
UMGSA Council Meeting Documents Index Page

Wednesday, May 26th, 2021 – 5:30 PM - Zoom

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UMGSA Council Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, May 26th, 2021 - 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 May 26, 2021 UMGSA Council Meeting as presented.

4. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the April 28th, 2021 UMGSA Council Meeting are included as Appendix I to this Council meeting agenda.

MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council approves the minutes of the April 28, 2021 UMGSA Council Meeting as presented.

5. Committee Reports

5.1. April Committee Reports (Appendix II)

6. HSGSA Report

6.1. April HSGSA Report (Appendix III)

7. Senate Report

7.1. April Senate Report (Appendix IV)

8. Executive Reports

8.1. April Reports (Appendix V)

9. UMGSA Executive End of Term Annual Reports

9.1. The 2020-2021 UMGSA Executive End of Term Annual Reports are attached as Appendix VI to these council documents.

10. Departmental Reports

11. Unfinished Business

11.1. Sustainability Updates

12. New Business

12.1. **UMGSA Budget 2021/22:** Each year the UMGSA's budget is approved by Council at the start of each new Executive term. The proposed budget for 2021-2022 is included as Appendix VII to these council documents.

MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council approves the UMGSA Budget for 2021-2022 as presented

UMGSA Executive Committee

13. Announcements

13.1. Next Council Meeting: Wednesday, August 25th, 2021 - 5:30PM – Zoom

13.2. CCR – Please log on to CareerConnect and log your councillor and committee commitments so that you receive CCR recognition.

14. Adjournment

Appendix II :

UMGSA Committee Reports April 1st - April 30th, 2021

Executive Committee

Chair: Silvia Sekander (UMGSA President)

Meeting Dates: April 13th and April 27th, 2021

- Executives discussed about GCC hiring process and making the position a full-time position.
- Holiday Hamper 2 was distributed to all the students residing in other provinces of Canada.
- HSGSA councilors wanted to send out a petition for waiving summer continuing fees.
- Annual subscription to Zoom was decided.

Finance Committee

Chair: Nora Ampomah (UMGSA VPFA)

Meeting Dates April 1st and April 27th, 2021

- The Committee reviewed Financial Reports for March.
- The Committee reviewed virtual Conference Grant applications

Bylaws and Policy Committee

Chair: Nora Ampomah (UMGSA VPFA)

Meeting Date: N/A

- The VPFA corresponded via email with members of the Committee members to on recommendations for upcoming tasks for the 2021/2022 term

Events Committee

Chair: Etinosa Osemwota (UMGSA VPSS)

Meeting Dates: March 25th, 2021

- The committee finalized details about the National trivia championship and approved up to \$100.00 to be used for the event.

Services and Support Committee

Chair: Etinosa Osemwota (UMGSA VPSS)

Meeting Dates: no meeting

Awards and Academic Affairs Committee

Chair: Rubel Chandra Talukder (UMGSA VP Academic)

Meeting Dates: no meeting

Appendix III :

HSGSA Report April 1st - April 30th, 2021

HSGSA Executive Committee and Council

Chair: Akshi Malik

In April, annual budget and spending were presented to the council and no objections were noted. HSGSA effectively utilised its entire budget by giving it back to students in need.

HSGSA Councillors have been very pissed with the summer continuing fee and we decided to do the petition. Petition was shared with the health sciences students and very quickly, we had overwhelming responses. HSGSA will once again start the conversation with the UM administration.

We updated the 'Finances and Awards' section in our by-laws to add 'Dr. Forough Khadem Memorial Award'. These changes were approved by by-laws committee and then, HSGSA council.

New VP-St. Boniface attended the last exec meeting of 2020-2021.

Ratified VPME resigned from the position on May 1st, 2021. Thus, we will have by-elections for VPME positions. CRO has sent out the call for nominations and we received three. By-elections voting will take place on May 25th- May 26th.

Akshi Malik

HSGSA President (2020-2021)

Appendix IV :

April Senate Report

Meeting Period: April 7, 2021

Link to the Senate Agenda:

https://umanitoba.ca/governance/sites/governance/files/2021-03/2021_04_07_Senate_agenda_reduced.pdf

Please note that this report contains only relevant items discussed in Senate related to graduate studies and graduate students.

The report includes:

1. Revision to 2020 – 2021 Academic Schedule RE: Spring Convocation Dates
2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1. Revision to 2020 – 2021 Academic Schedule RE: Spring Convocation Dates:

Due to COVID-19 the spring 2021 convocation ceremonies will be held virtually. Given the change in format it is being proposed that the spring 2021 convocation dates be modified as follows:

- Fort Garry campus ceremony: June 15th to 17th, 2021
- Agriculture Diploma ceremony: June 15th or 16th or 17th, 2021
- Bannatyne Campus ceremony: June 15th or 16th or 17th, 2021

The original convocation ceremony dates are:

- o Agriculture Diploma – May 7, 2021
 - o Bannatyne Campus – May 20, 2021
 - o Fort Garry Campus – June 3-8, 2021
- The original dates for the Fort Garry campus ceremonies involved a weekend break between the first two and last two convocation dates. Since the ceremonies will now be virtual there is no need to implement a break between the ceremonies.
 - The new dates will provide the time needed to mail parchments to graduates and ensure that they receive the parchments prior to the virtual ceremonies.
 - The dates provide an additional buffer for some programs in the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences in case it is needed to complete degree requirements.
 - Under the new format the virtual ceremonies will be held over a three-day period. A convocation committee is being struck to work through the details of the format and the times of the various ceremonies.
 - The date of the Agriculture Diploma ceremony will align with the convocation ceremony for Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences degree students.

