

---

---

## **UMGSA Annual General Meeting Documents Index Page**

**Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 - 5:30 PM - Zoom**

<b>Index Page for the December 6, 2023, UMGSA Annual General Meeting Documents.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Agenda for the December 6, 2023, UMGSA Annual General Meeting.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Appendix I Minutes of the December 7, 2022, UMGSA AGM.....Separate Attachment</b>	
<b>Appendix II Full Listing of Committee, Council and Board Membership for All Executives .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Appendix III Annual General Meeting UMGSA Committee Reports .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Appendix IV Annual General Meeting HSGSA Report .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Appendix V Annual General Meeting Senate Report .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Appendix VI 2022/2023 End of Term Executive Reports (Past Exec).....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Appendix VII Recommended Bylaws Manual Amendments.....</b>	<b>27</b>

# **UMGSA Annual General Meeting Agenda**

## **Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 - 5:30 PM - Zoom**

### **1. Call to Order**

### **2. Traditional Territories Acknowledgement**

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

### **3. Approval of the Agenda**

**MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA membership approves the agenda for the December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 UMGSA Annual General Meeting as presented.**

### **4. Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of the December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022, UMGSA Annual General Meeting are included as Appendix I to this meeting agenda, in a separate document.

**MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA membership approves the minutes of the December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 UMGSA Annual General Meeting as presented.**

### **5. Introduction of Executive Members and Office Staff**

#### **5.1. Full Listing of Committee, Council and Board Membership for All Executives:**

This listing is included as Appendix II to this meeting agenda.

### **6. Committee Reports**

#### **6.1. Annual General Meeting Committee Reports:** These reports are included as Appendix III to this meeting agenda.

### **7. Health Sciences Graduate Students' Association Report**

#### **7.1. Annual General Meeting HSGSA Report:** This report is included as Appendix IV to this meeting agenda.

### **8. Senate Report**

#### **8.1. Annual General Meeting Senate Report:** This report is included as Appendix V to this meeting agenda.

### **9. New Business**

#### **9.1. External Organization Affiliations:** The UMGSA Bylaws stipulate that our affiliations with external organizations shall be discussed at every General Meeting.

**MOTION: BIRT UMGSA reaffirm the position on external organizations stipulated in the UMGSA bylaws.**

## **9.2 Approval of Bylaws Manual Amendments**

- i. The recommended changes are listed as appendix XII.

**MOTION: BIRT The UMGSA membership approve the recommended amendments to the Bylaws manual as presented.**

## **10. Announcements**

**10.1. UMGSA General Election:** The UMGSA General Election is held each year in the Winter Term to select the UMGSA Executives for the coming academic year. All current graduate students at the University of Manitoba have the right to vote and to run for any UMGSA Executive role. Further details will be sent out by the UMGSA Chief Returning Officer (CRO) directly to all graduate students before the start of the nomination period.

## **11. Adjournment**

## **Appendix II :**

### **Full Listing of Committee, Council, and Board Membership for All Executives**

#### **President – C. Yendt**

- UMGSA Council
- UMGSA Executive Committee
- UMGSA Bylaws and Policy Committee
- UMGSA Finance Committee
- UMGSA Awards Committee
- UMGSA Ad-hoc Committee on Food Insecurity
- FGS Faculty Council
- FGS Executive Committee
- FGS Awards Committee
- Graduate Student Experience Committee
- UMSU Board of Directors
- UMFEM Board of Directors
- UM Senate (Assessor)
- UM Senate Executive Committee
- UM Senate Committee on Nominations
- UM Senate Committee on Rules and Procedures
- UM Board of Governors
- UM Board of Governors – Governance & Board Development Committee
- UM President’s Advisory Committee on the Dean, Extended Education
- UM Strategic Planning Committee
- UM Sexual Violence Policies Advisory Committee (SVAC)
- MAPSS Board of Directors
- MAPSS Executive Committee
- MAPSS Governance Committee

#### **Regular / Ongoing meetings:**

- HSGSA Executive Committee Meeting
- HSGSA / UMGSA President’s Meeting
- UMSU / UMGSA President’s Meeting
- UMGSA / UM President’s Meeting
- UMGSA President / UM VP Students / UM Dean, FGS Meeting
- UMGSA Staff Meeting

## **Vice-President Finance & Administration (VPFA) – Julie Xue**

- UMGSA Council
- UMGSA Executive Committee
- UMGSA Bylaws and Policy Committee (Chairperson)
- UMGSA Finance Committee (Chairperson)
- FGS Faculty Council

## **Vice-President Services & Support (VPSS) – Timilehin Oluwajuyitan**

- UMGSA Council
- UMGSA Executive Committee
- UMGSA Event Committee (Chairperson)
- UMGSA Services and Support Committee (Chairperson)
- UMGSA Finance Committee

## **HSGSA President – Akshi Malik**

- HSGSA Executive Committee (Chairperson)
- HSGSA Council (Chairperson)
- HSGSA By-laws Committee
- HSGSA Finance Committee
- HSGSA Internal Development and Review Committee (Chairperson)
- HSGSA-MSHRF Committee
- UMGSA ad-hoc Food Insecurity Committee
- FGS Executive Committee
- FGS Council
- UMGSA Executive Committee
- UMGSA Council

## **Vice-President Academic (VPA) – Hanieh Rezasoltani**

- UMGSA Awards and Academic Affairs Committee (Chairperson)
- Senate Executive Committee (Senator)
- Student Senate Caucus (Co-Chair)
- UMGSA Executive Committee(member)
- UMGSA support and services committee (member)
- FGS Executive Committee(member)
- FGS Graduate Student Experience Committee(member)
- Senate Committee on Awards(member)
- Senate Committee on Academic Review(member)
- Gradsteps Committee(member)
- UMGSA Council(member)
- FGS Faculty Council(member)

