
UMGSA Council Meeting Documents Index Page

Wednesday, October 25th, 2023 – 5:30 PM – Zoom

Index Page for the October 25th, 2023 UMGSA Council Meeting Documents	1
Agenda for the October 25th, 2023 UMGSA Council Meeting	2
Appendix I Minutes of the September 27th, 2023 UMGSA Council Meeting..... Separate Attachment	
Appendix II September Committee Reports.....	4
Appendix III September HSGSA Report.....	8
Appendix IV September Senate Reports	9
Appendix V September Executive Reports.....	14

UMGSA Council Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, October 25th, 2023 – 5:30 PM – Zoom

1. Call to Order

2. Traditional Territories Acknowledgement

The University of Manitoba campuses are located on original lands of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation. We respect the Treaties that were made on these territories, we acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and we dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.

3. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council approves the agenda for the October 25th, 2023, UMGSA Council Meeting as presented.

4. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the September 27th, 2023, UMGSA Council Meeting are included as Appendix I to this Council meeting agenda.

MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council approves the minutes of the September 27th, 2023, UMGSA Council Meeting as presented.

5. Committee Reports

5.1. September Committee Reports (Appendix II)

6. HSGSA Report

6.1. September HSGSA Report (Appendix III)

7. Senate Report

7.1. September Senate Report (Appendix IV)

8. Executive Reports

8.1. September Reports (Appendix V)

9. Departmental Reports

10. Unfinished Business

i. No unfinished business.

11. New Business

11.1 Ratification of Selections Committee Membership

- i. The committee will be responsible for selecting a CRO & DRO for the 2024/25 UMGSA Election.
- ii. The following graduate students have put their names forward to sit on the committee:
HSGSA Representative (1):
 - X
UMGSA Representatives (3):
 - Ravinder Singh
 - X
 - X

MOTION: BIRT The UMGSA General Council approves of the 2023 Selections Committee membership as presented.

12. Generative Discussion

12.1 No topics were suggested.

13. Announcements

13.1. Next Council Meeting:

- i. Wednesday, November 22nd, 2023 - 5:30PM – Zoom.

13.2. November Newsletter:

- i. If anyone has anything they want to share e-mail gcc@umgsa.org

14. Adjournment

Appendix II :

UMGSA Committee Reports August 1st- August 31st, 2023

Executive Committee

Chair: Christopher Yendt (UMGSA President)

Meeting Dates: September 14th & 26th.

- The Executive introduced land acknowledgements at our meetings, which are rotated among members of the executive team at each meeting and are followed by a reflection from the speaking member to further create space for education and understanding.
- Discussed the revision of the Holiday Hamper program, with work to be done offline in further evaluating the application process.
- Approved leave of absence for a member of the executive.
- Reviewed next steps for the Grammarly initiative and how to further support student associations at the program and faculty levels.
- Approved the initial application and subsequent issuance of a corporate credit card for the UMGSA.
- Initiated early discussions around committee compliment for the UMGSA, and ways in which workload could be better distributed and allocated.

Finance Committee

Chair: Julie Xue (UMGSA VPFA)

Meeting Dates: September 18th, 2023

- The Committee reviewed and processed all conference grants applications up to date.

Bylaws and Policy Committee

Chair: Julie Xue (UMGSA VPFA)

Meeting Dates: September 25th, 2023

- Bylaws committee reviewed the suggestion made from finance committee and decided to maintain the current conference grant policy unchanged.
- UMGSA president introduced his idea of establishing an evaluation system for the executives to enhance performance and transparency.
- UMGSA president discussed his perspective regarding the transition plan for retiring staff. To ensure the continued smooth operation of the office during this period, there may be consideration of hiring additional staff to facilitate the transition. This can also

help executives concentrate on strategic projects that will benefit graduate students by and large.

Events Committee

Chair: Timilehin Oluwajuyitan (UMGSA VPSS)

Meeting Dates: September 7th, 2023

- Orientation lecture
- Social event/ UMGSA pizza day meet and greet (Wednesday September 13th, 2023).
- Mental health workshop (Tuesday 10th October 2023)
- Halloween/ Pumpkin Carving Competition (Monday 30th October 2023)
- Holiday hamper (December 2023)
- Tax filling workshop (March 2024)

Services and Support Committee

Chair: Timilehin Oluwajuyitan (UMGSA VPSS)

Meeting Dates:

- There were no meetings held in September 2023.

Awards and Academic Affairs Committee

Chair: Hanieh Rezasoltani (UMGSA VPA)

Meeting Dates: There were no meetings in September 2023.

