

Executive Report: August 1, 2015- September 24, 2015



UWSA

THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Executive Report
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UWSA Executives:

President Peyton Veitch, Vice-President External Affairs Kevin Settee
Vice-President Internal Affairs Emily Epp, Vice-President Student Affairs Jesse Blackman

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Executive Summary

This report covers the period of August 1, 2015 to September 25, 2015 and is the third submitted to the 2015-2016 UWSA Board of Directors. Contained in the report is the summary of meetings both internal and external, media overview, reports on solidarity and advocacy work, and services updates.

During the weeks on either side of the beginning of Fall Term the executive team has been active on many student and community lead initiatives. On the Selkirk Campus Vice-President External, Kevin Settee, helped make the first swing at the old Merchant's Hotel building which will be the future cite of a new hub of North End rejuvenation. On UWinnipeg's front lawn we welcomed in a new school session with free food, and music from many renown local and Canadian artists. When residents faced an unexpected fee to access residences of the Winter Break period, the UWSA was part of a quick response to overturn the fee. The Health Plan Opt-Out date has passed and there have been no technical difficulties reported, and thus continue to mark the success and strength of our Greenshield health plan. The application to expand the UWSA daycare was successfully completed and received by September 15, 2015. Productive discussions around Student Evaluations of Teaching and the Tutoring Centre have begun in order to make our campus more responsive to and supportive of students. Our response to the Refugee Crisis is aided by working directly with the University to create long-term solutions to the global displacement of people. Federal Election actions have made the local news and begun to shape the discourse on campus from the HIVE to Richardson and Buhler.

We are proud to be a part of these changes that will bring many positive impacts to the experiences of University of Winnipeg students. However, there is more to be done; many of the services target for students who are struggling financially and with food security have seen exceptional increases over previous years. Foodbank and the Student Support Program are making a huge impact, but the crisis of instability among students is readily apparent. With these sobering trends in mind we will continue our work to make post-secondary education, of the highest quality, affordable, safe, and accessible.

In solidarity,
Your UWSA executive team,

Peyton Veitch, President
Kevin Settee, Vice-President External Affairs
Emily Epp, Vice-President Internal Affairs
Jesse Blackman, Vice-President Student Affairs

Internal

The Internal section is dedicated to the work of the organization done by either UWSA staff, volunteers, Directors and/or Executive Directors that affects the day-to-day business of the UWSA.

Internal Committees

The UWSA Board of Directors maintains four regularly meeting subcommittees: Finance and Operations Committee (major financial decision-making body, health plan and service decision-making), Student Life Committee (events, student groups, student funding requests), Campaigns and External Relations Committee (lobbying/political decision-making body), and Executive Committee (managerial committee). Additionally, the UWSA holds quarterly Bylaws and Policy Committee Meetings where bylaws and policies are reviewed. Meeting notices are posted on campus and online. Please visit theuwsa.ca or email uwsa@theuwsa.ca for information, open session minutes, etc.

Internal Meetings

August 6: Bike Lab budget amendment meeting with the President, VPIA, General Manager, Business Manager, and Manager of Special Projects.

August 10: VPIA attended and presented at the Events and Retail Staff Training

August 10th: Executive team completed the DISC Analysis

August 12: Project check-in with the VPIA and Manager of Special Projects

August 12: VPIA, President, General Manager, Daycare Director, and Manager of Special projects met to check-in about the Daycare expansion grant proposal

August 12: VPEA met to check-in about Merchants Corner.

August 13: Executive met to discuss the fall outreach strategy

August 13: VPEA met with student groups and CFSMB Campaigns Organizer for #itsnosecret

August 17: VPEA met with General Manager to discuss Campaign Organizer hiring planning.

August 18: Daycare Expansion Proposal Drafting meeting with VPIA and the Manager of Special Projects

August 18: VPEA held CERC meeting with committee members.

August 19: VPEA met with UVic student to discuss Media and Reconciliation.

August 19-24: VPIA and VPSA interviewed candidates for the EcoPIA, Safewalk, and International Students' Association Coordinator positions.