## **Senator 1 – Uche Nwankwo**

- UMGSA Executive Committee
- UMGSA Council
- Strategic Planning Committee
- Senate Committee on Academic Computing
- Senate Committee on Curriculum & Course Changes
- Senate Committee on Appeals
- Student Senate Caucus
- Senate Executive Committee
- Ad-Hoc Committee on Food Insecurity

## **Senator 2 – Armin Aghajani**

- Senate Committee on Admissions
- Senate Committee on Appeals
- Senate Committee on Curriculum and Course Changes
- Senate Committee on Instruction and Evaluation
- Student Senate Caucus
- University Discipline Committee
- HSGSA Council meetings
- UMGSA Council
- UMGSA Executive Committee

## **Appendix III :**

### **Annual General Meeting UMGSA Committee Reports**

#### **Executive Committee**

Chairperson: C. Yendt (President)

The Executive Committee hit the ground running this year, revising and recommending the approved budget for fiscal year 23/24 to the UMGSA Council in May. Following this the committee has heard regular updates around the plans within the organization to account for succession planning. Following the announced retirement of staff, we have undertaken several assessments and consultations to move forward with a plan to adjust the current staff compliment while bridging the anticipated gap in roles, all while addressing immediate capacity needs with the goal of greater long-term sustainability for the association.

- The Executive introduced land acknowledgements at our meetings, which are rotated among members of the executive team at each meeting and are followed by a reflection from the speaking member to further create space for education and understanding.
- Introduced roundtable discussion of issues within each of our portfolios, as a new standing item this year, allowing members to offer up support and help along with guidance to other members of the team where it is needed. Focusing on increasing communication and dialogue within individual portfolios and make sure that we are better using our collective capacities to address the issues each of us are facing. Additional efforts have been discussed around team building so that we keep addressing any issues as they arise and making sure we continue to work well together.
- Brought back weekly office hours for executives (suspended since the beginning of the COVID19 pandemic).
- Creation of the Food Insecurity Ad-hoc Committee
- Ongoing conversations around risk assessment and organizational tolerances.
- Developed a survey and subsequent approach to addressing issues raised by students regarding editing software and access.
- Revised the Holiday Hamper program for 2023.
- Approved the initial application and subsequent issuance of a corporate credit card for the UMGSA.
- Discussed initial phase of role redistribution and capacities available within the UMGSA Executive team.
- Discussed a reallocation of additional funds in the Year-to-Date Budget to support additional gift cards through the Holiday Hamper program and approved the recommendation to be brought forward to Council for approval.
- Developed and launched the UMGSA Campus Forestry Initiative.

Executive Committee Membership:

- Christopher/C. Yendt            President (Chairperson)
- Julie Xue                            Vice-President, Finance and Administration
- Hanieh Rezasoltani            Vice-President, Academic
- Timilehin Oluwajuyitan        Vice-President, Services and Support
- Akshi Malik                        President, Health Sciences Graduate Students' Association
- Uche Nwankwo                    Senator
- Armin Aghajani                  Senator



## **Bylaws and Policy Committee**

Chairperson: Julie Xue (VP Finance and Administration)

The UMGSA Bylaws & Policy Committee approved the establishment of various new committees such as the food insecurity committee to investigate food related issues on campus and selection committee to interview and select the succussing staff in preparation for the staff retirement and discussed plans to set up self-evaluation system for executives to help them perform better in the future.

- Creation of the Food insecurity Ad-hoc Committee
- Discussed plans for the self-evaluation system for UMGSA executives.

### Bylaws and Policy Committee Membership:

- Julie Xue, VP Finance and Administration (Chairperson)
- Christopher Yendt, UMGSA President
- Leena Regi Saleth, HSGSA VP St. Boniface
- Charitha Hansima– May 2023 – September 2023
- Jose Almodovar– May 2023 – September 2023
- Banke Oketola – May – Oct 2023
- Mehraz Sarker – July 2023
- Alejandra Diabb – May – Oct 2023
- Mohadeseh Rostami Samak – May – Sep 2023
- Salmah Quadri – Oct 2023
- Rajbir Kaur - Oct 2023
- Sunday Olakanmi – Oct 2023
- Ravinder Singh – Oct 2023
- Helena Goldman – Oct 2023

## Finance Committee

Chairperson: Julie Xue (VP Finance and Administration)

The UMGSA Finance Committee has been hard at work at reviewing and approving conference grants and special project grants, particularly dedicating large amount of time holding biweekly meetings during summer term. The main results include:

- Reviewed and approved 292 conference grants
- Reviewed and approved several special project grants

Below is a dissemination of current grant-related expenditures compared to the 2022/2023 and 2021/2022 Executive terms.

