
UMGSA Council Meeting Documents Index Page

Wednesday, April 24th, 2024 – 5:30 PM – Zoom

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UMGSA Council Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, April 24th, 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 April 24th, 2024, UMGSA Council Meeting as presented.

4. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the April 3rd, 2024, UMGSA Council Meeting are included as Appendix I to this Council meeting agenda.

MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council approves the minutes of the April 3rd, 2024, UMGSA Council Meeting as presented.

5. Committee Reports

5.1. March Committee Reports (Appendix II)

6. HSGSA Report

6.1. March HSGSA Report (Appendix III)

7. Senate Report

7.1. March Senate Report (Appendix IV)

8. Executive Reports

8.1. March Reports (Appendix V)

9. Departmental Reports

10. Unfinished Business

11. New Business

11.1 Executive Review Committee (ERC) Final Report

- i. The report was pre-circulated via email.
- ii. Chamali & Thilini (*ERC Co-Chairs*) are present to answer questions.

11.2 Ratification of HSGSA Special Election Results

- i. The voting period ended April 23rd at 5:00PM.
- ii. Chamali (*Chief Returning Officer*) is present to answer questions.

HSGSA President (total votes cast: 182)

Sadhana R.N. Sudhakar – IGNATE – **101 Votes (55%) – Elected**

Sanjana Chauhan – ROOTS – 81 Votes (45%)

Vice-President Academic (total votes cast: 193)

Md. Abdul Aziz – IGNATE – **107 Votes (55%) – Elected**

Yeshika Bhatia – ROOTS – 86 Votes (45%)

Vice-President Marketing & Events (total votes cast: 199)

Ashraf Kadar Shahib – IGNATE – **106 Votes (53%) – Elected**

Sadaf Asfa – ROOTS – 93 Votes (47%)

MOTION: BIRT The UMGSA General Council ratifies the results of the 2024/25 HSGSA Special Election as presented.

13. Announcements

13.1. Next Council Meeting:

- i. Wednesday, May 22nd, 2024 - 5:30PM – Zoom.

13.2. May Newsletter:

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

14. Adjournment

Appendix II :

UMGSA Committee Reports March 1st- March 31st, 2024

Executive Committee

Chair: Christopher Yendt (UMGSA President)

Meeting Dates: February 8th & 29th, 2024

- Conclusion of conversations surrounding the 2023 ERC report, President met with all members of the team to confirm tensions and frustrations, and work through issues. Final verbal report brought to the Executive Committee meeting.
- Discussion around the ongoing work in planning and executing HSGSA x UMGSA Gala, led by the HSGSA President. UMGSA Executive to provide additional support through volunteering on the day of the event.
- Approved the African GSA.
- Confirmation of Akshi Malik as the first UMGSA EVP, for a term ending April 30th, 2024.
- Updated Executive on new developments regarding department groups, and the need for further exploration of alternatives to the current granting model.

Meeting Dates: March 28th, 2024

- President provided an update regarding the status of the legal circumstances with the Canadian Federation of Students.
- President provided an update regarding the status of the HSGSA Election.
- Confirmation of end of term expectations for all executive committee members, including those who are retiring.
- Executive heard an update on the work of the Food In-Security Committee (FIC) from the committee chair regarding next steps around community gardens central to the Fort Garry campus.
- Discussion regarding further partnership with the UM Foodbank to be more targeted and effective with UMGSA's giving initiatives.

Finance Committee

Chair: Julie Xue (UMGSA VPFA)

Meeting Dates: March 18th & April 18th, 2024

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

Bylaws and Policy Committee

Chair: Julie Xue (UMGSA VPFA)

Meeting Dates: March 4th & April 17th, 2024

- The committee briefly discussed ongoing topics / future plans.

Events Committee

Chair: Timilehin Oluwajuyitan (UMGSA VPSS)

Meeting Dates: March 7th, 2024

- Tax filing workshop (April 10 - 12th 2024)

Services and Support Committee

Chair: Timilehin Oluwajuyitan (UMGSA VPSS)

Meeting Dates:

- There were no meetings in March 2024.

Awards and Academic Affairs Committee

Chair: Hanieh Rezasoltani (UMGSA VPA)

Meeting Dates:

- There were no meetings held in March & April 2024.
- Hanieh shared to VPA 2024 - 2025 the feedback and comments of the committee members regarding the improvement of the student awards application.

Ad-Hoc Committee on Food Insecurity

Chair: Jamie Sookhoo (vpexternal@hsgsa.org)

Meeting Dates: March 25th, 2024

The CFSG who the FIC is now actively collaborating with on the garden spaces project has received funding from their Faculty of Food and Human Nutrition. They have received \$2500/year for the next 3 years specifically to be used in improvement and maintenance of the garden spaces and associated costs. The CFSG has also sourced funding for garden spaces to be fenced around to prevent wild animals from accessing the crops.

The CFSG has asked if the UMGSA can provide funding for a project manager to oversee operations and planning of the garden spaces RE what kind of crops to plant, when to plant, watering and maintenance schedules etc.

