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UMGSA Council Meeting Documents Index Page Wednesday, February 28th, 2024 – 5:30 PM – Zoom

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UMGSA Council Meeting Agenda Wednesday, February 28th, 2024 – 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, Ojibwe-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation. We acknowledge that our water comes from Shoal Lake 40 First Nation, and our hydro from the hydro dams located in Treaty 5. 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 February 28th, 2024, UMGSA Council Meeting as presented.

4. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the January 31st, 2024, UMGSA Council Meeting are included as Appendix I to this Council meeting agenda.

MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council approves the minutes of the January 31st, 2024, UMGSA Council Meeting as presented.

5. Committee Reports

5.1. January Committee Reports (Appendix II)

6. HSGSA Report

6.1. January HSGSA Report (Appendix III)

7. Senate Report

7.1. January Senate Report (Appendix IV)

8. Executive Reports

8.1. January Reports (Appendix V)

9. Departmental Reports

10. Unfinished Business

11. New Business

11.1 Executive Review Committee (ERC) Report Update

Lead: C. Yendt

13. Announcements

- **13.1.** Next Council Meeting:
 - i. Wednesday, March 27th, 2024 5:30PM Zoom.
- **13.2.** March Newsletter:
 - i. If anyone has anything they want to share e-mail gcc@umgsa.org

14. Adjournment

Appendix II:

UMGSA Committee Reports January 1st. January 31st, 2024

Executive Committee

Chair: Christopher Yendt (UMGSA President) Meeting Dates: January 11th & 25th, 2024

- Updates regarding process to follow up on the ERC report, meeting with executives
 individually to get a better sense of everyone's perspectives on the report. Conversations
 generated good dialogue and developed some clarity around issues and pathways to
 address these for future performance management. Revisions to the ERC mandate and
 process will be forthcoming.
- Partnership with HSGSA regarding a joint delivery of the Gala, with the intention of becoming an annual partnership pending the success of this year's event.
- Held conversations with executive members regarding long term intentions and involvement, noting the size of the executive team will shrink by a position starting May 1st, aiming to make sure there is space and places for those interested in returning/running again.
- Updates regarding next steps with Post-Doctoral students and the emerging partnership. Aim is to provide them a home at the university, which will include, as an interim measure the development of an AVP position, and work towards the approval of a bylaw for Post-Docs, the election of their executive and an annual general meeting.
- Intention to revise mandate around the office hours requirement in UMGSA bylaws as they are not currently fulfilling the mandate and likely intention behind them. Adjustments will be explored to better create meaningful impact and engagement from specific approaches like these.
- Appointment of Akshi Malik as the first UMGSA Executive Vice-President.

Finance Committee

Chair: Julie Xue (UMGSA VPFA) Meeting Dates: January 15th, 2024

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

Bylaws and Policy Committee

Chair: Julie Xue (UMGSA VPFA) Meeting Dates: January 23rd, 2024

- The committee reviewed and approved the motion of the UMGSA Executives and Officers Policy Manual.
- Article X: creation of Executive Vice President to facilitate a smooth transition / succession of president role or emergent fulfillment of any VP role in case of sudden vacancy.
- Article XI: The office manager may return as executive director to give insights and advice to the executive team.
- Article XII: creation of Associate VP that increases engagement with the post doc student body.
- Article 13: past president can volunteer to be advisor.
- Article 15: clearer policy about attendance and absence penalty.

Events Committee

Chair: Timilehin Oluwajuyitan (UMGSA VPSS)

Meeting Dates: January 4th, 2024

- Orientation lecture
- Social event/ UMGSA pizza day meet and greet (Wednesday September 13th, 2023).
- Mental health workshop (Tuesday 10th October 2023)
- Halloween/ Pumpkin Calving Competition (Monday 30th October 2023)
- Holiday hamper (December 2023)
- Faculty of graduate studies orientation (January 4, 2024)
- Tax filling workshop (March 2024)

Services and Support Committee

Chair: Timilehin Oluwajuyitan (UMGSA VPSS)

Meeting Dates:

• There were no meetings in January 2024.

Awards and Academic Affairs Committee

Chair: Hanieh Rezasoltani (UMGSA VPA)

Meeting Dates: No meetings were held in January 2024.

• Almost all of the selected students for Holiday Hamper 2023-2024 received their gift cards from January 8th till today.

