



**Council Meeting Minutes  
March 26, 2014, 5:00 pm  
GSA Lounge**

**1. Call to order**

Meeting called to order at 5:03 pm.

**2. Approval of the agenda**

**MOTION: BIRT the agenda for the March 26, 2014 UMGSA Council meeting be approved.**

*Anna Parenteau/Daniel Levin*

*Carried*

**3. Approval of the minutes from February 26, 2014 GSA Council Meeting**

**MOTION: BIRT the minutes from the February 26, 2014 UMGSA Council Meeting be approved.**

*Anna Parenteau/Pouria Jabari Barjesteh*

*Carried*

**4. Unanimous consent agenda**

4.1. Any item that has a ☒ beside it denotes unanimous consent agenda

Any member who wishes to debate an item that is listed below may have it removed from the consent agenda by contacting the Chair prior to the meeting or by asking that it be removed before the Chair calls for a mover and seconder for the following motions.

**MOTION: BIRT All executive reports be accepted omnibus.**

*Vikram Banthia/Mario Solis Nepote*

*Carried*

**5. Strategic Planning Committee Graduate Student Consultation Session**

Facilitators: Brendan Hughes – Executive Director, Student Engagement

Sandra Woloschuk - Learning & Change Consultant, Learning & Development Services

Note taker: Jennifer Yijie Chen – Executive-at-large, UMGSA

Participants: UMGSA Council

Duration: 5:15 pm – 6:45 pm

**6. Travel Reimbursement Update (see Appendix A)**

**MOTION: BIRT travel reimbursement be tabled until April Council meeting.**

*Daniel Levin/Sebastien Kerherve*

*Carried*

**7. Student Guide & Graduate Student Handbook Update (Chair)**

The handbook is now available online. It has also been sent to graduate chairs and department heads. Hopefully it will come to September. In addition, Student Guide makes a reference to the handbook.

## **8. Verbal Committee Reports:**

### **8.1. Executive Committee Report**

- We are in the midst of transitioning into the new executive team.
- We are sending four delegates to the GU15 Conference in Waterloo, Ontario from April 2-4, 2014.
- We are changing the computers in the GSA office. The Mac computers that are taken off will be sold to students. The announcement will be in the UMGSA newsletters.

### **8.2. Finance Committee Report**

- The Committee will be meeting on April 17, 2014.

### **8.3. Bylaws Committee Report**

- The Committee will be meeting on April 8, 2014.

### **8.4. Awards Committee Report**

- The revision to the GSA Awards terms of reference is pending approval from the Senate. It will be on the GSA website once it is approved.

### **8.5. Campaigns Committee Report**

- The last Campaigns Committee will be meeting on March 27, 2014. The departmental links will be posted on the UMGSA website.
- The UPass referendum will be transferred to the next year's executive.

### **8.6. Events Committee Report**

- After the April Council meeting, we will go to the Hub to celebrate end of the term.

### **8.7. Chief Returning Officer's Report (see attachment)**

- Concern raised by Senator Calistus Ekenna: the Elections Committee encourages individuals who had the resolve to formally submit a complaint to submit an application to serve as Chief Returning Officer for the next year.
- CRO response: it is not the intention to give a "bonus" to the individual who made a complaint. The Committee acknowledged their bravery and consideration of the Bylaws.
- Concern raised by Jennifer Chen: According to the GSA Election Policy, the CRO should be selected by Council at the September council meeting. If any student is interested in the CRO position, it will be the best to contact the GSA office when we are calling the CRO selection and have a fair selection by the Council. And a CRO not only needs to be familiar with the GSA election policies, but also needs to have an understanding of general election practices.
- Concern raised by Jennifer Chen: the CRO released the votes in order to encourage students to vote on the second voting day. Releasing any votes before the voting period finishes can influence the outcome of the election.
- CRO response: After sending this reminder, there was a 7% jump in voters casting their ballot. However, the CRO acknowledges that the disclosure of the gap between candidates may have been construed as untimely.
- Concern raised by Jennifer Chen: All candidates should be made aware that they have the right to file complaints, should they feel that the Election Policy has been violated.
- CRO response: Candidates can lodge a complaint by submitting a written statement to the CRO within five days of the ratification of the election.

**MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council ratify the voting results of the 2014/15 elections held in March.**

*Carried*

#### 8.8. Internal Development and Review Committee Report

- Karalyn Dokurno(Chair of the IDRSC): The Committee met on March 21, 2014. A peer review form has been sent to the executive. The Committee encourages students to fill the survey that has been sent to all graduate students to cast their opinions on the performance of this year's executive team.

#### 9. Executive Members' Reports:

- 9.1. ☒ President
- 9.2. ☒ Vice President Internal
- 9.3. ☒ Vice President Academic
- 9.4. ☒ Vice President External
- 9.5. ☒ Vice President Health Sciences
- 9.6. ☒ Vice President Marketing and Events
- 9.7. ☒ Senator Ekenna
- 9.8. ☒ Senator Mejicanos
- 9.9. ☒ Senator Okeke
- 9.10. ☒ Executive-at-large

#### 10. ☒ Senate Report

#### 11. Department Reports

None.

#### 12. Other Business

- Melissa Rabb: The HSGSA is hosting the Canadian Health Research Student Forum from June 10 to 12, 2014. Students are welcome to submit their abstracts. Cost is free.

#### 13. Announcements

- 13.1. Please send [ypi@umgsa.org](mailto:ypi@umgsa.org) photos to be included in the 2014-2015 student planner.
- 13.2. Department Grant Applications are due April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014.
- 13.3. Come join HSGSA April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014 for their Spring Social.
- 13.4. Next meeting is Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 at 5pm in the GSA Lounge.