The UMGSA may need to have interviews to hire a project manager. The CFSG has a project manager (PM) in mind but the UMGSA may want to invest in a UMGSA student being the PM as the CFSG student is an undergraduate student. The CFSG currently has a garden steward (Howie) who is an MSc Student in Plant Science who currently tends to the garden spaces but he can not do this undertaking alone.

The FIC and CFSG have discussed what the job description of the PM may entail. This would depend on the number and size of the garden spaces and the budget of UMGSA for the PM. The PM would be in charge of developing a simple lesson plan about gardening for volunteers. The PM will have to reach out to students, decide what and when to plant, harvest times, work with the garden steward Howie, communicate with physical plant, waste management and composting UofM services, discuss how to distribute crops fairly and also prepare for winter.

Appendix III :

HSGSA Report March 1st – April 30th, 2024

HSGSA Executive Committee and Council

Chair: Akshi Malik

On March 30th, the HSGSA-UMGSA had an excellently attended, incident-free Gala at the Fort Garry Hotel – Grand Ballroom. The event was attended by ~280 students and was a huge hit. Flowers, DJ and Photobooth arrived on time and there were no issues. Time was well managed. The months of planning paid off. UMGSA Exec volunteers and HSGSA student volunteers proved valuable to the success of the event.

HSGSA also held another multicultural event at the SBRC to celebrate ‘Nowruz’.

The VP-External chaired the first meeting of the Ed. Kroeger Mentorship Committee in January and applications are now open (April 2024).

The HSGSA Academic committee and other volunteers are currently reviewing the applications for the HSGSA Grad Student Excellence Award.

Akshi Malik

HSGSA President (2023-24)

Appendix IV :

March Senate Report

Meeting Date: March 6th, 2024

Meeting Link: https://umanitoba.ca/governance/sites/governance/files/2024-03/2024_03_06_Senate_minutes.pdf.

The following report was submitted by Armin Aghajani (*Senator 2*).

- **Budget Forecasting Initiative:**
 - President Benarroch informed the Senate that the Board has directed the University to conduct five-year budget forecasts.
 - These forecasts will incorporate assumptions about future provincial grants and tuition fees.
- **Changes in the International Student Program:**
 - The Senate Executive Committee significantly discussed recent federal government reforms to the international student program.
 - These reforms are causing uncertainties about international student enrollment for the next Fall term.
- **Reduction in Study Permits:**
 - The national quota for international study permits has been set at 364,000, a 35% decrease from the current year.
 - Each province will receive permits based on its population relative to the national population; Manitoba's share is approximately 3.3%.
- **Discrepancies in Permit Allocation:**
 - Manitoba, Alberta, and Saskatchewan receive fewer permits than their proportionate shares.
 - The Presidents of the Universities of Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Calgary have contacted Minister Miller for clarification on this issue.
- **Application vs. Permit Numbers:**
 - Provinces will receive allocations for study permit applications, not the permits themselves.
 - The number of applications allowed will be 40% higher than the number of study permits.

- **Risk of Declined Offers:**
 - If more than 40% of international applicants decline their offers, actual international student admissions could fall below the allocated number of study permits.
- **Communication Gaps:**
 - Although Manitoba has been informed of its allocation for international student permit applications, this information has not yet been shared with the institutions.
- **University's International Applicants:**
 - The University has received 600 applications for international study but made over 10,000 offers of admission to international students for the current year.
- **Requirement for Attestation Letter:**
 - International applicants must now obtain an attestation letter from the province, for which a process has been developed in collaboration with postsecondary institutions.
- **Projected Decrease in Enrollment:**
 - Anticipated drop in international student enrollment could lead to significant tuition revenue losses, with every 1% decrease resulting in approximately \$1 million lost.

Appendix V :

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

UMGSA President – C. Yendt

Executive Summary of Work:

- Much of the work of January continued in February, including work on formalizing a relationship with an external financial firm to support our back office.
- Supporting CRO/DRO with new election items, including the orientation with the new Executive & Officers Manual.
- 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.
- Ongoing negotiations with external financial firm to begin process of completing a contractual relationship for ongoing back-office support.
- Additional meetings with post-doctoral fellows, where a pathway was identified for incorporation moving forward. We are waiting for the completion of their elections, once complete we will be developing an Associate Vice-President role specifically for Post-Doctoral Affairs to move our organizations closer and facilitate integration over the next 12 months.
- Several meetings regarding the review committee of the President and Vice-Chancellor at UM, leading to their successful re-appointment.
- Attended the HSGSA AGM In person at the Bannatyne Campus, which was a wonderful opportunity to engage with HSGSA members and answer questions from those students about UMGSA more broadly.