	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	
	May 1 – April 30	May 1 – April 30	May 1 – Oct 31	2023/2024 Budget
	Distributed (\$)	Distributed (\$)	Distributed (\$)	Budgeted (\$)
Conference Grants	21,759.85	\$91,702.03	\$85,482.58	\$120,000.00
Departmental Grants	41,020.50	\$40,182.50	Payment will be made Dec or Jan	\$57,000.00
Special Project Grants	0	\$1,250.00 (includes MHRE)	\$500.00	\$3,000.00
<b>Total</b>	\$62,780.35	\$133,134.53	\$85,982.58	\$180,000.00

### Bylaws and Policy Committee Membership:

- Julie Xue, VP Finance and Administration (Chairperson)
- Christopher Yendt, UMGSA President
- Timilehin Oluwajuyitan, UMGSA VP Service
- Lauren MacGowan, HSGSA VP St. Boniface
- Reegan McCheyne, May – Oct 2023
- Amirmasoud Amirkabiri, June 2023
- Zhe Shen, July 2023
- Nicole Loeb, May – September 2023
- Fowzia Ahmed, May – Aug 2023
- Taiwo Funmilola Mary, May – Oct 2023
- Shantanu Debbarman, July – Oct 2023
- Sara La Valley, May – Oct 2023

## Awards Committee

Chairperson: Hanieh Rezasoltani (VP Academic)

The UMGSA Award Committee has been hard at work since May 2023 till now. This committee was responsible for reviewing applications of UMGSA Students, Teaching Award and Holiday Hamper Program applications. Here are some of the highlights from this year's Committee:

- Approval of the method for reviewing awards applications.
- Reviewing awards applications and documents.
- Announce and finalize award winners.
- Update the awards applications for next year and revise the documents and application format in 2024.
- Updated and approved the application form for the Holiday Hamper Program.
- Reviewing of Holiday Hamper Program applications.

### UMGSA Awards and Academic Affairs Committee Membership:

- Hanieh Rezasoltani, VP Academic (Chairperson)
- Christopher Yendt, President UMGSA
- Timilehin Oluwajuyitan, VP Services & Support UMGSA
- Leena Regi Saleth, VP St. Boniface HSGSA
- Shahin Shabanipour, VP Academic HSGSA
- Alexander Ridout
- Amanjeet Singh
- Anuruddika Hetti Hewage
- Asma Sultana
- Athalia Voisin
- Ayesha sultana
- Eefa Khan
- Elizabeth Ugwuegbulam
- Emily Mitchell
- Emmanuel Uzoh
- Farinaz Jonidi shariatzadeh
- Fatemeh Gorgannejad
- Fati Bio Abdul-Salam
- Janine Hansen
- Joanna Candas
- Mohammad Rezaeimybodi
- Mojtaba Mohammadnejad Shourkaei
- Nnedinso Aguwa
- Nura Safa
- Omid Babazadeh

- Parinaz Jonidi shariatzadeh
- Sadhana Rithi Naryananan Sudhakar
- Sara Shirazi
- Sharmin Afrose
- Shazaib Ahsan
- Victor Babarinde

## Events Committee

Chairperson: Timilehin Oluwajuyitan (VP Service and Support)

The UMGSA Event Committee has been hard at work this year and has further organized series of events both academic and social workshops/ to foster and ease the learning environment of graduate student at the University. Here are some of the highlights from this year's Committee:

- The committee effectively participates in incorporation with faculty of graduate studies to organize this year's orientation lecture on September August 30th, 2023, in Fort Garry campus and September 1st at Bannatyne Campus.
- The committee also organize a UMGSA social event/ pizza day meet and greet for both campuses at UMGSA lounge on Friday September 13th, 2023, with over 280 graduate students in attendance.
- The committee also organize a Mental health workshop on Tuesday 10th October 2023 to celebrate the world mental health day. Lecture and strategies were given to graduate students on how to manage stress and graduate school by David Ness the director of student counseling center, University of Manitoba.
- The committee also organize a social event to mark the Halloween season tagged "UMGSA Pumpkin carving competition on Monday 30th October 2023 with the first winner going home with \$50 gift card and the second and third winner going home \$25 gift cards each.
- The committee is also intalk with the VP finance and VP academic in creating a better platform and Holiday hamper evaluation scheme to give graduate students free hamper gift for the holiday season in December 2023.
- The committee is also in discussion with the Canada Revenue Agency for organizing a Tax filling workshop for all graduate student who are interested in March 2024.
- Consent culture training

### Event Committee Membership:

- Timilehin, VP Service and Support (Chairperson)
- Mudra Dave - Faculty of Kin Rec Mgmt.
- Samuel Akinola – HSGSA
- Sasha Kullman - Faculty of Kin Rec Management
- Homa Motavallian
- Marzieh Esmaeilzadeh Claudia Quilesfogel-Esparza
- Farinaz Jonidi Shariatzadeh- Biomedical Engineering
- Chamali Kodikara-Food and Human Nutritional Sciences

## **Services and Support Committee**

Chairperson: Timilehin Oluwajuyitan (VP Service and Support)

The UMGSA Event Committee has been hard at work this year and has further organized series of events both academic and social workshops/ to foster and ease the learning environment of graduate student at the University. Here are some of the highlights from this year's Committee:

- The committee and council members of the committee effectively participate in consent culture training.
- The committee is also intalk with the VP finance and VP academic in creating a better platform and Holiday hamper evaluation scheme to give graduate students free hamper gift for the holiday season in December 2023.

### Event Committee Membership:

- Timilehin, VP Service and Support (Chairperson)
- Hanieh Rezasoltani (VPA)
- Jamie Sookhoo (HSGSA VP-External)
- Krista Shofstall (Biological Sciences)
- Bahareh Taghavi Shahraki (Chemistry)
- Sakshi Tyagi (English)
- Tara Saeidi (Civil Engineering)
- Tekla Cunningham (Earth Sciences)

## **Executive Review Committee**

Co-chairs: Chamali Kodikara & Thilini Dissanayake

The UMGSA Executive Review (ERC), which conducts semi-annual reviews of the UMGSA Executive, met on June 2023. On June 19th, 2023 the committee appointed Chamali Kodikara and Thilini Dissanayake as the Co-Chairs of the ERC. The ERC is planning to submit its first review of the current UMGSA Executives at the November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 Council Meeting.