#### 14. Adjournment

**MOTION: BIRT the GSA Council meeting be adjourned.**

*Amanda Gebhardt/Karalyn Dokurno*

*Carried*

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm

	<i>Name</i>	<i>Signature</i>
President	Monika Wetzel	present
VP Internal	Farhoud Delijani	present
VP Academic	Mehdi Rahimian	present

VP External	Crystal Cook	present
VP Health Sciences	Melissa Rabb	present
Senator 1	Calistus Ekenna	present
Senator 2	Gustavo Mejicanos	present
Senator 3	Emeka Okeke	present
Exec-At-Large (Non-voting)	Jennifer Chen	Present
Office Manager (Non-voting)	Ruth Prokesch	present
Office Assistant (Non-voting)	Trish Kelley	regrets
<b><i>Agric &amp; Food Science</i></b>		
Agribusiness & Agric. Economics	Jereme Keren Biney Proxy: Changhee Choi	Regrets present
Animal Science	Kristine Blair Atta Kofi Ayekum	Present – left at 6:45pm
Biosystems Engineering	Charles Nwaizu	absent
Entomology	Andres Fabian Herrera	present
Food Science	Yuming Chen Proxy: Lilei Yu	Regrets present
Plant Science	Chami Amarasinghe	Present – left at 6:45pm
Soil Science	Nicholson Jeke	Present – left at 7:00pm
<b><i>Architecture</i></b>		
Architecture	Gordon Yiu	Present – left at 7:15pm
City Planning	Krista Rogness	absent
Interior Design	Jaymie Borchardt	present
Landscape Architecture	Britney Bell	Present – left at 6:48 pm
<b><i>Arts</i></b>		
Anthropology	Jeremy Beller Proxy: Anu Lotay	regrets Present
Economics	Musah Khalid Urnee Dasgupta	absent
English, Film & Theatre	Kendra Magnus-Johnston Karalyn Dakurne	Present present
History	Nicole Courrier Danielle Dubois Proxy: Scott Berthelette	Regrets regrets Present – left at 6:48pm
Linguistics	Anna Parenteau Kathleen Strader	Present present
Native Studies	Ryan Duplassie	Present – left at

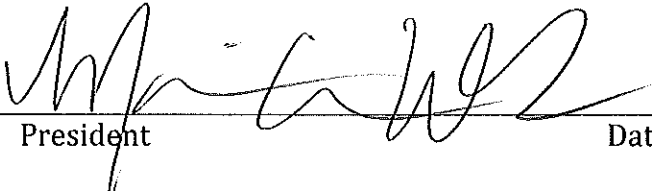
		6:30pm
Philosophy		
Political Studies and Public Administration	Alexander Salt	absent
Psychology	Yunqiao Wang Hayley Chartrand (co-councilors) Proxy: Matthew Quesnel	Regrets Regrets Present
Sociology	Daniel Levin Matthew Sanscartier	Present
<b>Graduate Studies</b>		
Applied Health Sciences	Navjot Pachu	Present
Peace and Conflict Studies	Julie Hyde Saad Khan Proxy: Eduardo Solo Parma	Regrets Regrets Present – arrived at 5:30pm
Biomedical Engineering	Mario Solis Nepote	Present
<b>Management</b>		
Management - PhD and MSc	Ji Zhou	present
Management 2 - MBA	Amanda Gebhardt	Present
<b>Education</b>		
Curr: Hum. & Soc. Sc.		
Curr: Math & Nat Sc		
Curr: Teaching & Learning		
Educ. Admin & Foundations		
Educational Psychology		
Educ. Adm. Fnd. & Psy	Barbara Borgs	absent
Faculty based PhD		
Educ. St. Boniface		
<b>Engineering</b>		
Civil	Pouria Jabari Barjesteh	Present
Electrical & Computer	Ahmed Byagowi (co-councillors) Dan Lockery	present present
Mechanical and Manufacturing	Vikram Banthia	Present
<b>Environment</b>		

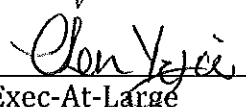
Geography & Environment	Heather Stark	regrets
Geological Sciences	Halya Petzold	present
Nat Resources Institute	Bridget Antze	Present – left at 7:17pm
<i>Human Ecology</i>		
Clothing & Textiles		
Family Social Sciences	Morgan Stirling	regrets
Human Nutritional Sciences	Mohammad Abdullah	absent
<i>Law</i>		
Law		
<i>Music</i>		
Music		
<i>Nursing</i>		
Nursing	Jill Norminton	present
<i>Phys Ed &amp; Rec Studies</i>		
Recreation Management & Kinesiology	Soyun Chapman	Present – left at 5:55pm
<i>Science</i>		
Biological Sciences	Shuo Huang	present
Chemistry	Joey Lussier Proxy: Jared Bruce	regrets present
Computer Science		
Mathematics		
Microbiology	Mac Kohlmeier	present
Physics & Astronomy	Sebastien Kerherve	Present
Statistics	Monsur Ahmed Chowdry	absent
<i>Social Work</i>		
Social Work	Nabieu Musa Sesay	absent
<i>UMSU (Non-Voting)</i>		
President or Designate	Christian Pierce	absent
<i>CUPE 3909 (Non-Voting)</i>		
President or Designate	Ana Vialard Hart	present
<i>FGS Rep (Non-Voting)</i>		

Dean or Designate	Jay Doering	absent
<i>Student Life (Non-Voting)</i>		
	Brendan Hughes	present
<i>Guests</i>		
Strategic Planning Committee	Sandra Woloschuk	Present started at 5:10pm finished at 6:40pm
Incoming VPE	Faizan Khan	present
Incoming President	Laura Rempel	present
Biological Sciences GSA	Jennifer Sojka	Present, left at 5:15pm
Incoming Senator	Diba Vafabakhsh	present
Incoming Biological Sciences Rep	Mike Gaudry	
Incoming VPI	Valery Agbor	
Incoming VPME	Beibei Lu	

Minutes: Jennifer Chen

APPROVED  
2014.04.23

  
 President \_\_\_\_\_ Date 23/04/2014

  
 Exec-At-Large \_\_\_\_\_ Date 20/04/2014

## **Appendix: Chief Returning Officer Report**

Chief Returning Officer Report  
UMGSA General Elections  
2014

### **Motion**

BIRT the Elections Committee ratify the votes cast during the 2014 official elections period.