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting	Hours
February 1 st , 2024	Bannatyne Campus Discussion – UMSU	1 Hour
February 1 st , 2024	Meeting with Kelley & Laurie	0.5 Hours
February 2 nd , 2024	Meeting with Student	0.5 Hours
February 5 th , 2024	Meeting with Post-Doctoral Fellows	1 Hour
February 7 th , 2024	Meeting with Student	0.5 Hours
February 7 th , 2024	UMGSA Staff Meeting	1 Hour
February 7 th , 2024	UM Senate	1.5 Hours
February 8 th , 2024	UMGSA Executive Committee Meeting	1.5 Hours
February 8 th , 2024	President’s Review Committee	2 Hours
February 8 th , 2024	UMSU Board Meeting	3 Hours
February 12 th , 2024	UMGSA Finance Committee Meeting	1 Hour
February 13 th , 2024	HSGSA AGM	1.5 Hours

February 13 th , 2024	UM Board Governance Committee	1 Hour
February 14 th , 2024	UMGSA Staff Meeting	1 Hour
February 14 th , 2024	UM Senate Executive	1.5 Hours
February 14 th , 2024	Meeting with Kelley and Laurie	0.5 Hours
February 15 th , 2024	Meeting with CRO/DRO	0.5 Hours
February 15 th , 2024	Presidential Review Committee	2 Hours
February 21 st , 2024	UMGSA Staff Meeting	1 Hour
February 28 th , 2024	UMGSA Staff Meeting	1 Hour
February 28 th , 2024	Meeting with Kelley and Laurie	0.5 Hours
February 28 th , 2024	UMGSA Council Meeting	1.5 Hours
February 29 th , 2024	UMGSA Executive Committee Meeting	1.5 Hours
February 29 th , 2024	UM Senate Committee on Rules and Procedures	1.5 Hours

Meetings missed:

Date	Meeting

Time Spent in Meetings in February: 28.5 Hours

Time Spent in Official Office Hours in February: 6 Hours

Working events attended:

Approximate time spent on other activities:

Activity	Hours
In-Office / Other	10 Hours
Email / Correspondence/ Manual Development	40 Hours

Total hours spent on the UMGSA for February 2024: 78.5 Hours

UMGSA President – C. Yendt

Executive Summary of Work:

- Work this month was light on account of a leave for the 2024 Executive Elections as well as a death in the family that necessitated travel out of province and a remote work schedule for most of the month.
- Some carry over work from the previous period, two weeks on leave for election campaign and voting weeks (Weeks 6 & 7 as per the G&O Manual)

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting	Hours
March 1 st , 2024	Meeting with HSGSA President	0.5 Hours
March 1 st , 2024	Meeting with Student Affairs	0.5 Hours
March 4 th , 2024	UM Reconciliation Advisory Committee	1 Hour
March 19 th , 2024	UM Board of Governors	3 Hours
March 28 th , 2024	UMGSA Executive Committee Meeting	1.5 Hours

Meetings missed:

Date	Meeting

Time Spent in Meetings in March: Hours

Time Spent in Official Office Hours in March: 6.5 Hours

Working events attended:

Approximate time spent on other activities:

Activity	Hours
In-Office / Other	0 Hours
Email / Correspondence/ Manual Development	30 Hours

Total hours spent on the UMGSA for March 2024: 41.5 Hours

Vice-President Finance and Administration- Julie Xue

Executive Summary of Work:

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting	Hours
March 18 th , 2024	Finance Meeting	1 Hour
March 4 th , 2024	Bylaws Meeting	0.5 Hours
March 28 th , 2024	Executive Meeting	2 Hours

Meetings Missed: 0

Date	Meeting

Time Spent in Meetings in March: 3.5 Hours

Office Hours:

Time Spent in Official Office Hours in March: 0 Hours

Working Events Attended: None

Time Spent at Working Events in March: 0 Hours

Approximate Time Spent on Other Activities:

Activity	Hours
Replying emails, scheduling meetings	25 Hours

Total Hours Spent on the UMGSA in March 2024: 28.5 Hours

Vice-President Finance and Administration- Julie Xue

Executive Summary of Work:

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting	Hours
April 18 th , 2024	Finance Meeting	1 Hour
April 17 th , 2024	Bylaws Meeting	1 Hour
April 11 th , 2024	Executive Meeting	2 Hours
April 25 th , 2024	Executive Meeting	2 Hours
April 4 th , 2024	FGS Council Meeting	1 Hour

Meetings Missed: 0

Date	Meeting

Time Spent in Meetings in April: 7 Hours

Office Hours:

Time Spent in Official Office Hours in April: 0 Hours

Working Events Attended: None

Time Spent at Working Events in April: 0 Hours

Approximate Time Spent on Other Activities:

Activity	Hours
Replying emails, scheduling meetings	25 Hours

Total Hours Spent on the UMGSA in April 2024: 32 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 Council Meeting

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting	Hours
March 7 th , 2024	UMGSA Events Committee Meeting	1 Hour
March 18 th , 2024	UMGSA Finance Committee Meeting	1.5 Hours
April 1 st , 2024	UMGSA Council Meeting	1 Hour

Meetings missed: 1

Date	Meeting
March 28 th , 2024	UMGSA Executive Committee Meeting

Time Spent in Meetings in March: 3.5 Hours

Office Hours:

Date	Hours
March 5 th , 2024	2 Hours
March 12 th , 2024	2 Hours
March 19 th , 2024	2 Hours
March 26 th , 2024	2 Hours

Time Spent in Official Office Hours in March: 8 Hours

Working events attended:

Approximate time spent on other activities:

Activity	Hours
Preparation for UMGSA Tax clinic	2 Hours
Email corresponding	20 Hours

Total hours spent on the UMGSA for March 2024: 33.5 Hours

Vice-President Academic – Hanieh Rezasoltani

Executive Summary of Work:

- Attending to UM Senate meeting.
- Attending to UMGSA/HSGSA election Forum.
- Attending to UMGSA Executive meeting.
- Attending to FGS Executive meeting.
- Follow up the process of pick-up Holiday Hamper gift cards -last pick-up 27 March.
- Attending to Winter Gala UMGSA and HSGSA
- Attending to Graduate students experience committee meeting.

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting	Hours
March 6 th , 2024	UM Senate Meeting	1 Hour
March 13 th , 2024	UMGSA/ HSGSA Election Forum	2 Hours
March 19 th , 2024	FGS Executive Meeting	1 Hour
March 22 nd , 2024	UMGSA/ HSGSA Gala Meeting	1 Hour
March 25 th , 2024	Graduate Students Experience Committee Meeting	1 Hour
March 30 th , 2024	UMGSA/ HSGSA Gala Event	6 Hours
March 28 th , 2024	UMGSA Executive Meeting	2 Hours

Time Spent in Meetings in March: 14 Hours

Missed meeting:

Office Hours:

Time Spent in Official Office Hours in March: Hours

- 2 Hours- 6 Mar 2024– location: UMGSA office.
- 2 Hours- 13 Mar 2024– location: UMGSA office.
- 2 Hours- 20 Mar 2024– location: UMGSA office.
- 2 Hours- 27 Mar 2024– location: UMGSA office.

Working events attended:

Approximate time spent on other activities: 30 Hours

Activity	Hours
Responding to emails, approving cheques and payments, Emergency grants, and signing them, preparation for meetings and reading agendas, last follow up for Holiday Hamper	20 Hours

Total hours spent on the UMGSA for March 2024: 42 Hours

Vice-President Academic – Hanieh Rezasoltani

Executive Summary of Work:

- Attending to UM Senate meeting.
- Attending to UMGSA Executive meeting.
- Attending to Award Senate Committee meeting.
- Attending to FGS Executive meeting.
- Attending to UMGSA Councillors meeting.
- Transferring roles and responsibilities to VPA- senator 2024-2025

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting	Hours
April 2 nd , 2024	Award Senate Committee Meeting	1 Hour
April 3 rd , 2024	UM Senate Meeting	2 Hours
April 3 rd , 2024	UMGSA Council Meeting (postponed from March)	1.5 Hours
April 11 th , 2024	UMGSA Executive Meeting	2 Hours
April 23 rd , 2024	FGS Executive Meeting	1 Hour
April 24 th , 2024	UMGSA Council Meeting	1 Hour

Time Spent in Meetings in April: 8.5 Hours

Meetings Missed: 2 - sent regret emails.

- FGS Council Meeting - busy with research experience.
- Last UMGSA Executive Meeting - attending a conference.

Office Hours:

Time Spent in Official Office Hours in April: 7 Hours

2 Hours- 3 Apr 2024– location: UMGSA office

1 Hours- 11 Apr 2024– location: UMGSA office

2 Hours- 17 Apr 2024– location: UMGSA office

2 Hours- 24 Apr 2024– location: UMGSA office

Working events attended:

Approximate time spent on other activities: 35 Hours

Activity	Hours
Responding to emails, approving cheques and payments, Emergency grants, and signing them, preparation for meetings and reading agendas.	20 Hours
Preparation email to CUPE 3909 about new contract	5 Hours
Preparation files and documents for training session for VPA 2024/25	10 Hours

Total hours spent on the UMGSA for April 2024: 50.5 Hours

HSGSA President – Akshi Malik

Executive Summary of Work:

- Attended UMGSA Exec and Council meetings
- Chaired HSGSA Exec meeting and Council meeting
- HSGSA x UMGSA Gala planning
- Attended UMGSA FIC meetings

Meetings Attended:

March 1 st , 2024	Meeting with Chris	1 Hour
March 3 rd , 2024	HSGSA Exec Meeting	1 Hour
March 4 th , 2024	UMGSA FIC Meeting	1 Hour
March 13 th , 2024	Meeting with HSGSA CRO	0.5 Hours
March 13 th , 2024	HSGSA Election Forum	2 Hours
March 22 nd , 2024	HSGSA Events committee meeting	1 Hour
March 25 th , 2024	HSGSA Council Meeting	2 Hours
March 28 th , 2024	UMGSA Exec Meeting	0.5 Hours
March 27 th , 2024	UMGSA Council Meeting	1 Hour
March 25 th , 2024	UMGSA FIC Meeting	1 Hour
March 28 th , 2024	HSGSA Exec Meeting	
	GSEA Application Review	5 Hours
	Gala Planning	10 Hours
	Email Correspondence	20 Hours
	Documents and record keeping	10 Hours

