

## **UMGSA Council Meeting Minutes**

### **Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023 - 5:30 PM – Zoom**

#### **1. Call to Order (5:34)**

#### **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 January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023, UMGSA Council Meeting as presented.**

*Christopher/ Farinaz*  
*Carried*

#### **4. Approval of the Minutes**

**MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council approves the minutes of the November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, UMGSA Council Meeting as presented.**

*Brenda/ Ian*  
*Carried*

#### **5. Committee Reports**

##### **5.1. November & December Committee Reports (Appendix II)**

- i. Silvia discussed the Graduate Nursing Students' Association's request to transfer from being represented under the UMGSA, to HSGSA. A proposal was approved by the HSGSA Council. A survey/ referendum has been sent to the graduate nursing students by UMGSA office staff (currently in process).
- ii. The UMGSA selected 300 students to receive the 2022 Holiday Hamper. Monsurul has successfully distributed around 275 of the hampers and has plans to distribute the remaining.
- iii. During the previous UMGSA President's tenure, council approved the striking of a "Multi-Campus Committee". The purpose of the committee being for representatives from each UM campus to come together and benefit from discussions. This Committee never came to fruition. This was brought to Silvia's attention which she then decided going forward we should strike this committee.

- iv. The UMGSA Executives have been discussing an opportunity for our executives to attend a mental health workshop facilitated by David Ness with potential to become an annual program. Being an executive can be stressful at times and would be beneficial to gain tools on how to deal with it.
- v. Silvia shared that there have been concerns regarding the amount of representation HSGSA currently has in the UMGSA General Council (1 voting member). A proposal was taken to the Bylaws & Policy Committee. More updates yet to come.
- vi. Rubel discussed the manual revisions the Bylaws & Policy Committee has been working on.
- vii. The Services & Support Committee have been discussing possible surveys to be distributed in the near future including topics such as food poverty among graduate students, etc.

## **6. HSGSA Report**

### **6.1. November & December HSGSA Report (Appendix III)**

- i. Jamie shared that HSGSA has been working with the RFHS Dean's office for the transition of CSHRF to another University and will now host Manitoba Research Days in June 2023.
- ii. The next major event for HSGSA is their Gala Dinner happening in March.
- iii. The Multidisciplinary Health Research Experience (MHRE) Program has received \$2000.00 from the Science Students' Association (SSA) to help run the program.

## **7. Senate Report**

### **7.1. November & December Senate Reports (Appendix IV)**

- i. Uche discussed his concerns regarding food poverty among graduate students and the cost of food on campus. UMSU is also on board with this initiative as it affects their students as well. Uche spoke briefly on this topic at Orientation and a student came to him afterwards showing their concern for this issue (comparing food prices at schools back in their home countries). This issue also affects the mental health & wellbeing of our students. A survey regarding this topic will be distributed to our students shortly.
- ii. Uche shared updates regarding the Campus Forestry Initiative. The project is currently in the stage of searching for monetary support. Uche briefly discussed the idea of commemoration trees for members of our community.

## **8. Executive Reports**

### **8.1. November & December Reports (Appendix V)**

## 9. Departmental Reports

- i. Willow (GCC) mentioned that there is a Strategic Plan Town Hall happening tomorrow at 9:30am in the MPR (2nd floor Uni Centre). The event will also be livestreamed on the UM YouTube channel.
- ii. Maha Mehanna (Peace & Conflict Studies) asked when we will hear about department grants. Ruth replied that she's working on them and apologized for the delay.
- iii. Bill shared the following in the chat: apply to the President's Student Leadership Program <https://umanitoba.ca/asper/programs-of-study/presidents-student-leadership-program/apply-pslp>.
- iv. Krista Shofstall (Biological Sciences) shared concerns regarding the Campus Commute Survey not addressing the safety problems our community has been having recently such as stolen bikes, dangerous situations on the bus, etc. Bill will mention this issue to the Safety ad-hoc committee. Krista will email Bill [senator2@umgsa.org](mailto:senator2@umgsa.org) & Cc Silvia [pres@umgsa.org](mailto:pres@umgsa.org) her testimonial to be shared with Tina Chen and the Chair of MAPSS.

## 10. Unfinished Business

- i. There was no unfinished business to be discussed.

