22 was held in February and major changes in all the by-laws and procedures manual were presented and then approved.

In the 2021-22 term most of the activities were held virtual and HSGSA did not utilise most of its budget until the last few months. Thus, on councillors' suggestion we provided the budget depending upon the number of students to each department for the use of special projects as proposed by councillors. Ad-hoc committee was in-charge of the project review and payment disbursement. The final remaining budget was then used to provide students with Graduate student care and Mental health care packages for both campuses.

HSGSA also worked upon their website improvement by posting informational videos on how to navigate graduate student life. These videos involve Q&A sessions to make it easy for students to follow.

HSGSA strongly advocated for graduate students in different committees throughout the university. HSGSA reached out to all the Department heads and RFHS Dean's office with the petition of a match-up program to support graduate students with summer continuing fees.

During the UMFA strike, HSGSA kept its members informed through townhall organisation as well as email communication. HSGSA also organised a townhall for MMID students with FGS Dean and RFHS Associate Dean to talk about the issue of students working in Government labs.

Akshi Malik
HSGSA President 2021-22

Vice-President Finance and Administration – Nora Ampomah

Committees:

- UMGSA Council
- UMGSA Executive Committee
- UMGSA Bylaws and Policy Committee (Chairperson)
- UMGSA Finance Committee (Chairperson)
- FGS Faculty Council
- FGS Awards Committee
- Senate Committee on Nominations
- Graduate Strategic Enrolment Management Plan Sub-Committee
- UMSU Board of Directors (Proxy)

Recommendations:

- UMGSA Executives to record the exact number of hours spent on GSA Activities.
- Prioritize and Include in Governing Documents the Universities Agreement to Process Gifts Receipts on Behalf of the GSA.
- Mandatory Conflict Resolution and Cultural Competency Trainings for UMGSA Executives.

2021-2022 Highlights:

- Executive Honorarium Increase.
- Significant revisions to the Governance and Operations Manual.
- Major updates to the Election and Referendum Policy and Procedure Manual.
- Complete transition to Ethical Investment Portfolio.
- Creation of the External Relations Fund Ad-hoc Committee.
- Council Decision to Refund the Total Amounts in Registration Fees for Conferences for Eligible Graduate Students.
- Council Decision Reapportion Part of the Conference Grant Budget for COVID Relief and Holiday Hampers.

Vice-President Academic – Rubel C Talukder

Committees

- UMGSA Council
- UMGSA Executive Committee
- UMGSA Awards and Academic Affairs Committee (Chairperson)
- UMSGA Services & Support Committee
- Student Senate Caucus
- UM Senate
- FGS Student Experience Committee
- FGS Executive Committee
- FGS Faculty Council
- Intimate relationship advisory committee
- Falconer emerging researcher award
- Academic integrity advisory committee
- Responsible conduct of research (RCR) committee
- Senate committee on Academic Dress etc.

2021-2022 Highlights

- **Accepting donation for holiday hamper through UM:** Currently, we can't accept donation for holiday hamper and provide tax receipt for it. We aren't setup this way. Therefore, I have raised the proposal to UM administration that we might accept the donation through UM since UM gets a lot of donations for various purposes every year. Gladly UM agreed to do that and currently we are in the process of finishing the work with Jane Lastra, Director of FAA.
- **Holiday Hamper 2021:** There are far more applications (~16 times) in this year's holiday hamper compared to previous years. Despite this, I convinced my fellow UMGSA executives to increase the hamper from 100 to 250 dollars for every student. Moreover, I have managed to convince UM administration to help contribute to our holiday hamper.
- **Awards Committee:** The result of the UMGSA Student and Teaching Award has been published on time this year (by Summer 2021). All the selected the short-listed candidates for student and teaching award were approved by FGS.
- **Off-campus housing:** I am involved with UM Administration along with Silvia to explore the possibility of helping new grad students with guarantor forms for their off-campus housing. We found out that the ARC building near chancellor Matheson waives the requirement of guarantor form if students can show proof of income letter like scholarship letter.

Vice-President Services and Support – Golnaz Shirzadi

Committees

- UMGSA Council
- UMGSA Executive Committee
- UMGSA Events Committee (Chairperson)
- UMGSA Services & Support Committee (Chairperson)
- UMGSA Finance Committee
- UMSU Board of Directors
- FGS Faculty Council
- Champions for Mental Health Group
- Sexual Violence Steering Committee (SVSC)
- Sexual Violence Communications Sub-committee
- Meetings with the president of the university every two month

Report

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the events committee has been busy trying to come up with new ways we can engage students virtually. This committee has been meeting every month since May 2021, and below are some of the highlights:

- Mental health survey (we added strike related questions too)/ should be repeated by next VP during Oct. 2022/ We shared the results with different offices at the university, also reported the results in a meeting with Dr. Benarroch.
- Providing support for Grad students during the strike and taking care of their post-strike needs.
- Christmas postcard making workshop.
- ELC survey, and informal interviews to measure the satisfaction of those who attended using the provided subsidy. (Received really positive feedbacks.)
- Attending MHCC Mental Health Commission of Canada workshop series on National Standard. National Standard - Mental Health Commission of Canada
- Back to in person classes survey, to understand Grad students' feelings regarding coming back to the university in person in the middle of the winter term.
- Mental health morning and sustainability event (March) + a mindfulness session.
- Photo shooting project for the LinkedIn workshop.
- Collaborating with MHCC for a campaign on mental health.
- Doing the communication for the summer ELC subsidy.
- Recognition of University of Manitoba Iranian Students Association.
- Working on the idea of Covid-19 recovery fund (mentally, physically and socially)
- Sharing about the position and responsibilities with our new VP.

Senator 1 – AKM Monsurul Alam

As a UMGSA Senator, I attended all the senate and senate student caucus meetings. I carefully reviewed the senate meeting agendas and minutes and identified the best discussions related to graduate studies and presented them in UMGSA council meetings. I also participated all FGS council meetings and served many FGS committees. I regularly attended HSGSA council meetings where I presented senate report and provided updates on UMGSA activities. Furthermore, I participated in COVID-19 Recovery Steering Committee (CRSC) meetings. I was so active in students concerns on new academic schedule and smooth transition on back to normal campus activities. I worked in new health and safety protocols for in person activities through covid operation committee meetings. Also, I update students on university new health and safety protocols.

Summary of Activities:

- Attended all senate and senate caucus meetings, UMGSA and HSGA council meetings.
- Reviewed Senate meeting agendas and minutes and, identify the important discussions that are beneficial for graduate student.
- Prepared senate report and presented to UMGSA executive, UMGSA council and HSGSA council meetings, also distributed to graduate students upon request.
- Participated all FGS council meetings and served in many FGS committees.
- As a Member of COVID-19 Recovery Steering Committee (CRSC), I participated in discussion on implementing policies regarding health safety and protocols. I addressed issues that graduate students are currently facing in terms of accessing research facilities and advocates them in CRSC meetings.

List of served committees:

- Senate Planning and Priority Committee (SPPC)
- Senate Committee on Academic Computing (SCAC)
- Senate Committee on Academic Review (SCAR)
- Senate Committee Instruction and Evaluation
- FGS Faculty Council
- FGS Student Experience
- FGS Appeal Committee
- COVID-19 Recovery Steering Committee (CRSC)