Time spent in meetings in March 2024: 11 Hours

Meetings missed: none

Office hours: 0 hours

Total hours spent on HSGSA & UMGSA for March 2024: 55 Hours

HSGSA President – Akshi Malik

Executive Summary of Work:

- Attended UMGSA Exec and Council meetings
- Chaired HSGSA Exec meeting and Council meeting
- Attended HSGSA Finance meeting
- Attended UMGSA FIC meetings

Meetings Attended:

April 21 st , 2024	HSGSA Exec Meeting	2 Hours
April 18 th , 2024	HSGSA Election Forum	2 Hours
April 29 th , 2024	HSGSA Council Meeting	3 Hours
April 25 th , 2024	UMGSA Exec Meeting	1.5 Hours
April 24 th , 2024	UMGSA Council Meeting	1 Hour
April 29 th , 2024	UMGSA FIC Meeting	1 Hour
April 24 th , 2024	HSGSA Finance Meeting	1 Hour
	Transition Meeting	2 Hours
	Email Correspondence	10 Hours
	Documents and record keeping	10 Hours

Time spent in meetings in March 2024: 11.5 Hours

Meetings missed: none

Office hours: 0 hours

Total hours spent on HSGSA & UMGSA for March 2024: 33.5 Hours

Senator 1 – Uche Nwankwo

Executive Summary of Work:

- Executive Committee meetings
- Council Meetings.
- Food Insecurity Committee meetings.
- Campus/urban gardening initiative and meetings with UofM Greenhouse Manager to explore seed germination in the Greenhouse.
- Meetings with the Degree Restaurant Manager
- Student Advocacy
- UofM African Graduate Students Association.
- Volunteered at the HSGSA Winter Gala Night event.
- Represented NRI students during the Sustainability Night event.
- Participated in the Iranian Graduate Students Association Independent Day event.
- Graduate Students Meet-Up event organized by Nigerian graduate students.
- Mobilized African graduate students to participate actively in the last UMGSA election.

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
March 1 st , 2024	Student Advocacy: Nigerian graduate students Meet-up event	2.25 Hours
March 5 th , 2024	Senate Executive Committee on Libraries meeting	1.25 Hours
March 6 th , 2024	Office hour	2.25 Hours
March 6 th , 2024	Senate Meeting	1 Hour
March 7 th , 2024	Student Advocacy Funeral service for Afolabi	3 Hours
March 13 th , 2024	Office hour	2.25 Hours
March 13 th , 2024	Represented VRI grad students at Sustainability Night	2.25 Hours
March 15 th , 2024	Student Advocacy (Iranian Students' Association Independent Day event)	3.25 Hours
March 20 th , 2024	Office hour	2.25 Hours
March 20 th , 2024	Senate Executive Committee Meeting	1 Hour
March 25 th , 2024	Food Insecurity Committee Meeting	1 Hour
March 25 th , 2024	Student Experience Meeting	1 Hour
March 28 th , 2024	UMGSA Executive Meeting	1.25 Hours
March 30 th , 2024	HSGSA Winter Gala Night	4 Hours

Time Spent in Meetings in March: 28 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 WhatsApp chat 2 hours per week	10 Hours
Preparing and reviewing documents before meetings driving to meeting venue, and writing reports	6 Hours
Approximate time spent on coordinating UMAGSA activities	5 Hours

Total Hours Spent on the UMGSA in March 2024: 49 Hours

Senator 2 – Armin Aghajani

Executive Summary of Work:

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting	Hours
March 6 th , 2024	Senate Meeting	1.5 Hours
March 8 th , 2024	SCCCC (Senate Committee on Curriculum Changes)	2 Hours
March 25 th , 2024	GSEC (Graduate Students Experience Committee)	1 Hour
March 13 th , 2024	UMGSA/ HSGSA Election Forum	2 Hours
March 28 th , 2024	UMGSA Executive Meeting	2 Hours

Meetings missed:

Time Spent in Meetings in March: 8.5 Hours

Office Hours:

Time Spent in Official Office Hours in March: 8 Hours

Working events attended:

Approximate time spent on other activities:

Activity	Hours
Documents and record keeping, answering the emails	2 Hours
Answering students' issues through email/phone/social media/in-person	8 Hours
Studying the agendas and minutes to get ready for the meetings	1 Hour

Total hours spent on the UMGSA for March 2024: 27.5 Hours

Appendix VI:

UMGSA Executive End-of-Term Reports

May 1st, 2023 – April 30th, 2024

UMGSA President – Christopher Yendt

Full listing of Committee, Council & Board:

- 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
- UMFM 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
- Advisory Committee on the Re-appointment of the President & Vice-Chancellor
- Advisory Committee on the Appointment of the Executive Director, Student Services

