

Executive Report: February 27, 2015 – March 20, 2015

THE U W S A

Executive Report



UWSA

THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Executive Report
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UWSA Executives:
President Rorie Mcleod Arnould, Vice-President Students Services Allison Reimer
Vice-President Internal Lee Chitty, Vice-President Advocate Peyton Veitch

Executive Summary

This report covers the period of February 27, 2015 to March 20, 2015 and is the eleventh submitted to the 2014-2015 UWSA Board of Directors. Contained in the report are the summary of meetings both internal and external, list of media appearances, reports on solidarity and advocacy work, and services updates.

In solidarity,

Rorie Mcleod Arnould
President
University of Winnipeg Students' Association

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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: Capital Committee (major financial decision-making body), Campaigns & External Relations Committee (lobbying/political decision-making body), Executive Committee (Managerial Committee), Events & Services Committee (events, health plan, retail services decision-making). Additionally there are quarterly By-Laws & Policy Committee meetings. Meeting notices are posted on campus and online. Please visit theuwsa.ca or email uwsa@theuwsa.ca for information, open session minutes, etc.

Motions from these committees are available in their respective meeting minutes.

Internal Committee Meetings

March 12: Executive Committee

March 13: Capital Committee

Internal Events

UWSA General Election

The UWSA General Election kicked off March 2nd for a four-week cycle. Voting is taking place March 23, 24, 25.

External

The External section is dedicated to the work of the UWSA, which is done in conjunction with other organizations, companies, UW Staff or Faculty, including the UWSA Daycare management.

External Committees

The UWSA has seats on many Committees of the UW Administration as well as the community and other organizational decision-making bodies.

External Committees Meetings

March 2nd: Senate Student Services Committee meeting attended by L. Chitty

March 2nd: Senate Academic Misconduct Committee meeting attended by L. Chitty

March 9th: Senate Academic Misconduct Committee meeting attended by L. Chitty

March 9th: Special Board of Regents meeting attended by L. Chitty & R. Mcloed Arnould

March 16th: Senate Academic Misconduct Committee meeting attended by L. Chitty

March 17th: UN Safe Cities Steering Committee meeting attended by A. Reimer and R. Mcloed Arnould

March 18th and 19th: CFS National Forum to End Sexual Violence on Campus attended by A. Reimer

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External Events

We Care Campaign

R. Mcloed Arnould presented information about the indigenous requirement on March 18th.

Consent Culture Forum

A. Reimer and a small delegation of UWSA representatives attended a Consent Culture Forum hosted by CFS the weekend of March 20th.

Lobbying

Meetings with government officials and senior UW Administration in order to lobby for students' rights is an important part of the political role the UWSA plays in student life. This section is dedicated to this type of advocacy work:

March 25 – President Rorie Mcleod Arnould met with President Trimbee and new Senior Advisor to the President Chris Minaker to discuss progress on counseling.

Public Appearances and Media

The Uniter:

March 4: “Understanding through education: Mandatory Indigenous classes the right move”

March 11: “UWSA Election season off to slow start”

March 19: The Uniter – Election Candidates write ups

CJOB Radio/online news:

March 18: “U of W Creates New Sexual Misconduct Protocol”

Global News Winnipeg:

March 18: “24/7 assistance now available for sexual assault victims at U of W”

Winnipeg Free Press:

March 19: “New team to tackle campus sex claims”

March 20: “U of W embraces sex-assault protocol”

Metro:

March 19: University of Winnipeg enacts protocol for sexual misconduct on campus”

The Manitoban:

March 17: “City Committee takes the brakes off U-Pass implementation”

Winnipeg Free Press:

Project Updates:

Appeals Guide:

VPA Peyton Veitch has continued to work with Student Support Services Director Inga Mychasiw on a UW-UWSA Appeals Guide. Revisions have been made and we are awaiting a revised draft from Inga.

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Student Departmental Participation:

The UWSA has continued to work with several departmental level student associations to promote greater student participation in departmental activities, including attendance at department meetings. In addition to the History Students' Association, BASA, Anthropology Students' Association, Political Science Students' Society, EDSA and the Mathematics & Stats Students' Association have all expressed interest in submitting this proposal to their respective departments. We are also beginning to solicit feedback and best practices for the development of a student group organizing guide.

