

## **FALL GENERAL MEETING MOTION**

**Whereas** having a single General Meeting per year is insufficient for cultivating a culture of democracy on campus;

**And whereas** General Meetings are the highest democratic body of the UWSA, and having a single, hour-long General Meeting per term is insufficient in accomplishing the goal of having a robustly democratic student association;

**And whereas** quorum is consistently lost before all of the business on the year-end AGM agenda is addressed, imposing a year-long delay on important measures such as by-law amendments;

**Be it resolved** that Bylaws 9.02-i, i.a, i.b, i.c & i.d be created: “i. A Special General Meeting of the UWSA Membership shall be held at the University of Winnipeg every fall term prior to the by-election, as determined by the Board of Directors. At the Fall SGM, the following shall be presented and considered:

- a. An overview of the coming year’s budget;
- b. A brief report on the priorities of that year’s Executive and their work to date;
- c. Any outstanding business from the prior Annual General Meeting;
- d. Any other business that is brought forward for consideration.”

## **SUPPORT FOR STUDENT ANTI-TUITION ACTIVISM MOTION**

**Whereas** the Pallister government has indicated its intentions to lift the cap on domestic tuition, raise Manitoba tuition to Saskatchewan levels, and reduce its operating grant to postsecondary institutions, marking the most significant attack on access to education in Manitoba in almost two decades;

**Whereas** permitted, centrally organized demonstrations such as the All Out Nov. 2 Rally have proven ineffective at directly challenging the Pallister Government’s austerity agenda;

**Whereas** mass mobilizations which include civil disobedience and other direct action tactics are crucial in the face of a direct attack on marginalized and economically disadvantaged students;

**Whereas** students from both the University of Winnipeg and University of Manitoba have been organizing a grassroots rally in opposition to tuition increase and postsecondary funding cuts to take place at the Manitoba Legislature on April 18;

**Be it resolved** that the UWSA support and promote the April 18 “Rally Against Tuition Hikes”;

**Be it resolved** that the UWSA allocate \$500 from its Campaigns budget to sponsor civil disobedience trainings for students participating in mobilization against cuts;

**Be it further resolved** that the UWSA pledge to offer financial or in-kind support for students who incur legal expenses as a consequence of their participation in such mobilization;

**Be it further resolved** that the amount of support to be offered be determined on a case-by-case basis, in closed session, by whichever of the following bodies has the earliest meeting following a request for support: Executive Committee; Finance & Operations Committee; the Board of Directors.

## **DECISION-MAKING SYSTEM MOTION**

**Whereas** the UWSA and its subcommittees adhere to Robert’s Rules of Order, a system for meeting governance created in 1876 based on the proceedings of the U.S. Congress;

**Whereas** Robert's Rules is complicated, restrictive, and creates significant gatekeeping against those not already intimately familiar with its processes;

**Whereas** Robert's Rules is a Eurocentric, colonially-derived system based on an authoritarian and bureaucratic parliamentary process which is at odds with the progressive values and democratic aspirations of the UWSA;

**Whereas** Robert's Rules promotes adversarial decision-making by forcing participants to place themselves either for or against any motion they wish to speak on;

**Whereas** Robert's Rules forces motions to be fully developed when they are presented; prompting a "rubber-stamp" style of governance, rather than allowing for proposals to emerge organically out of participatory group discussions;

**Be it resolved** that the UWSA, led by the Chair of the Board, explore alternatives to Robert's Rules, including consensus-based, participatory decision-making;

**Be it further resolved** that the UWSA, barring resource or time constraints, aim to engage a guest facilitator to lead a Board of Directors meeting in accordance with an alternative to Robert's Rules within the coming 12 months;

**Be it further resolved** that the 2017-18 Chair report back on alternatives to Robert's Rules at the 2018 Annual General Meeting.

