

UWSA Executive Report



UWSA

THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Executive Report
0R30-515 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 2E9
Phone: (204) 786-9792 Fax: (204) 783-7080
E-Mail: uwsa@theuwsa.ca Web: theuwsa.ca

UWSA Executives:

President Peyton Veitch, Vice-President External Affairs Kevin Settee
Vice-President Internal Affairs Emily Epp, Vice-President Student Affairs
Jesse Blackman

Executive Summary

This report covers the period of May 1, 2015 to May 31, 2015 and is the first 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.

In the first month of this executive's term we have laid a strong foundation for a very productive year of services, advocacy, and events. Students will see the impact of a strong and vocal students' association through a Fall Reading Week beginning in Fall 2016, a Living Wage for the UWSA's part-time staff, and progress towards saving international students hundreds of dollars per year through phasing out duplicating health insurance coverage. The UWSA is also establishing itself as a vocal proponent and leader in campus indigenization, and academic advocacy.

As always, the UWSA is committed to advancing the cause of accessible, high-quality education. Within the University, we recognize that accessibility to education is hampered when services and supports are not sufficient to allow all students an equal chance of success. Pursuing an expansion of our Daycare, developing a campus-wide mental health strategy, helping develop the Indigenous credit requirement, and improving the Sexual Misconduct Protocol are chief among our many projects this coming year.

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

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

May 5-6: Interviewed for Chair of the Board Position

May 8: President and VPIA attended health plan finance meeting

May 11: Exec committee meeting

May 13: Exec met with Ted Turner and Jackie Hogue to develop UWSA's Anti-Oppression Framework

May 14: UWSA exec and staff had a LGBTTTQ* PD session

May 19: VPIA met with Communications Coordinator to outline a communication strategy for the Student Support Program

May 19: Exec took a tour of the UWSA Daycare

May 19: Executive goal setting.

May 25: Website visioning meeting with Communications Coordinator

May 26: VPIA, GM, and Morgan Brightnose interviewed applicants for the Events Coordinator position

May 26: VPIA, President, and VPSA met to decide on UWSA's Ethical Purchasing Network's purchases.

May 28: Exec committee meeting

May 30-31: Yearly UWSA Board Retreat held here at the University

External Meetings

May 1: President. VPEA sit on Roundtable to discuss Indigenous Credit Requirement

May 4: President, VPSA, and VPIA attended Board of Regents Meeting

May 5: VPSA attended Senate Appeals Committee

May 6: VPSA met with Rhetoric, Writing, and Communications Chair, Jaqueline McLeod Rogers, Departmental Review Committee (DRC) Chair, Sheila Page, and DRC member, Karin Collins, to talk about departmental policy and the UWSA's role in student advocacy.

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- May 6: VPEA meeting with CCCM to discuss and plan Child Care Rally 2015 at Legislative Grounds
- May 7: President and VPEA conference call with CYCC's Kelsey Mech regarding Tarsands action
- May 7: VPEA meet with Amnesty International and KAIROS to plan Searching for Solidarity Event
- May 8: President & VPIA met with TSC and Financial Services to discuss 2015 health plan opt out dates
- May 8: VPSA met with Classics Chair, Pauline Ripat, and DRC Chair, Allison Surtees, to talk about departmental policy and the UWSA's role in student advocacy
- May 11: VPSA met with Mathematics and Statistics Chair, Ross Stokke, and DRC Chair, Shakhawat Hossain, to talk about departmental policy and the UWSA's role in student advocacy
- May 11: VPSA met with Political Science Chair, Allen Mills, and DRC Chair, Tetyana Narozhna, to talk about departmental policy and the UWSA's role in student advocacy
- May 11: VPSA met with Photo Club
- May 11: Meeting with Council of Canadians to discuss upcoming federal elections & ICR
- May 11: VPIA met with Dave Torz from Physical Plant about microwave locations
- May 11: VPEA interview with Aboriginal Youth Opportunities Inner-city Voices on CKUW to discuss men's roles in ending violence against women in oppressed communities
- May 11: President attends Senate Executive
- May 12: VPSA appeared before the Senate Academic Misconduct Appeals Committee
- May 12: VPSA met with Dianna Scarthe, UWinnipeg's Human Rights and Diversity Officer to discuss advocacy under the *Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy*
- May 12: President attends Recplex External Advisory Committee
- May 12: VPSA attended the Senate Academic Misconduct Appeals Committee
- May 12: RWLEP Overview
- May 13: President meets with James Hanley, UW Health & Safety co-chair
- May 13: VPIA met with TSC to develop the business case for health plan software development
- May 15: President meets with UW Senior Advisor Chris Minaker
- May 15: President meets with UMSU President
- May 16: VPEA helping plan We>Tarsands Campaign in the Hive.
- May 19: President met with CFSMB Chair
- May 19: VPSA attended the Senate Appeals Committee
- May 19: VPSA met with Technology Solutions Centre
- May 20: President, VPIA and VPSA attended UW Senate Meeting
- May 21: VPIA and President met with Greenshield, CFS, and Jan Byrd about Guard.me
- May 21: Senior UW admin meet and greet with UWSA executive and Ted Turner
- May 21: VPSA met with Global College Executive Director Dean Peachy to talk about departmental policy and the UWSA's role in student advocacy

