
UMGSA Council Meeting Documents Index Page

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

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UMGSA Council Meeting Agenda

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

1. Call to Order

2. Traditional Territories Acknowledgement

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

3. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council approves the agenda for the November 22nd, 2023, UMGSA Council Meeting as presented.

4. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the October 25th, 2023, UMGSA Council Meeting are included as Appendix I to this Council meeting agenda.

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

5. Committee Reports

5.1. October Committee Reports (Appendix II)

6. HSGSA Report

6.1. October HSGSA Report (Appendix III)

7. Senate Report

7.1. October Senate Report (Appendix IV)

8. Executive Reports

8.1. October Reports (Appendix V)

9. Departmental Reports

10. Unfinished Business

i. No unfinished business.

11. New Business

11.1 Semi-Annual Executive Review Committee Report

- i. The report is attached via email.
- ii. The co-chairs are present to answer any questions.

11.2 Ratification of Election & Referendum Committee Membership

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

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

11.3 Reallocation of Awards Luncheon Funds

- i. The Vice-President Academic, Hanieh is present to answer any questions.

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

UMGSA Executive Committee/

11.4 Semi-Annual Approval of UMGSA Financial Budget

MOTION: BIRT The UMGSA General Council approves of the UMGSA financial budget for the 2023/24 fiscal year.

11.5 Approval of Audited BDO Financial Statements

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

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

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

12. Generative Discussion

12.1

13. Announcements

13.1. Annual General Meeting:

- i. Wednesday, December 6th, 2023 – 5:30PM – Zoom.
- ii. Council attendance is highly encouraged.

13.2. Next Council Meeting:

- i. Wednesday, January 24th, 2024 - 5:30PM – Zoom.

13.3. December Newsletter:

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

14. Adjournment

Appendix II :

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

Executive Committee

Chair: Christopher Yendt (UMGSA President)

Meeting Dates: October 17th, 2023

- The Executive met once in the month of October owing to some scheduling difficulties and leaves.
- The Executive 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.
- The committee engaged in a roundtable discussion of issues within each of our portfolios, as a new standing item this year, allowing members to offer support and help along with guidance to other members of the team where it is needed. The goal here has been to increase 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.
- We are actively looking at other opportunities for team building, bringing together the whole of the team so that we keep addressing any issues that arise and making sure we continue to work well together.

Finance Committee

Chair: Julie Xue (UMGSA VPFA)

Meeting Dates: October 16th, 2023.

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

Bylaws and Policy Committee

Chair: Julie Xue (UMGSA VPFA)

Meeting Dates: October 17th, 2023.

- Bylaws meeting did a round table introduction of 4 new committee members as well as existing committee members. Everyone briefly introduces his/her department, research field, life and work. The purpose is to build collaborative relationships and trust among team members.
- There wasn't any policy change or documents that needed to be reviewed in the bylaws committee.

Events Committee

Chair: Timilehin Oluwajuyitan (UMGSA VPSS)

Meeting Dates: October 6th, 2023.

- Mental health workshop (Tuesday 10th October 2023)
- Halloween/ Pumpkin Carving Competition (Monday 30th October 2023)
- Holiday hamper (December 2023)
- Tax filling workshop (March 2024)

Services and Support Committee

Chair: Timilehin Oluwajuyitan (UMGSA VPSS)

Meeting Dates:

- No Services & Support Meetings were held in October.

Awards and Academic Affairs Committee

Chair: Hanieh Rezasoltani (UMGSA VPA)

Meeting Dates:

- No Awards & Academic Affairs Meetings were held in October.

Appendix III :

HSGSA Report October 1st – October 31st, 2023

HSGSA Executive Committee and Council

Chair: Akshi Malik

In October, HSGSA exec team was majorly busy in planning the annual Dr. Patrick Choy Distinguished Lecture series 2023. HSGSA invited Dr. Brad Nelson from the University of British Columbia. HSGSA organised breakfast with Dr. Nelson and 4 other faculty members, lecture followed by Q&A from faculty and students, hosted lunch and a networking event with graduate students. The event was well received and over 50 faculty, staff and students attended the lecture. Graduate students appreciated the networking event with Dr. Nelson.

