



UWSA

THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Executive Report
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UWSA Executives:

President Peyton Veitch, Vice-President External Affairs Kevin Settee
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Executive Report: January 19, 2016 - February

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Executive Summary

This reporting period covers the period of January 19-February 19.

The Consent Culture Form was held on February 6 and 7, and was a resounding success, yet again solidifying the U of W, led by the UWSA, as forerunners in the promotion of consent. On campus, concerns about accessibility in the new location for Student Central, 489 Portage Ave., were brought to the attention of the Director of student Support Services. Advocacy around grades and a safe, respectful campus has been steady.

Members of the Executive team were also active in the Canadian student movement. President Veitch spoke at an Education is a Right rally in Victoria, British Columbia and joined Vice-President External Affairs Settee in Ottawa, Ontario, to lobby Members of Parliament on a national post-secondary strategy. Locally and nationally, our membership in the Canadian Federation of Students enables us to give voice to the concerns students have on our campus and across the country.

The 2016 UWSA General Election is currently underway. We hope that the coming months can create a smooth transition between the successes of 2015-16 and build a foundation for the work of 2016-17. With a provincial election looming, the new Board will have to consider how to effectively lobby whoever forms government on behalf of students. A potential change in government could have significant ramifications for post-secondary education across Manitoba, including tuition fees, bursaries, institutional funding, and loans. April 19, 2016 will be a very important day for the next four years. With support from CFSMB, we will ensure that as many students as possible are aware and engaged in the democratic process.

The next two months will be a period of consolidation and completion, as work to draft a budget for the organization, and finish or transition existing projects. We also hope that in our remaining time together as a Board, we can inspire more of our members to become active participants in the student movement.

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

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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: 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

January 20: Exec Committee Meeting

January 28: VPIA met the EcoPIA coordinator, the WTSC, and the Safewalk Coordinator to look at their respective budgets, and get input on building next year's budget

January 29: VPIA held a budget consultation with the ISA coordinator

February 3: VPIA attended the Foodbank volunteers meeting to update them on the Food Security campaign

February 9: VPIA, Events Coordinator and Assistant, Communications Coordinator, and WTSC Coordinator met to plan the Hunting Ground Screening.

February 9: VPIA and VPSA attended the Daycare Management Committee meeting

External Meetings

January 20: President attends Provincial Debate Meeting

January 22: President meets w/ AVP Finance

January 25: President attends meeting at CFSMB

January 25: President and VPSA attend LDC Training Meeting

January 25: VPIA, President, and VPSA attended the UW Board of Regents Meeting

January 26: President & VPEA meet with PSAC re Living Wage.

January 26: UWSA Executive attended the UW Senate Meeting

January 26: GM, VPIA, and President met with Chris Minaker and Mike Emslie regarding the Health Plan deficit.

January 26: President attends UWCRC meeting.

January 27: VPIA and VPSA attended a training session on Roles and Responsibilities of Effective Boards

January 27: UWSA Board Meeting

February 1: VPIA attended the IWD march planning meeting

February 2: VPIA attended an Integrated Academic and Research Planning Committee Meeting

February 4: VPIA and VPSA attended an IARP Consultation

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February 4: VPIA and Status of Women Director attended the Sexual Misconduct Committee Meeting

February 8: VPIA and VPEA attended an IARP Consultation

February 9: VPIA, President, GM and Retail Manager met with Financial Services, TSC, and Colin Morrison to go over the draft UPass Agreement

February 10: VPIA and VPSA attended the Senate Student Service Meeting

February 10: VPIA, President, and VPEA attended an IARP Consultation

February 11: President attends Divestment Risk Assessment Meeting

February 12: President meets w/ Chris Minaker.

February 17: Exec and Accessibility Director promoted UWSA at the UW Open House

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.

Bike Lab:

The Bike Lab closed for a couple weeks due to an electrical repair.

Food Bank:

Student Foodbank usage continues to rise, with at least five new registrants every week. Our Foodbank has a good reputation for being a welcoming and safe environment.

Good Food Box

Due to a loss in core funding, the Winnipeg Food-Share Co-op has been unable to continue the Good Food Box program, which is unfortunate. We will be meeting with WFC in the next few months to talk look at options of increasing accessibility to healthy food in Winnipeg.

ISIC

The ISIC printer is in the main Office, where the Office Administrator can print cards, and explain how it relates to the Health Plan. Students can also get a card online.

Health Plan

Greenshield is working on adding plan options for PACE students on 14 month study terms in advance of their membership in the UWSA (pending approval at the upcoming AGM).

Lobbying

International Students:

President attended the “Dine & Discuss” International Students consultation event. A wide range of suggestions on everything from campus life, to food, to affordability of education were brought forward by students. A report of the consultation has been drafted and we will work to ensure that recommendations are implemented by the University.

Student Charter:

VPSA and President met with Registrar to discuss next steps for this initiative. A meeting with the UW Senior Executive was proposed to get through logjams stalling progress on this file.

Accessibility in Student Services:

VPSA met with the Director of Student Support Services and discussed a number of areas identified for improvement. Many forms are available online, service delivery personnel are being in disability awareness, and infrastructure is being renovated in consultation with Accessibility Services.

Disclosure:

President & VPIA met with Registrar to discuss progress on this initiative. While blanket disclosure of academic misconduct instances looks unlikely in the foreseeable future, the Registrar has committed to bringing forward a proposal to Senate which would require DRC letters to students regarding academic misconduct to include information (including contact info) about the VPSA’s advocacy role.

Tutoring Promotion:

Inherent to the University’s commitment to access and excellence are support services. The Writing Centre has along, yet little known history of teaching students the tools they need to succeed at the University level. The VPSA has been giving classroom presentations to Academic Writing courses to this effect.