### **Preamble**

This is a report outlining the processes and the results of the 2014 UMGSA General Election. The results of the HSGSA General Election, including the election of an HSGSA President who is the ex officio GSA Vice President (Health Sciences), must be ratified by HSGSA Council and overseen by the HSGSA CRO, Andrew McDiarmid (elected to the position of HSGSA CRO on January 28, 2014).

As per article X.1 of the Elections Policy and Procedure Manual, candidates or voters may lodge a complaint concerning the election procedures or results by submitting a written statement to the CRO either during the election, or within five days of the ratification of the election. The CRO must rule on the appeal within twenty- four (24) hours. Any decision will be reported and explained to Council; the Council has the authority of overturn the decision, should there be cause.

### **The Elections Committee**

The Elections Committee was struck on January 22, 2014. The 2014 UMGSA annual election nomination period was scheduled to begin at 9:00CST on February 3, 2014 and end at 16:30CST on February 14, 2014; the UMGSA annual election voting period was scheduled to begin at 9:00CST on February 24, 2014 and ends at 16:30CST on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014; and finally, the 2014 UMGSA annual election voting period was scheduled to begin at 9:00CST on March 10, 2014 and end at 20:00CST on March 12, 2014. Kendra Magnus-Johnston was nominated and elected as the UMGSA Chief Returning Officer (CRO). Amanda Gebhardt, Jeremy J. Borchardt, Jereme J. Biney, Gordon Yiu, Bridget Antze, and Soyun Chapman served as election committee members.

The elections committee members were responsible for distributing materials promoting the elections (three separate poster 'runs' were made to promote the nomination period, the forum, and the election, respectively); helping with the all candidates' forum with set-up and question development; serving as volunteers for the trouble-shooting stations on March 10, 11, and 12; and convening for emergency discretionary rulings (convened on March 19).

### **Online Voting System**

The committee renewed its contract with TomKorp Computer Solutions Ltd. On January 30, Kendra Magnus- Johnston corresponded with Tom Kaminski to confirm the dates of the elections; the contract was subsequently sent to GSA Office Manager Ruth Prokesch and signed by UMGSA President Monika Wetzel. Kendra confirmed that the same services provided in 2013 (and outlined in the previous year's contract would be required for 2014).

The requirements of the contract indicated that TomKorp would i) reuse the online voting system developed for the 2013 GSA elections; ii) install system on hosting server; iii) renew voteagsa.ca  
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- domain and SSL certificate;
- iv) providing an “unsubscribe link” in the voting system emails, v) including bios for the candidates with a link in the emails, a photo of the candidates, a one-paragraph description, and separate bios (for Fort Garry and HSGSA), vi) testing the voting system on new and old browsers; vii) setting up all voting assistant accounts;
- vii) provide support to import all voting accounts; and viii) managing entire voting process and be on standby for support during election period.

### **Design of the Online Voting System**

#### **Hosting**

www.votegsa.ca is a registered domain owned by the Association. The system uses 128-bit encryption. The votegsa website has a Secure Socket Layer (SSL) certificate.

On February 24, Kendra conferred with the GSA office assistant, Trish Kelley, to ensure that all nominees’ information be uploaded onto the UMGSA website; initially campaign materials were available on this platform. Trish removed the campaign materials (digital posters) from the UMGSA at the end of the campaign period. Tom Kaminski used the information provided on this website so candidate bios would be accessible from the UMGSA vote website.

On March 2, Kendra confirmed with Tom that due to the truculent nature of the UMGSA’s home server, that he would upload candidate bios to the <http://votegsa.ca> website for an additional \$250.00 fee. The VPI, Farhoud Delijani approved the expense via email correspondence on March 3 (TomKorp’s original contract was \$750.00, as signed by Monika Wetzel on February 24). Kendra sent Tom candidate names/position on March 3 via email. Kendra confirmed the accuracy of the candidate bios on March 5. Kendra also reviewed the voting instruction email to be sent out at the outset of the election on March 7. No modifications were needed. Tom indicated that he would send out the password emails to all the users at 9:00 AM, and it confirmed that it would take approximately 1 hour to deliver the email to all 3500+ accounts. Tom also contacted the voter assistants (the election committee members) individually with their login details and basic instructions.

#### **Emails**

- An email was sent out to the grad students on Monday, March 10 after 9:00 AM, which notified students that they could cast their votes for the University of Manitoba Graduate Students' Association elections; the email indicated that polls opened at 09:00 on Monday, March 10, and close at 20:00 on Wednesday, March 12.
- The email provided students with step-by-step voting directions, frequently asked questions, and the hours of the Voting Assistance Booths. If students had further questions not answered in the email, they were directed to contact [info@votegsa.ca](mailto:info@votegsa.ca) for assistance.
- Students received daily reminders from [info@votegsa.ca](mailto:info@votegsa.ca) to vote on March 12 and March 13, unless the students unsubscribed, in which case they only received the initial email with voting instructions.

#### **Ballot**

- Supported ‘write-in’ votes.
- The candidate names appeared in randomized order; while the order of executive positions appeared the same on each ballot.
- Timed out after three minutes of inactivity.

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- Sends an email when a student logs out with an incomplete ballot or completed ballot.

### **Results**

- Lists number and percentage of votes for each candidate.
- Provides a full table of votes, with no identifying information shown, for the purposes of manual recount.

### **Statistics**

Note: This information shows only the behaviour of the voters. It cannot show how an individual student or group of students voted.

- Number of minutes from after login to complete ballot.
- Number of votes cast per hour.
- Number of students who have logged in, voted at least once, and finished voting. This can be broken down by department.

### **Nomination Period**

The nomination period ran from 9:00CST on February 3, 2013 and end at 16:30CST on February 14, 2013. Several students did not attend the mandatory all-candidates meeting, scheduled on February 14, 2013 at 16:30CST. Any nominee who missed this meeting but sent their regrets were warned to read their policy manual and were provided information missed at the meeting; Kendra also circulated a follow-up email to the candidates which included the contact information of other candidates, as well as pertinent information covered at the meeting.