August 20: UWSA exec and Special Projects Manager met about the Merchants Corner Planning

August 24: VPIA held a Budget Revision meeting with General Manager and Business Manager

August 24: Roll Call check-in with UWSA Exec and Events Coordinator

August 25: Communications Coordinator met with UWSA Exec to discuss communication strategies for Roll Call, and student outreach.

August 25: VPEA and President held prep meeting in advanced to meeting with Minister of Education James Allum.

August 26: All exec attend Exec Committee meeting.

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August 27: President and VPEA meet with Minister of Education James Allum.
August 27: Exec meet and greet with UIC Chair and Academic Advisor to discuss UWSA satellite office and Merchants Corner development.
September 2: VPEA and President Discuss Federal Elections Debate.
September 3: President meets with Outreach & Special Projects Coordinator to discuss the Daycare Expansion.
September 3: VPEA held DivestUW working group meeting to discuss building student movement and actions.
September 3: VPEA met with Dr. Brian Rice from Faculty of Education to discuss Indigenous Credit Requirement and Gallery Walk.
September 8: VPIA gives Sexual Misconduct Protocol Training to volunteers and UWSA Exec with Status of Women Director and Jan Byrd.
September 8: VPIA and VPSA attend the Daycare Management Committee meeting with the General Manager
September 14: President & VPIA meet with General Manager and Business Manager to discuss depreciation.
September 17: Executive Committee meeting
September 18: VPIA met with General Manager to discuss her role as UWSA representative in SMP cases.
September 21: President & VPIA have follow up meeting with General Manager and Bus Manager regarding depreciation.
September 21: VPIA met with Events Coordinator and General Manager to discuss UWSA Space Rental costs
September 22: President, VPIA, General Manager, Daycare Director & Bus Manager meet to review Daycare financial statements.
September 23: VPEA met with President to discuss Federal Elections Panel/Debate
September 25: Finance and Operations Committee Meeting

External Meetings

August 5: President met with Prairie Architects re Daycare expansion
August 5: VPIA, President and General Health Plan Coordinator met with Financial Services, International Student Services, and Graduate Studies to plan how to implement the International Student Health Plan Billing Department
August 5: President & VPEA met with Awards & Financial Aid regarding MB Student Aid policies
August 7: President met with Jan Byrd to discuss healthy campus advisory committee
August 7: President met with Nawal Tajdin regarding Board of Regents education
August 12: President, VPIA, General Manager, and Retail Manager met with Winnipeg Transit about the UPass
August 13: Executive team met with Michael Barkman, Matt Brett, Bilan Arte, and Anne-Marie Roy from CFS-MB and CFS National to discuss campaign plans.
August 13: President, VPIA, General Manager, and Health Plan Coordinator met with Financial Services, Grad Studies, and ISS to talk health plan coding for the international students health plan billing department.

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August 18: VPIA attended the Senate Appeals Committee in the VPSA's stead.

August 20: UWSA Exec met with President Trimbee and Chris Minaker to discuss goals for the year.

August 20: President met with Inga Mychasiw to discuss Orientation Week.

August 21: President met with UW admin regarding sponsorship guidelines.

August 24: VPIA attended the Sexual Misconduct Committee meeting

August 24: VPIA attended training on the Upstander training with Jan Byrd and Inga Mysachiw Johnson.

August 25: President met with MB Council for International Education.

August 27: VPEA & President met with Minister of Education J. Allum.

August 27: VPEA, VPSA & President met with Jim Silver & Cheyenne Henry at UIC to discuss how the UWSA can more effectively support students at the Selkirk Ave Campus.

August 27: President attended Mouseland Press Board Meeting.

August 28: President meets with Leadnow organizer.

September 1: President met with Jo-Anne Palanuk to review our Daycare Expansion.

September 2: President meets with UWFA & Alumni Association to plan all candidates debate.

September 2: VPEA met with Winnipeg Labour Council President Dave Sauer to discuss DivestUW Campaign.

September 4: President & VPIA meet with UW admin to discuss UW support for expansion.

September 8: President attends War Resister Support Meeting.

September 8: President attends Get Out the Vote meeting at CFSMB.

September 8: VPEA engaged with Manitoba Education Research Network to plan IRAC Gallery Walk on October 20.