The HSGSA also hosted Halloween event with costume competition, pizzas and game night.

The HSGSA Multidisciplinary Research Experience (MHRE) program has secured enough funding to run the program again this year. MHRE ad-hoc committee will start interviews for the graduate student instructors in November.

HSGSA is also planning to organise a multicultural event on November 25th at the Brodie Centre atrium to celebrate the cultural diversity at University of Manitoba to enrich us collectively and reaffirm our commitment to equity, inclusion, and mutual respect. There is a guest ticket for \$10 and everyone is invited.

Akshi Malik

HSGSA President (2023-24)

Appendix IV :

October Senate Report

Meeting Date: October 4th, 2023

Meeting Link: https://umanitoba.ca/governance/sites/governance/files/2023-10/2023_10_04_Senate_minutes.pdf

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

Student Senate Caucus (Oct. 3rd):

- We still have some vacancies for the senate exec. seats. So, Liam asked students if they would like to join that.
- The College of Nursing doesn't have a break week for students. It is possible to add it to their schedule to improve their efficiency, mental health, and recovery time.
- In the meeting, a list of students being considered for degrees despite their deficiencies was distributed.

Senate Meeting (Oct. 4th):

- New Senators from different departments were welcomed.
- Dr. Benarroch asked for the nomination of senate members for the "Election of Senate Representatives" From among the Vice-Presidents, Deans of Faculties, and Directors of Schools. Also asked for the nomination of student senate members for the "Election of a Student Member to the Senate Executive Committee".
- Laurie Schnarr talked about the "Report of the College Council of the College of Pharmacy".
- Dr. Benarroch talked about "Changes to Admission Targets, President's Approval" and he announced his positive Insight about that.
- Dr. Benarroch talked about the plans for extending the residences for staff and students which also include daycare, clinic, etc.

Appendix V :

UMGSA Executive Reports October 1st – October 31st, 2023

UMGSA President – C. Yendt

Executive Summary of Work:

- Work this month was significantly impacted by an unexpected stay out of province which resulted in either missed or cancelled meetings through the later duration of the month.
- Where possible meetings were rescheduled, or efforts were made to gain insights and updates into what was missed to remain relevant and current with topics discussed.
- Attended an introductory meeting with Vanessa Koldingnes, Vice-President, External at the University of Manitoba, discussing the details of their role and opportunities to partner more closely between their office and the UMGSA.
- Continued work on staff succession and team building as we prepare to the hiring of additional full-time, permanent staff.
- Attended my first board meeting for UFMF with a focus on increasing graduate student influence within this space.
- Attended meetings with UMSU, with more to come, regarding potential partnerships around space and access. This also includes attending regular board meetings.
- Continued work on policy development, to propose alternatives to current processes and focus on long-term sustainability and moving the association to more clearly articulated leading practices within our sector.
- Continued focus on MAPSS and pursuant incorporation, getting the association established as a formal corporate entity.

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting	Hours
October 3 rd , 2023	UMGSA Executive Meeting	1.5 hours
October 3 rd , 2023	Staff Meeting	1.5 hours
October 4 th , 2023	Meeting with Student	0.5 hours
October 4 th , 2023	UM Senate Meeting	1.5 hours
October 4 th , 2023	HSGSA Executive Committee Meeting	1.5 hours
October 5 th , 2023	UMGSA & HSGSA President's Meeting	1 hour
October 10 th , 2023	Meeting with Kelley Main	0.5 hours
October 10 th , 2023	Staff Meeting	1 hour
October 10 th , 2023	UM Board of Governors Meeting	3 hours
October 12 th , 2023	UMSU Board Meeting	2 hours
October 17 th , 2023	FGS Executive Meeting	1.5 hours
October 17 th , 2023	UMGSA Executive Committee Meeting	1.5 hours
October 17 th , 2023	UMFM Board Meeting	1 hour