UW Alternative Budget:

Online survey is up and running, President continues to correspond with LAHRK regarding status of the project.

Lobby Week: President & VPEA attended CFS National Lobby Week, where students from across the country met with MPs and Senators to share the Federation’s national vision for post-secondary education with them. A number of recommendations, including federal funding for free undergraduate tuition, lifting the cap on the PSSSP, and increased support for graduate students were discussed. MPs and Senators we met with were on the whole, very receptive to the ideas that were brought forward and we’re optimistic that many of them will be reflected in the upcoming federal budget.

Projects

Merchants Corner Satellite Office:

All three parties (UWSA, Merchants Corner Inc, and UW) have agreed to terms of a draft MoU outlining the UWSA's \$75k contribution in return for a rent-free office space for a 15-year duration. The document will be signed imminently. Student Consultation are being planned.

Housing Registry:

No new updates at this time.

Budget Building:

VPIA has started the budget building and consultation process. Consultations have been held with the Women-Trans Spectrum Centre, EcoPIA, Foodbank, SafeWalk, and the International Students' Association. Consultations with the remaining departments and service centres are scheduled. We are also planning on holding a general consultation for students to give feedback on what services are most important to them.

Advocacy:

Grade appeals and RWLEP concerns have highlighted the end of January and the beginning of February.

U-Pass:

We have received the UPass draft agreement from Transit and are working with the University and Winnipeg Transit to finalize it. Next steps are to determine the requirements for TSC and Financial Services in order to implement the program. Due to the delay in receiving the agreement from Transit, we are on a condensed timeline to get everything in order for Fall 2016.

Divestment:

We are working with CFS-MB on a climate justice action next week. President continues to attend risk assessment meetings- the risk assessment terms of reference have been adopted and the process is moving forward.

Printing in Richardson:

Funding has been approved for a printer in Richardson.

UWSA Daycare Expansion:

A Request for Proposals has been put out for a construction manager for the project by the UWCRC. President will be part of the subcommittee that will select a manager. We have received a formal letter of confirmation from the Minister's office

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and are continuing to work on obtaining the required paperwork associated with the project.

Bulman Student Centre Room Set-up:

New couches have been installed in our student rooms. There are now more public seating spaces and tables throughout the Bulman.

index:

February 11 we had index's official coffee launch, Sealed with a Sip! Index was closed during Reading Week, but will be back up and running for students' return.

Photo Club:

There are no known barriers to the beginning of the Dark Room renovations. Photo Club's membership is growing and new faces are a common sight at their Monday meetings.

Canada 150:

The VPEA, with input from the ASC Female Rep, submitted a grant application as part of the University's application to Canadian Heritage for the 150th anniversary of confederation. Our portion of the application is for an Indigenous storytelling festival to be held in 2017. The festival will provide an opportunity for Indigenous to share and initiate discussion of critical stories from the past and present.

Grassroots Festival: A call out for submissions for exhibits, workshops, discussions and film screenings went out on January 13th. The Grass Routes Festival will take place March 14-18 just after mid-term exams. Programming schedule is being finalized and social media campaign and promotion to begin ASAP.

Indigenous Credit Requirement: The Office of Institutional Analysis is currently doing research on course capacity. Determining the course to student ratio to determine if the amount of courses that are currently offered meet the demand for the amount of students that are going to be required to take them. 2 communications videos are going to be worked on by IRAC, one internal for students, staff and administration, and one external for Winnipeg and Canada. The IRAC is also going to be working with the UWSA to create an International Students Welcome Gathering and Festival for new Canadians and international students.

City Studio: MOU was signed between the City of Winnipeg, UWSA and the University of Winnipeg. Plans to have a CityStudio project in Fall 2016 are commencing. VPEA did presentations at the Experiential Learning Event w Marc Vachon.

Manitoba Education Research Network: VPEA and Education Director are partnering with MERN and Faculty of Education to work on Student Research Seminars to highlight education research at the U of W.

Solidarity & Events

Make Poverty History Campaign Launch: President and VPEA attended the launch of Make Poverty History Manitoba's "K(NO)w Poverty" campaign. The campaign features six pillars including a minimum wage of \$15.53 per hour and increased investments in mental health, social housing, childcare, and EIA. It aims to raise public awareness about these issues and press political parties to support these proposals in advance of the provincial election.

The Hunting Ground Screening

In anticipation of Sexual Assault Awareness Month (April), UWSA will be hosting a screening of the documentary *The Hunting Ground*, which looks at sexual assault on campuses in the States. One of the main characters in the documentary will be coming to the screening to speak. The event is being organized by the WTSC Coordinator, the VPIA, the Events and communication department, in collaboration with Ending Violence Against Women MB.

Manitoba Government Climate Change Policy Announcement: VPEA welcomed Manitoba Government into the University of Winnipeg to announce their climate change strategy. Shared some of the work UWSA is doing to combat climate change and shared *7 Fires Prophecy*.

UVSS Education is a Right Day of Action: President assisted the University of Victoria Students' Union with their February 3 rally against tuition fee increases and record levels of student debt in British Columbia. In addition to helping with member outreach and mobilization, President spoke on behalf of CFS to a rally of some 400 students and community allies.

Living Wage Campaign: UWSA is working with locals to fight for campus wide living wage policy.

Media

VPIA was interviewed by the Winnipeg Free Press, Metro, and Uniter in regards to the progress of the UPass.

"Childcare is a Student Issue" article by President published in January 28 issue of the Uniter.

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President was interviewed by the Uniter regarding “International Students: Dine & Discuss” event.

President was interviewed for the February 5 issue of the Ryersonian for a piece on University counseling services.