

UMGSA Council Meeting Minutes **Wednesday, October 23rd, 2024 - 5:30 PM – Zoom**

1. Call to Order (5:30)

2. Traditional Territories Acknowledgement

The University of Manitoba campuses are located on original lands of Anishinaabeg, Ininiwak, Anisininewuk, Dakota Oyate and Dene, and on the National Homeland of the Red River Métis. 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 present, 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 October 23rd, 2024, UMGSA Council Meeting as presented.

Oyo/ Puvitha

Carried

4. Approval of the Minutes

MOTION: BIRT the UMGSA Council approves the minutes of the September 25th, 2024, UMGSA Council Meeting as presented.

Sadhana/ Sakshi

Carried

5. Presentation – Dr. Kelley Main, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies.

Presented a background on what the Task Force on Mental Health and Well-being is intending to do ([see enclosed slides](#)). Three questions were posed and methods to answer them were given.

6. Committee Reports

6.1. September Committee Reports (Appendix II)

- i. C announced that the AVP Post-Doctoral Affairs is now serving on the UMGSA Executive Committee.
- ii. UMGSA continues to move forward with recruitment process for new staff. Once hiring is complete, information will be posted.
- iii. Armin reported the concerns around the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) decisions. Dr. Benarroch, President, University of Manitoba, shares this concern.

- iv. Armin requests that members of the Council take these concerns to their respective planning meetings, other meetings, to discuss and perhaps come up with some solutions to these concerns.
- v. Timi shared that a mental health event was held and there is an upcoming pumpkin carving event.
- vi. Timi reported that the gift cards have arrived for the 2024 Holiday Hamper Program.
- vii. Timi shared that free tax clinics are being planned for early 2025 both at the Fort Garry and Bannatyne campuses.
- viii. Oyo shared that student awards have been decided on and a notification will go out to all students to let them know the process has been completed. Part-time student awards are still open for application.
- ix. Oyo reported that a Sustainability Workshop will be held in November in partnership with the Office of Sustainability.

7. Senate Report

7.1. September Senate Reports (Appendix IV)

- i. No meetings were held in September 2024.

8. HSGSA Report

8.1. September HSGSA Report (Appendix III)

- i. Sadhana reported that HSGSA has been attending all departmental orientations to introduce students to the role of HSGSA.
- ii. Internal performance appraisals were completed in September.
- iii. Two upcoming events were announced.
- iv. Selections for council members has been completed.

9. Executive Reports

9.1. September Reports (Appendix V)

10. Departmental Reports

- i. Rajat (*Chemistry*) asked who the best person was to contact regarding changing Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) rules.
- ii. C reported that there are ongoing discussions with senior administration, the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) and there are plans to lobby the MPs directly in November.
- iii. C is available for offline meetings regarding the issues surrounding the decisions and changes being made.
- iv. C shared that the concerns of limited services on the Bannatyne campus have been raised with senior administration and UMSU.

11. Unfinished Business

- i. There was no unfinished business to report.

12. New Business

12.1. Ad-Hoc Graduate Student Gala Committee (GSGC)

- i. C presented the Terms of Reference for this committee.
- ii. Sadhana requested more time for the HSGSA to review the terms. The motion was postponed.

12.2. Bylaw Update

- i. C provided high level overview. The document is not yet ready for formal review. The current bylaw does not meet many requirements to be considered an official bylaw.
- ii. C is happy to answer any questions council members may have offline.

12.3. Approval of Audited BDO Financial Statements

- i. C reported that the report did not flag any concerns regarding risks that that are not mitigated or in the process of being mitigated.
- ii. C highlighted the Statement of Financial Position with respect to interfund balances. An external financial firm has been hired to address of restructuring and internal management, in addition to financial services.

MOTION: BIRT The UMGSA General Council approves the audited BDO Financial Statements

Faith/ Barak

Carried

12.4 Approval of BDO as the 2025/26 Financial Auditors

- i. The 2025/26 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 2025/26.

Timi/ Barak

Carried

13. Announcements

13.1 Executive Review Committee

- i. If interested, please email Willow at gcc@umgsa.org

13.2 Share your Experience

- i. Strategic Marketing & Communications UM is looking for graduate students to share why they chose UM for their graduate study, any challenges they faced, and any areas that can be improved.
- ii. If interested, please email Willow at gcc@umgsa.org

13.3 Next Council Meeting:

- i. Wednesday, November 27th, 2024 - 5:30PM – Zoom.