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

Executive Committee

Chairperson: C. Yendt (President)

As we conclude the 2023-24 Executive terms of office, we have done a remarkable amount of work surrounding internal transformation of the association. This began with revising and recommending the approved budget for fiscal year 23/24 to the UMGSA Council in May, which laid the groundwork for redeveloping our staff structure with the provisions for an additional hire at the coordinator level. The Executive Team has been engaged, on a meeting by meeting basis, with regular updates regarding the plans within the organization to account for succession planning. While the retirement of staff and proposed succession planning have been deferred to the Summer 2024 term, with aims for a full transition to be complete by September 2024. The UMGSA has 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 and open conversation to 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.
- 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 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.
- Partnered with HSGSA to launch the first annual HSGSA x UMGSA Gala, which was a success, with nearly 300 graduate students attending at the Fort Garry Hotel in March 2024.

- Restructured ½ of the Executive team, with new position profiles and job descriptions, with a second phase to occur in 2024.
- Redevelopment of existing office space is underway in preparation for new staff with the aim of improving space utilization over the long term.
- Redevelopment of existing UMGSA policies around executive performance, a pilot will be launched in Summer 2024 to address several challenges with the existing process and provide council with greater insight into the process of evaluation, and greater confidence in the outcomes.
- Collaboration on organizational governance with Post-Doctoral Fellows at UM, with the aim of bringing them on board with the UMGSA to create an organization that advocates for all graduate students and post-doctoral fellows.
- Deeper partnership with HSGSA and close collaboration bringing the two organizations closer than they have been in years.

HSGSA President – Akshi Malik

Committees

- 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

HSGSA End-of-year Report 2023-24

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. The HSGSA-SBRC multicultural event series continued at the St. Boniface Research Centre where HSGSA President also hosted a Diwali celebration. The event was well attended by SBRC staff, faculty and students. HSGSA also held another multicultural event at the SBRC to celebrate 'Pongal'. A Nowruz event was also held in April.

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, chaired by the HSGSA VP-External, has submitted a grant application to the UM Green Investment Fund in December and hopes to receive up to \$50,000 in funding to develop an app with the intention of mitigating food insecurity issues at the UofM. In Feb-March 2024, the FIC has developed a relationship with the Fort Garry campus' Campus Food Strategy Group – a group made up of Undergraduate students who are committed to the exact same goals as the FIC. The FIC is currently working with the CFSG to develop garden spaces where students can plant food crops. Details can be found in Food Insecurity Committee Reports.

In November, HSGSA hosted its first 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. The event was a super hit and over 15 students volunteered to bring food from their culture and over 50 students plus their guests attended the event.

The HSGSA Multidisciplinary Research Experience (MHRE) hosted their first meet and greet event at the Fort Garry campus to award the best presenters of 2023 as well as introduced the new instructors for the coming year. The event was attended by over 50 undergraduate students who are enrolled in the MHRE program. The MHRE ad-hoc committee started interviews for the graduate student instructors in November and 12 students have been selected for the program.

All the selected instructors received teaching training and the lecture series has begun. In April, the MHRE website has been updated with bios of this year's committee.

The HSGSA council approved the first HSGSA parental leave bursary application to provide support of \$1000 to a student who had to take a leave of absence in their program and does not have any other monetary support. In December, there were no executive meetings, but the HSGSA finance committee had their meeting at the end of the Fall term.

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. The VP-External chaired the first meeting of the Ed. Kroeger Mentorship Committee in January and applications are now open (April 2024).

In February, HSGSA held their Annual General Meeting 2023-24 in-person at the Bannatyne campus. We had over 45 students who attended the meeting and we had a lot of good discussions during the open mic session.

HSGSA VP-Academic organised omics workshop by Dr. Aliani via Zoom and over 50 students attended the workshop. The HSGSA Distinguished Lectureship Committee, chaired by the VP-Academic is nearing selection of a potential Distinguished Lecture for the next year.

On March 30th, the HSGSA-UMGSA had an excellently attended, incident-free Gala at the Fort Garry Hotel – Grand Ballroom. The event was attended by ~280 students and was a huge hit. Flowers, DJ and Photobooth arrived on time and there were no issues. Time was well managed. The months of planning paid off. UMGSA Exec volunteers and HSGSA student volunteers proved valuable to the success of the event.

Akshi Malik
HSGSA President 2023-24

Vice-President Finance & Administration – Julie Xue

Committees:

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

Recommendations:

- UMGSA Executives can meet in person for some of the meetings.
- UMGSA executives and council members can have an in-person event to know each other after new council members are elected in September / October and another in-person event at the beginning of winter term, so that executives can hear more about students' needs.

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2021-2022 Highlights:

- Approved conference grants and special project grants with the finance committee.
- Passed creation motion of food insecurity committee with the bylaws committee.
- Passed the amendments of the UMGSA Executives and Officers Policy Manual proposed by the president Chris Yendt.
- Passed the New Executive Operations Manual and nomination package.

