

# UWSA GENERAL ELECTION 2018 | CANDIDATES' BIOS

## EXECUTIVE TEAM CANDIDATES:

### PRESIDENT



#### **MORGAN BRIGHTNOSE**

– UWSA Engage slate

Tansi! My name is Morgan Brightnose and I served as the UWSA Vice President Internal

Affairs for the past year. I am asking for your support again as I run for President along with my wonderful slate UWSA Engage. As the first person in my family to attend University and get a degree, I understand and experienced the many barriers students face. If elected, I want to continue my work advocating against tuition increases by the provincial government and the University. Part of UWSA Engage's platform is to run a small surplus while not reducing the reputation of our services. It is with this in mind, that I reject the University balancing their budget on the backs of students by increasing tuition. I hope to garner your support!

### VP STUDENT AFFAIRS



#### **JADE DEFEHR**

– UWSA Engage slate

Hi! I'm in my final year of a double major in English and Women's & Gender Studies.

If elected as Vice-President Student Affairs, I'm committed to providing consistent, reliable, and active support for students! I have served as the UWSA's elected Status of Women Director for the past two years. My dedication to student advocacy is evident in my current and past organizing: I successfully campaigned with others for more on-site student counsellors, I co-founded the Inclusive Gym Initiative to improve student access to UW recreational spaces, and I'm currently working with the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) to advocate for student workers adversely affected by the Phoenix Pay System. This November I participated in the CFS National General Meeting in Ottawa as a UWSA delegate. I also have two years of experience organizing with Divest UW. I'm so thrilled to run with my slate members of UWSA Engage!

### VP EXTERNAL AFFAIRS



#### **ZEE MORALES**

– UWSA Engage slate

My name is Jezreel (Zee) Morales and I am a Human Rights Student.

I am hoping to be elected as your Vice President of External Affairs as part of the UWSA Engage Slate. Over the past 2 years, I have been the Rainbow Lounge (formerly LGBT\* Centre) Coordinator and have gained relevant experience in activism and organization, planning community clothing swaps, a Coming Out Workshop, a Pronoun Workshop, fundraisers like Homo Hop, and an art installment for Nuit Blanche 2016 as part of LGBT-Muslim Solidarity Group, Lunacity. Additionally, I have been a delegate to 2 CFS National RISE (Racialised and Indigenous' Students' Experience) Conferences. If elected, I will use my perspective as a person with intersecting marginalized identities along with my organizing background to partner the UWSA with campaigns and community groups which have a view to creating positive change. Vote for Zee as your VPEA from March 5-7!

### VP INTERNAL AFFAIRS



#### **BRENDEN GALI**

– UWSA Engage slate

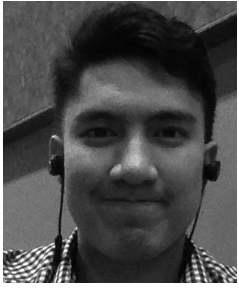
I am really excited to be running for Vice President Of Internal Affairs for the 2018-2019

academic year. For the past year I have been acting in the position of Vice President Student Affairs for the UWSA, providing services and advocacy for students. Along the way, I have learned a lot about the policies both the university, and the student association has in place, and with this institutional knowledge, I hope to implement and amend policies to hold both parties accountable to their students. I will continue the work that previous executives have began, like lowering tuition for students and working on the current campaigns, while also beginning a new era for the UWSA, one that focuses on equity, and looks to increase the quality and experience of education for students with multiple barriers. Vote UWSA Engage. Vote for me.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATES:

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### ARTS DIRECTOR



#### **JERICO NIEVES**

My name is Jerico Nieves and I am running to be your Arts Director. I am a first year student, planning to major in Political Science. I began studying at the University of Winnipeg in September, and since then I have volunteered at different events, got involved with different student groups, and got elected as the Community Liaison Director of the UWSA in the By-Election. I also had experience in a similar position as the Prime Minister of the Collegiate. During my time in these positions, I have planned events, acted as an ambassador for students, worked with various levels of administration. I want to establish monthly constituency meetings with all Arts student group and interested students, create opportunities that empowers students to become involved in student politics, and work to establish a speaker series around health and wellness.

### INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' DIRECTOR



#### **IFEOMA NNADI**

I am a second year business student. As far as I can remember I have always wanted to become an entrepreneur. I was born in Nigeria but spent most of my life in Italy. I speak three languages: Italian, English and Spanish. In 2016 I moved to Canada to complete my university studies. I define myself as a cosmopolitan. I believe the world is too big and life too short to observe it from only one angle. I am running for international student director to be the voice to all international student's questions and concerns.

### ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS DIRECTOR



#### **AVERY LETKEMANN**

Hello, my name is Avery Letkemann and I am running for environmental ethics director for the UWSA. I am currently in my third year of an environmental studies degree with a focus on sustainability issues. As the environmental ethics director I have been able to volunteer for many amazing events and continue working towards fossil fuel divestment at the University of Winnipeg. I am incredibly excited to serve another year for the students and for the university.

### PACE DIRECTOR



#### **GOLDIE ARORA**

My name is Goldie Arora. I hail from Mumbai, India. Currently I am pursuing a Diploma in Project Management at the University of Winnipeg, January intake 2018. I have been working as a consultant in the US for the past four years at an investment bank in New York City. My passion for travel also took me to London, Scotland and Nepal. Other activities that interest me are: fishing, kayaking, hiking, running, cycling, swimming and long drives. I believe in Karma and life the beautiful philosophy. Having a fair share of contributions in Social Work and Charity Events is imperative to me. Back in the US, I was an active member of Lets share a Meal organization in Jersey City which provides food for the homeless surviving on the streets and in shelter homes. I'm an active blood donor and encourage everyone to do so. I see a huge scope for development in the UWSA and PACE relationship. With experience in cultural diversity and managing high-level stakeholders at workplace, I will be able to respect this role and justify my work.

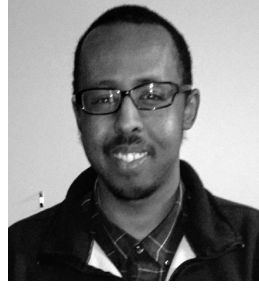
LGBT\* DIRECTOR



**QUENTIN  
MAYHEW &  
JUDE  
YALLOWEGA**  
I'm Quentin

Mayhew, and I'm working towards a degree in psychology, and I'm Jude Yallowega, a second year theatre student. As members of the LGBT\* community, we are passionate about trying to be as active as we can in community issues and discussions. Our main goal as LGBT\* Co-Directors is to be a conduit through which the needs of the LGBT\* community can reach the UWSA. Some of the ways we hope to do this are by working towards better policies regarding name change protocol for transgender students, improving our gender neutral washrooms, implementing pronoun and content sensitivity training for professors, and creating a safe and comfortable environment for everyone regardless of sexual or gender orientation. We want to help the community at our school feel like their needs are being addressed, as well as making sure that all the different sections of the LGBT\* community are being heard.

ACCESSIBILITY DIRECTOR



**MOHAMED BEHI**

Mohamed is currently enrolled in the Integrated Education program at the University of Winnipeg and proudly serves as the incumbent Accessibility Director. He believes in championing inclusion and accessibility for all students at the university. This means that all students should have access to university education. For Mohamed, accessibility is about leveling the playing field by removing disabling barriers, so that all students can realize their educational goals equitably. His main goal is one of community engagement, advocacy and leadership for students with accessibility needs, while closely cooperating with accessibility services and other stakeholders on campus.

COMMUNITY LIAISON



**UGONNA CHIGBO  
& MESI KAHSAY**  
Hey there! This is Ugonna & Meseret (Mesi)!

Smart-working 4th year Psych and 3rd year IDS & Political Science students, respectively. Ugonna is a diligent volunteer, your local stand-up comedian, burner of the midnight oil, advocate for people with disability, and all around charming guy. Mesi is your local tiny but vocal activist, avid listener, diligent community servant and most importantly poutine connoisseur. It would be a privilege to serve and represent you at the UWSA as your Community Liaison Directors. Our platform is one of transparency, diligence, fostering and establishing new and existing relationships among UWSA student groups and UWSA-affiliated organizations. Both of us already have experiences in community service through our volunteerism and work. Mesi works for the City of Wpg's community services department and volunteers at Siloam Mission. Ugonna volunteers and serves at HSC, CKUW 95.9 FM, and the Golden Key Society. Feel free to approach us!