### **Elections Policy Manual and Nomination Form**

The GSA Nomination form was uploaded onto the UMGSA website as a .pdf. Without having the listserv email for the student body in her possession, Kendra sent an email to Ruth Prokesch on February 3 with a message template to notify the graduate student body that nominations were open; Kendra also contacted the Gradzette on January 30 to request inclusion of the upcoming nomination period, election dates, and the nomination announcement poster in the February issue of The Gradzette. It came to Kendra's attention that less than two nomination forms had been submitted by February 10, and as a result, she sent a reminder to the student body citing a "staggering shortage" in nominations. Kendra subsequently received over thirty inquiries from interested students, and ultimately, a total of twenty-two nominees.

### **UMGSA Website**

The UMGSA website, [www.umgsa.org](http://www.umgsa.org) was used over the course of the election period to communicate with students. The CRO used emails as a primary point of direct contact with graduate students; she employed templates designed by mailchimp to disseminate campaign materials, as well (as described above). The UMGSA website was a central point of contact for students to learn about their electoral candidates, where Trish Kelly had uploaded headshots and bios of each individual candidate.

### **Announcement of Candidates**

Following the All Candidates' Meeting on February 14, the list of candidates was announced in an email sent to the GSA listserv within 24 hours of the close of the nomination period. A static list of nominees was posted outside the GSA office on February 14, 2013. Since there was no eligible candidate running for the Health Sciences Senator position, the position was annulled, leaving three senator positions to be filled by one of the eligible candidates vying for the position. This amendment was announced to graduate students on February 28 in a statement that read "Although a Health

Sciences student typically fills the third senator position, since there is no eligible candidate for this position at this time, there will be THREE senator positions available for the students currently running for senator on the Fort Garry campus."

### Campaign Period

The campaign period ran from 09:00CST on Monday, February 24 to Friday, March 7, 2012 16:30CST.

### All Candidates' Forum

The All-Candidates Forum was announced to the GSA listserv to be hosted on Thursday, March 6 from 12:00CST-13:00CST. The UMGSA and the HSGSA scheduled separate Forums for the respective association's candidates. The elections committee distributed posters and Kendra sent an email on February 28<sup>th</sup> to the GSA listserv requesting questions for candidates, as well as inviting students to the forum; she also requested questions directly from the elections committee members. Kendra received over twenty questions for candidates, some of which were directed to specific candidates, while others were not. As a courtesy, Kendra sent the candidates questions the evening before the forum, with directions indicating how much time each candidate would have to address *any* one of the questions. Given the one hour time restrictions of the forum, Kendra permitted each position the same amount of time to speak (between 2-3 minutes); allowing ten minutes at the end for audience-nominee interaction.

Due to a conflict in class scheduling, Emeka Okeke did not attend the forum, though he did send his regrets. Graduate students were also about the meeting reminded on the morning of March 6 by the UMGSA office manager Ruth Prokesch. Over fifty students attended the Forum. Catering was provided by the GSA and the HSGSA, respectively.

### Printing of Campaign Material & Elections Budget

The current rules allow for candidates to be reimbursed for campaigning expenses up to a maximum budget of \$60.00 (\$50.00 for senators and \$60.00 for Vice- and President positions). Because all campaign material must be approved by the CRO, who acted as an intermediary to authorize the printing of campaign materials through the UMSU Copy Centre and had the costs charged directly to the Association. While this was not the most efficient system, it was reasonably effective and required no out-of-pocket expenses from the candidates.

For expedient correspondence, Kendra requested that all candidates communicate with her via her personal email account, rather than the CRO account; she made this request in an email sent on February 25. The current netfirms account utilized by the GSA executive does not appear to offer an automated forwarding service.

The total expenses for promotional materials:

### Campaign Expenses

Slate Name (max. budget)	Invoice Totals
The Link (\$170)	\$9.49
Synergy (\$340)	\$181.29
GSF (\$340)	\$278.39
Idaresit Ekaette (\$60)	\$29.38
Pauline Priadka (\$60)	\$48.03
Rebecca UMGSA (\$50)	\$29.29
Mahin Delara (\$50)	\$0.00
Laura Rempel (\$60)	\$14.13

### CRO Expenses

Expense Descriptions	Invoice Totals
"No Time, Vote Online" Poster	\$39.55
"All Candidates Forum" Poster	\$36.16
"Nominations Welcome" Poster	\$16.95
<b>Total CRO Printing Expenses</b>	<b>\$92.66</b>

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**Total Candidate Printing**

**\$561.51**

<b>2014 Printing Expenses</b>	<b>\$654.17</b>
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All printed materials were purchased from the UMSU Copy Centre. The Elections Committee spent \$92.66 on printed materials. Candidates spent a total of \$561.51 on printed materials. This is a total of \$654.17. The Elections Committee spent 642.97 on catering for the "All Candidates' Forum" (March 6). Including the contract for TomKorp Computer Solutions, the 2014 Elections Committee has spent \$2,347.14 of its \$3,500.00 budget line.

### **Gradzette**

Kendra corresponded with the Editor-in-chief of the Gradzette on January 30 to request that important election dates be included in the February issue of the publication. Ryan Harby included all the dates, as well as the nominations' poster. Kendra also sent Harby on February 18, providing him with the contact information of each candidate; candidates were informed that someone from the Gradzette would be in touch with them for interviews, etc. at the all-candidates' meeting on February 14.

### **Voting Period**

The voting period ran from Monday, 09:00 March 10 to Wednesday, 20:00 March 12.

### **Email Voting Passwords**

A total of 5 students on the registrar's list of registered graduate students did not have active email accounts. Although voting assistance booths were open throughout the voting period (see below) there were no students that required in-person support.