3. President's report:

As part of the University's commitment to responding to the needs of students most in need of assistance during the uncertain times of the pandemic, a number of financial support programs were made available for students in Winter 2021, outlined below:

- o General Bursary Program Enhancement (\$3.1 million) – each student registered in the Winter 2021 term, who received a bursary in December 2020, was allotted a \$750 'top-up'.
- o Winter 2021 Pandemic Relief Fund (\$887,000) - targeting newly admitted students. 2,800 undergraduate and over 400 graduate students were contacted and encouraged to apply. Awards are valued at \$800 for full-time undergraduate students and \$400 for part-time; and \$1,000 for fulltime graduate students and \$500 for part-time.
- o Special Appeal/Other Needs (\$100,000) - targeting continuing students who did not apply for the fall bursary program, and are now in need of support.
- o UM Student Technology Fund – approximately \$160,000 currently available which should assist approximately 274 students in Winter term. The grant is valued at \$582 per student towards the purchase of a new computer system. This fund has already helped over 225 students since its inception last fall.
- o Food Bank – in partnership with FoodFare Winnipeg, Financial Aid and Awards is running a food hamper program. Students can order a hamper and have same day delivery (no charge & deliveries are to both in-city and out of city locations). Students may request support every three weeks. Each hamper is valued at over \$100 and contains a wide variety of non-perishable food items.
- o Emergency Loans – students are still able to request UM emergency student loan funding at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. These are short-term loans, which are interest and payment free to the student.

UM has hired Sustainable Solutions Group (SSG) to develop:

- o a Climate Action Plan including carbon emission targets aimed at achieving emissions neutrality by 2050. The University passed the Sustainability Strategy 2019-2023 in June 2019. Within the strategy, there is a commitment to create a Climate Action Plan, which defines emission reduction targets, action items to achieve these targets, and climate change mitigation and adaptation recommendations.
- o Sustainable Building Guidelines that will guide sustainability considerations across all buildings' projects. The guidelines will outline best practices, technologies, and methods that will contribute to enabling the UM to achieve its emissions reduction goal set out in the Climate Action Plan.

Appendix V :

UMGSA Executive Reports April 1st - April 30th, 2021

President - Silvia Sekander

Executive Summary of Work:

- **Provost Search:** Went through the recorded interviews and provided questions to the committee and attended all the interview sessions. appointment of Dr. Diane Hiebert-Murphy has been finally appointed as the University of Manitoba's Provost and Vice-President (Academic).
- **External Committee Appointment:** Filling up different committees for the upcoming year.
- **New Bursary/ Relief Fund:** Initiated the conversation with administration and FGS to consider new bursary/ pandemic relief fund.

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting	Hours
April 1 st , 2021	Provost Search Committee Meeting	4 Hours
April 1 st , 2021	Finance Committee Meeting	1 Hour
April 5 th , 2021	Provost Search Committee Meeting	4 Hours
April 6 th , 2021	Provost Search Committee Meeting	4 Hour
April 7 th , 2021	Covid 19 Research Recovery Meeting	1 Hour
April 8 th , 2021	Meeting with Laurie and Kelley	1 Hour
April 9 th , 2021	Meeting with UMSU President	0.5 Hours
April 12 th , 2021	Meeting with UMSU	1 Hour
April 12 th , 2021	Budget Advisory Committee Meeting	2 Hours
April 13 th , 2021	GCC advertising meeting with Nora	.5 Hours
April 13 th , 2021	UMSA Executive Committee Meeting	2 Hours
April 14 th , 2021	Covid 19 Research Recovery Meeting	1Hour
April 14 th , 2021	Services and Support Committee Meeting	2 Hours
April 20 th , 2021	Board of Governors Meeting	3 Hours
April 21 st , 2021	Covid 19 Research Recovery Meeting	1 Hour
April 26 th , 2021	FGS Executive Meeting	2 Hours
April 27 th , 2021	GCC Selection Committee Meeting	1 Hour
April 27 th , 2021	UMGSA Executive Committee Meeting	2 Hours
April 27 th , 2021	Finance Committee Meeting	0.5 Hours

Time Spent in Meetings in April: 33.5 Hours

Office Hours:

All Executive Office Hours were suspended due to COVID-19 effective March 17th, 2020.

Time Spent in Official Office Hours in April: 0 Hours

Working Events Attended: N/A

Approximate Time Spent on Other Activities:

Activity	Hours
e-mail Correspondence & other activities (External Committee appointments)	35 Hours

Total Hours Spent on the UMGSA in April, 2021: 68.5 Hours

Vice-President Finance and Administration - Nora Ampomah

Executive Summary of Work:

- **Review of UMGSA Governing Documents and Financial Reports:** Reviewed financial reports and governing documents to identify areas needing revision
- **Covid-19 Financial Hardship Hamper- 2021:** Corresponded with applicants and initiated E-transfers for students who were out of Winnipeg and shared their financial distress with the UMGSA for the Covid-19 Hardship Hamper-2021.

