

Executive Report: January 21, 2015 – February 27, 2015

THE U W S A

## Executive Report



# UWSA

THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG  
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Executive Report  
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## Executive Report: January 21, 2015 – February 27, 2015

### 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 January 21, 2015 to February 27, 2015 and is the ninth 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.

We enter into the final weeks of our mandate with an awareness of our successes and failures. As outlined in this report and others, we have made several steps towards the goals set out by our members. We should be proud of what has been accomplished by our members, and appreciate the positive energy invested in organizing towards our common goals. Equally, we must also hold our shortcomings in mind as we prepare for the coming year.

To that end, the final versions of this report will contain “Failure Reports”, written by members of our union. These reports will outline instances where we have failed, created by our shortcomings in any number of areas, and the necessary steps we must all take to improve. The intention of these reports is not to demean ourselves, or focus on the negative: instead, they are opportunities for radical transparency and honesty with our membership in order to ensure consistent progress. We must not continue to repeat the mistakes of the past, but grow and gain the capacity to create new challenges and opportunities.

As a board, we remain as steadfast in our drive to pursue equity and justice within our University and our society. We remain dedicated to the ambitions of collective action established by our members, to whom we are must be consistently accountable.

In solidarity,

Rorie Mcleod Arnould  
President  
University of Winnipeg Students' Association

## Executive Report: January 21, 2015 – February 27, 2015

### **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](http://theuwsa.ca) or email [uwsa@theuwsa.ca](mailto:uwsa@theuwsa.ca) for information, open session minutes, etc.

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

#### ***Internal Committee Meetings***

February 5: Executive Committee  
 February 24: Day Care Management  
 February 26: Executive Committee  
 February 26: Capital Committee  
 February 26: Campaigns & External Relations

#### ***Internal Events***

##### **State of Post-Secondary Education in Manitoba**

In partnership with the Canadian Federation of Students, the UWSA hosted Minister of Education and Advanced Learning Peter Bjornson, who presented to students and answered questions about government priorities.

##### **UN Safe Cities Forum:**

Wednesday February 11 2015, 4a group of students met in the HIVE to hear a presentation given by Status of Women Manitoba on the UN Safe Cities Initiative, and to discuss the rates and realities of sexual assault on campus.

##### **Special General Meeting:**

Thursday February 12 2015, the membership met in the HIVE in order to review By-Law amendments, motions, and governance business of the union.

##### **Game Changers Tour**

In partnership with the Council of Canadians and the Canadian Federation of Students, the UWSA hosted Bridgette DePape for two sessions on campus to mobilize youth organizers in anticipation of the upcoming federal election.

##### **Dear White People Movie Screening**

Wednesday February 25 the UWSA screened Dear White People in honour of Black History Month.

## Executive Report: January 21, 2015 – February 27, 2015

### 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*

January 21: January Senate meeting attended by President Rorie Mcleod Arnould, Vice-President Students Services Allison Reimer Vice-President Internal Lee Chitty, Vice-President Advocate Peyton Veitch

January 23: Senate Student Services Committee attended by Allison Reimer Vice-President Students Services

January 26: Board of Regents meeting attended by President Rorie Mcleod Arnould & Vice-President Students Services Allison Reimer

February 2: Senate Academic Misconduct Committee attended by Lee Chitty Vice-President Internal

February 4: Sexual Misconduct Policy Committee Attended by Allison Reimer Vice-President Student Services

February 10: Senate Appeals Committee attended by Allison Reimer Vice-President Student Services

February 11: Entrance Awards Selection Committee attended by Lee Chitty Vice-President Internal

February 13: Campus Sustainability Council Meeting attended by Lee Chitty Vice-President Internal

February 23: Senate Academic Misconduct Committee attend by Lee Chitty Vice-President Internal

February 23: February Senate meeting attended by President Rorie Mcleod Arnould, Vice-President Students Services Allison Reimer Vice-President Internal Lee Chitty, Vice-President Advocate Peyton Veitch

#### *External Events*

##### **Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Memorial March**

February 14: The UWSA provided space and supports to the organizers of the 8<sup>th</sup> annual MMIW Memorial March, which began in the Bulman Students Centre.

##### **UW Open House**

February 18: Every year the UW hosts an open house to recruit future students. Lee Chitty Vice-President Internal with the assistance of Vice-President Student services Allison Reimer, and Vice-President Advocate Peyton Veitch met with, and promoted the union to future members.

##### **Menno Simons Social Justice Fair:**

February 4: Rorie and Peyton were at a table promoting CFSMB and fossil fuel divestment.

## Executive Report: January 21, 2015 – February 27, 2015

### **Alan Sears Talk:**

On February 13, the UWSA hosted Ryerson academic Alan Sears to talk about the corporatization of university education. A wide-ranging discussion regarding academic freedom, atomization of student life, and what a democratic university could look like ensued.

### **The Corporation Film Screening:**

On February 5, UWFA and the UWSA partnered to screen “The Corporation”, a film that analyzes the role and function of its title subject. A question and answer period with director Bart Simpson followed in the University Club.

