

UMGSA Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 22nd, 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 November 22nd, 2023, UMGSA Council Meeting as presented.

Brenda/ Michael
Carried

4. Approval of the Minutes

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

Laetitia/ Sara
Carried

5. Committee Reports

5.1. October Committee Reports (Appendix II)

- i. In October the Awards & Academic Affairs Committee drafted and approved the 2023 holiday hamper application form.
- ii. The holiday hamper application form was distributed to all graduate students today via email and will close Thursday, November 30th at 8:00pm.

6. HSGSA Report

6.1. October HSGSA Report (Appendix III)

- i. In October HSGSA planned and hosted the Dr. Patrick Choy Distinguished Lecture. The event was in-person for the first time in 4 years and was well attended.
- ii. The HSGSA events committee put together a Halloween event for October.
- iii. HSGSA also made arrangements to host a multicultural evening event in late November at the Bannatyne campus.

- iv. Interviews were held for graduate student's applying to be instructors for the MHRE (*Multidisciplinary Health Research Experience*) training program.

7. Senate Report

7.1. October Senate Reports (Appendix IV)

- i. Armin (*Senator 2*) spoke to the senate report and was available to answer any questions.
- ii. Armin also provided some background information on UMGSA department grants so that the new council members are aware. 39.38

8. Executive Reports

8.1. October Reports (Appendix V)

9. Departmental Reports

- i. Biosystems Engineering is hosting a Christmas event on December 22nd.

10. Unfinished Business

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

11. New Business

11.1 Semi-Annual Executive Review Committee Report

- i. The report was distributed via email.
- ii. Chamali Kodikara (*ERC Co-Chair*) gave a brief overview of the report and was available to answer any questions.
- iii. Chamali highlighted that based on the self & peer reviews, one (1) executive's performance requires careful consideration and attention. Chamali concluded by recommending a focused discussion and development plan to continue improvement and maintain high standards.
- iv. Brydyn (*ERC member, Physics & Astronomy*) asked that the executive attendance policies be reviewed as they are currently abusable.
- v. Chris (*President*) is eager to address and implement the recommendations provided by the ERC and hopefully improve the flagged areas by the next report.

11.2 Ratification of Election & Referendum Committee Membership

- i. The following graduate students have volunteered to sit on this committee:
 - Emmanuel Uzoh
 - Angshuman Thakuria
 - Urna Sharma
 - Harshani Nadeeshani Vidana Hewage
 - Abdullah Zubaer

MOTION: BIRT The UMGSA General Council approves of the 2023/24 Election & Referendum Committee membership as presented.

Farinaz/ Sara

Carried

11.3 Reallocation of Awards Luncheon Funds

- i. Hanieh (*Vice-President Academic*) provided context for the motion and was available to answer any questions.
- ii. Chris met with Kelley Main (*Dean of FGS*) to discuss acknowledging the student award recipients at their 75th Anniversary happening next week. It was agreed that Chris or Hanieh will make this announcement at the event. Going forward our intention is to look into a long-term partnership with FGS regarding award promotion.

MOTION: BIRT The UMGSA General Council approves of the reallocation of \$1,500.00 awards luncheon funds to the holiday hamper budget line for the 2023/24 fiscal year.

UMGSA Executive Committee/ UMGSA General Council

Carried

11.4 Semi-Annual Approval of UMGSA Financial Budget

- i. Chris explained that the budget as it currently stands is incomplete and not an accurate representation of our finances because UMGSA is not yet in receipt of our fall fee payment from the University.
- ii. It was agreed that the budget will be presented to council at a later date.

11.5 Approval of Audited BDO Financial Statements

- i. The documents were pre-circulated via email. Please be reminded that these documents are confidential and should only be reviewed by council and executive members.
- ii. Chris assured the council that the items to be improved on as mentioned in the management letter are being addressed.
- iii. The UMGSA is recruiting a part-time accounting specialist to assist with financial direction and the upcoming staff transition.

MOTION: BIRT The UMGSA General Council approves the audited BDO financial statements

Brenda/ Tekla

Carried

11.6 Approval of BDO as the 2024/25 Financial Auditors: The 2024/25 auditors must be approved and the UMGSA sees no reason to discontinue its relationship with BDO.

MOTION: BIRT The UMGSA General Council agrees to use BDO's services for our audit of 2024/25.