### Executive Review Committee Membership:

- Chamali Kodikara (Co-Chairperson)
- Thilini Dissanayake (Co-Chairperson)
- Brydyn Mac Intyre
- Seyed Mojtaba Hosseini
- Ali Nasr Esfahani
- Alejandra Coronel Mengelle

## **Appendix IV :**

### **Annual General Meeting HSGSA Report**

In May, the HSGSA's new executive team took office. The transition period for all team members was smooth and each member had started working towards their respective roles. In consultation with previous execs, HSGSA budget for 2023-24 was presented to council and was approved in the May Council meeting. HSGSA new signing authorities (President, VP Internal, and VP Marketing and Events) were set up with BMO-HSGSA banking partner. HSGSA also continued looking into Assiniboine Credit Union as a second banking option to allow for easier banking between HSGSA and students. Preparation also immediately started for the first annual Manitoba Student Health Research Forum (MSHRF).

In June, the 1st Annual MSHRF was organized in collaboration with the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences. HSGSA was in charge of registration/information booths and networking sessions. A student social evening for ~30 students from various universities in Manitoba was hosted at Tavern United downtown and students had the opportunity to network. All MSHRF events were well received and students had many opportunities to network. All of this was possible because of over 15 volunteers and execs' team work. HSGSA also gave out 9 poster awards for \$200 each; 5 Graduate Student Merit Awards (GSMA); 3 Graduate Student Excellence Awards (GSEA) and two Forough Khadem Memorial Awards for 1000\$ each (one masters and one PhD) during the MSHRF awards ceremony. The HSGSA Ed-Kroger Mentorship Award 2023 was presented to Dr. Sherif Eltonsy, at the MSHRF awards ceremony. The HSGSA President also meets with the UMGSA President monthly with intentions of improving the relationship between HSGSA and UMGSA.

In August, the HSGSA began planning our summer event which happened in August. HSGSA hosted a summer event at Birds' Hill Park. The event was attended by over 30 graduate students and was well received. HSGSA also presented at UMGSA - FGS Orientation at Fort Garry campus.

In September, HSGSA - FGS organized the Fall orientation at the Bannatyne campus. HSGSA was in-charge of food, the HSGSA presentation and gave out several tshirts to students in attendance who asked questions. Orientation was attended by ~50 graduate students who found it informative. HSGSA also had new councilors taking over and we structured our internal committees. We also started having MHRE meetings again, reinstating Camilla Chacon as MHRE Director and starting a new cycle of MHRE interviews. HSGSA has received funding for the project from FGS, RFHS Associate Dean's office, SSA and UMGSA. The funding for the project will be used to pay the honorarium for returning MHRE Director (Camila Chacon), pay the graduate students (instructors) and to provide study resources to undergraduate students (trainees). The HSGSA's Parental Leave Bursary was also approved for funding. The first meeting of the Food Insecurity Committee was in September where the HSGSA VP-E was elected the chair.



HSGSA VP StBoniface started a multicultural event series at the St Boniface hospital research Centre (SBRC) with the support of other grad students at SBRC. We had the first event as Chinese Moon festival which was very well attended by all staff members and students at SBRC. Next event will be in November to showcase the Diwali festival. HSGSA also initiated StB hospital gym fee bursary to partially subsidize gym fee for grad students. Grad students have access to the gym at Bannatyne, however, they are not able to travel to other campuses just to access the gym. This subsidy will provide support to students who have bought SBRC gym membership during the fall and winter term.

In October, HSGSA hosted a Halloween event with pizza and a costume party. The event was well attended and students had fun. At the end of October, we held the Dr. Patrick Choy Distinguished Lectureship which was presented by Dr. Brad Nelson from UBC. This event was very well attended and had excellent student participation. The UMGSA Food Insecurity Committee

In the coming months of this year's term, HSGSA will hold its first multicultural evening on Nov 25th to showcase different cultures at the campus, annual HSGSA Gala and many more projects. HSGSA, with many exciting projects, is committed to support students financially, socially and professionally to complement their graduate student life.

Akshi Malik  
HSGSA President 2023-24

## **Appendix V :**

### **Annual General Meeting Senate Report**

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

Throughout the terms of the current UMGSA and HSGSA Senators, from May 1st to November 20th, the University of Manitoba Senate has consistently seen the representation of graduate student interests in all its meetings. In collaboration with UMSU student senators, the Student Senate Caucus Meeting served as a platform to deliberate on matters pertinent to both undergraduate and graduate students. Any points requiring further discussion were promptly communicated to the secretary of The University Senate Committee in advance of the Senate Meeting. On the Senate floor, such matters were explored in depth, justifications were requested when necessary, and the Senate Members cast their votes. Each Senate Sub-committee included at least one Graduate Senator, allowing us to provide our perspectives and influence the development of policies before they were presented to the Senate.

#### **Highlights of Advocacy and Representation:**

- Orchestrating a survey to gauge student needs concerning essential software resources.
- Crafting UMGSA statements in support of the international 'Women, Life, Freedom' movement initiated by Iranian women.
- Develop a comprehensive proposal for provincial and governmental representatives, detailing the student body's expectations and the issues they anticipate the government will tackle.
- Engaging with the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and the University President to relay student financial worries, encompassing costs related to food, housing, and tuition fees.
- Taking action on the delays faced by students at the advocacy office and conveying these issues to the FGS office.