September 9: President attends meeting re Bike Lab relocation with UW admin.

September 9: President & VPIA attend follow up meeting with UW admin re Daycare Expansion proposal.

September 14: President attends Senate Academic Misconduct Appeal meeting.

September 14: VPSA met with Biology Students Association President.

September 14: VPEA along with Andrew Vineberg and Charles Girard conducted a consultation with CEDA for Merchants Corner with Jordan Bighorn.

September 14: VPEA and UWASC Female Co-President attended Indigenous Requirement Advisory Committee Meeting.

September 15: President, VPIA & VPSA meet with Human Rights and Diversity Officer D. Scarth.

September 15: VPSA with Rhetoric, Writing, and Communications Department Chair and Tutoring Centre Coordinator.

September 15: VPEA met with representative of Winnipeg Indigenous Rock the Vote to set up voter registration tables in Aboriginal Students Lounge.

September 15: VPEA met with University of Winnipeg Communications about ICR.

September 16: VPSA attended Healthy Campus Advisory Committee Meeting.

September 16: President meets with UWFA council.

September 16: VPIA attended Senate Budget Committee Meeting

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September 16: VPEA attended Merchants Corner fundraiser meeting/presentation at Hotel Fort Garry.

September 17: President & VPIA meet with UNSC, Jan Byrd.

September 17: Executives met with Vice-President Human Resources, Laurel Repsky, Executive Director Student Life, Jan Byrd, Director of Housing, Jennifer Trotman, and Student Services Director, Inga Myschiw Johnson, about RWELP, SMP, and the Winter Break Declaration.

September 21: President attends Senate Executive.

September 21: President, VPIA, VPSA, attend Board of Regents Orientation.

September 23: President attends debate prep meeting with UWFA & Alumni.

September 23: VPSA met with UWFA President about Student Evaluations of Teaching

September 23: VPSA and VPIA attended GCSAC meeting

September 23: VPSA attended ISS conversation event

September 23: VPSA attended "What kind of Feminism in 2015?" in the HIVE

September 24: President attends Asset Naming Committee

September 24: Participated in "Putting Student Issues on the Table."

September 24: VPSA met with Rhetoric and Communications Student Group

September 25: VPSA attended SOSA meeting

September 25: President, VPSA attend meeting with UW President, VP Academic et al regarding Ride for Refuge/UW support for WUSC.

Services

The UWSA provides many services to both students and community members, ranging from our Bike Lab to our health plan. Below is a summary of the developments of our services.

Food Bank:

The Foodbank has been receiving a very substantial increase in student registrations. We are happy to see students make use of this service, but are alarmed at the number of students who need the support. The increased usage at the end of August and throughout September is likely due to school fees being due; this indicates that students are simply not able to pay tuition and buy groceries, reinforcing the UWSA's stance on food insecurity as it relates to post-secondary education.

Good Food Box

The Good Food Box had a table at Roll Call and signed students up for the program! We are excited to see the Good Food Box grow throughout the year.

Health Plan

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The Health Plan Opt-Out period is closed! The Health Plan Coordinator is busy processing opt-outs and opt-changes. The Finance and Operations Committee has received 8 bursary applications, and 2 appeals to date.

ISIC

The ISIC printer is happily in the Health Plan Office, where the Health Plan Coordinator can print cards, and explain how it related to the Health Plan.

SafeWalk

The SafeWalk Coordinator has successfully recruited volunteers and is able to provide the service.

Student Support Program

Similar to the Foodbank, the Student Support Program has been very busy over the past couple months. The start of September has seen students being forced to choose between rent, tuition/books, and groceries. The Student Support Program has given out bus passes, gift cards, and non-repayable grants. Spending for the program is just below par so far. We expect the program to continue being busy during the remainder of September.

Bike Lab

The Bike Lab Office will be relocating to the former Petrified Sole location. The space will be shared by the Bike Lab and EcoPIA, and will serve as a hub for environmental activism, and environmentally minded folks

Lobbying

International Students

Effective September 1, 2015, international students on study terms longer than 6 months began saving almost \$260.00 on their health insurance. These students no longer have to pay for Guard.me coverage and are fully insured through MB Health and the UWSA Plan.

