



UWSA

THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Executive Report
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Executive Report: June 1, 2015- June 30, 2015

Executive Summary

This report covers the period of June 1, 2015 to June 31, 2015 and is the second 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.

June proved to be a month where we were able to further strengthen our internal operations and external advocacy. For the first time in years, the UWSA took a proactive and robust approach to the release of the University of Winnipeg's operating budget. While the 2015-2016 budget contains a number of positive investments that will benefit students, including in counseling and faculty hirings, it also contains fee increases that stand to exacerbate the up-front barriers to education, particularly for international students. Beyond articulating our position to media and students, we've been working with the University to enshrine a budget development process that incorporates greater student input and consultation.

In the spirit of consultation, we have been reaching out directly to students and other members of the University community to assist in the development of an Indigenous Credit Requirement. Through the creation of an online feedback form and updated information dispelling misconceptions about the initiative, we're committed to furthering dialogue and mutual understanding as we decolonize our campus together.

Quality, affordable services are central to the work that we do, and improvements continue to be made in both their delivery and promotion. Expanding access to the Student Support Program (SSP), working with the University to examine the feasibility of expanding the UWSA Daycare and ensuring efficient implementation of the U-Pass program were among our focuses for this month.

Through the summer and in to the fall, we'll keep striving to build a better students' association, campus and society.

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:

June 2nd: VPSA met with UWinnipeg JDC West Co-Captains

June 3: President attends UWSA Daycare Management Committee Meeting

June 8th: VPIA attended the Bike Lab Volunteer orientation session

June 9th: VPIA met with Michael Barkman and the Retail Manager about the Good Foodbox Program

June 10th: Executive team met with Events Coordinator about OWeek

June 10th: VPIA, VPSA, and the Events Coordinator met with representatives from CKUW to discuss further partnerships.

June 10th: June Student Life Committee Meeting

June 11th: VPIA and General Manager met with the Union Rep Diane Mark, and Union Exec Tom Brown and Priyanka Kumar.

June 12th: Executive Committee Meeting

June 15th: Pipe Ceremony Planning. Community Partnership.

June 17th: BoD meeting

June 22: O-Week Discussion meeting with Events Coordinator and incumbent Events Coordinator

June 23: VPIA, Retail Manager met with Michael Barkman to discuss Good Food Box Operations

June 23: O-Week Vision statement meeting with Manager of Special Projects, Exec, General Manager, and Events Coordinator

June 24: Review of health plan coordinator applicants by VPIA and General Manager

June 24: Daycare Expansion Discussion with VPIA, President, and General Manager

June 25: Anti-Oppression/Positive Space Framework meeting with Exec, General Manager, and Jackie Hogue.

June 26: Campaign Promotion Brainstorming/Strategizing meeting with manager of Special Projects, Exec, and Communications Coordinator

June 28: Interviewed for the following positions: Health Plan Coordinator, LGBT* Centre Coordinator, and Women-Trans Spectrum Centre Coordinator

June 29: Exec Committee

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June 29: Foodbank meeting with Foodbank Coordinator and the Communications Coordinator.

June 29th: VPEA attended Campus Sustainability Office meeting

June 30th: VPEA met with UWinnipeg Foundation on creating scholarship.

External:

June 1-3: VPEA participated in National Aboriginal Caucus in Ottawa.

June 2: President meets with UW Admin to discuss international student health insurance

June 2: VPEA and UWASC Co-President Sadie-Phoenix Lavoie met with NP Niki Ashton and discussed student issues and federal politics.

June 4-7: President, VPEA, VPSA, General Manager, Sadie-Phoenix Lavoie, and Mitchell van Inveld participated in the 66th Semi-Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students(-Services) in Gatineau, Quebec

June 9: President attends UW Health & Safety Committee Meeting

June 9: President meets w/ VP Student Life Sherman Kreiner re UWSA Daycare expansion

June 10: VPSA meet with Theatre and Film Department Chair Tim Babcock and DRC Chair Tom Stroud.

June 10: President and VPSA meet with Registrar Colin Russell re Charter of Student Rights and Disclosure

June 16: President meets w/ Senior Advisor to UW President Chris Minaker

June 16: VPSA attended Senate Appeals Committee Meeting

June 16: VPEA attended National Aboriginal Day at the Manitoba Legislative Building.

June 16: Executive team attends UW Senate Meeting

June 16: VPSA met with Physics Department Chair Dwight Vincent

June 17: VPEA and Elders lead a Pipe Ceremony to begin consultation on the Indigenous credit Requirement. President and VPSA attended

June 18: VPSA met with Inga Johnson Mychasiw, Manager of Student Advisory and Support Services, about the Sexual Misconduct Protocol

June 18: President meets w/ UW Chancellor, President, Minister of Education

June 18: VPEA, President, VPSA attended Keeping the Fires Burning Gala.

June 19: President meets w/ UFCW rep

June 19: President meets w/ UW Alumni Association Rep

June 22: VPSA talked on the phone with Business and Administration DRC Chair Ivy Kai-Poku

June 22: VPSA met with Dean of Education Ken McCluskey to discuss DRC and PRC

June 22: President attends Board of Regents meeting

June 23: VPSA attended Senate Appeals Committee Meeting

June 23: Health Plan Business Case meeting with Health Plan Coordinator and Manager of Special Projects

June 23: met with Jennifer Trotman from Housing to discuss the Student Support Program's presence in the housing office

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June 23: Executive team attends Joint Senate/Board of Regents meeting

June 24: VPSA spoke with Religion and Culture DRC Chair Mark Ruml

June 25: General Manager, Communications Coordinator, VPSA, and VPIA attended the Canada Day Celebration put on by the day care