October 24 th , 2023	Staff Meeting	1 hour
October 25 th , 2023	Meeting with Vanessa Koldingnes	1 hour
October 25 th , 2023	Meeting with Kelley Main and Laurie Schnaar	1 hour
October 30 th , 2023	UM Research Townhall	2 hours
October 30 th , 2023	MAPSS Executive Meeting	1 hour
October 31 st , 2023	Dr. Patrick Choy Distinguished Lecture (inc. Travel time)	3 hours
October 31 st , 2023	FGS Council Meeting	1 hour

Meetings missed:

Date	Meeting
October 19 th , 2023	UM Senate Executive Meeting (regrets sent)
October 25 th , 2023	UMGSA Council Meeting (regrets sent)
October 26 th , 2023	UMSU Board Meeting (regrets sent)

Time Spent in Meetings in October: 28 Hours

Office Hours:

Time Spent in Official Office Hours in October: 4 Hours

Working events attended:

Approximate time spent on other activities:

Activity	Hours
In-Office / Other	20 hours
Email / Correspondence	40 hours

Total hours spent on the UMGSA for October 2023: 88 Hours

Vice-President Finance and Administration- Julie Xue

Executive Summary of Work:

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting	Hours
October 16 th , 2023	Finance Committee Meeting	1 Hour
October 17 th , 2023	Executive Committee Meeting	1.5 Hours
October 23 rd , 2023	Bylaws & Policy Committee Meeting	1 Hour
October 25 th , 2023	UMGSA Council Meeting	1.5 Hours

Meetings Missed: 1

Date	Meeting
October 31 st , 2023	FGS Council Meeting

Time Spent in Meetings in October: 5 Hours

Office Hours:

Time Spent in Official Office Hours in October: 0 Hours

Working Events Attended: None

Time Spent at Working Events in October: 0 Hours

Approximate Time Spent on Other Activities:

Activity	Hours
Replying emails and scheduling meetings	25 Hours

Total Hours Spent on the UMGSA in October 2023: 30 Hours

Vice-President Services and Support – Timilehin Oluwajuyitan

Executive Summary of Work:

- Attended Events Committee Meeting
- Attended UMGSA Halloween/ Pumpkin Calving Competition
- Attended UMGSA Finance Committee Meeting
- Attended UMGSA Executive Committee Meeting
- Attended UMGSA Council Meeting

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting	Hours
October 6 th , 2023	UMGSA Events Committee Meeting	1 Hour
October 10 th , 2023	UMGSA Mental Health Day Event	2 Hours
October 16 th , 2023	UMGSA Finance Committee Meeting	1.5 Hours
October 17 th , 2023	UMGSA Executive Committee Meeting	1 Hour
October 25 th , 2023	UMGSA Council Meeting	1 Hour
October 30 th , 2023	UMGSA Halloween/ Pumpkin Carving Contest	3 Hours

Meetings missed: None

Date	Meeting
-	-

Time Spent in Meetings in October: 9.5 Hours

Office Hours:

Date	Hours
October 3 rd , 2023	2 Hours
October 10 th , 2023	2 Hours
October 17 th , 2023	2 Hours
October 24 th , 2023	2 Hours
October 31 st , 2023	2 Hours

Time Spent in Official Office Hours in October: 10 Hours

Working events attended:

Approximate time spent on other activities:

Activity	Hours
Preparation of UMGSA Halloween/ Pumpkin Carving Contest	10 Hours
Email corresponding	20 Hours

Total hours spent on the UMGSA for October 2023: 49.5 Hours

Vice-President Academic – Hanieh Rezasoltani

Executive Summary of Work:

- Attending to UMGSA Executive Committee Meeting
- Attending to FGS Executive committee Meeting
- Attending to Convocation ceremony and announce the winner of Teaching Award 2023
- Attending to Senate Committee on Awards
- Attending to UMGSA Council Meeting
- Attending to Pumpkin Curving competition of UMGSA
- Following up students issue with Student care office in related to international insurance coverage and their guidelines.
- Meeting with career office advisor in related to setting some workshops for graduate students like LinkedIn Workshop.