- The VPA provided a draft of the Holiday Hamper Program application via Google Docs and shared it with the committee and executive team on 25th September. They improve and update it online by suggesting and commenting on it.

Appendix III :

HSGSA Report September 1st – September 30th, 2023

HSGSA Executive Committee and Council

Chair: Akshi Malik

On September 1st, HSGSA co-hosted Fall orientation with FGS. It was in person and went smoothly. HSGSA also presented at the Community Health Sciences Department Orientation. Newly admitted students had the opportunity to have Q&A after each session in both orientation events.

The September HSGSA Council Meeting was held on September 18th. We structured internal committees and an introduction was given of each committee for the incoming committee members to understand their role. New councillors from all the departments have taken over. Open spots for committees will be filled in the next Council meeting as we will have at least 3 more councillors.

HSGSA had planned an academic workshop for students who are applying for CIHR, CGS-M and other fundings on September 18th via zoom. We had over 35 students attending the workshop. The workshop was recorded and it was later shared with all the students who could not attend.

HSGSA is currently planning their annual Patrick Choy Distinguished Lecture series in late October which would involve lecture, faculty breakfast, and networking event with students.

HSGSA is also planning to organise a multicultural event in late November to celebrate the cultural diversity at University of Manitoba to enrich us collectively and reaffirm our commitment to equity, inclusion, and mutual respect.

Akshi Malik
HSGSA President (2023-24)

Appendix IV :

September Senate Report

Meeting Date: September 7th, 2023

Meeting Link: No minute link as it was only orientation.

The following report was submitted by Armin Aghajani, Senator 2.

Senate Committee on Instruction and Evaluation Minutes:

- After that the proposal to close the Bachelor of Science (Pharmacy) program and delete several courses used in that program at the College of Pharmacy, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences was endorsed electronically by the members, we had a representative from that faculty to give a short presentation regarding the reasons for that.
- Jeff Adam brought up the necessity to get deep into the AI challenges in teaching and academic environments and he was hopeful that we can take some practical steps for the Winter semester.

Meeting with Michael Benarroch, Laurie Schnarr, and Kelley Main:

- I talked about the projects that we've started since the beginning of my role. The topics Included:
 - Students' challenges regarding the inflation rate and the necessity to reconsider the TA and Stipend payments based on the inflation, payment adjustment.
 - The high cost deducted from international students because of their Manitoba health insurance and the efforts we've made to ask for the cooperation of the parties running the upcoming elections.
 - I informed them regarding the challenges students face because of delayed response from the advocacy office.

Senate Orientation:

- All members introduced themselves. Michael Benarroch read a statement at the beginning of the meeting and welcomed all members. Members talked about their views regarding the strategic plan at the University of Manitoba.

Council meeting:

- It was a short meeting. The councilors didn't ask any questions and they didn't have any concerns. I gave them a complete report of my activities in the last 4 months.

Appendix V :

UMGSA Executive Reports September 1st – September 30th, 2023

UMGSA President – C. Yendt

Executive Summary of Work:

- Attended several orientations across both campuses.
- Continued weekly President – Staff meetings.
- Continued partnership development between HSGSA and UMGSA by attending meetings of the executive team and working closely with members of the executive team to raise issues where appropriate.
- Provided additional training to support transition for members of the executive team.
- Resumption of UM Board of Governors, and involvement with various committees related to the board’s work and UMGSA representation.
- Resumption of UM Senate Activities.
- Continued to plan for succession and transition within staff compliment, working with various partners to move our internal plans forward.

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting	Hours
September 1 st , 2023	Bannatyne Campus Orientation (travel included)	4 hours
September 5 th , 2023	Weekly Staff Meeting	1 hour
September 5 th , 2023	UM Board of Governors – Governance Committee	2 hours
September 6 th , 2023	Meeting with President Bennaroch	1 hour
September 7 th , 2023	UM Senate Orientation	2 hours
September 7 th , 2023	PAC, Dean Extended Education	2 hours
September 13 th , 2023	HSGSA + UMGSA President’s Meeting	1 hour
September 13 th , 2023	UMGSA Executive Meet and Greet	2 hours
September 13 th , 2023	Meeting with Dr. Main and Dr. Schnaar	1 hour
September 14 th , 2023	MAPPS Meeting	1 hour
September 14 th , 2023	UMSU Board Meeting	1.5 hours
September 18 th , 2023	UM Budget Advisory Meeting	1.5 hours
September 18 th , 2023	UMGSA Finance Committee	1 hour
September 18 th , 2023	SVAC Meeting	1 hour
September 14 th , 2023	UMGSA Executive Committee Meeting	1.5 hours
September 19 th , 2023	Weekly Staff Meeting	1 hour
September 19 th , 2023	OSHAC Meeting	1 hour
September 19 th , 2023	UM Board of Governors Workshop	2 hours
September 20 th , 2023	Winnipeg Chamber Leaders Debate (including travel)	4 hours
September 22 nd , 2023	UMGSA Food Insecurity Committee	1 hour