**MIA RYDER-MARKS  
& NICHOLAS  
WARSZA**

Salutations! We are Nicholas Warsza and Mia Ryder-Marks; we are both currently in our third year. Mia is double majoring in Human Rights and Conflict Resolution and Nicholas is double majoring in Conflict Resolution and International Development Studies. In our university careers we have both experienced academic and extra-curricular success; Nicholas was recently inducted into the UWinnipeg Golden Key Society, and Mia is currently the chair of the Global College Student Advisory Council and we both believe in the value of hard work and rising to the challenge. As community liaison directors, Mia intends to focus on relations with local organizations and connecting them with the UWSA, student groups, and the student population. Nicholas will focus on advocating the concerns of the community and the university population with local leaders and politicians. Together, we will be a strong team that strengthens the connection between the university and the community!

## SCIENCE DIRECTOR



### DANIEL DENTON

My name is Daniel Denton and I am in my third year of biochemistry. As Science Director, I would be a strong voice on the UWSA for science students as a whole. I have served two years on the executive of the Students of Science Association, and have worked with student groups such as Bioclub and WUSC. My goal if elected is to increase the opportunities and resources available to science students. That vision starts with the Richardson building, where I would advocate for day-locker use on the third floor and computer lab access. I would also advocate for the UWSA to promote scientific literacy on campus and to the wider community. I hope to use this position to make sure the voices of students are heard. One interesting fact about myself is that I sing in Prairie Voices.



### TESSA BORTOLUZZI

My name is Tessa Bortoluzzi and I am a second year student pursuing a major in Biopsychology. At the University of Winnipeg, I have been involved with the Health and Wellness Peer Educators, WUSC, and the Biopsychology Students Association among other initiatives. I am running for the position of Science Director because I want to create positive change by advocating for science students' needs and interests. If elected, I would focus on unifying science student groups by hosting and promoting more events and study sessions that would connect students in science. I want to provide opportunities for students to promote a collaborative science community. As much as we share differences, we share commonalities and I believe we can use these to foster a more pluralistic faculty. Ultimately, I aim to focus on the wellbeing of students and hope to enhance the overall science student experience here at the U of W!

## BOARD OF REGENTS



### SOPHIA HERSHFIELD

My name is Sophia Hershfield, and I am running to represent the student body on the Board of Regents. As a second year student, I want to ensure that the student connection with the governing body of our university is strengthened. I want our university to be more accountable to students, and for students have an outlet to properly participate in our university. I hope to strengthen discourse so students feel like they can have an impact on how the university works. Empowering student voices is my first priority, and I hope next year we can work together to make it happen. On top of loving democracy, I love books, philosophy, and dogs, and I can't wait to get to know my fellow students while campaigning. I want to hear your voice, and if elected I will listen and empower student voices.



### MEGAN LINTON

Hey! I am a third-year International Development Studies major. I currently serving as your Vice President External Affairs for the UWSA, and I sit on many boards, including the Board of Regents, the Senate, the CFS Provincial Executive, and more! During my time on the Board of Regents, I successfully advocated for student voices on the sexual violence policy writing committee, advocated for equity statements on policies, and have been working to ensure that the Board of Regents is aware of the detrimental effects tuition increases would have on students. During my time on the board I have also advocated for more accessible meetings. It is imperative in this coming year to have a representative who can be accountable to students, and who can work to hold the administration accountable. I promise to work my hardest to ensure more student input on policies, to create an intersectional sexual violence policy, and to advocate against tuition increases.

SENATOR



**MICHAEL KVERN**

I'm a passionate advocate, engaged student, and policy nerd studying Geography. I plan to bring my passion and skills to represent

students' interests as a UWSA Senator. I want to provide a rational voice within the University and the UWSA, ensuring all sides are considered and decisions are made fairly. Fervently expressing the interests of all students is my priority and is what I will accomplish as your representative to the UWSA and University administration.

As a teaching assistant I have become familiar with the University's internal policies and will be to apply that to my work with the senate. I was a senior member of the Youth Parliament of Manitoba for three years where I wrote original legislation and gained broad experience in presenting and debating issues. I have extensive experience working with policy and running committees, which will enable me to effectively act as a UWSA Senator.

REFERENDUM

Based on a Yes/No vote by all eligible\* UWSA members.

**The University of Winnipeg Students' Association will impose a levy on EDUC courses of 25 cents per credit hour to be accessed only by the Education Students' Association as a means to create awards, bursaries, grants, or foundation investments with the express purpose of supporting Education students at the University of Winnipeg**

\*This referendum is open to be voted on only by students registered in the faculty of Education.