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting	Hours
April 1 st , 2021	UMGSA Finance Committee Meeting	0.5 Hours
April 13 th 2021	UMGSA Executive Committee Meeting	2 Hours
April 13 th 2021	UMGSA GCC Recruitment Meeting	1 Hour
April 27 th , 2021	UMGSA Selections Committee Meeting	1 Hour
April 27 th , 2021	UMGSA Finance Committee Meeting	0.5 Hours
April 27 th , 2021	UMGSA Executive Committee Meeting	2.3 Hours
April 28 th , 2021	UMGSA Council Meeting	1.5 Hours

Meetings Missed: None

Time Spent in Meetings in April: 8.8 Hours

Office Hours:

**All Executive Office Hours were suspended due to COVID-19 effective March 17th, 2020. **

Time Spent in Official Office Hours in April: 0 Hours

Working Events Attended: None

Time Spent at Working Events in April: 0 Hours

Approximate Time Spent on Other Activities:

Activity	Hours
Preparing Documents for Meetings	15 Hours
e-mail Correspondence	10 Hours
Other	3 Hours

Total Hours Spent on the UMGSA in April, 2021: 36.8 Hours

Vice-President Services and Support - Etinosa Osemwota

Executive Summary of Work:

- MAPSS Advocacy
- VPSS transition

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting	Hours
April 1 st , 2021	UMGSA Finance Committee Meeting	2 Hours
April 13 th , 2021	UMGSA Executive Meeting	2 Hours
April 13 th , 2021	UMGSA Services and Support Committee meeting	1 Hour
April 20 th , 2021	UMSU Member Services	1 Hour
April 21 st , 2021	Sexual Violence Steering Committee	1.5 Hours
April 22 nd , 2021	UMGSA Events Committee Meeting	1 Hour
April 23 rd , 2021	MAPSS Meeting	1 Hour
April 27 th , 2021	UMGSA Executive Meeting	1 Hour
April 28 th , 2021	UMGSA Council Meeting	1 Hour

Time Spent in Meetings in April: 11.5 Hours

Office Hours:

All Executive Office Hours were suspended due to COVID-19 effective March 17th, 2020.

Time Spent in Official Office Hours in April: 0 Hours

Working Events Attended:

April 6 th , 2021	R programming workshop II	1.5 Hours
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Time Spent at Working Events in April 2021: 1.5 Hours

Approximate Time Spent on Other Activities:

Activity	Hours
Preparing Documents for Committee Meetings	3 Hours
Preparing Council Reports	2 Hours
E-mail and Other Correspondence	27 Hours
Preparing Transition Package	6.5 Hours

Total Hours Spent on the UMGSA in April, 2021: 63 Hours

Vice-President Academic – Rubel Chandra Talukder

Executive Summary of Work (April 2021):

- **Program Completion Scholarship:** FGS has created this scholarship for the students who are near the end of their graduate program (i.e. 5th or 6th yr of PhD and 3rd and 4th yr of MS). They supported 209 students with \$2500 cad each.
- **UM COVID-19 Graduate Student Pandemic Relief Fund:** Introduced the idea of suspending the continuing fee in Summer-2021 until Summer-2022 and that push ultimately resulted in University Administration creating this new bursary for graduate students. This fund has provided eligible full-time students \$1000 and part-time students \$500 each. A total of 676 students have been helped with this fund. We hope that this will help graduate students a lot during this uncertain time.

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting	Hours
April 1 st , 2021	Student senate caucus	1 Hour
April 6 th , 2021	COVID-19 Academic team	1 Hour
April 7 th , 2021	Senate	2 Hours
April 13 th , 2021	UMGSA Executive	2 Hours
April 13 th , 2021	UMGSA Services and Support committee	1.5 Hours
April 20 th , 2021	COVID-19 Academic team	1 Hour
April 26 th , 2021	FGS Executive committee meeting	1 Hour
April 27 th , 2021	UMGSA Executive	2.25 Hours
April 28 th , 2021	UMGSA General Council	1 Hour

Time Spent in Meetings in April: 12.75 Hours

Office Hours:

All Executive Office Hours were suspended due to COVID-19 effective March 17th, 2020.

Time Spent in Official Office Hours in April: 0 Hours

Working Events Attended: None

Approximate Time Spent on Other Activities:

Activity	Hours
e-mail Correspondence, preparing Senate report, Approving online cheques for 2 nd	50 Hours
Holiday hamper & Preparation for UMGSA Awards 2021-22	

Total Hours Spent on the UMGSA in April, 2021: 62.75 Hours

HSGSA President - Akshi Malik

Executive Summary of Work:

- Chaired HSGSA Executive and council meetings
- Attended UMGSA Executive and council meetings
- Worked on COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Fund with other members; negotiated partial funding from Dean's office
- Worked on Terms of Reference and Application form for Dr. Forough Khadem Memorial Award

Meetings Attended:

April 5 th , 2021	Student Outreach Network Meeting with Dr. Pauls	1.5 Hours
April 8 th , 2021	CHRSF Planning Meeting	1.5 Hours
April 9 th , 2021	HSGSA Executive	2.5 Hours
April 10 th , 2021	Meeting with Whova representative	0.5 Hours
April 12 th , 2021	Meeting with Hope Anderson	1 Hour
April 13 th , 2021	UMGSA Executive	2 Hours
April 23 rd , 2021	HSGSA Council	2 Hours
April 26 th , 2021	FGS Executive	1 Hour
April 27 th , 2021	UMGSA GCC-Selections Committee	1 Hour
April 27 th , 2021	UMGSA Executive	1.5 Hours
April 28 th , 2021	UMGSA Council	1.5 Hours
April 30 th , 2021	HSGSA Executive	2 Hours

Meetings missed: None

Time Spent in Meetings in April: 18 Hours

Office Hours:

All Executive Office Hours were suspended due to COVID-19 effective March 17th, 2020.