Sasha/ Tekla

Carried

12. Updates

12.1 Bylaws

- i. Amendments to the Bylaws Manual were presented and unanimously approved at the UMGSA & HSGSA Bylaw & Policy Committees. Chris detailed the important changes that will be proposed at our Annual General Meeting on December 6th, 2023.

12.2 Report around risk assessment

- i. Chris has received inquiries regarding how we as an association assess risk, take stances, make statements, etc. Chris asked the council members if they'd like to receive a report on the topic to provide clarity and a reference point for if students ask you why UMGSA operates in a certain way.
- ii. It was agreed that a report on the process be prepared and circulated at a later date.
- iii. Brenda (*Applied Health Sciences*) asked that Chris briefly summarize how we assess risk at the UMGSA. Chris explained that as an executive committee and as a council we have a legal obligation to act in the best interest of the organization first, and membership second. This means before making decisions we need to ask ourselves if by doing so, are we putting the organization at risk of insolvency, legal action, are we putting our council members or staff at risk because we're doing something that could jeopardize the standing longevity of the organization? Could this decision have an impact on our relationships with the community and close partners within the university? These are the kinds of things that the President and executive members think about when considering major decisions.
- iv. Chris welcomes council members to reach out to him and schedule time to discuss this topic or any item of interest.

13. Announcements

13.1 Next Council Meeting:

- i. Wednesday, January 24th, 2023 - 5:30PM – Zoom.

13.2 December Newsletter:

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

Adjournment (6:39)

UMGSA Council Meeting Attendance
November 22nd, 2023

<i>Position/Department</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Signature</i>
President	Christopher Yendt	Present
VP Finance & Administration	Julie Xue	Sent Regrets
VP Academic	Hanieh Rezasoltani	Present
VP Services & Support	Timilehin Oluwajuyitan	Present <i>Late – Joined at 5:55</i>
HSGSA President	Akshi Malik	Present
Senator1	Uche Nwankwo	Present
Senator2	Armin Aghajani	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	Absent
Biosystems Engineering	Sunday Olakanmi (Co-Councillors) Mahmuda Parvin	Both Present
Entomology	Sara LaValley	Present
Food & Human Nutritional Science	Ravinder Singh (Co-Councillors) Joanna Candas	Ravinder Present
Plant Science	Laetitia Mukungu (Co-Councillors) Rajbir Kaur	Both Present
Soil Science	Sithabile (Star) Nyathi	Present
<i>Architecture</i>		
Architecture	Maryam Behzadmehr	Present
City Planning	Jessica Miranda (Co-Councillors) Noah Penney	Jessica Present
Interior Design	Tessa Horn	Present
<i>Arts</i>		
Economics	Michael Apata	Present
English, Theatre, Film & Media	Sakshi Tyagi	Present
Linguistics	Mohadeseh Rostami Samak	Present
Psychology	Cici Guo (Co-Councillors) Reegan McCheyne	Cici Present
Sociology & Criminology	Sara Fehr	Absent
<i>Management</i>		
Management - MBA/MFin/MSCM	Helena Goldman (3x Co-Councillors) Omeje Sabastine Nnaemeka Chidinma Onyedum	All Present
<i>Education</i>		
Education - PhD	Salmah Quadri	Present
Education - CTL	Minhee Kim	Absent
<i>Engineering</i>		

Biomedical Engineering	Farinaz Jonidi Shariatzadeh	Present
Civil Engineering	Homa Motavallian Naeini	Present
Electrical & Computer Engineering	Ali Nasr Esfahani (Co-Councillors) Bita Esmaeili Jamakani	Bita Present
<i>Environment, Earth & Resources</i>		
Environment & Geography	Debangshu Banerjed (Co-Councillors) Tyler Langos	Tyler Present
Geological Sciences	Tekla Cunningham	Present
Natural Resources Institute	Alejandra Diabb Sanchez (Co-Councillors) Kaitlyn Plastino	Kaitlyn 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	Both Present
<i>Science</i>		
Biological Sciences	Reemana Fatema	Present
Chemistry	Bahareh Taghavi Shahraki	Present
Mathematics	Ian Thompson	Present
Microbiology	Fabian Rohden	Present
Physics & Astronomy	Brydyn Mac Intyre	Present
<i>CUPE3909</i>		
CUPE3909 (No Vote)	Garett Williams	
<i>Indigenous Engagement</i>		
<i>Guests</i>		
Executive Review Committee Co-Chairs	Chamali Kodikara Thilini Dissanayake	Present <i>Left after presentation</i>