### ***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:

**February 5:** President Rorie Mcleod Arnould met with President Annette Trimbee and Vice-President Academic Neil Besnar to discuss the proposed Indigenous Requirement.

**February 10:** VPA Peyton Veitch met with Minister of Health Sharon Blady to lobby for provincial health coverage for Iraq War resister Joshua Key.

**February 19:** President Rorie Mcleod Arnould met with Vice-President Academic Neil Besnar to discuss the proposed Indigenous Requirement.

Throughout the months of January and February, President Rorie Mcleod Arnould has met with numerous Deans and Department Chairs to discuss the Indigenous Requirement and secure their support for the initiative.

### ***Public Appearances and Media***

#### **The Uniter:**

February 11: UWSA considering mandatory indigenous heritage courses: Maclean’s article on racism in Winnipeg prompts change and action at U of W”

February 11: “Food for all: UWSA food bank hoping to reach more students on campus”

February 18: “Creating a safer campus: UN Safe Cities Global Initiative launches at the U of W with public forum”

February 18: “Students’ Association shake up: elimination of executive positions make room for new hires”

February 25: “A step in the right direction: UWSA proposes an Indigenous Requirement for all students”

#### **The Manitoban:**

February 24: “UWSA proposes mandatory indigenous studies course”

#### **Winnipeg Free Press:**

February 20: “Mandatory indigenous course not a new idea”

February 19: “Mandatory course in indigenous culture promotes tolerance”

February 18: “An opportunity to practice empathy”

## Executive Report: January 21, 2015 – February 27, 2015

February 17: “Indigenous Requirement touted at U of W”

February 14: “Students’ Association proposes mandatory indigenous course at U of W”

### **CBC:**

February 16: UWinnipeg students’ union calls for mandatory indigenous course” (online and television)

### **CBC Radio:**

February 14: “Up-to-Speed”

February 21: “Unreserved”

### **CTV:**

February 18: “Mandatory indigenous studies course proposed by University of Winnipeg student groups” (online and television)

February 19: CTV Canada AM News feature

### **Aboriginal Peoples’ Television Network:**

February 18: “Indigenous studies course should be mandatory, says association” (online and television)

**Steve Ashton Post-Secondary Education Announcement:** President Rorie Mcleod Arnould and VPA Peyton Veitch spoke at a policy announcement by NDP leadership candidate Steve Ashton calling for increased investment in the Manitoba Bursary program and expanding Bill 2 legislation to protect additional students from fee increases beyond the rate of inflation.

### **Podcast:**

February 27: feature on Kevin Lamoureux and Frank Deer podcast

## ***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.

### **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:**

After a meeting between Dr. Trimbee, Vice-President Academic Neil Besner, and Registrar Colin Russell, the next step in this process will be for the UWSA to survey students regarding their thoughts on the proposal. It is our hope that the proposal will be approved at the April meeting of Senate for 2016/17.

### **Project “Explorer”:**



## Executive Report: January 21, 2015 – February 27, 2015

On January 30 & February 27 the UWSA received schematic drawings for the retail location and surrounding areas re design. The project has received approval to move ahead on a slower timeline but one that allows for a full consideration of all spaces in the area.

### **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 are consulting a legal opinion in order to strengthen our argument that allowing students to opt for the disclosure of academic misconduct allegations to their students' union is not a violation of privacy.

### **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 been submitted to the Senate Academic Planning committee in February. The proposal received unanimous support from Senators on that committee. The proposal will be considered next at the March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Senate Executive. We anticipate our proposal being included in the March Senate package.

### **Stylus Revamp:**

We have reached tentative terms with CKUW to transition publishing responsibility for Stylus Magazine. We anticipate a completed transition by the start of the next fiscal year.

### **UWSA Relocation:**

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:**

In addition to the meeting with Minister Blady, we have continued to be actively involved in efforts to support local Iraq War resister Joshua Key. A letter to all three NDP leadership candidates encouraging them to extend Manitoba health coverage to Joshua if they're elected as premier has been drafted.

## **2015/2016 Operating Budget**

## Executive Report: January 21, 2015 – February 27, 2015

The budgeting process for the 2015-2016 year is reaching completion of its first stage. The draft will be presented to the UWSA board of directors for feed back.

### **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 finally draw the this project to a conclusion.

### **UN Safe Cities**

The next UN Safe Cities steering committee meeting will be held on March 17 in the UWSA Board Room. At the February 11 Forum discussion, a few students noted the importance of understanding sexual assault/harassment rates as they occur on our campus. The next steering committee meeting will focus on the role of data collection in this initiative.

### **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.

**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 UWSA Bike Lab Coordinator and Volunteer Coordinator have signed new contracts through to the end of April. These contracts raise the rate of pay to a level commensurate with the responsibilities assumed by these staff people.

### **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 students to seek counseling services.

**Food Bank:** The UWSA Food Bank continues to see growth in the numbers of students that access it. The new Food Bank Assistant job posting will go up shortly, and we will start booking interviews for the position soon afterwards.