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May 21: VPSA met with Kinesiology and Athletic Therapy Student Association
May 21: President, VPEA, International Students Directors meet with Minister of Multiculturalism
May 22: President meets with UW Student Life Director to discuss Guard.me
May 22: VPEA and President meet with Jon Gerrard at Legislative building to discuss student issues
May 22: All members of exec attend a meet and greet with UW senior admin
May 23: VPSA met with World University Service of Canada (WUSC)
May 25: VPSA met with CKUW Program Director, Robin Eriksson, to discuss CKUW 24 Hours of Student Power meeting
May 25: VPSA attended Senate Student Services Meeting
May 25: President attends Asset Naming Committee
May 26: VPSA met with Urban and Inner City's Chair, Jim Silver, and department member, Cheyenne Henry, to discuss departmental policy and the role of the UWSA in student advocacy
May 26: VPSA attended Senate Appeals Committee
May 27: VPIA and the Health Plan Coordinator met with Greenshield to go over billing changes
May 27: VPIA, VPSA, and President met with Gabriele Fontaine and the other librarians to discuss UWSA and Library partnerships and connections
May 27: VPSA attended RecPlex Internal Advisory Committee
May 29: VPSA attended Senate Academic Misconduct Committee
May 29: President meets with Chris Minaker

External Events

BASA Gala

April 28th: Incoming UWSA Executive attended the BASA Gala to connect with the largest student group on campus and introduce ourselves as the new UWSA Exec.

I <3 UWinnipeg Dinner

May 21st, the Executive team attended the I <3 UWinnipeg Dinner to present our \$200,000 cheque to the Opportunity Fund, helping enable students with financial restrictions receive health coverage.

Winnipeg Against Border Imperialism (WABI) Meeting

VPIA attended student group meeting to represent UWSA, and to speak to UWSA's role in lower international student's fees.

CFS NAC

VPEA attended the CFS National Aboriginal Caucus.

CFS NGM

President, VPSA, VPEA along with Aboriginal Students' Director Sadie-Pheonix Lavoie, and GM Karolya Vargscarr attended the CFS NGM, representing Local 8

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City Studio: Art of Cities 2015

VPEA along with Chair of Geography Department Mark Vachon, Chief Operating Officer of the City of Winnipeg Michael Jack and AVP Research and Innovation Jino Distasio attended Art of Cities to learn an experiential learning model that links post-secondary institutions students and faculty with City Staff to develop sustainable urban projects that address social needs of community.

Indigenous Requirement Panel Discussion

VPEA & President participated in this event hosted by the UW Department of Rhetoric as panelists along with two professors. A wide range of themes were covered, including the importance of the requirement with respect to reconciliation, exposing students to indigenous ways of knowing and combatting racism.

May Day:

All members of exec marched in solidarity with trade unions and workers to commemorate International Workers' Day.

Searching for Solidarity

President moderated a panel discussion co-hosted with Amnesty International and Migrant Manitoba about the abuses perpetrated by Canadian mining companies abroad. Discussants included an indigenous activist from Guatemala, Kairos director and a UW graduate student.

Thunderbird House Youth Meeting

VPEA met with youth of Thunderbird House to figure out ways to engage youth in thunderbird house and how UWSA and UWinnipeg can help.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission Canada Final Event

VPEA attended panel discussion on how the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People can be implemented into Unions, CBO's, Government and Law.