At the UWSA's request, the University opened up the Work/Study program to include international students with demonstrated financial need this September. Previously, the program was only open to domestic students receiving MB Student Aid.

The UWSA is working with the University to organize a townhall where international students can voice their perspectives to UW admin regarding differential fees, recent tuition fee increases, and other matters impacting them. We're also organizing a presentation to the Board of Regents at the November meeting regarding the non-monetary contributions made by international students to the UW, the impact of fee increases, and dispelling myths.

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Student Charter

Our final revisions have been submitted and we are awaiting feedback from the UW senior executive.

Budget Consultation

The UWSA is working with the Associate VP Finance and Office of Institutional Analysis to develop a budget consultation survey that will allow students to have direct input in to the University's 2016-2017 budgeting process.

Disclosure

Through the Registrar, we have been assured that the University is working on developing a mechanism for the disclosure of academic misconduct to the UWSA that will be presented to us. Disclosure will allow the UWSA to proactively reach out and offer support to students facing allegations of academic misconduct.

Spence Cycling Light

The UWSA is investigating the possibility of a cycling light to improve cyclist safety entering and leaving campus.

Student Residence Winter Break Fee

The housing office put forward a proposal for a new \$150.00 per student fee for all residents staying over during winter break. The UWSA argued that insufficient notice was given, and proper consultation did not occur. The housing office agreed to waive the fee for 2015/16.

Federal Election Day Academic Amnesty

At Senate Executive, the UWSA brought forward a proposal to have accommodation extended to students requiring extra time to travel to and from their assigned polling station. A motion to approve academic accommodation for October 19, 2015 will be discussed at the September 30 meeting of Senate.

Refugees

The UWSA & WUSC met with President Trimbee to discuss greater support for WUSC refugee students on campus. Ideas raised included making rooms at the UW Hostel available, promotion of the Ride for Refuge as a fundraising opportunity for WUSC, and the targeting of existing scholarships to better support WUSC students.

Grants not Loans

At an August 27 meeting with Education Minister James Allum, President & VPEA articulated the need for Manitoba to follow Newfoundland's lead in replacing provincial student loans with non-repayable grants.

Projects

Microwaves

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The microwaves have arrived and have been distributed all over campus! We are happy to see them being used. There have been some issues with breakers being blown in Riddell Hall. The VPIA has been in contact with Diversity and Physical Plant to resolve the issue.

Online Positive Space Training Module:

Over 40 students have taken the online training and the results have been very impressive. Though there are limitations in asking people to select from a limited selection of responses, the overall consensus is that the training is successful in being thought provoking.

Indigenous Credit Requirement:

New content criterion which would have to meet local Indigenous context that consists or is derived from or based on an analysis of the cultural traditions, language, history, ways of knowing and contemporary reality of the Indigenous People of North America. Also courses would need to meet 1 of 5 secondary criterion: Indigenous History, Indigenous Culture, Indigenous Ways of Knowing, Contemporary Indigenous Issues and Indigenous Languages.

Consultations will commence with Indigenous Scholars from Manitoba that have taught mandatory Indigenous Courses to help teachers successfully teach mandatory courses at the U of W.

Merchants Corner Satellite Office:

Community engagement and consultation process is still underway. Currently consultations have taken place with Gordon Bell High School, SEED, IRCOM, Urban and Inner City Studies Department and Community Educational Development Association(CEDA) Pathways to Education. Document is being worked on to figure out services, supports and advocacy. Also staffing solutions for satellite office is being worked on by VPEA and Special Projects Coordinator.

Housing Registry:

Project has been put on hold due to Roll Call, Federal Elections planning and DivestUW campaign. Will commence post federal elections.

U-Pass:

We have continued to meet with TSC and Financial Services regarding implementation of the program. At present, we are awaiting a draft agreement from Winnipeg Transit that will be signed by the UWSA, University and Transit.

Divestment:

We have been working as part of the Risk Assessment Oversight Committee to recommend experts that can help carry out the assessment.

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Working Group established and to meet regularly to discuss actions, building movement and figuring out ways to support President who is currently the only student rep on the Oversight committee.

