

UMGSA Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 1st, 2023 - 5:30 PM – Zoom

1. Call to Order (5:31)

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 March 1st, 2023, UMGSA Council Meeting as presented.

Sasha/ Farinaz
Carried

4. Approval of the Minutes

MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council approves the minutes of the January 25th, 2023, UMGSA Council Meeting as presented.

Christopher/ Tekla
Carried

5. Committee Reports

5.1. January Committee Reports (Appendix II)

- i. Silvia continued the discussion regarding a mental health session for the outgoing & incoming executives. David Ness (SCC Director) will facilitate the session in April. We are hoping this will become an annual plan.
- ii. It has become clear that hosting the awards luncheon is not feasible for this term. Monsurul will write recommendations for the upcoming VPA in order to plan for the event accordingly.
- iii. A survey regarding campus dining/ student finances is underway. More updates to come.
- iv. Monsurul (VPA) will be resigning effective March 14th, 2023. Please direct inquiries to other executives or office staff. The duties & pay will be distributed among the remaining executives.
- v. Marianne & the Events Committee are organizing a tax filing workshop for the graduate students to be hosted in the near future.

- vi. Members of the Bylaws & Policy Committee are re-evaluating certain policies in the Bylaws Manual before moving forward with the topic of HSGSA representation in our council.

6. HSGSA Report

6.1. January HSGSA Report (Appendix III)

- i. Jamie was not present at this time.

7. Senate Report

7.1. January Senate Reports (Appendix IV)

- i. Uche spoke on the ongoing strategic planning meetings he has been facilitating around the University. There was a small UMGSA session on February 21st. More to be discussed in our New Business item 11.3.
- ii. Uche is working on a document including all forestry initiative information to be sent to stakeholders, potential donors, UM Administration and advertised on our website. We are working on getting the tree order placed and exploring fund raising possibilities.

8. Executive Reports

8.1. January Reports (Appendix V)

9. Departmental Reports

10. Unfinished Business

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

11. New Business

11.1 Campus Dining/ Financial Difficulties Survey

- i. The final draft of the questionnaire will be prepared by Uche & Marianne by this week. Once approved, it will be sent out to all graduate students. We encourage all councillors to partake and forward to your individual departments and/or student groups & associations.
- ii. Krista Shofstall (*Biological Sciences*) spoke on the major issue that is financial insecurity and safety among our students. A group of students in the faculty of science are collecting data and calling on other departments to do the same and get everyone involved.
- iii. CUPE 3909 is the union for our TAs & markers (which are mostly made up of graduate students). We can contact them regarding raising wages.

11.2 Department Grants

- i. Please submit via email to Ruth (gsa@umgsa.org) by **4:00pm on April 1st, 2023**.
- ii. Financial reports and activity reports are required. Please don't send receipts.
- iii. Find the forms here: <http://www.umgsa.org/department-grant/>

11.3 Strategic Plan Consultation Update

- i. Uche mentioned the poorly attended UMGSA consultation session we had on February 21st (about 6 participants). Uche stressed the importance of the issues that will be addressed in the session as well as the need for unique perspectives you as graduate students will be able to provide.
- ii. Uche proposed the possibility of organizing a virtual session in hopes to gather for participants and feedback.

12. Announcements

12.1 UMGSA General Election: <http://www.umgsa.org/umgsa2023election/>

- i. Bill spoke as a graduate student about the importance of voting in the upcoming UMGSA & HSGSA Elections. Bill encouraged everyone to attend the All-Candidates Forum happening March 15th at 5:00pm (RSVP form on our website) and to ask the candidates any questions you may have about their plans for the term.

12.2 Sustainability Night: March 8th, 2023 - <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/um-sustainability-night-tickets-547764878497>

12.3 Public Presentations (to appoint a Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies) - <http://www.umgsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Poster-Public-Presentations.pdf>

12.4 Next Council Meeting: Wednesday, March 29th, 2023 - 5:30PM – Zoom

12.5 March Newsletter: If anyone has anything they want to share please e-mail gcc@umgsa.org

Adjournment (6:25)

UMGSA Council Meeting Attendance

March 1st, 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	Sent Regrets
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
<i>Agric & Food Science</i>		
Animal Science	Breanna Zwick	Present
Entomology	Danie Wood	Absent
Food & Human Nutritional Science	Anashwar Mullankuzhiyil Valsalan (Co-Councillors)	Absent

	Breanne Semenko	
Plant Science	Laetitia Mukungu (Co-Councillors) Md. Ehsanul Haq	Md. Present
Soil Science	Charitha Hansima (Co-Councilors) Jose Almodovar	Absent
<i>Architecture</i>		
Architecture	Paige Coleman	Present
City Planning	Oluwasegun (Isaac) Omonaiye (Co-Councilors) Julian Loutsik	Absent
Interior Design	Juliana Anderson	Absent
<i>Arts</i>		
Economics	Michael Apata (Co - Councillors) Shantanu Debbarman	Absent
English, Theatre, Film & Media	Sakshi Tyagi	Absent
History	Cara Ginter	Absent
Linguistics	Mohadeseh Rostami Samak (Co-Councillors) Ashkan Ghaemmaghami	Mohadeseh Present
Political Studies & Public Administration	Jessica Drakul (Co-Councillors) Md. Azizul Hakim	Md. Present
Psychology	Cici Guo (Co-Councillors) Reegan McCheyne	Cici Present
Sociology & Criminology	Mehraz Sarker	Present
<i>Management</i>		
Management - MBA/MFin/MSCM	Kalyn Maskiw-Connelly (MBA) (3x Co-Councillors) Sheena Gee Tony Wu	Kalyn Present Sheena sent regrets
<i>Education</i>		
Education - PhD	Christopher Yendt	Present
Education - CTL	Minhee Kim	Absent
<i>Engineering</i>		
Biomedical Engineering	Farinaz Jonidi Shariatzadeh	Present
Civil Engineering	Tara Seidi	Present
<i>Environment, Earth & Resources</i>		
Environment & Geography	Fowzia Ahmed (Co-Councillors) Nicole Loeb	Nicole Present
Geological Sciences	Tekla Cunningham	Present
Natural Resources Institute	Alejandra Diabb Sanchez (Co-Councillors) Sobiya Aziz Badat	Both Present
<i>Graduate Studies</i>		
Applied Health Sciences	Brenda Tittlemier (Co-Councillors) Banke Oketola	Brenda Present
Peace & Conflict Studies	Maha Mehanna	Present
<i>Kinesiology & Recreation Mgmt.</i>		

Kinesiology & Recreation Mgmt.	Mudra Dave (Co-Councillors) Sasha Kullman	Sasha Present
<i>Nursing</i>		
Nursing	Trinh Nguyen-Lu (Co-Councillors) Hannah Mohammed	Hannah Present
<i>Science</i>		
Biological Sciences	Krista Shofstall	Present
Chemistry	Hanieh Rezasoltani	Present
Mathematics	Ian Thompson	Absent
Microbiology	Dustin Maydaniuk	Present
Physics & Astronomy	Brydyn Mac Intyre	Present
<i>CUPE3909</i>		
CUPE3909 (No Vote)	Garett Williams	
<i>Indigenous Engagement</i>		
<i>Guests</i>		