### **Voting Assistance Booths**

In case any graduate students were unable to vote online without assistance, the Elections Committee set up Voting Assistance Booths. The GSA Elections Committee ran a Voting Assistance Booth in the GSA Office of Fort Garry Campus at the following times: Monday, March 10 from 11:00 to 13:00; Tuesday, March 11 from 11:00 to 13:00; and Wednesday, March 12 from 11:00 to 13:00. There were also Voting Assistance Booths at Bannatyne Campus on Monday, March 10 from 12:00-13:00; Tuesday, March 11 from 12:00-13:00; Wednesday, March 12 from 12:00-13:00; and at St. Boniface Research Centre on Tuesday, March 12 from 15:00-16:00.

### **Results**

Previous years: In 2009, 277 graduate students cast their votes in the General Election. In 2010, 400 graduate students cast their votes in the General Election. In 2011, out of the 3262 graduate students, a total of 543 students (16.6%) logged into the online voting system, 512 graduate students cast at least one vote in the General Election; and 419 (12.8%) cast their votes for all positions on their ballot.

Current trends: In 2012, out of the 3736 graduate students, a total of 371 students (9.9%) logged into the online voting system, 342 (9.2%) cast at least one vote. 306 students (8.2%) cast votes for all positions on their ballot. In 2013, out of 3525 students, a total of 473 (13.4%) students logged into the online voting system, 439 (12.5%) voted at least once, and 390 (11.1%) cast their votes for all positions on their ballot. In 2014, a total of 742 (18.7%) of GSA members logged in to the system 701 cast at least one vote (17.7%) and 533 (13.4%) cast a complete ballot.

No scrutineers were provided by the candidates.

### **Results:**

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**GSA President (Uncontested Candidate), total voters: 580**

**1. Laura Rempel**

Yes: 89% (519 votes) / No: 9% (53 votes) / Not sure (write-in): 0% (2 votes)

**GSA Vice President (Internal), total voters: 585**

- |  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Valery Agbor, Graduate Students First | 38% (224 votes) |
| 2. Gustavo Mejicanos, Synergy            | 23% (135 votes) |
| 3. Idaresit Ekaette, Independent         | 22% (127 votes) |
| 4. Toyin Familusi, The Link              | 16% (92 votes)  |

**GSA Vice President (Academic), total voters: 610**

Kristjan Mann, Graduate Students First	37% (225 votes)
Mehdi Rahimian, Synergy	34% (208 votes)
Ikechukwu Vincent Agomoh, The Link	28% (170 votes)

**GSA Vice President (Marketing and Events), total voters: 616**

Beibei Lu, Graduate Students First	36% (224 votes)
Emeka Okeke, Synergy	35% (214 votes)
Lama Abdulrahman Asaad, The Link	28% (171 votes)

**GSA Vice President (External), total voters: 573**

Faizan Khan, Graduate Students First	34% (195 votes)
Pauline Priadka, Independent	33% (190 votes)
Karalyn Dokurno, Synergy	31% (180 votes)

**GSA Senator, total voters: 620**

Chido Uchime, Graduate Students First	49% (304 votes)
Diba Vafabakhsh, Graduate Students First	40% (250 votes)
Richard From, Independent	36% (222 votes)
Zubaer Bin Zahid, Synergy	33% (206 votes)
Mahin Delara, Independent	27% (170 votes)
David Terrazas Gonzalez, Synergy	24% (151 votes)

**HSGSA President**

Uncontested Candidate: **Melissa Rabb**

Yes: 94% (77 votes) / No: 5% (4 votes) / Not sure (write-in): 1% (1 vote)

**Total voters: 82**

**HSGSA Vice President (Internal)**

Uncontested Candidate: **Jessica Forbes** Yes: 92% (77 votes) / No: 7% (6 votes)

Not sure (write-in): 1% (1 vote)

**Total voters: 84**

**HSGSA Vice President (External)**

Uncontested Candidate: **Sahar Karimzadehnamini**

Yes: 94% (79 votes) / No: 5% (4 votes) / Not sure (write-in): 1% (1 vote)

**Total voters: 84**

**HSGSA Vice President (Academic)**

Uncontested Candidate: **Jordyn Lerner**

Yes: 94% (80 votes) / No: 5% (4 votes) / Not sure (write-in): 1% (1 vote)

**Total voters: 85**

**HSGSA Vice President (St. Boniface)**

Uncontested Candidate: **Patricia Roche**

Yes: 95% (81 votes) / No: 4% (3 votes) / Not sure (write-in): 1% (1 vote)

**Total voters: 85**

**HSGSA Vice President (Marketing and Events)**

Uncontested Candidate: **Laura Romas**

Yes: 92% (78 votes) / No: 7% (6 votes) / Not sure (write-in): 1% (1 vote)

**Total voters: 85**

A complete list of all write-ins can be provided to Council upon request.