### **BOYCOTT, DIVESTMENT, AND SANCTIONS (BDS) MOTION**

**Whereas** colonization is an economic state of affairs, characterized by systematic violence and exploitation of the indigenous peoples of a region;

**And whereas** many countries are engaged in the direct colonization of indigenous nations, such as Canada, but including many of Canada's international allies, including Israel's colonization of the Palestinians, Turkey's colonization of the Kurdish people, as well as in the United States, exemplified by the most brutal suppression of the Standing Rock water protectors;

**And whereas** in colonial societies, nearly every public and private institution is involved in some way in continuing and extending the system of colonization, and that failing to oppose colonization is in fact complicity in the goals of colonization, it is morally necessary for all progressive individuals and institutions to oppose this system in every way possible;

**And whereas** there are many existing movements of the colonized nations against this system, and supporting these movements can be an effective way of opposing this system;

**And whereas** the State of Israel has been engaged in a process of settler-colonization of the Palestinian territories and domination and violence against the Palestinian people, which has earned condemnation around the globe from governments, human rights organizations, and communities of all faiths and backgrounds, and which was recently described in a report by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia as an "apartheid regime";

**Be it resolved** that the UWSA officially denounce Israeli apartheid, and explore ways to support the campaign of Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) as a way of supporting the struggle of the Palestinian people against the Israeli state.

### **STATUS OF WOMEN DESCRIPTION MOTION**

**Whereas** the UWSA values inclusivity and gender equity;

**And whereas** the UWSA does not seek to discriminate against, exclude or otherize those who are transgender or gender nonbinary;

**And whereas** the current by-laws describe the qualifications for the position of Status of Women Director as “The Status of Women Director must be a woman or a self-identified woman”, thus suggesting a distinction between the category of woman and the category of trans woman, which is contrary to what the UWSA wishes to express;

**Be it resolved** that the By-Laws be amended as follows:

**1) By-Law IV: Election of Directors**

*Section 4.06: Qualifications of Directors for Election and Holding Office*

v. c. "The Status of Women Director must be a student who identifies as a woman."

**MENNO SIMONS COLLEGE DIRECTOR MOTION**

**Whereas** there has been much discussion within the UWSA about expanding its Board of Directors to ensure the proper representation and integration of those portions of its membership which may be disconnected from the resources, activities, events and services of the UWSA and the main University of Winnipeg campus, specifically the creation of a PACE Director and an Urban and Inner-City Studies Director;

**And whereas** the Menno Simons College Student Association (MSCSA) is the body which represents and unites all Menno Simons College students, and the MSCSA has recognized a disconnect between main University of Winnipeg campus and the students of Menno Simons College and expressed a desire to bridge this gap;

**And whereas** the vast majority of students of Menno Simons College are University of Winnipeg students and thus full members of the UWSA;

**And whereas** the MSCSA has expressed interest in the creation of an *ex officio* position to represent their membership at the level of the UWSA Board of Directors;

**And whereas** precedent for such a process exists in the position of Aboriginal Students' Co-Directors, who are elected by the Aboriginal Students Council and appointed *ex officio* to the UWSA Board of Directors;

**Be it resolved** that the UWSA add the position of Menno Simons College Director to its Board of Directors.

**Be it further resolved** that the Menno Simons College Director be a University of Winnipeg student who is currently enrolled in Menno Simons College.

**Be it further resolved** that the Menno Simons College Director be elected by the MSCSA in accordance with their constitution, and subsequently appointed to the UWSA Board of Directors.

**Be it further resolved** that the following additions be made to the by-laws:

**1) By-Law II: Definitions and Election of Directors**

*Section A — Definitions*

2.21 Menno Simons College Student Association (MSCSA): Refers to the independently-run and UWSA-recognized student group uniting all students enrolled in Menno Simons College.

## **2) By-Law IV: Election of Directors**

### *Section 4.01: Number of Directors and the specific Directorships*

4.01 i. Menno Simons College Director

4.01 ii. The Menno Simons College Director shall be elected by the Menno Simons College Students Association (MSCSA) for a one (1) year term during the MSCSA spring election process, in accordance with its constitution. This Director shall be appointed to the UWSA Board of Directors.