September 25 th , 2023	Grammarly Meeting with Armin	1 hour
September 25 th , 2023	UMGSA Bylaws Committee	1 hour
September 26 th , 2023	UMGSA Executive Committee	1.5 hours
September 26 th , 2023	UM Budget Townhall	1.5 hours
September 26 th , 2023	UMGSA Weekly Staff Meeting	1 hour
September 26 th , 2023	FGS Executive Committee	2 hours
September 27 th , 2023	Meeting with Dr. Main and Dr. Schnaar	1 hour

Meetings missed:

Date	Meeting
September 20 th , 2023	UM Senate Executive – Regrets sent – Missed due to the Provincial Leaders Debate
September 28 th , 2023	UMSU Board Meeting – regrets sent

**Time
Spent in
Meetings**

in July: 41.5 Hours

Office Hours:

Time Spent in Official Office Hours in July: 0 Hours

Working events attended: UM Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner – September 21st, 2023 – 3 hours

Approximate time spent on other activities:

Activity	Hours
In-Office / Other	30 hours
Email / Correspondence	35 hours

Total hours spent on the UMGSA for August 2023: 109.5 Hours

Vice-President Finance and Administration- Julie Xue

Executive Summary of Work:

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting	Hours
September 13 th , 2023	Pizza Day/ Executive Meet & Greet	3 Hours
September 14 th , 2023	Executive Meeting	1.5 Hours
September 18 th , 2023	Finance Meeting	1 Hour
September 25 th , 2023	Bylaws Meeting	1 Hour
September 26 th , 2023	Executive Meeting	1.5 Hours

Meetings Missed: 0

Date	Meeting

Time Spent in Meetings in September: 8 Hours

Office Hours:

Time Spent in Official Office Hours in September: 0 Hours

Working Events Attended: None

Time Spent at Working Events in September: 0 Hours

Approximate Time Spent on Other Activities:

Activity	Hours
Replying emails and scheduling meetings	25 Hours

Total Hours Spent on the UMGSA in September 2023: 33 Hours

Vice-President Services and Support – Timilehin Oluwajuyitan

Executive Summary of Work:

- Attended UMGSA/ Vice Chancellor Meeting
- Attended Events Committee Meeting
- Attended UMGSA Meet & Greet Pizza Day
- Attended UMGSA Finance Committee Meeting
- Attended UMGSA Executive Committee Meeting
- Attended UMGSA Council Meeting

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting	Hours
September 6 th , 2023	UMGSA/ Vice Chancellor Meeting	1 Hour
September 7 th , 2023	UMGSA Event Committee Meeting	1 Hour
September 13 th , 2023	UMGSA Meet & Greet Pizza Day	4 Hours
September 14 th , 2023	UMGSA Executive Committee Meeting	2 Hours
September 18 th , 2023	UMGSA Finance Committee Meeting	1.5 Hours
September 26 th , 2023	UMGSA Executive Committee Meeting	2 Hours
September 27 th , 2023	UMGSA Council Meeting	1 Hour

Meetings missed: None

Date	Meeting
-	-

Time Spent in Meetings in September: 12.5 Hours

Office Hours:

Date	Hours
September 5 th , 2023	2 Hours
September 12 th , 2023	2 Hours
September 19 th , 2023	2 Hours
September 26 th , 2023	2 Hours

Time Spent in Official Office Hours in September: 8 Hours

Working events attended:

Approximate time spent on other activities:

Activity	Hours
Preparation of UMGSA Mental Health Event	10 Hours
Email corresponding	20 Hours

Total hours spent on the UMGSA for September 2023: 50.5 Hours

Vice-President Academic – Hanieh Rezasoltani

Executive Summary of Work:

- Attending UM President's meeting (Dr. Michael Benarroch) to share issues related to graduate students, such as tuition increases, international insurance, food shortages, and housing problems.
- Attending to Senate Orientation meeting.
- Participating in UMGSA Pizza Day and introducing UMGSA services to graduate students.
- Attending to UMGSA Executive Committee Meeting.
- Attending to UMGSA Council Meeting.
- Preparation of a draft of the Holiday Hamper Program application and sharing it with the award committee for discussion and feedback on updating the application.