Time Spent in Official Office Hours in April: 0 Hours

Working events attended: None

Approximate time spent on other activities:

HSGSA Meetings Prep	5 Hours
E-mail correspondence & housekeeping	10 Hours
Dr. Forough Khadem Memorial Award (TOR)	5 Hours
Relief Fund Project	5 Hours

Total hours spent on the UMGSA & HSGSA for April, 2021: 42 hours

Senator1 - Azeez Akeem Abiodun

Executive Summary of Work:

- **Meetings:** I participated in the meetings below; the necessary information gotten was disseminated to the right quarters.

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting	Hours
April 1 st , 2021	Senate Committee on Appeals	1 Hour
April 13 th , 2021	UMGSA Executive	1 Hour
April 15 th , 2021	SCIE Meeting	2 Hours
April 26 th , 2021	SPPC Meeting	2 Hours
April 27 th , 2021	UMGSA Executive	2 Hours

Meetings Missed:

Date	Meeting
April 7 th , 2021	Senate (meeting with Advisor)
April 23 rd , 2021	HSGSA Council (Internet issue)

Time Spent in Meetings in April: 8 Hours

Office Hours:

All Executive Office Hours were suspended due to COVID-19 effective March 17th, 2020.

Time Spent in Official Office Hours in April: 0 Hours

Working Events Attended: None

Time Spent at Working Events in April: 0 Hours

Approximate Time Spent on Other Activities:

Activity	Hours
Preparing Documents for Meetings	2 Hours
e-mail Correspondence	3 Hours

Total Hours Spent on the UMGSA in April, 2021: 13 Hours

Senator 2 - William Dowie

Executive Summary of Work:

- **Senator Meetings:** Student Senate Caucus, Senate Executive, and Regular Senate
- **UMGSA portfolio – other committees:** attended various committees on Zoom sessions: Sustainability, Taxonomy of non-degree programs, COVID-19 Recovery Steering Committee (CRSC), Indigenous Outreach Committee + culture webinars; official meet & greets with new UM Prez and FGS Acting Dean, CRA benefits for students (new COVID-19 policies and programs).

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting	Hours
April 1 st , 2021	Student Senate Caucus	1 Hour
April 7 th , 2021	Senate	2 Hours
April 8 th , 2021	CRSC	2 Hours
April 9 th , 2021	CCR Committee	1.75 Hours
April 13 th , 2021	UMGSA Executive	2 Hours
April 13 th , 2021	Services and Support Meeting	1 Hour
April 15 th , 2021	CRSC	2 Hours
April 20 th , 2021	SCADM	1.5 Hours
April 20 th , 2021	Sustainability Committee	1.5 Hours
April 22 nd , 2021	CRSC	2 Hours
April 27 th , 2021	UMGSA Executive	0.75 Hours
April 28 th , 2021	UMGSA Council	1.5 Hours
April 29 th , 2021	CRSC	2 Hours
April 29 th , 2021	CJOB Radio Interview (MAPSS)	1 Hour

Meetings Missed:

*Was on mandatory leave from March 15 till March 26 due to UMGSA elections 2021

Time Spent in Meetings in April: 23 Hours

Office Hours:

All Executive Office Hours were suspended due to COVID-19 effective March 17th, 2020.

Time Spent in Official Office Hours in April: 0 Hours

Working Events Attended:

April 15 th , 2021	Indigenous Outreach context webinar	0.5 Hours
April 22 nd , 2021	Sus. Committee Earth Day Event	1 Hour

Time Spent at Working Events in April: 1.5 Hours

Approximate Time Spent on Other Activities:

Activity	Hours
Preparing for Council – Review Tasks	2 Hours
Email / WhatsApp correspondence (one hour per week allotted)	4 Hours
COVID-19 Relief Gift Card Distribution	2 Hours

Total Hours Spent on the UMGSA in April, 2021: 32.5 Hours

Tabled Activities: re-calibration of milestones for Indigenous Outreach; outreach project regarding 'mature' students (to promote graduate research opportunities); expansion of CCR categories for CV enhancement (esp. MITACS workshops)

Appendix VI:

UMGSA Executive End of Term Annual Reports May 1st 2020 - April 30th, 2021

UMGSA President - Silvia Sekander

Committees

- UMGSA Council
- UMGSA Executive Committee (Chairperson)
- UMGSA Bylaws and Policy Committee
- UMGSA Finance Committee
- UMGSA Awards Committee
- UMGSA Services and Support Committee
- UMGSA Events Committee
- UofM Board of Governors
- UofM Board of Governors Governance and Nomination Committee
- University of Manitoba Senate (Assessor - Non-Voting)
- Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) Faculty Council
- FGS Executive Committee
- FGS Graduate Student Experience Committee
- UofM Student Experience Committee
- UofM Budget Advisory Committee
- UofM Responsible Conduct of Research Committee
- Online Behaviour Committee
- Campus Children's Centre Advisory Group
- UofM Organizational Safety and Health Advisory Committee
- Covid 19 Recovery Research Team
- Vice-Provost (Academic Affairs) Search Committee

2020-2021 Highlights

- **Advocacy for waiving Summer continuing fee 2021:** This year has been truly challenging for all of us. Even though, the board of Governors of University of Manitoba decided on introducing summer fees from 2021, due to pandemic, we understood it will be a nightmare for many students. I along with Bill and Rubel took the initiative to advocate for our students and reached out to the president, VP and FGS to discuss on this.
- **UM COVID-19 Graduate Student Pandemic Relief Fund:** I initiated a student survey to convince the administration and in response to our communications, FGS along with Laurie's office initiated a new relief fund where more that 650 students received 1000\$ each.

- **U-pass Subsidy:** We took the initiative to help the students' bear the additional cost of U-pass. We approached FGS with the proposal of matching fund and they approved our request. Luckily, UMGSA need not contribute towards it and it has become a part of FGS throughout the year.
- **Holiday Hamper 2020:** With the initiative taken by our VP academic, we agreed to increase the number of holiday hamper this year. We have provided 150\$ instead of 100\$ as a hamper.
- **Holiday Hamper 2:** In response to the financial struggle of our graduate students, we introduced Holiday Hamper 2 and reallocated our budget to help the students with highest priority.
- **Potential UMFA Strike:** Along with the pandemic, we were threatened by the potential faculty strike. We have done our best to prevent the strike by taking part in several conversations with UM admins, Faculty, UMSU. We also completed an open letter with the help of our council members to address this issue.
- **Off-campus housing:** I initiated the conversation with UM Administration along with Rubel to help graduate students with guarantor forms for their off-campus housing. The ARC building near chancellor Matheson does not need a guarantor form if students can provide proof of income letter. We are still working on finding more options for our students.
- **MAPSS:** This year we have formed a new organization called Manitoba Alliances of Post Secondary Students (MAPSS) to start provincial advocacy for our students' welfare. We have launched multiple campaigns and met many political leaders to present our recommendations. We took stance against the "Student fees" part of Bill 33 and finally it was amended by the government.
- **Virtual Conference Grant:** With the recommendation from our VP Finance, UMGSA approved registration fees for conference grant. I also communicated with FGS dean and convinced her to open similar grant from FGS.
- **Vice-Provost (Academic Affairs) Search:** I was in the Vice-Provost (Academic Affairs) Search committee to represent graduate students. Finally, Dr. Diane Hiebert-Murphy was appointed as a new VP.

HSGSA President - Akshi Malik

- HSGSA Executive Committee (Chairperson)
- HSGSA Council (Chairperson)
- HSGSA By-laws Committee
- HSGSA Finance Committee
- HSGSA Internal Development and Review Committee (Chair)
- HSGSA Research Days Committee
- International Students Support Group – Bannatyne
- COVID-19 Support Working Group – Rady Faculty of Health Sciences
- FGS Executive Committee
- FGS Council
- UMGSA Executive Committee
- UMGSA Council

HSGSA Report 2020-21

This year HSGSA executives started their tenure remotely starting from the transition period to day-to-day functioning due to COVID-19 pandemic and we worked hard to ensure Health Sciences graduate students stayed connected and well during these unprecedented times.

During the University lockdown period, we sent out student opportunities survey to students to address their needs and inquire about opportunities and events they would be interested in attending virtually. Considering the responses, we held virtual events such as yoga, workout sessions, game night and Zumba. HSGSA VP-External has launched a platform ‘Humans of Rady Faculty’ where students/proff/staff can share their story or thoughts and everything that makes them human. We post these stories on our social media pages and HSGSA website.

We held the 33rd Annual Canadian Health Research Forum (virtual conference) in collaboration with the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences in August. HSGSA VP-Marketing and Events, organized networking sessions for both Manitoba and National participants. We invited guests from MATICS, Manitoba Bioscience Association (BAM), BioTalent Canada and NML Govt. of Canada. The sessions were very successful and we received great feedback from attendees. We got a handful of students to volunteer for the conference who were able to get credit hours towards their co-curricular records and were rewarded gift cards in appreciation. This year we gave out 3 awards valued at \$200 for the poster competitions. Additionally, HSGSA in collaboration with Rady Faculty awarded Dr. Forough Khadem Poster awards in amount of \$400 (one PhD and one Masters) to honor the life, spirit and work of Dr. Khadem, who was an outstanding PhD student in the Department of Immunology.

HSGSA co-hosted the Fall and Winter orientation with FGS, for Bannatyne campus graduate students over Zoom. Newly admitted students had the opportunity to have Q&A after the session. HSGSA in collaboration with UMGSA and FGS committed to provide subsidy for U-pass to graduate students as it was not covered by the University due to the pandemic. This bursary will be available for the all the terms in 2021 as well.