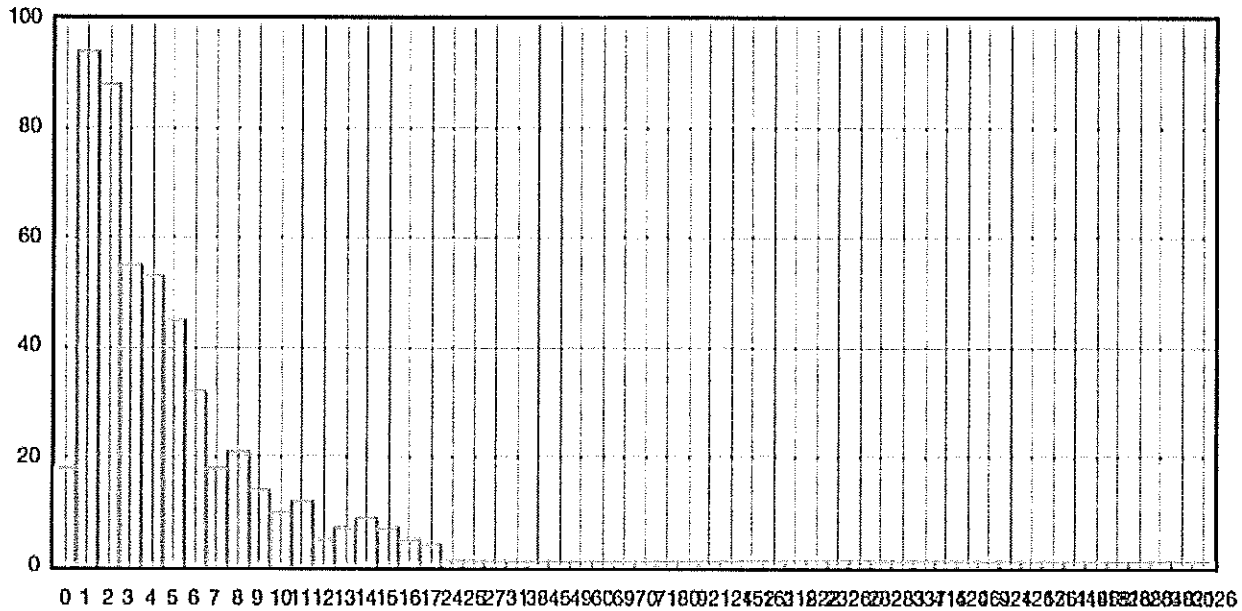
**Analysis**

**Duration to Complete Voting**

This is the length of time, in minutes, that it took students to finish voting. Only students who voted for every position on their ballot are included in these data:

Minutes	# Voters
0	18
1	94
2	88
3	55
4	53
5	45
6	32
7	18
8	21
9	14
10	10
11	12
12	5
13	7
14	9
15	7
16	5
17	4
24	1
25	1

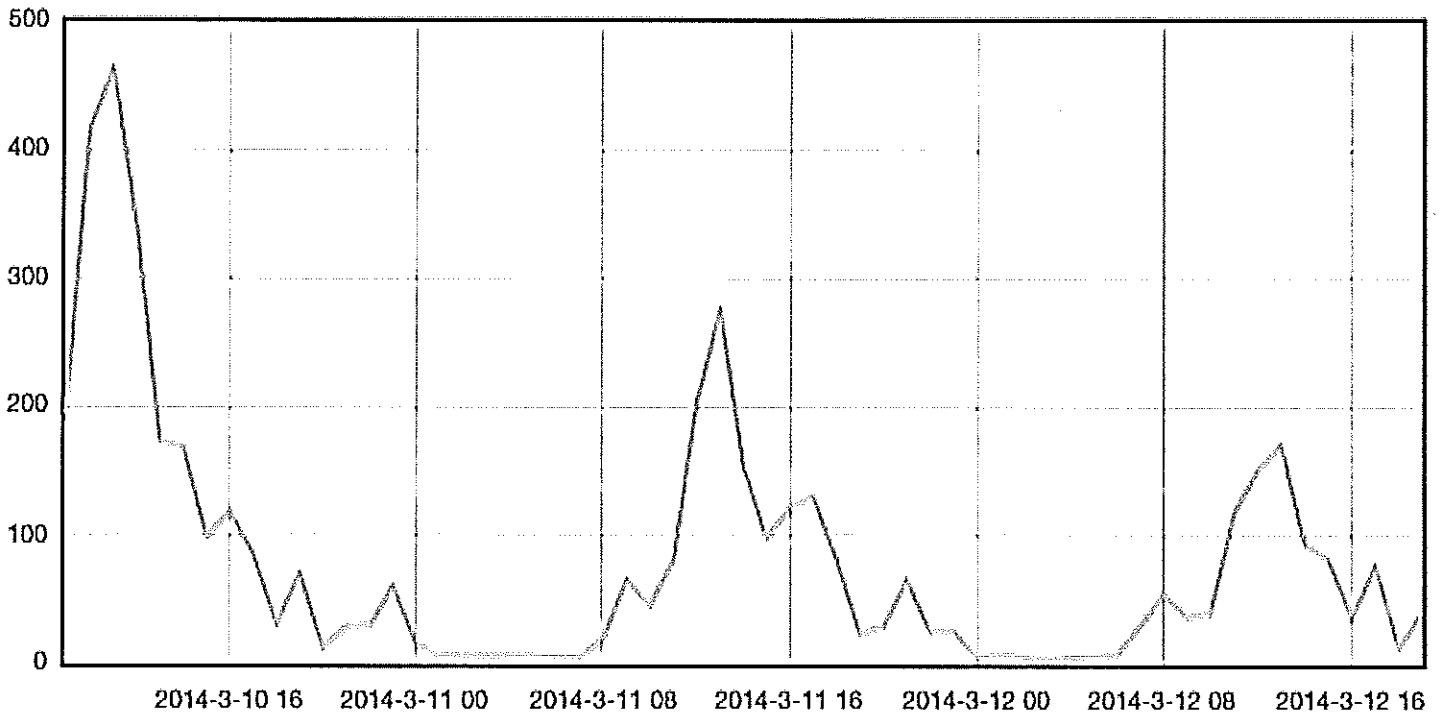
## Duration to Complete Voting



## Voting Hourly Trends

This is the number of votes cast per hour, not the number of voters. Voters could cast up to six votes on their ballot to elect the Executive. HSGSA members could also cast up to five votes to elect the HSGSA Executive.

## Voting Hourly Trends



## **Discretionary Rulings**

### **Social Networking**

The elections committee did not endorse the use of any social networking (e.g., Twitter, Facebook) for campaigning materials; as an extremely viral social media, we anticipated that its use was too difficult to supervise, particularly in terms of third-party campaigning (see section 7 c of the elections manual on "Forwarding/Redirecting emails(s)").

### **Mass Emails**

Mass emails to the graduate student listserv were permitted during the campaigning period, but were sent and formatted by the CRO in single emails sent on two occasions, more specifically on February 28 and March 7. Five additional emails were sent from the CRO account between February 12 and March 13. These emails were sent to the graduate student body to encourage nominations; announce the official candidates; provide elections information (including candidate bios); remind students to vote; and announce the outcome of the elections.