June 26: President, Manager of Special Projects and Strategic Initiatives, meet with VP Student Life and Senior Advisor to President re Centennial Hall usage

June 26: President attends meeting re budget consultation with AVP Finance

June 28: Sustainability Council Meeting (attended by VPEA)

June 29: VPSA attended Senate Academic Misconduct Committee meeting to advocate for a student

June 29: President meets w/ Principal of Harris Consulting

June 29: President meets/ w Director of PACE re UWSA membership

June 30: VPSA attended Senate Appeal Committee meeting

June 30: VPEA, President, VPSA, International Students Co-Directors met with CFSMB Chairperson, CFSMB General Coordinator, and others to discuss international student issues

External Events

CFS NGM

The President, VPSA, VPEA attended the 2015 Spring National General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students from June 4-7. At the meeting, there were many opportunities for exchange between delegates from across the country, and UWSA delegates came away with a wealth of new ideas and knowledge that will help strengthen the student movement in Manitoba.

Directly Affected

The VPSA, VPEA and President attended this film screening about the detrimental impact of Tar Sands expansion and the need for energy policy that reflect the priorities of communities and is based on environmental sustainability.

Keeping the Fires Burning

VPSA, VPEA and President attended this event hosted by Ka Ni Kanichihk to honour indigenous grandmothers and grandfathers for exceptional contributions to our community on June 18.

World Refugee Day

VPSA, VPEA and President attended World Refugee Day on June 20.

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.

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Food Bank

Finalized Emergency Food Fun guidelines. We have been looking at different projects or strategic moves for the Foodbank. We have begun the process of talking to the University about moving the Foodbank to Riddell Hall permanently to improve visibility, usage and decrease stigmatization.

Good Food Box

Good Food Box will resume in September.

Health Plan

Meetings continued with the Health Plan Coordinator, General Manager, VPIA, and TSC to develop new, custom software for the Health Plan.

We have had a few hiccups with the transferring of International Students to our health plan, and off of Guard. Me. The President is in conversation with the University to ensure that what International students are brought on to our health plan and taken off of Guard.me, or any other health plan, as agreed upon.

We have hired our new Health Plan Coordinator! Tiffani Sawatzky has started her training, and will be here full time starting in August.

ISIC

Card printer is up and working, cards are being printed!

SafeWalk

Will be hiring a new coordinator to start the program August 25, 2015. The hiring process is in progress.

Student Support Program

VPIA met with Jennifer Trotman from Housing to discuss temporary overnight shelter for students who find themselves homeless. Support is dependent on availability of suites. VPIA met with Sherman Kreiner about the possibilities presented by the new UWinnipeg Housing Commons. Conversations about branding the SSP, Good Food Box, and the Foodbank as food security assistance were held with UWSA's VPIA, Communications Coordinator and the Manager of Special Projects.

Bike Lab

Continues to be very busy as summertime at the Bike Lab usually is!

Lobbying

CFS NGM – Ottawa

VPEA and UWASC President discussed student issues and encouraged Niki to make our issues a priority in upcoming federal elections.

Indigenous Credit Requirement

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VPEA, UWASC Presidents and VPSA meetings with MB GOV and Faculty to discuss implementation of Indigenous Credit Requirement

Minister of Education

UWSA President joined UW administrators in encouraging the Minister of Education to address the UW's structural underfunding.

Budget Consultation

President met with AVP Finance and Senior Advisor to President to discuss greater student input into the UW budgeting process. The recommendations presented were well received.

Projects

Microwaves

VPIA is in contact with Mike Thul from Physical Plant and has picked out 2 new spots in Riddell and 2 more in the Buffeteria.

Online Positive Space Training Module

VPSA has been holding small group discussions about the content of an online Positive Space Training Module. The goal is to create a Training which will eventually become a UWSA Service.

Indigenous Credit Requirement

Through our representation on Senate and the Indigenous Requirement Advisory Committee, we are continuing to help develop the specifics of the ICR for fall 2016. Highlights from this month included the launching of an FAQ jointly with the UW, the development of a feedback form for student input, and our hosting of a pipe ceremony in Convocation Hall to facilitate dialogue and consultation.

Merchants Corner Satellite Office

Meetings took place with Jeff Palmer(Project Manager) to discuss terms of agreement and meeting dates for Merchants Corner Development. Consultation process is beginning to engage students and community on what services should be offered out of Merchants Corner satellite office.

Housing Registry

UWSA is looking into developing a Housing Registry and Housing Map for students to gain better access to safe, affordable and comfortable housing options close to the U of W and along active transit and bus routes. Consultations will be commencing with students and community partners.

International Student Health Insurance

This month, we continued to work towards eliminating duplicating coverage for international students. The President, VPIA and Health Plan Coordinator have been liaising with the National Student Health Network and Office of Student Life to facilitate implementation for Fall 2015.

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U-Pass

We have been meeting with Winnipeg Transit and appropriate university departments to ensure that the U-Pass program is fully and properly implemented for Fall 2016.

Divestment:

In addition to our coalition work with 350.org and CYCC, we have been preparing for the upcoming risk assessment slated for the end of July.

Daycare Expansion:

We are working to determine the feasibility of a capital expansion of our UWSA daycare, to meet student, staff and faculty demand for spaces (particularly infant spaces). The University and the Province have both been contacted for their support with this project.

Lockhart Renovations and Index:

Construction is proceeding on schedule for an August completion.

Federal Election 2015:

We are already beginning to develop plans for outreach and events related to the upcoming federal election, in collaboration with CFSMB.

Media

Both the President and VPEA had several media appearances during this period with outlets including the Winnipeg Free Press, CBC and the Metro. Topics addressed included the Indigenous Requirement Pipe Ceremony, Student Housing Commons project and UW Budget.