Vice-President Academic – Hanieh Rezasoltani

Committees:

- 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)

2023-2024 Highlights:

- Winners of the UMGSA Awards were announced earlier than previous years.
- Revised the Governance and Operations Manual and roles of executives significantly.
- Following requests from VPA and UMGSA executives, councillors decided to use budget of award celebration for holiday hampers and increase the number of students receiving hampers to 215.
- Announced UMGSA students' awards winners at the 75th anniversary of FGS.
- The External Relations Fund Ad-hoc Committee was created.
- Increased number of workshops about writing thesis for graduate students.
- Increased number of career workshops for preparation graduate students for interview process and networking.
- The UMGSA and HSGSA collaborated on the celebration Winter Gala.

Recommendations:

- To receive honorarium each month, executive must record hours in the council report.
- Educate councillors about council meetings and their roles and responsibilities.
- Begin the process of getting donations from business to improve the number of awards, Holiday Hampers, Food bank, Gala, and other events.
- All executives must attend office hours.
- Switching from online to in-person council meetings.
- Follow up on the PhD stream and preparation request from Manitoba's government.
- Monitor the process of increasing TA and sessional instructor compensation in the new contract between CUPE3909 and the university in 2024-2025.

- Encourage the Canadian government to increase academic funding for master's and PhD programs.
- Continuing the gathering events for graduate students, such as the new year's gala and the Winter Gala

Vice-President Services & Support – Timilehin Oluwajuyitan

Committees:

- UMGSA Council
- UMGSA Executive Committee
- UMGSA Service and Support Committee (Chairperson)
- UMGSA Event Committee (Chairperson)
- UMGSA Finance Committee
- FGS Awards Committee
- FGS Local Discipline Committee

Recommendations:

- Recognised UMGSA clubs are to renew their licences of operation annually.
- Mandatory Conflict Resolution and Cultural Competency Trainings for UMGSA Executives.

2023-2024 Highlights:

- Organization of fall orientation lecture in partnership with faculty of graduate studies (September 2024)
- Organization of UMGSA pizza day meet and greet (Wednesday September 13th, 2023).
- Mental health workshop (Tuesday 10th October 2023)
- Halloween/ pumpkin carving competition (Monday 30th October 2023)
- Distribution of holiday hamper to over 200 graduate students in partnership with VP Academic (December 2023)
- Organization of winter orientation lecture in partnership with Faculty of graduate studies (January 4, 2024)
- Organization of free tax filling workshop (April 10 - 12th 2024 Fort Garry campus & April 13, 2024, for Bannatyne campus).
- Recognition and ratification of four UMGSA clubs: (1) Queer & Trans Health Sciences Graduate Student Group (2) Filipinos Advancing Research in Health Sciences (3) University of Manitoba Iranian Students' Association (4) University of Manitoba African Graduate Student Association

Senator 1 – Uche Nwankwo

I continued my role UMGSA Senator and participated in several Council and Senate Executive Committee meetings. Part of my activities before meetings included reviewing meeting documents, and highlighting issues that are important to the graduate students to enable me to engage in discussions or ask questions.

My passion, compassion, and commitment to serving graduate students' interests were given priority. I continued to advocate for students by utilizing my skills, networking, and experience. I supported students who were experiencing challenges and empathized with them. When necessary, I connected them to resources available for overcoming challenges.

On my part, I tried to maintain good working relationships with other UMGSA executives as well as committee members in all the committees that I served. I also participated in student events that I was invited to, such as rallies, community events, and holiday celebrations.

I initiated some projects like the Campus Forestry Initiative for planting more trees at the UofM campuses, the Campus Food Insecurity, the registration of the African Graduate Students Association, and the Urban Gardening project to encourage students to grow food crops, which is envisaged to contribute to mental health improvement, networking, and reduction in food cost.

I maintained in-person office hours on Wednesdays to attend to student issues.

I engaged and collaborated with other departments in the school and individuals who had shared views on these projects. I made several efforts also to ensure that the UMGSA and UMSU streamline some activities that would serve the needs of the entire UofM students, regardless of the level of study. Where and when necessary, I volunteered my resources, including time, to intervene on issues or activities that served students' best interests. I initiated and organized the African Cup of Nations soccer final at the UMGSA lounge, which attracted many students and community members, including the Honourable MP for Winnipeg South, Hon. Terry Duguid.

I participated in student advocacy engagements and played a key role in the case of the murdered Nigerian undergraduate student who struggled with mental health issues.