Two additional emails were sent by Ruth Prokesch on Kendra's behalf to announce the initial opening of the nomination period and to remind students to attend the all candidates' forum on March 6.

The email sent to remind students to vote on March 11 indicated:

*Wednesday is your last day to cast your online ballot for the UMGSA executive elections! At this time, less than 10% of students have cast their ballot. Currently, the election is EXTREMELY close with as little as 5 votes between opposing candidates. Please cast your vote before 8 pm on Wednesday, March 12. Each vote will truly make a difference.*

While the message was intended to spur disengaged voters into casting their ballots, the CRO acknowledges that the disclosure of the gap between candidates may have been construed as untimely. Although the message was explicitly ambiguous, avoiding any disclosure of which candidates were in "the lead," the effectiveness of this strategy is contentious.<sup>1</sup>

### **All Candidates Meeting**

A meeting for all candidates was held on Friday, February 14 in the GSA office at 16:30CST. All candidates attended with the exception of Richard From and Zubaer Zahid, both of whom sent their regrets by email in advance of the meeting. Although David Terrazas did not send his regrets directly, Gustavo Mejicanos conveyed information regarding David's absence to Kendra immediately before the meeting.

At the all-candidates meeting, the CRO requested the following from the candidates: (1) contact information of each candidate in order for the Gradzette to contact candidates for an interview; (2) to have the candidates send in their 100 word bios to Kendra by 09:00CST on Sunday, February 24 for the GSA website; (3) the CRO emphasized to candidates that the elections committee was not endorsing the use of Twitter or Facebook for campaigning materials; the CRO explained that the committee concluded that as an extremely viral social media, we foresaw its use as too difficult to supervise, particularly

in terms of third-party campaigning (see section 7 c of the elections manual on "Forwarding/Redirecting emails(s)"). The CRO also sent out a formal summary of the points covered at the all candidates meeting to the individual candidates via email on February 15, which also included a google spreadsheet where all the candidates' contact information, slate names, bios, etc. could be shared and consolidated.

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<sup>1</sup> Although sending this reminder was followed by a 7% jump in voters casting their ballot, whether or not these voters would have cast their ballots *anyway*, particularly with the assistance of the automated daily reminders, is possible.

A total of twenty-two candidates were announced as candidates in the 2014 executive UMGSA elections on February 15 via email; two candidates withdrew their bids to run on February 16 (Jesse Harms) and February 21 (Yeukai Katanda), respectively.

### **Vandalized Posters**

Kendra received multiple informal complaints during the campaigns period from candidates alleging that other candidates were defacing campaigns materials. As a result, Kendra issued the following message on February 27 via email:

*Dear candidates,*

*It's come to my attention that some candidates' materials are being vandalized. Please note that anyone caught vandalizing or defacing another candidate's promotional materials will be reprimanded. As per article VIII in the elections policy manual, penalties include, but are not limited to:*

- i. shortening of campaigning period*
- ii. requiring public retraction*
- iii. removal from the all-candidates forum*
- iv. disqualification*

*I am fully prepared to enact any of these penalties should it come to my attention that one of the candidates is responsible for the destruction of another candidates' hard work.*

*Thanks, Kendra*

For candidates who wished to file formal complaints against specific candidates, Kendra cautioned that without conclusive evidence beyond the physical posters exhibiting vandalism (i.e. witnesses), no penalty could be enforced. If/when candidates presented defaced materials, however, Kendra offered to have the number of defaced posters reprinted. Less than fifty posters were re-printed and since no candidates went over-budget, the additional expenses simply came out of the candidates'/slates' initial campaigns budget.

Although one candidate began the process of issuing a complaint alleging vandalism, the complainant withdrew the claim before it could be brought to the attention of the elections

committee.

### **HSGSA Senator Position**

Initially, Mahin Delara was announced as the uncontested HS Senator candidate. However, it became clear that despite the student's enrolment in the Applied Health Science program from the Faculty of Nursing, her enrolment did not signify that she attended Bannatyne campus or that she would be available/willing to hold office hours there. After consulting with the Health Sciences Graduate Students' Association president, Melissa Rabb, as well as the Vice President Internal, Farhoud Delijani (the president, Monika Wetzel was away), Kendra informed the student in an email sent on February 24 that "the Health Sciences Senator position was created to ensure that the Fort Garry UMGSA Council would have the voice of the Health Sciences (Bannatyne campus) students represented at council. It is important, therefore, for the senator representing this demographic to not only attend classes on this campus (at least occasionally!), but also to have a presence there, as well as attend meetings on the Fort Garry campus, when needed." Kendra outlined the following options (*sic*):

1. If she is willing to hold office hours on the Bannatyne campus and be available to your constituents on Bannatyne campus, representing their interests to the UMGSA council, then, she is eligible for the Health Sciences Senator position.
2. If she does not feel she is qualified to fulfill this position as described above, then she can run for the regular UMGSA Senator positions.

The student made the final decision regarding which position she would run. Mahin Delara emailed the CRO on February 24, writing: "in spite of my background in health sciences and because of mandatory attendance in Bannatyne campus, I would rather to shift [to the] Senator for Fort Gary campus".

Without an eligible Health Sciences Senator applicant, the position was effectively dissolved for the 2014/2015 scholastic year. The three vacant positions were filled by one of the seven eligible senator nominees, which included Mahin Delara. The final decision to have three senators elected was advised by the GSA President, Monika Wetzel, who recommended that it would be better to have three senators in-office, than leaving the position vacant over the summer until a by-election could be run in the fall.

### **Formal Complaint**

One formal complaint was issued during the elections' period on March 12 by senator candidate, Zubaer Zahid. The complaint alleges that "the poster of Richard From was found in the connecting tunnel from EITC to University Center to the left side of the wall close to the CIBC ABM booth." The elections committee met on Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> and invited both Zubaer Zahid and Richard From to discuss the facets of the complaint, as well as the potential penalties of the infraction.