## 11. New Business

### 11.1 Documentation of Approval of CRO/DRO Selection

Chief Returning Officer: Sudhanshu Bhatnagar

Deputy Returning Officer: Chamali Kodikara

**MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA General Council approves of the selected Chief Returning Officer & Deputy Returning Officer for the 2023 UMGSA Executive Election.**

*Selections Committee/ UMGSA General Council*

*Carried*

### 11.2 Documentation of Approval of Holiday Hamper Budget

**MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Executive agrees to fill up to 350 individual graduate student Holiday Hamper requests at \$100 each from appropriate budget lines (as was the practice in 2021) due to continued concerns of unprecedented inflation and the 'slower than expected' transitioning out of the COVID-19 pandemic.**

*Bill/ Uche*

*Carried*

### 11.3 Approval of Audited BDO Financial Statements

- i. Rubel (VPFA) gave a brief overview of the statements, noting all important updates.

**MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA General Council Approves the audited BDO financial statements**

*Rubel/ Ian*

*Krista Shofstall (Biological Sciences) abstained*

*Carried*

**11.4 Approval of BDO as the 2022/2023 Financial Auditors:** The 2022/2023 auditors Must be approved and the UMGSA sees no reason to discontinue its relationship with BDO.

**MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA membership agrees to use BDO's service for our audit of 2022/2023**

*Rubel/ Uche*

*Krista Shofstall (Biological Sciences) abstained*

*Carried*

### 11.5 Approval of UMGSA Updated Financial Budget

- i. Full budget provided as email attachment. Rubel (VPFA) presented all budget updates.

**MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA General Council approves the updated financial budget**

*Rubel/ Uche*

*Carried*

## 12. Announcements

**12.1 Next Council Meeting:** Wednesday, **March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023** - 5:30PM – Zoom

**12.2 February Newsletter:** If anyone has anything they want to share please e-mail

[gcc@umgsa.org](mailto:gcc@umgsa.org)

**Adjournment (6:22)**

UMGSA Council Meeting Attendance		January 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2023
<i>Position/Department</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Signature</i>
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	Breanna Zwick	<b>Absent</b>
Entomology	Danie Wood	<b>Absent</b>
Food & Human Nutritional Science	Anashwar Mullankuzhiyil Valsalan (Co- Councillors) Breanne Semenko	Anashwar Present
Plant Science	Laetitia Mukungu (Co-Councillors) Md. Ehsanul Haq	Md. Present
Soil Science	Charitha Hansima (Co-Councilors) Jose Almodovar	Charitha Present
<b><i>Architecture</i></b>		
Architecture	Paige Coleman	Benita Kliewer as proxy
City Planning	Oluwasegun (Isaac) Omonaiye (Co-Councilors) Julian Loutsik	Julian Present
Interior Design	Juliana Anderson	Robyn Anderson as proxy
<b><i>Arts</i></b>		
Economics	Michael Apata (Co - Councillors) Shantanu Debbarmar	<b>Absent</b>
English, Theatre, Film & Media	Sakshi Tyagi	Present
History	Cara Ginter	<b>Absent</b>
Linguistics	Mohadeseh Rostami Samak (Co-Councillors) Ashkan Ghaemmaghani	Mohadeseh Present
Political Studies & Public Administration	Jessica Drakul (Co-Councillors) Md. Azizul Hakim	Jessica Present
Psychology	Cici Guo (Co-Councillors) Reegan McCheyne	Cici Present
Sociology & Criminology	Mehraz Sarker	<b>Absent</b>
<b><i>Management</i></b>		
Management - MBA/MFin/MSCM	Kalyn Maskiw-Connelly (MBA) (3x Co- Councillors) Sheena Gee Tony Wu	Sheena Present
<b><i>Education</i></b>		
Education - PhD	Christopher Yendt	Present
Education - CTL	Minhee Kim	Present
<b><i>Engineering</i></b>		
Biomedical Engineering	Farinaz Jonidi Shariatzadeh	Present
Civil Engineering	Tara Seidi	Present
<b><i>Environment, Earth &amp; Resources</i></b>		
Environment & Geography	Fowzia Ahmed (Co-Councillors) Nicole Loeb	Nicole Present
Geological Sciences	Tekla Cunningham	<b>Absent</b>

Natural Resources Institute	Alejandra Diabb Sanchez (Co-Councillors) Sobiya Aziz Badat	Both Present
<b><i>Graduate Studies</i></b>		
Applied Health Sciences	Brenda Tittlemier (Co-Councillors) Banke Oketola	Brenda Present
Peace & Conflict Studies	Maha Mehanna	Present
<b><i>Kinesiology &amp; Recreation Mgmt.</i></b>		
Kinesiology & Recreation Mgmt.	Mudra Dave (Co-Councillors) Sasha Kullman	Sasha Present
<b><i>Nursing</i></b>		
Nursing	Trinh Nguyen-Lu (Co-Councillors) Hannah Mohammed	Hannah Present
<b><i>Science</i></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>		