Ad-Hoc Committee on Food Insecurity

Chair: Jamie Sookhoo (vpexternal@hsgsa.org)

Meeting Dates: January 26th, 2024

Action Points:

- Alejandra will reach out to Campus Food Strategy Group (CFSG) to invite one or two officials to join a collaborative meeting with FIC which will be held on February 9th at 11:00 AM virtually. The agenda of this meeting is to find creative solutions to solve the current food insecurity situation on campus.
- 1st half of the meeting will cover the idea and proposals from CFSG by their members and 2nd half will be used to make any necessary changes to the Food Insecurity Survey run by UMGSA last year so the survey can be sent out again before end of April.

Additional points covered in todays meeting:

- 1. Uche shared a report highlighting current scenarios of different universities and their current food insecurity situation due to high price and possible strategies to mitigate these problems.
- 2. The goal of FIC is to find a solution to solve the food insecurity in the campus which will be long term, sustainable and realistic. Every member has endorsed it.
- 3. Christopher indicated that there will be no additional fund coming from Provincial govt to the university in terms of food insecurity issue, so FIC needs to keep brainstorming to find out creative solutions. One option could be a Pantry Service where students can a have a cereal for breakfast on campus.
- 4. Alejandra shared an idea to send out proposals to the local food supplier for a collaboration with the universities to produce food in campus.
- 5. Christopher also highlighted about sharing the survey data in a compact report form to the University decision makers for further solutions but before that it is important to recheck with Foodbank and their existing donors so that no unwanted circumstances arise.

Appendix III:

HSGSA Report January 1st – January 31st, 2024

HSGSA Executive Committee and Council

Chair: Akshi Malik

In January, HSGSA presented at the FGS Winter Orientation held at the Fort Garry Campus.

The HSGSA By-laws committee made some changes to the Finance manual as well as to the committee policy manuals.

HSGSA VP-Academic is communicating with faculty members to plan omics and grant writing workshops.

The HSGSA Academic committee is also working on compiling a list for potential distinguished lecturer for the next term.

HSGSA also held another multicultural event at the SBRC to celebrate 'Pongal'.

Akshi Malik HSGSA President (2023-24)

Appendix IV:

1.

January Senate Report

Meeting Date: January 10th, 2024

Meeting Link: https://umanitoba.ca/governance/sites/governance/files/2024-

01/2024_01_10_Senate_minutes.pdf

President's Report

The following report was submitted by Uche Nwankwo (Senator 1).

	President Benarroch would be recording a new episode of the podcast themed "What's
the Big	Idea?" with Dr. Joss Reimer, in the Robert B. Schultz Lecture Theatre the next day.
Senato	rs were encouraged to attend.

President Benarroch reported that the Strategic Planning Committee was working to incorporate comments it had received on the draft strategic plan, including from the Senate (December 6, 2023), the Board of Governors, and the broader University community, into the final draft of the document.

	The final	version is	expected t	o be b	rought to	the	Senate	for	discussion	and	approva	.l at
the me	eeting in Fe	bruary.										

President Benarroch provided the Senate with an update on the actions taken by the University in response to the misconduct of Mr. Black-Branch, a former Dean of Law at the University, who was found guilty of professional misconduct by the Law Society of Manitoba after a lengthy due process was followed.

Regarding the misconduct by Mr. Black-Branch, President Benarroch clarified that the University did not enter into a Non-Disclosure Agreement or Settlement Agreement with Mr. Black-Branch. Any restrictions on the University's ability to speak to this matter flowed from legislation such as the Public Interest Disclosure Act and the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

President Benarroch briefly reviewed controls the University has in place to prevent future incidents of this nature. This was previously presented to Senate on October 4, 2023. The

University has implemented robust financial reforms to further safeguard against any potential misappropriation of funds in the future.

2. **QUESTION PERIOD**

A question from Professor Thomson, University of Manitoba Faculty Association Assessor sought to know if the IST department could schedule future Aurora Self-Service maintenance during a less inconvenient time for those who might want to check their schedule before the beginning of term?

	In response, President Benarroch noted that a scheduled Banner upgrade occurred over
the pre	evious weekend. The upgrade was successful, and the system was available to users by the
afterno	oon of Sunday, January 7th.

President Benarroch invited Senators who might have specific concerns to contact Mr. Adams, University Registrar and Executive Director, Enrolment Services.