## **Appendix VI:**

# **UMGSA Executive End of Term Annual Reports May 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 - April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**UMGSA President – Silvia Sekander**

### **Committees**

- UMGSA Council
- UMGSA Executive Committee (Chairperson)
- UMGSA Bylaws and Policy Committee
- UMGSA Finance Committee
- UMGSA Awards Committee
- Senate Committee
- UofM Board of Governors
- UofM Board of Governors Governance and Nomination Committee
- FGS Graduate Student Experience Committee
- UofM Student Experience Committee
- UofM Budget Advisory Committee
- UofM Organizational Safety and Health Advisory Committee
- Selection Committee

### **2022-2023 Highlights**

- **ELC Subsidy:** We have run the English Language Center Subsidy program partnering with FGS for one year. This year we were successful in convincing VP students' office to partner with us in the program. We increased the number of students receiving the subsidy from 120 to 250 this year. FGS and VP students' office agreed to make a contract for continuing this program for upcoming 5 years. We might need to revise the number of subsidies in future years.
- **Annual Budget:** I was actively involved in reviewing and preparing the final draft of our UMGSA annual budget. I made specific budget lines to support mental health initiatives of our graduate students. Our VPSS executed that plan of distributing the funds to the students with the help of the committee members. We increased the budget for Holiday hamper to support 300+ graduate students.
- **Iran Crisis:** I along with my team supported the Iranian students during the crisis. We released a letter of support from UMGSA via email. I personally communicated with the Iranian student's association (UMISA) which is a registered student club under UMGSA. I advocated for the delaying of the tuition deadline for the students and the admins agreed to change the deadline. Finally, because of our continued advocacy, they have removed the penalty for the late tuition payment for Iranian students. With our senator Bill, we

crafted a motion from UMGSA executives and passed it from UMGSA council. With the support of that motion, I demanded a letter of support from the admins for our students and students received that letter immediately after my meeting. I also advocated to the UMFA president to send a letter to the members of UMFA to support the students suffering due to the crisis. I am still in touch with UMISA, and our FGS dean Kelley has finalized a meeting to listen to the concerns from UMISA. I also attended the event organized from the Iranian community to support our students.

- **MHRE Project Funding:** I advocated for the continuous funding for the multidisciplinary health research experience program initiated by HSGSA. We approved a contribution from UMGSA towards the project.
- **Networking:** I maintain important networking with administration and other organizations. I regularly meet with the FGS dean and Vice provost students to discuss important issues in student life. I also meet with UMSU president and discuss important collaborations. I attend several programs to maintain good relationships with different groups and associations in the University. This year I joined the inauguration program of the UofM mosque, fireside chats with honorary degree recipients, opening of Multifaith center, Errol black chair fundraising invitation from UMFA, convocation, rally by UMISA etc.
- **GSA Forestry Initiative:** Our senator Uche has taken a forestry initiative to make our campus greener. I facilitated a meeting with the admins for their approval on the project and was involved in the project to figure out next steps for the smooth execution of the initiative. UMGSA council decided to continue the project in the upcoming term.
- **Fall Orientation:** I was involved in the planning and execution phase of the fall orientation for our students from FGS and International center. With the help of our governance and communication coordinator, I and Judy made it a successful event.
- **Fall Convocation:** I participated in the fall convocation this year and presented the UMGSA teaching award to the winner.
- **Legal Consultation:** I always keep in touch with our lawyer and make sure proper legal consultation is done whenever needed.
- **Student Advocacy:** I regularly meet with FGS dean and VP students to convey the concerns of our graduate students. This year our VPSS has initiated a student survey and I addressed all the important concerns raised by our students to the admins.
- **Food Poverty Initiative:** Our senator Uche took an initiative to investigate the pricing of food at the campus. With help of our VPSS and GCC, we sent a survey out to our graduate students. I presented the survey results to the admins for their consideration.

- **Science Students Initiative:** Students from Science took initiatives to send surveys to their students regarding the financial struggles. I facilitated a meeting of science GSA with the UMGSA councillors. I presented the results of their survey to the admins and discussed strategies with the UMGSA executives.
- **Transition:** I facilitated important meetings with the upcoming president to make a smooth transition.
- **Mental Health Workshop:** We planned a mental health workshop for the GSA executives in consultation with David Ness.

## **HSGSA President – Jamie Sookhoo**

- HSGSA Executive Committee (Chairperson)
- HSGSA Council (Chairperson)
- HSGSA By-laws Committee
- HSGSA Finance Committee
- HSGSA Internal Development and Review Committee (Chair)
- HSGSA Events Committee
- HSGSA MHRE Project Ad-hoc committee
- FGS Executive Committee
- FGS Council
- UMGSA Executive Committee
- UMGSA Council

### **HSGSA Report 2022-23**

In May 2022, the HSGSA's new executive team took office. The transition period for all team members was smooth and each member had started working in their respective roles. In consultation with previous execs, the HSGSA budget for 2022-23 was presented to council and was approved in the May Council meeting. The HSGSA new signing authorities (President, VP Internal, and VP Marketing and Events) were set up with BMO without any delay. HSGSA held 1-3 exec meetings every month and the team remained in constant communication through a chat group. All execs performed their duties in a timely and organised manner. All internal committees met as per the By-laws requirements and maintained attendance as well as minutes of their meetings. HSGSA opened a new bank account this year for easy Interac transactions after consultation with the UMGSA Office manager, different banks, and the HSGSA Council. HSGSA also received \$5000 funding from Dr. Hope Anderson's office. This extra budget is to be used for social events, special projects and extended education for graduate students. This budget's fiscal term will be April 2023-March 2024.