13.2 November Newsletter:

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

Adjournment (6:35)

UMGSA Council Meeting Attendance

October 23rd, 2024

<i>Position/Department</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Signature</i>
President & Senator	Christopher Yendt	Present
VP Finance & Administration	Armin Aghajani	Present
VP Academic & Senator	Oyomikon Jakpa	Present
VP External & Senator	Anh Pham	Present (<i>joined at 5:45</i>)
VP Services & Support	Timilehin Oluwajuyitan	Present
VP Health Sciences	Sadhana R.N Sudhakar	Present
Chairperson (No Vote)	Kavisha Manoj Mehta	Present
Office Manager (No Vote)	Ruth Prokesch	Present
Gov & Comm Coordinator, Minute Taker (No Vote)	Willow Josephson	Present
<i>Agric & Food Science</i>		
Animal Science	Janine Hansen	Present
Biosystems Engineering	Isanka Gimhani (Co-Councillors) Thirukumaran Ramesh	Both Present
Entomology	Madeleine Milne	Sent regrets
Food & Human Nutritional Science	Susane Trevisan (Co-Councillors) Foluke Oyekale	Foluke Present
Plant Science	Uthpala Ekanayake	Present
Soil Science	Kingsford Amoah (Co-Councillors) Sweekriti Subedi	Both Present
<i>Architecture</i>		
City Planning	Barak Al Dabous (Co-Councillors) Joseph Westfall	Barak Present
Interior Design	John Sorza	Present
<i>Arts</i>		
Economics	Mohammad Hasan (Co-Councillors) Oluwafemi Awopegba	Both Present
English, Theatre, Film & Media	Sakshi Tyagi	Absent
Linguistics	Mohadeseh Rostami Samak	Present
Political Studies	Michayla Carlson	Present
Psychology	Nisali Muthumuni (Co-Councillors) Reegan McCheyne	Georgia Gopinath as proxy
Sociology & Criminology	Dorcas Frimpongmaah	Present
<i>Management</i>		
Management - MBA/MFin/MSCM	Tapiwa Mushayakarara (3x Co-Councillors) Sam Paknia Dharsan Kishore Babu Kishore	Absent
<i>Education</i>		
Education - PhD	Jeremy Roberts	Present

Education – Admin, Foundations & Psychology	Puvithira Balasubramaniam	Present
Engineering		
Biomedical Engineering	Rashmita Chatterjee (Co-Councillors) Maria Anabel Uehara	Maria Present
Civil Engineering	Homa Motavallian Naeini	Present
Electrical & Computer Engineering	Ali Nasr Esfahani (Co-Councillors) Bitra Esmaeili Jamakani	Ali Present
Mechanical Engineering	Rasool Mokhtari Homami	Present
Environment, Earth & Resources		
Environment & Geography	Nicholas Decker Paulo Victor Marchetto Silva	Present
Earth Sciences	Jack Mulcahy	Present
Natural Resources Institute	Oluwatimilehin Sanni (Co-Councillors) Kaitlyn Plastino	Oluwatimilehin Present
Graduate Studies		
Applied Health Sciences	Andrea Mandzuk (Co-Councillors) Saba M. A. Kolahdouz	Saba Present
Peace & Conflict Studies	Diwan Oulai (Co-Councillors) Fardowsa Hassan	Diwan Present
Kinesiology & Recreation Mgmt.		
Kinesiology & Recreation Mgmt.	Amy Abegglen (Co-Councillors) Faith Olarinde	Faith Present
Science		
Biological Sciences	Sandamini Bandara	Absent
Chemistry	Rajat Arora	Present
Mathematics	Homer Franz De Vera	Present
Microbiology	Zhong Ling Yap	Present
Physics & Astronomy	Charles Lee (Co-Councillors) Isabel Sander	Both Present
Statistics	Sulalitha Bowala Mudiyansele (Co-Councillors) Funmilola (Mary) Taiwo	Both Present
HSGSA Departments		
Oral Biology	Shuanghong (Echo) Li	Absent
Biochemistry & Medical Genetics	Paul Jerard Layug	Absent
Community Health Sciences	Sepideh Yousefiasl	Absent
Human Anatomy & Cell Science	Taylor Orchard	Present
Immunology	Sina Taefehshokr	Present
Medical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases	Chibuzor P Emmanuel (Precious)	Present
Pathology		
Pharmacology & Therapeutics	Khushali Trivedi	Absent

Physician Assistant Program	Kaitlyn Macgregor	Present
Physiology & Pathophysiology	Samuel Ogunsola	Absent
Nursing	Olaide Fadare	Present
Pharmacy	Floriane Houenagnon	Present
Rehabilitation Sciences	Mary Osunlusi	Present
CUPE3909		
CUPE3909 (No Vote)		
Indigenous Engagement		
Guests		
Rehabilitation Sciences	Onah Chiemelie Sylvia	Present
Medical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases	Rubendren Jamilchelvan	Present
Pathology	Akaljot (Ross) Grewal	Present