3. REPORTS OF OTHER COMMITTEES

3.1. Reports of the Senate Committee on Instruction and Evaluation

RE: Revised Entrance and Continuation Requirements, Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Psychology, Faculty of Science

The Senate Committee on Instruction and Evaluation (SCIE) met on November 16, 2023, to consider proposals from the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Science, to revise the minimum Degree Grade Point Average for entrance and continuation in the Bachelor of Arts (Single Honours) and Bachelor of Arts (Double Honours) in Psychology and the Bachelor of Science

3.2. Report of the Senate Committee on University Research

RE: Strategic Research Plan 2024-2029, University of Manitoba: Change through Research

Dr. Pinto provided a brief overview of the proposed Strategic Research Plan 2024-2029,	
University of Manitoba: Change through Research. A copy of his presentation, with the same	
itle is appended to the minutes.	
Dr. Pinto noted that the proposed Strategic Research Plan builds on a foundation of	
fundamental inquiry and foundational knowledges. The SRP highlights existing research	
strengths at the University and combines these into imaginative research themes that will	
ncrease the institution's competitiveness in external grant competitions.	
The SRP's tagline, "change through research," is intended to communicate internally that	ıt
research can be viewed as a vehicle to change understandings of various phenomena ranging	
from origins of the universe and life, culture and human behaviour, Indigenous knowledges,	
nealth phenomenon, new technologies, or the research-teaching nexus.	
There was a concern based on consultations with Faculty representatives who had served	1
on the Committee. The concern underpinned the view that the SRPC had not had an opportunity	7
to review the proposed Strategic Research Plan. The Faculty of Arts Senators therefore	
recommend that the Report of the Senate Committee on University Research (SCUR) be	
returned to the Vice-President (Research and International), to ensure members who served on	
the SRPC would be given an opportunity to review the document.	
Several observations were made by Senators and some members recommended that the	
Report be returned to the Vice-President (Research and International) with suggestions from	
Senators for possible changes in the Report.	

Appendix V:

UMGSA Executive Reports January 1st – January 31st, 2024

UMGSA President – C. Yendt

Executive Summary of Work:

- Extensive work on developing the new Executive and Officers Manual, presented and passed by Council in January which also led to the creation of new nomination packages for the executive elections, specific to each role and helping to improve our communication and messaging around the roles and their responsibilities.
- Continued to engage with UM Reconciliation Action Plan committee, demonstrating UMGSA's commitment to learning and doing within this space, and hopefully leading to further initiatives and action within the UMGSA in the future.
- Continued negotiations with external financial firm to begin process of completing a contractual relationship for ongoing back-office support on a monthly basis. We are close to finalizing a contract for an ongoing relationship and look to complete shortly.
- Additional meetings with post-doctoral student representatives, where a pathway was
 identified for incorporation moving forward. We will be developing an Associate VicePresident role specifically for Post-Doctoral Affairs as a means to move our organizations
 closer and facilitate integration over the next 12 months.
- Begun working with staff to identify new office layout and requisite furniture as we move forward with the next phase of redevelopment within the organization and better aligning the space to meet with our current and future needs.
- Recommended for appointment the first Executive Vice-President in UMGSA history under the new E&O Manual and delighted to announce that Akshi Malik has accepted the appointment for a term ending April 30th, 2024. I look forward to continuing to work closely with them in this role and establishing a strong precedent for the position for the years to come.

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting	Hours
January 10th, 2024	CAGS Consultation with FGS	1.5 Hours
January 10 th , 2024	UM Senate	1.5 Hours
January 10 th , 2024	Staff Meeting	1 Hour
January 11 th , 2024	CAGS In-person consultation with FGS	1.5 Hours
January 11 th , 2024	UMGSA Executive Meeting	1.5 Hours
January 11 th , 2024	Strategic Planning Committee UM	2 Hours
January 12 th , 2024	HSGSA Executive Meeting	1.5 Hours
January 15 th , 2024	UMGSA Finance Committee	1 Hour
January 17 th , 2024	Staff Meeting	1 Hour

January 17 th , 2024	Meeting with Dean and VP	0.5 Hours
January 22 nd , 2024	UMGSA Bylaws Committee	1 Hour
	Ad-Hoc Committee on Access, Anti-oppression,	
January 23 rd , 2024	Decolonization and Diversity	1 Hour
January 23 rd , 2024	UMGSA + HSGSA President's Meeting	1.5 Hours
January 24 th , 2024	UMGSA Senate Executive	1.5 Hours
January 24 th , 2024	Staff Meeting	1 Hour
January 25 th , 2024	UMGSA Executive Committee	1 Hour
January 25 th , 2024	FGS Executive Committee	1 Hour
January 26 th , 2024	Food Insecurity Committee	1 Hour
January 26 th , 2024	Meeting with Senator	1 Hour
January 29 th , 2024	Meeting with Plains Edge	1 Hour
January 28th, 2024	Reconciliation Action Committee	2 Hours
January 29th, 2024	Meeting with Student	0.5 Hours
January 29th, 2024	Staff Meeting	1 Hour
January 29th, 2024	Budget Advisory Committee	2 Hours
January 29th, 2024	UMGSA Council Meeting	1.5 Hours