**HSGSA Events:** In June, the 35th Annual Canadian Health Research forum (CSHRF) was organised in collaboration with the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences. HSGSA was in charge of registration/information booths, networking sessions, student tours, reception events and a student banquet as well. The student reception for ~100 Manitoba and national students was hosted at Tavern United downtown and students had the opportunity to network with fellow students from different universities across Canada. We organised many different student tours: Legislative building, the Mint, Fortwhyte alive and Fort Gibraltar as well as a virtual tour of the National Microbiology Lab. The student banquet was organised for over 120 students at the Millenium centre with a seated dinner, DJ and photobooth. All events were well received and students had many opportunities to network. HSGSA also planned a summer event - pool party and BBQ at Kildonan outdoor pool and park in August. The pool party was attended by over 30 students and guests. HSGSA also had a very successful Halloween event with pizza, drinks, a movie and prizes and 50+ students attended. HSGSA also planned a holiday event in December. We had a gingerbread house making competition and pizza dinner. The event was attended by 30+ students

and everyone had a great time. In March, HSGSA organised a “dance away your stress” Zumba session. HSGSA gave out goodies and healthy snacks after the Zumba, HSGSA VP Academic has also made a request at Bannatyne gym to have evening zumba classes more often, so students can attend them after their lab schedule. The biggest event of this term was HSGSA Winter Gala in April. This event was attended by over 100 students and guests at the Fort Garry Hotel ballroom and the ticket included a 3-course meal, DJ, Photographer and open bar. The event was a super hit and many students requested HSGSA execs to have such an event yearly. All of this was possible because of over 15 volunteers, councillors, and execs’ team work throughout the year.

**Students support and services:** The Fall orientation was on September 1<sup>st</sup> for the Bannatyne Campus students and was co-hosted between HSGSA and FGS. It was in person and went smoothly. HSGSA presented at the Community Health Sciences Department Orientation as well. Newly admitted students had the opportunity to have Q&A after each session in both orientation events. HSGSA is currently working with the RFHS Associate Dean’s office for the transition of CSHRF to another university and will now host Manitoba Research Days in June 2023. HSGSA is involved in the planning of students’ social activities as well as graduate professional development workshops during research days in June 2023. HSGSA execs also met with Dean Nickerson and Associate Dean Dr. Hope Anderson to discuss graduate students’ needs at RFHS as well as spoke about the transition of Graduate Nursing Students’ Association (GNSA) to the HSGSA portfolio. HSGSA execs met with UMGSA execs to present the statistics on HSGSA representation in UMGSA council. Similar concerns have been put forward in the UMGSA by-laws committee as well. Briefly, the UMGSA council agendas and discussion points differ from HSGSA council, however, they affect all HSGSA students equally and we only have one vote/one representative in their decisions that affect us as well. The HSGSA council whole-heartedly supported the idea of having all HSGSA execs on the UMGSA council. Keeping the HSGSA Council’s suggestions, HSGSA sent the edits to UMGSA By-laws and executive committee. HSGSA has also requested joint By-laws committee meetings on multiple occasions and HSGSA is still waiting on a response. HSGSA VP-StB has been in contact with St Boniface research centre Director Dr. Czubryt, to advocate for having a graduate students’ lounge as currently, minimum to no student space is available at the St B campus for students to relax, study, and socialise. HSGSA VP Academic organised two workshops for the graduate students: International opportunities workshop and a virtual poster presentation workshop. HSGSA also monetarily supported the Larry Screening at Bannatyne campus organised by the community health sciences department. Rady Faculty hosted an open house at Bannatyne campus and HSGSA members provided support to the Vice-Dean office at the registration booth, MC’d the ceremony and organised lunch.

**HSGSA Council:** The first HSGSA Council Meeting for the term was held on October 3<sup>rd</sup> to give Departments more time to elect new councillors. We structured internal committees and an introduction was given of each committee for the incoming committee members to understand their role. New councillors from all the departments took over and signed up for two internal committees. All the HSGSA councillors did an excellent job by being active in all the meetings and in their respective committees. The Graduate Nursing Students’ Association also made a major request to move from being under UMGSA to HSGSA council where they believe they are more suited. This process was discussed and motion was approved by the HSGSA Council and the next

step is to be processed by the UMGSA. HSGSA Council was part of every decision making from finances to the by-laws changes as well as other concerns.

**HSGSA Awards:** In June 2022, HSGSA gave out 4 poster awards for \$200 each and two Forough Khadem Memorial Awards for \$1000 each (one masters and one PhD) during the CSHRF awards ceremony. The HSGSA Ed-Kroger Mentorship Award 2022 was presented to Dr. Meghan Azad at the CSHRF awards ceremony. HSGSA is also giving out Graduate Student excellence awards this year to both PhD and Masters students who have excelled in both research and leadership. HSGSA has received 50 applications this year and thus, the number of awards have been increased from 2 awards to 6 awards this year. These awards will be presented at the MSHRF Awards ceremony with other awards. HSGSA also sent out the call for extended education subsidy applications. This subsidy is to be offered to student applicants that can illustrate the merits and impact of their requested training. The bursary is limited to \$200 per student, until the funds are exhausted.

**The MHRE (Multi-Disciplinary Health Research Experience)** program continued for this term as well. The MHRE project received \$2000 funding from Science Students' Association (SSA), \$1500 from the UMGSA and \$1000 from FGS to run the program. These funds were used to provide a \$100 honorarium to 11 graduate students, provide teaching resources and to pay MHRE Director honorarium. The MHRE committee this year was responsible for Director's interviews and selection process, instructors interviews and selection as well as worked together for other requirements.

**HSGSA Annual General Meeting 2022-23** was held in February and major changes in the By-laws and procedures manual were presented and then approved. HSGSA members suggested compiling a document that would include stipends from different departments. These documents were not readily available to the execs and thus, councillors from different departments were asked to provide this information so that execs can compile it accordingly.