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting	Hours
October 17 th , 2023	UMGSA Executive Committee Meeting	2 Hours
October 17 th , 2023	FGS Executive Committee Meeting	1 Hour
October 18 th , 2023	Convocation Ceremony & Teaching Award Announcement	3 Hours
October 24 th , 2023	Senate Committee on Awards	1 Hour
October 27 th , 2023	UMGSA Council Meeting	1 Hour
October 30 th , 2023	Halloween Party UMGSA – Pumpkin Carving Contest	1 Hour
October 31 st , 2023	FGS Faculty Council Meeting	1 Hour
October 31 st 2023	Meeting with career office advisor in relation to workshops	1 Hour

Time Spent in Meetings: 11 Hours

Meetings missed: 1 – sent regrets.

Office Hours:

2 Hours- 5 Oct 2023 – On-line

2 Hours- 11 Oct 2023–UMGSA office

2 Hours- 18 Oct 2023–UMGSA office

2 Hours- 25 Oct 2023–UMGSA office

Time Spent in Official Office Hours: Hours

Approximate Time Spent on Other Activities:

Activity	Hours
Follow up issue with Student Care office	5 Hours
Responding to emails, approving cheques & payments, emergency grants, & signing them	25 Hours
Preparation of draft of Holiday Hamper Program application and email of career month for students	5 Hours

Total Hours Spent on the UMGSA in October 2023: 54 Hours

HSGSA President – Akshi Malik

Executive Summary of Work:

- Attended UMGSA Exec meetings.
- Chaired HSGSA Exec and Council meeting
- Chaired MHRE meetings and discussed funding and planned for upcoming term with SSA.
- Regular meeting with Chris to discuss HSGSA-UMGSA relationship.
- Dr Patrick Choy DL planning and execution with the help of other execs

Meetings Attended:

October 4 th , 2023	HSGSA Executive Meeting	1 Hour
October 5 th , 2023	Meeting with Chris	1 Hour
October 16 th , 2023	HSGSA Executive Meeting	1.5 Hours
October 17 th , 2023	UMGSA Executive Meeting	1 Hour
October 25 th , 2023	UMGSA Council Meeting	0.5 Hours
October 23 rd , 2023	HSGSA Council Meeting	1.5 Hours
October 17 th , 2023	FGS Council Meeting	1.5 Hours
October 27 th , 2023	UMGSA Food Insecurity Ad-Hoc Committee Meeting	1 Hour
October 27 th , 2023	MHRE Meeting with SSA	1 Hour
October 23 rd , 2023	HSGSA Informal Executive Meeting	1.5 Hours
	Patrick Choy DL planning and execution	10 Hours
	Email Correspondence	5 Hours
	Documents & record keeping	5 Hours

Time spent in meetings in October 2023: 31.5 Hours

Meetings missed: none

Office hours: 0 hours

Total hours spent on HSGSA & UMGSA for October 2023: 31.5 Hours

Senator 1 – Uche Nwankwo

Executive Summary of Work:

- Yet to be received.

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting	Hours

Time Spent in Meetings in October: Hours

Meetings missed: 0

Office Hours:

Working Events Attended: None

Approximate Time Spent on Other Activities:

Activity	Hours
	Hours

Total Hours Spent on the UMGSA in October 2023: Hours

Senator 2 – Armin Aghajani

Executive Summary of Work:

- Attended Student Senate Caucus Meetings
- Attended FGS Exec and Council Meetings
- Meetings with students regarding their current issues
- Senate Orientation

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting	Hours
October 10 th , 2023	UMGSA Executive Meeting	1.5 Hours
October 3 rd , 2023	Student Senate Caucus	1 Hour
October 4 th , 2023	Senate Meeting	1 Hour

Meetings Missed: None

Time Spent in Meetings in October: 3.5 Hours

Office Hours:

Time Spent in Official Office Hours in October: 4 Hours

Approximate Time Spent on Other Activities:

Activity	Hours
Documents and record keeping, answering emails	3 Hours
Answering students' issues through email/ phone/ social media/ in-person	10 Hours

Total Hours Spent on the UMGSA in October 2023: 20.5 Hours