Fall Reading Break:

The UWSA polled the student body, receiving 1355 responses (approximately 14% of the student body) and submitted the findings to Colin Russel the UW Registrar.

Project “Explorer”:

On March 27th the UWSA will hold a public student consultation for the new retail location.

Disclosure:

While we have been successful in pushing for inclusion of information pertaining to academic advocacy in course syllabi, the University is reluctant to implement any kind of disclosure mechanism at this juncture. We have received a legal opinion that strengthens our argument and will continue to liaise with administrators to realize this important right for our union and members.

Counseling:

Currently, the UWSA Health Plan covers 100% of Clinical Psychologist counseling up to \$300. As of September 2015, the coverage will increase to \$800 and cover all types of registered counselors.

Fossil Fuel Divestment:

Many students were exposed to fossil fuel divestment for the first time during the campaign launch week, held during the last week of January. On February 13, students held a “Break up with Fossil Fuels” action to coincide with Valentine’s Day and Global Divestment Day. Students were encouraged to fill out messages on Valentines cards addressed to Dr. Trimbee encouraging her to support divestment. In addition, a letter from the UWSA and student groups supporting divestment was sent to Dr. Trimbee, calling on the UW administration to support the initiative. The divestment campaign working group is meeting regularly to plan future actions.

Indigenous Requirement:

The Indigenous Requirement proposal has received support at both the Senate Executive and the Senat Academic Planning committees. It will be presented to the entirety of Senate on March 26th, with a motion to approve the proposal in principle and continue to refine the structure over the coming year for implementation in September of 2016.

Stylus Revamp:

We have reached tentative terms with CKUW to transition publishing responsibility for Stylus Magazine. CKUW is currently considering a formal proposal drafted by our legal counsel. We anticipate a completed transition by the start of the next fiscal year.

UWSA Relocation:

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The UWSA continues to wait for other space acquisitions to reach completion before being able to consider new space on campus. In June, the University Board of Regents approved a plan that would allow the UWSA to move our operations above ground into the ground floor of Centennial Hall, a focal point of the University that would allow us much more visibility on campus. We anticipate hearing more information about the timeline of this location prior to the end of our term.

War Resisters:

No update

2015/2016 Operating Budget

The budgeting process for the 2015-2016 year is reaching completion. There will be a public consultation on Thursday March 26th and a final draft for approval to the board from Friday March 27th.

Charter of Student's Rights & Responsibilities

Vice-President Internal Lee Chitty is working with a new working group made up of Fiona Green Associate Dean of Arts, Danny Blair Acting Dean of Science, and Colin Russel Registrar in order to draw the this project to a draft that is co authored by the students association and the university.

UN Safe Cities

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and UNSC is planning on holding some small events and programming to make students aware of this. Due to the exam period starting in April, UNSC will not hold any large events during this time.

Sexual Misconduct Protocol

As of March 18, the University has released its new Sexual Misconduct Protocol. The protocol is a part of the Healthy

Services

The UWSA provides dozens of services to the students (members) of the Association. We offer everything from the lowest printing prices on campus to large-scale events. This section highlights new developments for some services in the past month.

Food Bank

We are holding job interviews for on March 23 and 26 for the Assistant Food Bank Coordinator position. Once the Assistant Coordinator is hired, we will focus on training the individual for the following two to three weeks. Once training is completed, Jen and the new coordinator will begin planning programming for the summer months, and for the new term.

Good Food Box:

No Update

Health Plan:

We have taken key steps to ensure that the difficulties faced by the Health Plan are not repeated. These steps include moving the opt-out information back to the Green Shield Website instead of the Morneau Shepell website, rewriting the Health Plan policy for clarity, and partnering with TSC to address some software related issues. We are happy to announce that the UWSA Health Plan will include 100% coverage on HPV vaccinations as of September 2015, as well as expanded coverage and options for

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students to seek counseling services.

ISIC:

No Update

Safe Walk:

No update

Student Support Program: The UWSA continues to operate our Student Support Program. We've been able to offer resources to many students in need. A full report, complete with recommendations, will be made as part of the 2015/15 budgetary process.

Bike Lab: The Bike Lab staff, volunteers and users are currently engaged in a goal setting and planning process that will complete in April in anticipation of cycling season. This plan will be brought to this Board for information upon completion.