COMMITTEES SERVED

- a. UMGSA Council
- b. UMGSA Executive Committee
- c. FGS Student Experience
- d. Senate Committee on Academic Computing
- e. Senate Committee on Admission
- f. Senate Committee on Appeals
- g. Senate Committee on Liberias

h. UMGSA Food Insecurity Committee

HIGHLIGHT OF 2024 ACTIVITIES

- Continued exploring options and ways to increase funds for the UMGSA Campus Forestry Initiative. The goal is to raise more money for tree planting at the University campuses in tandem with the University’s strategic commitment to climate change mitigation.
- Continued to find a more practical and proactive approach to solving the food poverty challenges experienced by UofM students. I have held meetings and consultations with the Degrees Restaurant Manager and the Manager of the Faculty of Agriculture Greenhouse to further explore alternative approaches to the problem of food insecurity and high menu costs.
- Made several efforts to improve strategic collaboration and consultation with UMSU executives. Meetings were set up with the UMSU President but they were never actualized, though there was an impromptu discussion during a student advocacy event.
- Continued collaboration with Donour Relations to ensure that funding can still be received for the UMGSA-CFI.
- Graduate Students Experience engagement meetings.
- African Graduate Student Group formation to increase participation and representation.
- Engaged in several student advocacy activities and participated in student advocacy engagement.
- Organized a Christmas/Holiday party for the African Graduate Students Association at the New Beginnings Church on St. Mary’s Road.
- Organized African Cup of Nations soccer final match at the UMGSA Lounge. Many students and community members attended the event.
- Volunteered and participated in the HSGSA Annual Winter Gala event.
- Represented NRI students during the Sustainability Night event on March 15th, 2024.
- Participated in UofM Students Club events organized at the community level.
- Promoting Urban Gardening by students, in collaboration with the Faculty of Agriculture Greenhouse Manager, seeds are being planted, which will be distributed to interested students for free.
- Participated in the Strategic Planning Committee Launch of MOMENTUM: Leading Change Together.
- Represented GSA at the Space for Solidarity event organized by Spiritual Care and the Multi-Faith Centre, in collaboration with the International Student Hub Huddle

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 a university education. A student today can become an educator tomorrow. Mutual relationships 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. There must be a more proactive approach and institutional framework put in place to get the two student union leaders to have regular meetings. It is often very difficult, to get the UMSU executives to commit to meetings or shared problem solutions. For instance, the previous executives agreed to collaborate with UMGSA on the issues of campus forestry and food insecurity solutions, these, however, did not gain traction.
- Healthcare coverage for all students (international students) discussion is still ongoing and has not been implemented. The NDP-led government should fulfill its campaign promises of restoring healthcare coverage for international students. The UofM and the Ministry of Health should explore other ways to make the plan competitive and affordable without putting students at risk. Insurance payment should not be tied to tuition. The university can learn from other institutions outside Canada like in Germany.
- Periodic interactive sessions between graduate students and University Admis, not just for the period of the Strategic Planning Committee sessions.
- Periodic training of the trainer (ToT) workshop for faculty members to improve student and mentor relationships This will contribute to reducing conflicts that often result to appeals and disciplinary actions.
- Cost of food and beverages are still very high at the campuses, and options are limited especially at the Bannatyne campus, this should be investigated. I am glad that the current Manager of the Degree Restaurant is passionate about providing some solutions. The Manager should be encouraged and supported.
- The GSA should also explore opportunities of running a restaurant for graduate students, Postdoc fellows, and staff.

- More flexible admission processes to reflect peculiarities in different countries, without compromising quality and ethical standards.
- Outdoor living activities to promote healthy living, as well as more spaces for campus gardening.
- 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 enjoy the same privileges.
- Active engagement and commitment to projects that can reduce the negative impacts of climate change, such as tree planting initiatives.
- UMGSA executive member who initiated a project should be allowed to drive such a project so that the vision/goal is not muddled up.
- The UMGSA President should not be involved in too many roles. The President should give opportunities to other executive members to maximize their potential, understanding that every member of the executive has something to offer. The President should delegate, duties, and not try to be the boss always.
- The Peer Review process should be improved. The current process makes it easy for biased evaluation and thus, very subjective.

Every UMGSA executive must not see their colleagues as competitors. They are part of the team to serve students' interests. They should support each other and maintain good working relationships because life doesn't end at the campus.

Senator 2 – Armin Aghajani

Committees:

- Senate Executive Committee
- UMGSA Executive Committee
- FGS Executive Committee
- Student Senate Caucus
- UMGSA Council
- FGS Council
- Graduate Students Experience Committee (GSEC)
- SCCCC (Senate Committee on Curriculum and Course Changes)
- FGS Appeals Committee
- Senate Committee on Admissions
- Senate Committee on Appeals
- Senate Committee on Instruction and Evaluation

UMGSA End-of-year Report 2023-24:

- Launched a Grammarly survey to consider the graduate students' need for writing assistant software. This task has been discussed for several years, and it hasn't concluded each year.
- Wrote several statements for different events and anniversaries
- He achieved the inclusion of Manitoba Health Insurance for all international students, facing the challenge mostly alone.
- Discussed a plan for the PR stream for PhD graduate students after the candidacy exam.

Recommendations:

- Compared to the workload, the payment is so low.
- Advocating almost 4300 graduate students in parallel with attending several meetings during office hours is a challenging task. Having a position who attends the meetings and reports to the councils may be a good idea.
- The UMGSA manual and bylaws should undergo a massive update. The current one is great. However, we sometimes encounter issues that the current manual cannot resolve.