Meetings missed:

Date	Meeting
January 4 th , 2024	Graduate Student Orientation
January 5 th , 2024	International Student Orientation

Time Spent in Meetings in January: 31 Hours

Time Spent in Official Office Hours in January: 6 Hours

Working events attended:

Approximate time spent on other activities:

Activity	Hours
In-Office / Other	20 Hours
Email / Correspondence/ Manual Development	35 Hours
Student Vigil	2 Hours

Total hours spent on the UMGSA for January 2024: 86 Hours

Vice-President Finance and Administration- Julie Xue

Executive Summary of Work:

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting	Hours
January 11 th , 2024	Executive Meeting	2 Hours
January 15 th , 2024	Finance Meeting	1 Hour
January 22 nd , 2024	Bylaws Meeting	1 Hour
January 25 th , 2024	Executive Meeting	2 Hours

Meetings Missed: 0

Date	Meeting

Time Spent in Meetings in January: 6 Hours

Office Hours:

Time Spent in Official Office Hours in January: 0 Hours

Working Events Attended: None

Time Spent at Working Events in January: 0 Hours

Approximate Time Spent on Other Activities:

Activity	Hours
Replying emails, scheduling meetings & processing conference grants	25 Hours

Total Hours Spent on the UMGSA in January 2024: 31 Hours

Vice-President Services and Support – Timilehin Oluwajuyitan

Executive Summary of Work:

- Attended UMGSA Events Committee Meeting
- Attended UMGSA Finance Committee Meeting
- Attended UMGSA Executive Committee Meeting
- Attended UMGSA Faculty of Graduate Studies Student Orientation
- Attended UMGSA Council Meeting

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting	Hours
January 4 th , 2024	UMGSA Event Committee Meeting	1 Hour
January 4 th , 2024	Faculty of Graduate Studies Student Orientation	4 Hours
January 11 th , 2024	UMGSA Executive Committee Meeting	1 Hour
January 15 th , 2024	UMGSA Finance Committee Meeting	1.5 Hours
January 25 th , 2024	UMGSA Executive Committee Meeting	1 Hour
January 31st, 2024	UMGSA Council Meeting	1 Hour

Meetings missed: None

Date	Meeting
None	None

Time Spent in Meetings in November and December: 16.5 Hours

Office Hours:

Date	Hours
January 9 th , 2024	2 Hours
January 16 th , 2023	2 Hours
January 23 rd , 2024	2 Hours
January 30 th , 2024	2 Hours

Time Spent in Official Office Hours in January: 8 Hours

Working events attended:

Approximate time spent on other activities:

Activity	Hours
Preparation for UMGSA/ Faculty of graduate studies orientation	10 Hours
Preparation for UMGSA Tax clinic	
Email corresponding	20 Hours

Total hours spent on the UMGSA for January 2024: 49.5 Hours

VP Academic – Hanieh Rezasoltani

Executive Summary of Work:

- Attending to Orientation Day for graduate students to introduce GSA services on be half of GSA executives.
- Attending to Orientation Day for International students to introduce GSA services on be half of GSA executives.
- Responsible for pick up of Holiday Hamper gift card at GSA lounge.
- Attending to UM Senate meeting.
- Attending to UMGSA Executive meeting.
- Attending to Award Senate Committee meeting.
- Attending to UMGSA Councillors meeting.
- Follow up the process of pick-up Holiday Hamper gift cards and announce the selected students by email.

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting	Hours
January 4 th , 2024	Winter 2024 Orientation Day for Graduate Students	2 Hours
January 5 th , 2024	Winter 2024 Orientation Day for International Students	1 Hour
January 8 th , 2024	Holiday Hamper Pick-Up	2 Hours
January 9 th , 2024	Holiday Hamper Pick-Up	1 Hour
January 10 th , 2024	UM Senate Meeting	1 Hour
January 10 th , 2024	Holiday Hamper Pick-Up	2 Hours
January 11 th , 2024	UMGSA Executive Meeting	2 Hours
January 16 th , 2024	Award Senate Committee Meeting	1 Hour
January 19 th , 2024	Holiday Hamper Pick-Up	1 Hour
January 25 th , 2024	FGS Executive Meeting	1 Hour
January 25 th , 2024	UMGSA Executive Meeting	1 Hour
January 31st, 2024	UMGSA Council Meeting	1.5 Hours