After deliberation, the elections committee ascertained that the outcome of the elections polls (which had closed on March 12) would be upheld in spite of the campaigns infraction. However, the candidate Richard From would be penalized by one vote per

poster, per day following the campaigns period, amounting to a 4-vote deduction. The elections committee recommended that greater specificity be outlined in the Elections Bylaws to create a mandatory measure for penalties for infractions of this nature.

### **Recommendations**

#### **Online Ballots**

It came to the CRO's attention (a full week after the election; there were no inquiries submitted to the elections committee during the election), that the order of the candidates on the electronic ballot appeared in the following order: GSA Vice President (Marketing & Events), GSA President, GSA President (Internal), GSA Vice President (Academic), GSA Vice President (External), GSA Senator. Although this was a computational error, the organization of the ballot nevertheless maintains ARTICLE IX 5b of the Elections Policy and Procedure Manual, which states: "the ballot shall be organized by Executive position." The CRO recommends that for future elections, the order of appearance of the executive positions should be specified in the manual.

#### **Health Sciences Senator Position**

The CRO would like to recommend an amendment to the Elections Policy and Procedure Manual; the suggested amendment is to specify requirements for eligibility for the Health Sciences Senator position and its point-of-difference from the FG campus positions. It would also be advisable to have a condition in the policy manual that provides a rule for how to proceed when there is no eligible candidate for the Bannatyne Campus senator position; in the instance that there are FG students nominated, it is advisable that the third senator position be made available to the eligible candidates (as it is preferable to have a third FG senator in-office and avoid a by-election for both fiscal and pragmatic reasons).

#### **Senate for Bylaws**

Given Richard From's infractions of the Elections Policy and Procedure Manual, the committee recommends that Richard From serve on the senate for bylaws during his tenure as senator for the UMGSA.

#### **Chief Returning Officer Position**

The elections committee would like to formally encourage individuals who had the resolve to formally submit a complaint during the 2014/2015 elections to submit an application to serve as Chief Returning Officer for the 2015/2016 elections. The association would benefit significantly from the involvement of individuals who exhibit the caliber of integrity and detail-orientation displayed during this election. The committee is grateful for their passion and commitment to upholding an ethical, transparent electoral process.

#### **Pay the Outstanding Balance to TomKorp**

TomKorp Computer Solutions Inc. has met the requirements of our contract, and should be paid in full.

#### **Online Voting System**

Student response has been overwhelmingly in favour of online voting and it is therefore suggested that the GSA continue to use the online voting system for future elections and

referenda. It is also suggested that in following years, the Elections Committee add a photograph of the individual candidates to the bios provided on the [votegsa.ca](http://votegsa.ca) website.

### **Campaigns Materials (response to informal complaints)**

It is the recommendation of the CRO that the 2014/2015 Bylaws committee review article VII of the Elections Policy and Procedure Manual. The policy currently states that "the campaign period for the GSA general election shall be 10 working days in duration and begin at 9:00CST of the first day of the period and conclude at 16:00CST of the last day of campaigning." The UMGSA CRO would like to recommend that the bylaw be amended to emulate UMSU's post-election period regulations, which states that: "All Campaign Materials must be removed after the close of polls on the final day of voting by a date and time to be determined by the CRO."

As currently stated and in-practice, the 10-day campaign period that concludes two days prior to the election, results in (1) candidates scrambling to remove all campaign materials from throughout the University of Manitoba campuses (both Fort Garry and Bannatyne) in panic that they may be penalized should *any* materials be missed; (2) a virtual scavengers' hunt for straggling campaign materials sought out by students seeking a fair campaign, which subsequently bombard the CRO; and (3) a muted voting period where candidates are hesitant to so much as encourage voting, out of concern that they may be penalized for campaigning. If the timeframe were extended (and slackened) candidates would continue campaigning with urgency into the voting period, increasing voter turnout at the polls. This amendment would also resolve the hairsplitting problem of holding candidates' accountable for campaign materials such as handbills, which are disseminated by the campaigner, but are often re-posted by supporters whom are not official volunteers, but rather simply enthused voters.

### **Ratification**

There was some confusion about how much information the CRO should disclose regarding the voter turnout and vote discrepancy between candidates. In the recent past (the last two years) the GSA executive positions have been uncontested; consequently, the CRO has simply announced the total voter turnout (by percentage), followed by an announcement of the new executive members. However, in the instance where the positions are contested, the policy manual should indicate what information is required of the CRO and on what timeline.

Given the potential for penalties – i.e. infractions to the policies and "vote penalties" which were enacted this year – following the election, Kendra does *not* recommend announcing the numbers – unless the policy manual forbids such penalties in the future. Such penalties, for example, will be unnecessary if the regulations regarding campaigns materials are altered as per the recommendations immediately above.

### **Campaign Advantages**

There should be a volunteer resource or discretionary budget in place to pay for the services of someone assist candidates with creating campaign materials and/or disseminating those materials effectively in the instance where there are more than ten candidates. When multiple candidates run for office, those proficient with design

programs, photography, established support networks, or have English as their first language are at a significant advantage when running their campaign. Despite the CRO's efforts to elude responsibilities such as copy- editing or aiding with the design of campaign materials, mediation was often required given the apparent disparity between the candidates. Formatting issues of some campaigns materials, as well as issues of clarity and grammar in campaign messages became significantly time-consuming issues for the CRO to resolve. To keep future campaigns fair and balanced amidst varying levels of language aptitude, technological expertise, and personal support, the CRO would suggest having a 'campaigns manager' position instigated in the instance when there are more than 10 candidates running for office (this would mean at least three positions were contested). As per the CRO's recommendation, the individual would be responsible for copy-editing and aiding with design of campaigns materials for all candidates, and would receive at most, a modest honorarium of no more than \$250.00.

#### **Updating the Elections Policy and Procedure Manual**

The policy manual should be updated by the Senate for Bylaws to reflect the use of the online voting system, ideally with regulations that apply to social media platforms, ones which will encourage graduate student engagement.