### *Section 4.06: Qualifications of Directors for Election and Holding Office*

v. The Menno Simons College Director shall be a University of Winnipeg student enrolled in Menno Simons College. This is defined as any and all students enrolled in at least one (1) half (1/2) course, three (3) credit hours, in the departments of Conflict Resolution Studies (CRS) and International Development Studies (IDS), during the academic year, and/or who have declared their major in Conflict Resolution Studies or International Development Studies, who have a valid University of Winnipeg ID card, and who have paid their UWSA student fees.

## **3) By-Law VI: The Board of Directors and the Duties of Directors**

### *Duties of the Menno Simons College Director*

i. The Menno Simons College Director, while at all times keeping in mind the general welfare of the UWSA and all of its Members, shall ensure that interests particular to Menno Simons College students are represented at the Board of Directors. The Menno Simons College Director shall be a spokesperson for these issues.

ii. The Menno Simons College Director shall assist the Vice President External Affairs and President in corresponding with the University of Winnipeg, Canadian Mennonite University, government and community as necessary on matters relevant to Menno Simons College students.

iii. The Menno Simons College Director shall act as liaison with the Menno Simons College Student Association and Menno Simons College faculty and staff.

iv. The Menno Simons College Director shall perform such duties that the Board of Directors determines from time to time by motion or By-Law.

v. The Menno Simons College Director shall be a current member of the Menno Simons College Student Association.

## **AGM MINUTES APPROVAL MOTION**

**Whereas** the UWSA values and strives for transparency and accountability;

**Whereas** the membership of the UWSA is greatly benefited by access to, and awareness of, the activities, policies and bylaws of their association;

**Whereas** accountability, transparency and student democracy are obstructed and the gulf between the student body and their representatives is widened when students are unable to access, or not made aware of, the activities, policies and bylaws of their student unions;

**Whereas** under the current bylaws, the minutes of an Annual General Meeting are only approved at the following Annual General Meeting one year later, which prevents the minutes of each Annual General Meeting from being publicly released during that time;

**Whereas** this delay obstructs the membership from accessing the motions passed and the bylaw amendments effected by their association until an entire year after they were passed, and prevents the UWSA from publicly presenting and advertising that which was passed during that time;

**Whereas** this also hinders the ability of the UWSA to have an accurate, complete and up-to-date version of its policy and bylaw manuals publicly available to the membership;

**Be it resolved** that the minutes of each Annual General Meeting be approved at the following Board of Directors meeting, and those minutes and the text of all passed motions and bylaw amendments be immediately posted publicly and made available to all members.

**Be it further resolved** that the following changes be made to the by-laws:

**1) By-Law IX: Meetings of Members**

*Section 9.17: Minutes and Role of the Secretary at Meetings*

“The minutes of all Annual General Meetings and Special Meetings of the UWSA Membership shall be approved at the following Board of Directors Meeting, and those minutes and the text of all passed motions and bylaw amendments be immediately posted publicly and made available to all members.”

**LIONS MANOR MOTION**

**Whereas** the lease between the University of Winnipeg and the management of Lions Manor is set to terminate, thus discontinuing the student residences provided at Lions Manor;

**Whereas** this will leave many students, mostly international students with limited supports, without a place to live;

**Be it resolved** that the UWSA assist the displaced students in locating and securing new places to live, and that the UWSA lobby the University of Winnipeg administration to do the same.

**EVENT ACCESSIBILITY MOTION**

**Whereas** the UWSA prioritizes making its events accessible to its membership and members of the community;

**Whereas** many community organizations and events which prioritize accessibility take steps to allow their activities to be freely accessed by community members with children to take care of, and community members with limited resources to access transportation;

**Be it resolved** that the UWSA explore the potential for the provision of child-minding and public transit assistance at all its public events.