Time Spent in Meetings in January: 16.5 Hours Missed meeting:

Office Hours:

Time Spent in Official Office Hours in January: 8

2 Hours- 10 Jan 2024 – location: UMGSA office

2 Hours- 17 Jan 2024 - location: UMGSA office

2 Hours- 24 Jan 2024 – location: UMGSA office

2 Hours- 31 Jan 2024- location: UMGSA office

(Pick up of Holiday Hamper Gift cards was available at VPA office hours)

Working events attended:

Approximate time spent on other activities: 65 Hours

	1	
Activity		Hours
ACHVILY		110015

Responding to emails, approving cheques and payments, Emergency grants, and signing	
them, preparation for meetings and reading agendas	35 Hours
Holiday Hamper Pick up setting and emails, mailing Gift cards of Bannatyne campus	
students	30 Hours

Total hours spent on the UMGSA for January 2024: 89.5 Hours

HSGSA President – Akshi Malik

Executive Summary of Work:

- Attended UMGSA Exec and Council meetings
- Chaired HSGSA Exec and Council meeting
- Regular meeting with Chris to discuss HSGSA-UMGSA relationship
- Gala planning in collaboration with UMGSA
- Presented at FGS Orientation

Meetings Attended:

January 4 th , 2024	FGS Orientation	3 Hours
January 8 th , 2024	HSGSA Bylaws Meeting	1 Hour
January 11 th , 2024	UMGSA Exec Meeting	1.5 Hours
January 12 th , 2024	HSGSA Exec Meeting	1 Hour
January 24 th , 2024	Meeting up with HSGSA exec (informal)	1 Hour
January 25 th , 2024	FGS Exec Meeting	2 Hours
January 22 nd , 2024	HSGSA Council Meeting	1.5 Hours
January 31 st , 2024	UMGSA Council Meeting	1.5 Hours
January 23 rd , 2024	Meeting with Chris	1.5 Hours
Gala Planning		5 Hours
Email correspondence and usual business		20 Hours
Documents and record keeping		5 hours

Time spent in meetings in January 2024: 12 Hours

Meetings missed: none

Office hours: 0 hours

Total hours spent on HSGSA & UMGSA for January 2024: 44 Hours

Senator 1 – Uche Nwankwo

Executive Summary of Work:

- Executive Committee meeting
- Council Meeting.
- Held meetings in-person and Zoom meetings focusing on student advocacy.
- Graduate Students Food poverty and high cost of food at the University
- Student Advocacy
- UofM African Graduate Students Association.

Note: The summary here is not exhaustive but rather a synopsis of the activities I engaged myself during the reporting period.

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting	Hours
January 11 th , 2024	UMGSA Executive Meeting	1.5 Hours
January 12 th , 2024	Student Advocacy (Candlelight for Afolabi)	2 Hours
January 25 th , 2024	UMGSA Executive Meeting	1 Hour
January 26 th , 2024	Food Insecurity Committee Meeting	1 Hour
January 27 th , 2024	Student Advocacy (Justice4Afolabi march)	2.75 Hours
January 31st, 2024	Office Hour	2 Hours
January 31st, 2024	UMGSA Council Meeting	1 Hour

Time Spent in Meetings in January: 11.25 Hours

Office Hours:

Working Events Attended: None

Approximate Time Spent on Other Activities:

Activity	Hours
Communications (Support duties as Senator 1), emails, phone calls, and	8 Hours
WhatsApp chat 1.5 hours per week	
Preparing and reviewing documents before meetings driving to meeting venue,	5 Hours
and writing reports	
Approximate time spent on coordinating UMAGSA activities	4.5 Hours

Total Hours Spent on the UMGSA in January 2024: 28.75 Hours

Senator 2 – Armin Aghajani

Executive Summary of Work:

- Attended FGS Exec Meetings
- Meeting with students regarding their current issues

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting	Hours
January 11 th , 2024	Executive Meeting	1.5 Hours
January 25 th , 2024	Executive Meeting	1.5 Hours

Meetings missed: 1 (January 10th Senate Meeting)

Time Spent in Meetings in January: 3 Hours

Office Hours:

Time Spent in Official Office Hours in January: 8 Hours

Working events attended:

Approximate time spent on other activities:

Activity	Hours
Documents and record keeping, answering the emails	1 Hour
Answering students' issues through email/phone/social media/in-person	
Studying the agendas and minutes to get ready for the meetings	0 Hours

Total hours spent on the UMGSA for January 2024: 17 Hours