**HSGSA IDRC Reviews** were done in the months of November and April. The IDRC Chair has presented the findings to the council and has mentioned the commitment and good work of all the candidates. Self-peer review was combined and sent to all executives mentioning the improvement suggestions.

Jamie Sookhoo  
HSGSA President 2022-23



## **Vice-President Finance & Administration – Rubel Chandra Talukder**

### **Committees:**

- UMGSA Bylaws and Policy Committee (Chairperson)
- UMGSA Finance Committee (Chairperson)
- UMGSA Executive Committee
- UMGSA Council
- FGS Faculty Council
- FGS Awards Committee
- Falconer Rh Emerging Researcher Awards Committee

### **Recommendations:**

- Six HSGSA Council members (not HSGSA Executives) might be considered as the voting member of UMGSA Council

### **2022-2023 Highlights:**

- Successfully supported a lot of applications for Conference grant
- Successfully supported a lot of students for Holiday Hamper
- Significant revisions to the Governance and Operations Manual
- Major updates to the Election and Referendum Manual

## **Vice-President Academic – AKM Monsurul Alam**

### **Committees:**

- UMGSA Council
- HSGSA Council
- FGS Faculty Council
- FGS Student Experience
- Senate Committee on University Research (SCUR)
- Senate Committee on Academic (SCOA)
- Academic Integrity Advisory Committee
- FGS Dean Search Committee
- Senate Committee on Appeals
- FGS Appeal Committee

I always try to connect with students in order to find out graduate student interests and present them to the university administration. I carefully review the FGS and senate meeting agendas and minutes and identify the best discussions related to graduate studies and share with students. As a VP academic, one the major task was to run the UMGSA awards competition which I did successfully, and three additional awards are also provided this year. I tried to be flexible in reviewing UMGSA emergency grant and so far, a good number of applications has been approved. This year the UMGSA holiday Hamper program also successfully finished. My goal was to support maximum number of student and this year a record number of students received the Hamper. Also, I am regularly participated many FGS and senate committees and raised issues that students face time to time.

### **Summary of Activities:**

- Successfully completed UMGSA awards competition. Good number of UMGSA student awards are provided.
- Successfully completed UMGSA Holiday hamper program and around 300 students have received the hamper.
- Approved a good number of UMGSA emergency grant.
- Charing UMGSA awards and academic affairs committee.
- Provided inspersion support to student who are suffering problems such as conflicts with supervisor, conflict with university administration and facing financial issues.
- Attended senate and senate caucus meetings, UMGSA executive and council meetings.

- Analyzed Senate meeting agendas and minutes and, identify the important discussions that are beneficial for graduate student.
- Also, I regularly served in many Senates and FGS committees.

## **Vice-President Services & Support – Marianne Hajiloo**

- Yet to be received.

## **Senator 1 – Uche Nwankwo**

As UMGSA Senator, I actively participated in several council and Senate Executive Committee meetings and reviewed meeting documents to enable me to engage in discussions. I was very passionate and compassionate about issues affecting graduate students. Based on my experience and skills, I advocated for graduate students and empathized with those who experienced difficulties. Strategically and innovatively, I initiated some projects, engaged in collaborative consultations with UMSU Executives in an effort to strengthen alliance between the UMGSA and UMSU for a better and focused synergetic service for the entire students. I was quick to step in or volunteer my resources for a timely intervention on issues that improved student experience. I participated in several student advocacy engagements, including rallies, and I supported the Iranian students during crisis moments.

### **Committees:**

- Strategic Planning Committee
- UMGSA Council
- UMGSA Executive Committee
- UMGSA Representative On HSGSA
- FGS Student Experience
- Senate Committee on Curriculum and Course Changes
- Senate Committee on Academic Computing
- Senate Committee on Admission
- Senate Committee on Appeals

### **Highlights:**

- UMGSA Campus Forestry Initiative aimed at planting more trees at the University campuses in tandem with the University's strategic commitment to climate change mitigation.
- Food poverty survey to document menu cost of food and beverages at the campuses and the difficulties faced by students pertaining to food poverty.
- Strategic collaboration and consultation with UMSU executives.
- Collaboration with Donour Relations to create crowdfunding site for the UMGSA – CFI.
- Graduate Students engagement meeting session with the Strategic Planning Committee.
- African Graduate Student Group formation to increase participation and representation.
- Meaningful contributions to the Strategic Planning Committee meetings especially as touching issues affecting graduate students.
- Engaged in several student advocacy activities.

## Recommendations:

- Students should be treated more with empathy and compassion without compromising standards or integrity. Students are going through a lot, especially international students. It is important to recognize that there is life after the university education. A student today, can become an educator tomorrow. Mutual relationship borne out of respect and integrity should be emphasized.
- Graduate studies should be made more attractive and affordable, investment in education is critical for sustainable economic growth. The University should be proactively engaged in advocacy with the government to contribute to making education affordable, attractive, and competitive.
- Committed efforts and determination to improve synergetic collaboration and cooperation between UMGSA and UMSU to provide more responsive and proactive service to the entire UM students.
- Healthcare coverage for all students (international students) should be revisited and restored. There are other ways to make the plan competitive and affordable without putting international students at risk.
- Periodic interactive session between graduate students and University Admis, not just for the period of the Strategic Planning Committee sessions.
- Periodic train the trainer workshop for faculty members to improve student and mentor. relationship This will contribute to reducing conflicts that often result to appeals and disciplinary actions.
- Cost of food and beverages are very high at the campuses, and options are limited especially at the Bannatyne campus, this should be investigated.
- More flexible admission processes to reflect peculiarities in different countries, without compromising quality and ethical standards.
- Outdoor living activities to promote healthy living.
- UMGSA representation in HSGSA Council to be given the right to contribute to decision making/vote on issues just like HSGAS reps in the UMGSA enjoys same privileges.
- Active engagement and commitment to projects that can reduce negative impacts of climate change, such as tree planting initiatives

## **Senator 2 – Bill Dowie**

- Yet to be received.