Daycare Expansion:

Prairie Architects has confirmed the feasibility of an East-West expansion of the UWSA Daycare. The addition would contain 32 new spaces (20 infant, 12 pre school). An estimated cost of the expansion that includes construction fees, design fees, contingency and other costs is about \$1 million.

On September 15, our completed application to the Family Choices Building Fund to cover 40% of the capital costs of an expansion was submitted. We are awaiting a response from the province regarding their participation in the project.

During the week of Roll Call, we were able to finalize an agreement in principle with the UW for a new tenancy agreement and a contribution of \$150,000 to the project. The agreement includes the reservation of 8 spaces for children of parents at the UW Housing Commons, and a payment of \$30,000 per year over 5 years to the University to cover the cost of utilities, maintenance, security, etc. This amount of money is subject to approval from the Board of Regents.

Lockhart Renovations and index:

Index is up and running! The coffee machines have arrived and we are in the midst of training staff to use them. Coffee service should be in place within two weeks. We encountered a hiccup on September 11th, causing us to close for the day, and we re-opened Monday morning.

Federal Election 2015:

We have been working with UWFA and the Alumni Association to organize a debate for October 5 at 7pm in EG Hall. All Winnipeg Centre candidates, with the exception of the Conservative and Libertarian, have confirmed their attendance.

On September 30, a panel discussion featuring Clayton Thomas-Muller and Shauna MacKinnon will be held on themes including PSE, good jobs and the environment. Students will also have a chance to write questions that will be posed to candidates on the Oct. 5 debate.

September 23, we hosted an “It’s No Secret” orientation for students interested in getting involved with the campaign. We have designated September 29, 30 and October 5 & 6 as campaign/voter registration blitz days and are working to organize volunteer shifts.

With CFSMB, we helped organize a “Get Student Issues on the Table” performance art piece wherein students ate KD to demonstrate high levels of personal debt. The event garnered much media and public attention.

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On October 19, we will be hosting an Election Night Party for students at the Goodwill.

We're working with the ASC to hold voter registration sessions every Friday in the ASC lounge.

We've been liaising with Elections Canada to confirm their presence on campus the week of October 5 to register voters, and obtain voter information materials from them.

In partnership with Aboriginal Youth Opportunities, "Politix Brainstorm" sessions have been held every Monday in the HIVE. Most notably, Winnipeg Centre candidates have been featured. By the time ballots are cast Robert Falcon Ouellette and Don Woodstock will both have been guests.

As an executive, we have been engaging in regular outreach with students regarding the election. Including at first year, adult, RA and other orientation sessions.

Gym Buddies:

There is an astonishing amount of interest in using a partnership model to make going to the gym a more welcoming, safer, and enjoyable experience. The demand for Kinesiology students to take partners far outstrips the number of Kinesiology students who are currently interested in participating in the program.

Zero Tuition Canada:

We presented to UWFA council encouraging the faculty association to endorse the campaign calling for a national, universal system of PSE.

Solidarity

Winnipeg Water Wednesdays:

VPEA attended Winnipeg Water Wednesdays with students to build solidarity with AYO and support rights to water and to promote Divestment Campaign on campus.

Unistoten Solidarity Fundraiser:

UWSA and FunClass organized a fundraiser for community members to travel out west to Unistoten Camp to support Indigenous Rights and provide winter gear and monetary funds.

Media

August 27: VPIA interviewed by Uniter re Sexual Misconduct Protocol

August 28: VPIA recorded radio ad with CKUW for Roll Call

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August 31: President appears in Winnipeg Free Press article talking about UWSA Foodbank and student poverty.

September 4: President interviewed by Shaw TV re federal election.

September 8: President interviewed by CKUW re Roll Call.

September 9: VPIA interviewed by CBC French about Sexual Misconduct Protocol

September 9: VPIA interviewed by Metro about Sexual Misconduct Protocol

September 9: VPIA interviewed by CBC Radio about Sexual Misconduct Protocol

September 11: President interviewed by CBC re transit issues.

September 15: President interviewed by CJOB re child care.

September 23: President interviewed by CBC re student voter turnout.

September 24: President interviewed by Radio Canada re "Get Student Issues on the Table".

September 25: President interviewed by Uniter re Daycare expansion.