HSGSA is also a part of COVID-19 Support working group at Rady Faculty of Health Sciences, a working group to communicate better and ensure that we are doing our best to support our students during this time, including examining COVID’s impacts on work, learning and family experiences, and exploring ways we might be able to mitigate that impact.

In October, we had new councilors taking over and we structured our internal committees. HSGSA executives and councilors have set up a WhatsApp chat group to increase the communication amongst us and to not miss out on any information important to our grad students. In UofM Career month, HSGSA held two statistics workshops. We invited Data scientist from Germany who gave two sessions on R-basics. Other workshop was given by Post Doc fellow at UofM on GraphPad-Prism, Dr Samantha Pauls. She is now program lead of 'Graduate Professional Development Program and Assistant professor in College of pharmacy. Both workshops were a success and we received constructive feedbacks and were encouraged to hold more statistics workshop in future. We also had distinguished lectureship by Dr. Connie Eaves over zoom in late January, followed by a networking session with the guest, led by VP Academic - Javad.

Another interesting project was launched with the help of ad-hoc committee and is led by Toby Le (VP-External), 'Multi-Disciplinary Health Research Experience' to provide teaching opportunities to graduate students. HSGSA is currently in process of setting up this program and working on details to get it going by Fall-2021.

As 2020-21 term was mostly virtual, HSGSA didn't utilize most of its fund, thus, we decided to give out COVID-19 Pandemic relief fund to help students in need. We had 75 applications, ad-hoc committee shortlisted 17 students. We negotiated partial funding from Associate Dean and RFHS Dean Postl, to give 1000\$ each to 17 students and other 15 students were provided with 170\$ superstore gift card.

HSGSA had a very competitive election for the new term. All winners were ratified by the council and four execs had been re-elected. Due to personal reasons, ratified VPME can't continue as VPME. Thus, HSGSA will have by-elections in coming weeks. Until then, VPME responsibilities will be shared amongst other execs.

HSGSA has many exciting projects lined up for the coming year and execs are motivated to serve their graduate student community. We are committed to support students financially, emotionally and professionally to complement their graduate study experiences.

Akshi Malik
HSGSA President 2020-2021

Vice-President Finance & Administration – Nora Ampomah

Committees

- UMGSA Council
- UMGSA Executive Committee
- UMGSA Bylaws and Policy Committee (Chairperson)
- UMGSA Finance Committee (Chairperson)
- FGS Faculty Council
- FGS Awards Committee
- Senate Committee on Nominations

2020-2021 highlights

- Implementation of virtual Conference Grant program
- Significant changes to the Governance and Operations Manual including the Election and Referendum Policy and Procedure Manual
- Ethical Investment Transition

Vice-President Academic - Rubel C Talukder

Committees

- UMGSA Council
- UMGSA Executive Committee
- UMGSA Awards and Academic Affairs Committee (Chairperson)
- UMSGA Services & Support Committee
- University of Manitoba Senate Executive Committee
- Student Senate Caucus
- UM Senate
- FGS Student Experience Committee
- FGS Executive Committee
- FGS Faculty Council
- Intimate relationship advisory committee
- Falconer emerging researcher award
- Academic integrity advisory committee
- COVID-19 Academic steering committee
- Manitoba Alliance of Post secondary students (MAPSS)
- Responsible conduct of research (RCR) committee
- Senate committee on Academic Dress etc.

2020-2021 Highlights

- **Compassionate grading:** This grading scheme will give students the choice to drop one of their grades so it does not impact their GPA, although it will stay on a student's transcript. It was reported in CBC: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/university-manitoba-alternative-grading-1.5827956>
- **Holiday Hamper 2020:** There are far more applications (8 times) in this year's holiday hamper compared to previous years. Despite this, I convinced my fellow UMGSA executives to increase the hamper from 100 to 150 dollars for every student. Moreover, I have managed to convince UM administration to help some applications which were rejected by UMGSA.
- **UM COVID-19 Graduate Student Pandemic Relief Fund:** Introduced the idea of suspending the continuing fee in Summer-2021 until Summer-2022 and that push ultimately resulted in University Administration creating this new bursary for graduate students.
- **Off-campus housing:** I am involved with UM Administration along with Silvia to explore the possibility of helping new grad students with guarantor forms for their off-campus housing. We found out that the ARC building near chancellor Matheson waives the requirement of guarantor form if students can show proof of income letter like scholarship letter.
- **Awards Committee:** The result of the UMGSA Student and Teaching Award has been published on time this year (by Summer 2020). All the selected the short-listed candidates for student and teaching award were approved by FGS.

Senator 1 - Akeem Azeez

As part of my mandate as a UMGSA senator, I attended almost all the Senate and Student caucus meetings (some were missed due to internet problems). In conjunction with the other senator, I wrote and presented the University senate reports at the UMGSA council meetings. I was also the senator designate for HSGSA, where I attended their council meetings and gave updates on UMGSA activities. I had meeting with the incoming senator so as to help him transition to his role.