## **Appendix VII:**

### **Recommended Bylaws Manual Amendments**

- i. The following changes were presented and approved by the UMGSA & HSGSA Bylaws & Policy Committees.

#### **ARTICLE I: DEFINITIONS**

1. Unless otherwise specified, the following definitions apply to these Bylaws and all other UMGSA documents:
  - a. 'UMGSA' and 'Association' refers to the University of Manitoba Graduate Students' Association.
  - b. 'Member' means a member of the UMGSA.
  - c. 'Council' means the Council of the UMGSA.
  - d. 'Executive' means any member of the UMGSA Executive.
  - e. 'University' means the University of Manitoba.
  - f. 'HSGSA' means the Health Sciences Graduate Students' Association, which is a subset organization of the UMGSA representing students in the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences.

#### **Membership of Council**

1. The UMGSA Council shall consist of the UMGSA Executive, one graduate student from each department of the University with a graduate program, and non-voting members as specified in the UMGSA Governance and Operations Manual.
2. Council members representing departments must be chosen democratically on a regular annual term by their departmental membership.
3. Each council member is entitled to one vote at meetings of the UMGSA Council.
4. Council membership shall be suspended if the councillor has three consecutive absences from UMGSA Council meetings, without submitting regrets or a proxy. The UMGSA Office shall make all reasonable efforts to inform the associated departmental students' association of the suspension, and that the department has the right to choose another councillor for the position.
5. Should a Council member graduate, drop out or be suspended, the UMGSA Office shall make all reasonable efforts to inform the associated departmental students' association of the vacancy, and that the department has the right to choose another councillor for the position.
6. Councillor's representing departments who are also represented by the HSGSA shall normally be students not currently involved with the HSGSA Council. In instances where those departments represented by the HSGSA would otherwise go unrepresented, due to a lack of interest within the broader graduate student population of the HSGSA, members of the HSGSA Council from those unrepresented programs may be nominated by the HSGSA to fill those vacancies on the UMGSA Council.



## Membership of the UMGSA Executive

7. Members of the Executive are:
  - a. President & Senator
  - b. Vice-President, Finance and Administration
  - c. Vice-President, Services and Support
  - d. Vice-President, Academic & Senator
  - e. Vice-President, Health Sciences (The HSGSA President or designate) (representing students at the Bannatyne Campus and the Saint Boniface Research Centre)
  - f. Vice-President, External and Senator
8. The total number of Senators representing Graduate Studies, shall be determined in accordance with the Bylaws of the Senate of the University of Manitoba.
9. Members of the Executive are chosen by annual general election according to the UMGSA Election and Referendum Manual, except for the Vice-President, Health Sciences who is elected according to the HSGSA Elections Policy and Procedure Manual and nominated by the incoming HSGSA Executive Committee to fulfil the role in the upcoming term of the UMGSA Executive.
10. Any member of the UMGSA may run for any UMGSA Executive position, except the position of Vice-President, Health Sciences, which can only be filled by a member of the HSGSA Executive.
11. An executive who graduates during their term in office is allowed to remain in their position until the end of that term, providing they fulfill their duties specified in the UMGSA Governance and Operations Manual.
12. An executive who drops out of their program or resigns is not allowed to stay in office. The executive team will:
  - a. Carry the responsibilities until a replacement is found.
  - b. Send recommendations to Council for a vote to fill that position.
13. A member of the UMGSA Executive may be removed from their position by a majority vote of the UMGSA Council in the following cases:
  - a. Conviction for an indictable offence.
  - b. Abuse or misappropriation of finances, resources or private information belonging to the UMGSA.
  - c. Misrepresentation of the UMGSA in legal or public matters.
  - d. Expulsion from the Executive's program or the University.
  - e. Any abuse of a fellow Executive, Council member, or other individual.
  - f. Failure to perform duties essential to their Executive position.

## ARTICLE VI: EXTERNAL ORGANIZATION AFFILIATIONS

1. The general membership of the UMGSA shall discuss affiliations with external organizations at each General Meeting.
2. The UMGSA is not a member of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), the Canadian Federation of Students - Services (CFS-S), or the Canadian Federation of Students - Manitoba (CFS-MB), herein referred to as CFS/-S/-MB, and in that regard if and when necessary, it shall dispute all statements, claims, indications and suggestions of membership (full or otherwise) in the CFS/-S/-MB.
3. The UMGSA shall continue to collect and hold fees in lieu of CFS/-S/-MB membership in a contingency fund, named the External Relations Fund, until such time that the membership status is officially conceded, in writing, between the legal counsels of the CFS/-S/-MB and the UMGSA, or determined by courts, whichever is sooner.
4. Fees that are collected in lieu of membership in the CFS/-S/-MB may not be used toward the costs associated with the process of defending the position of the UMGSA regarding membership in the CFS/-S/-MB. The fee must be collected and remain unspent until such time that the membership status is officially conceded, in writing, between the legal counsels of the CFS/-S/-MB and the UMGSA, or determined by courts, whichever is sooner.

5. **Depending on the nature of the resolution regarding the** issue of membership in the CFS/-S/-MB, the UMGSA membership shall determine the use of all remaining fees collected from UMGSA members and held in the External Relations Fund. That determination will take place at the first UMGSA General Meeting following the legal resolution of the membership status of the UMGSA.