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting	Hours
September 6 th , 2023	Meeting with UM President (Dr. Michael Benarroch)	1 Hour
September 7 th , 2023	Senate Orientation Meeting	1 Hour
September 13 th , 2023	UMGSA Pizza Day	3.5 Hours
September 14 th , 2023	UMGSA Executive Committee Meeting	2 Hours
September 26 th , 2023	UMGSA Executive Committee Meeting	2 Hours
September 27 th , 2023	UMGSA Council Meeting	1 Hour

Time Spent in Meetings: 10.5 Hours

Meetings missed: 3 meetings (for PhD candidacy exam reason)- regret emails sent for all of them.

Office Hours:

2 Hours- 7 Sep 2023 – location: UMGSA office
2 Hours- 14 Sep 2023– location: UMGSA office
2 Hours- 21 Sep 2023– On-line
2 Hours- 28 Sep 2023– On-line

Time Spent in Official Office Hours: 8 Hours

Approximate Time Spent on Other Activities:

Activity	Hours
Advocacy meeting with students and following up	5 Hours
Responding to emails, approving cheques & payments, emergency grants, & signing them	18 Hours
Preparation of draft of holiday hamper program application	4 Hours

Total Hours Spent on the UMGSA in September 2023: 45.5 Hours

HSGSA President – Akshi Malik

Executive Summary of Work:

- Attended UMGSA Exec and Council meeting
- Chaired HSGSA Exec and Council meeting
- Chaired MHRE meeting and discussed funding and planned for upcoming term
- Regular meeting with Chris to discuss HSGSA-UMGSA relationship
- Presented at Bannatyne orientation

Meetings Attended:

September 14 th , 2023	UMGSA Executive Meeting	1.5 Hours
September 13 th , 2023	Meeting with Chris	1 Hour
September 12 th , 2023	HSGSA Executive Meeting	1 Hour
September 26 th , 2023	UMGSA Executive Meeting	1 Hour
September 27 th , 2023	UMGSA Council Meeting	1 Hour
September 18 th , 2023	HSGSA Council Meeting	1 Hour
September 26 th , 2023	FGS Executive Meeting	1.5 Hours
September 1 st , 2023	Bannatyne Fall Orientation	5 Hours
September 27 th , 2023	MHRE Meeting	0.5 Hours
HSGSA CIHR Workshop		1 Hour
UMGSA Meet & Greet		3 Hours
Email Correspondence		10 Hours
Documents & record keeping		5 Hours

Time spent in meetings in September 2023: 14.5 Hours

Meetings missed: none

Office hours: 0 hours

Total hours spent on HSGSA & UMGSA for September 2023: 33.5 Hours

Senator 1 – Uche Nwankwo

Executive Summary of Work:

- Yet to be received.

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting	Hours

Time Spent in Meetings in September: Hours

Meetings missed: 0

Office Hours:

Working Events Attended: None

Approximate Time Spent on Other Activities:

Activity	Hours
	Hours

Total Hours Spent on the UMGSA in September 2023: Hours

Senator 2 – Armin Aghajani

Executive Summary of Work:

- Attended UMGSA Exec and Council Meetings
- Attended FGS Exec and Council Meetings
- Meetings with students regarding their current issues
- Meeting with Michael Benarroch, Laurie Schnarr, Kelley Main

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting	Hours
	UMGSA Executive Meeting	1.5 Hours
September 14 th , 2023	UMGSA Executive Meeting	1.5 Hours
September 26 th , 2023	-----	1.5 Hours
September 6 th , 2023	Meeting with Michael Benarroch, Laurie Schnarr, Kelley Main	1 Hour
September 7 th , 2023	Senate Orientation	1 Hour
September 14 th , 2023	Senate Committee on Instruction & Evaluation	1 Hour
September 27 th , 2023	Council Meeting	1 Hour

Meetings Missed: None

Time Spent in Meetings in September: 8.5 Hours

Office Hours:

Time Spent in Official Office Hours in September: Hours

Approximate Time Spent on Other Activities:

Activity	Hours
Documents and record keeping, answering emails	15 Hours
Answering students' issues through email/ phone/ social media/ in-person	15 Hours
Studying the agendas and minutes to get ready for the meetings	2 Hours
Writing the statement draft on behalf of the student association for the commemoration of "Woman, Life, Freedom".	5 Hours
Helping UMISA to organize Mahsa Amini's Candlelight vigil	10 Hours

Total Hours Spent on the UMGSA in September 2023: 63.5 Hours