I served on the following external Senate and FGS committees:

- Senate Planning and Priority Committee (SPPC)
https://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/governance/sen_committees/508.html
- Senate Committee on Instruction and Evaluation
https://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/governance/sen_committees/502.html
- Senate Committee on Appeal
https://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/governance/sen_committees/493.html
- Senate Committee on Academic Review
https://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/governance/sen_committees/489.html
- FGS Appeal Committee
https://umanitoba.ca/faculties/graduate_studies/governance/appeals_committee.html
- FGS Faculty Council
https://umanitoba.ca/faculties/graduate_studies/governance/930.html

This executive year has been marvelous, and I had great experience serving as a senator at UMGSA. I wish everyone a better 2021-2022.

Akeem Azeez
Senator 1, 2020-2021

Senator 2 – Bill Dowie

As a Senator of the UMGSA I have spent the last, challenging year attending virtual meetings and advocating for students regarding COVID Relief policies and how these would affect our fellow graduate students. Certainly, there are ongoing programs (files that I oversee as a member of UMGSA Executive), and these continue year to year. However, I would strongly suggest that with COVID-19 and the provincial authority / UManitoba lockdown measures have affected all aspects of university administration – and thus graduate student experience.

Notable files that were actively advocated as per Senate and Executives files include:

- The CRSC (Covid Relief Steering Committee) has been meeting with wider participation, including UMGSA since late September 2020. This apex committee (that recommends policy to the President and Provost) meets practically every Thursday morning and listens to information from research, academic, operations, and health & safety stakeholders
- The Sustainability Committee has only one Chair now (John Sinclair of NRI) Together with the Office of Sustainability, the committee tries to find policy and operational changes that can help animate sustainability and regenerative change on all campuses. Graduate students should refer to the U of M 2019-2023 Sustainability Strategy, as well as understanding new infrastructure plans on campus and adjacent – that is the old Southwood Golf Course (UMLands) to the north-west of Fort Garry campus.
- Helped out fellow UMGSA executives navigate the threat of the UMFA strike threat. As a Canadian student, and raised in Manitoba, my perspectives helped complement international student concerns with respect to education disruption.
- Together with the VPSS, we explored opportunities for increasing UMGSA’s outreach with Indigenous Students – both as fellow graduate students. and the Community as a whole. Although this activity is on-going, given the new VP-Indigenous Office with UManitoba, and its new administrative support systems, I am encouraged that we will have some concrete measures within UMGSA that follow-up with recommendations from Truth and Reconciliation and other Indigenous Communities.
- Ongoing help with VPF with respect to general investments and de-carbonization strategies.
- Advocated for students in various meetings on academic policy – especially compassionate grading and online exam processes, of which deficiencies were exacerbated during the still ongoing COVID pandemic.

Additionally, I have attended meetings and advocated for students on the following committees:

- Senate (assessor)
- Senate Executive (assessor)
- Senate Committee on Admissions (SCADM)
- Student Senate Caucus
- COVID Relief Steering Committee (CRSC; Sept 2020+)
- U of M Sustainability Committee

- FGS Student Experience
- FGS Council
- Co-Curricular Record (including exploring micro-credential opportunities)
- Libraries (inactive for 2020-21)
- Ally (out-of-committee support) UMGSA Student Support and Finance

Policies and projects that were affected by COVID-19, although borne out of a tragedy, relationships with Administration and UMSU are the strongest in recent memory. Therefore, UMGSA needs to continue to build on this opportunity to galvanize cross-cutting communication and advocacy – always thinking how to have win-win-win (student, administration, and faculty) scenarios.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Dowie', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

William Dowie, Senator 2, UMGSA

Appendix VII:

UMGSA Budget 2021-2022

11:56 AM

2021-05-19

Accrual Basis

UMGSA
Profit & Loss Budget Overview
May 2021 through April 2022

	<u>May '21 - Apr 22</u>
Income	
4000 · Revenue	
4010 · Membership Fees	420,000.00
4031 · GSA Cash Box Revenue	200.00
4033 · Events Revenue	0.00
4050 · Ad Sales - Student Handbook	1,800.00
4070 · Endowment Fund	117,000.00
4085 · To External Relations Fund	59,000.00
4110 · The Manitoban Student News	24,000.00
4111 · UMFm Radio Fund	20,000.00
4112 · UMREG Fee	9,700.00
4113 · WUSC Fee	9,700.00
4114 · World Wise Fee	2,000.00
4115 · Engineers Without Borders	1,000.00
4120 · Interest on Bank Accts	1,300.00
4130 · Interest - Endowment Fund	54,000.00
	<hr/>
Total 4000 · Revenue	719,700.00
	<hr/>
Total Income	719,700.00
Expense	
5000 · Honorarium/salary/benefits	
5005 · Executive	63,500.00
5006 · Executive Advisor	0.00
5008 · MAPSS Advocate	3,000.00
5010 · HSGSA	33,000.00
5015 · Election Returning Officers	
5015.1 · Chief Returning Officer	1,500.00
5015.2 · Deputy Returning Officer	600.00
	<hr/>
Total 5015 · Election Returning Officers	2,100.00

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2021-05-19

Accrual Basis

UMGSA
Profit & Loss Budget Overview
May 2021 through April 2022

	<u>May '21 - Apr 22</u>
5016 · Exec Review Committee-Chair	1,500.00
5020 · Council Chairperson	500.00
5030 · Employee Pay	106,000.00
5040 · Employer Paid CPP	10,000.00
5045 · Employer Paid EI	4,600.00
5050 · Employer Paid RRSP	
5050.1 · - Office Manager	5,500.00
5050.2 · - GovCommCoordinator	1,600.00
Total 5050 · Employer Paid RRSP	7,100.00
5055 · Employee Health/Dental Premiums	
5055.1 · Healthy Live Allow. - Office Mg	500.00
5055.2 · Healthy Living Allownce-GCC	375.00
5055 · Employee Health/Dental Premiums - Other	4,200.00
Total 5055 · Employee Health/Dental Premiums	5,075.00
5060 · Employee Parking or Bus Pass	1,600.00
Total 5000 · Honorarium/salary/benefits	237,975.00
6005 · HSGSA - Bannatyne Disbursements	22,000.00
6020 · Capital Expense	
6035 · Office Space	500.00
6040 · GSA Lounge Space	0.00
Total 6020 · Capital Expense	500.00
6150 · External Relations Fund	59,000.00
6200 · Council & Committees	
6210 · Hospitality for Committee Mtgs	0.00

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2021-05-19

Accrual Basis

UMGSA
Profit & Loss Budget Overview
May 2021 through April 2022

	<u>May '21 - Apr 22</u>
6215 · Hospitality for Council Mtgs	
6216 · Student Participation Incentive	0.00
6215 · Hospitality for Council Mtgs - Other	1,200.00
	<hr/>
Total 6215 · Hospitality for Council Mtgs	1,200.00
6220 · Pking/Bus/Mileage - Exec- Mtgs	100.00
	<hr/>
Total 6200 · Council & Committees	1,300.00
6325 · Elections	
6321 · Elections	500.00
6322 · Elections - Online Voting	1,200.00
	<hr/>
Total 6325 · Elections	1,700.00
6375 · External meeting Expenses	
6376 · ThinkGrad/CASA/MAPSS/membership	3,000.00
6385 · Other External Mtgs(UM Tickets)	0.00
	<hr/>
Total 6375 · External meeting Expenses	3,000.00
6400 · Fees	
6405 · Bank & E-transfer fees	500.00
6410 · Annual Incorporation Fee	40.00
6415 · Subscriptions - Intuit, ZOOM	750.00
	<hr/>
Total 6400 · Fees	1,290.00

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2021-05-19

Accrual Basis

UMGSA
Profit & Loss Budget Overview
May 2021 through April 2022

	May '21 - Apr 22
6450 · Fees Paid to UMSU	
6451 · UFMF	20,000.00
6452 · UMREG	9,700.00
6453 · WUSC	9,700.00
6454 · World Wise	2,000.00
	41,400.00
Total 6450 · Fees Paid to UMSU	
6460 · Fees Paid to Other Organization	
6461 · Engineers Without Borders	1,000.00
6475 · The Manitoban	24,000.00
	25,000.00
Total 6460 · Fees Paid to Other Organization	
6500 · Grants	
6503 · Departmental Grants	50,000.00
6505 · Graduate Teaching Award	250.00
6510 · Special Projects	2,000.00
6520 · Conference Grants	165,000.00
6522 · Bus Pass Support (during COVID)	0.00
6540 · Emergency Grants	3,000.00
6550 · Holiday Hampers	3,200.00
6552 · COVID Relief Grants	18,000.00
6555 · Food Bank	3,000.00
	244,450.00
Total 6500 · Grants	
6600 · Promotions	
6604 · GSA Marketing & Promotion	500.00
6605 · GSA Designed Items	0.00
6610 · Handbook/Student Planner	0.00
	500.00
Total 6600 · Promotions	

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2021-05-19

Accrual Basis

UMGSA
Profit & Loss Budget Overview
May 2021 through April 2022

	<u>May '21 - Apr 22</u>
66900 · Reconciliation Discrepancies	0.00
6750 · Office Expenses & Supplies	
6754 · Office Coffee & Snack Supplies	200.00
6755 · Stationery and office supplies	200.00
6765 · Quarterly Copies	50.00
6770 · Insurance	4,850.00
6780 · U of M - Monthly Ledger	900.00
6785 · Office Expenses/Supplies-Other	100.00
Total 6750 · Office Expenses & Supplies	6,300.00
6795 · Professional Development	1,000.00
6800 · Programming	
6805 · Orientation	0.00
6810 · Social Events	500.00
6811 · Student Participation Incentive	2,000.00
6812 · Sports Events	0.00
6823 · Student Development Events	3,000.00
6825 · GSA Awards Luncheon	0.00
6830 · Council Orientation Day	0.00
Total 6800 · Programming	5,500.00
6850 · Endowment	
6851 · Endowment Fund	14,585.00
6853 · Front & Centre Campaign-Daycare	30,000.00
Total 6850 · Endowment	44,585.00

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2021-05-19

Accrual Basis

UMGSA
Profit & Loss Budget Overview
May 2021 through April 2022

	<u>May '21 - Apr 22</u>
6925 · Professional Consulting	
6930 · Audit	15,000.00
6935 · Legal	2,500.00
6940 · Computer & Website Maintenance	6,700.00
	<hr/>
Total 6925 · Professional Consulting	24,200.00
	<hr/>
Total Expense	719,700.00
	<hr/>
Net Income	0.00
	<hr/> <hr/>