What We Make Launch

President provided opening remarks at a Gallery 1C03 exhibition highlighting student, faculty and staff art. VPSA also attended.

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.

Food Bank

Drafted Emergency Food Fund Guidelines outlining the protocol to follow when a student comes in asking for food. Guidelines include who can access the fund, how

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much food to give, how many times a student can access the fund, and the procedure to be followed when administering the fund.

Good Food Box

Meeting set with Michael Barkman and the Retail Manager to ensure the programs survival. Good Food Box will resume in September.

Health Plan

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

After years of working on this project, we have successfully transferred all international students (graduate and undergraduate) staying in Canada for >6 months from the University's Guard.me health plan, to our GreenShield health plan, with additional AD&D, and repatriation coverage. This move will save international students \$282.00 yearly. The President, VPIA, Health Plan Coordinator, and General Manager will continue working with the appropriate University departments to ensure this transition happens as seamlessly as possible.

Our Health Plan Coordinator has been transferred to the Events Coordinator, so we are in the process of hiring a new Health Plan Coordinator.

ISIC

Card printer is broken. Will borrow CFSMB's printer until ours can be fixed.

SafeWalk

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

Student Support Program

VPIA created a spreadsheet to more accurately track the program's usage and the amount spent per month. VPIA is investigating temporary housing options.

Bike Lab

New crop of volunteers were has their first orientation session Monday June 8, 2015. Team is preparing for a busy summer season.

Lobbying

VPSA met with over a dozen departments as well as Fiona Green, the Associate Dean of Arts, to discuss the UWSA's inclusion in official documents given to students suspected of academic misconduct. In line with the Academic Misconduct Policy departments are encourages to include UWSA VPSA contact information in official correspondence. Thanks to the efforts of 2014-15 VP Advocate the UWSA VPSA will be included in the Dean's Recommended list for course outlines.

UWSA & MEJC protest Peter Watson Chair of National Energy Board at panel discussion held at Winnipeg Free Press Café. Hand over documents with signatories

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stating they don't want TSX Energy East pipeline passing through Manitoba. Too many risks including safe drinking water, hydrology of Lake Winnipeg, climate change, ecological damage etc.

VPEA and President of UWASC meet with Niki Ashton in Ottawa during CFS NGM to discuss campaigns relevant to CFS membership. Discuss C-51, Child Care, PSSSP, #itsnosecret, Consent Culture and upcoming Federal Elections. Agrees to debate at UWinnipeg with UWSA.

VPEA Spoke at #VOTECHILDCARE2015 rally at Legislative grounds advocating for national child care plan and action by federal government to create more childcare spaces.

President and VPEA met with the Liberal Party caucus at the Manitoba Legislature to discuss articulate priorities for post-secondary education, including greater access to grants & bursaries.

President and VPSA met with Colin Russell, University Registrar, to discuss the Student Charter of Rights and disclosure of student misconduct. Colin Russell verbally committed to implementing a form of disclosure to the students' association.

President met with Colin Russell to discuss greater options for gender identity on University forms and developing a policy regarding preferred names.

Projects

Microwaves

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

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VPEA along with Chair of Geography Department Mark Vachon, Chief Operating Officer of the City of Winnipeg Michael Jack and AVP Research and Innovation Jino Distasio attended Art of Cities to learn an experiential learning model that links post-secondary institutions students and faculty with City Staff to develop sustainable urban projects that address social needs of community.

Daycare Expansion

The President has been working with Manitoba Early Learning and Childcare, members of senior UW administration and UWSA staff to develop a proposal for a capital expansion of our UWSA Daycare. With over 500 children on the waitlist, an expansion will allow us to take a bite out of the demand that exists for affordable childcare. We are hoping to submit a funding application to MEL & C by the Fall.

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Merchants Corner

President and VPEA have been working with the UWCRC and our Manager of Special Projects and Strategic Initiatives to implement our first satellite office in the future home of the Department of Urban and Inner City Studies. A lease agreement with the University for use of this space is currently in development.

Lockhart Hall Tenancy

The Manager of Special Projects and Strategic Initiatives and the President successfully negotiated a tenancy agreement for use of Lockhart Hall (both student lounge and Index) that includes favourable rental rates, coverage of utilities and guaranteed usage.

Divestment

The President will be serving on an oversight committee guiding the upcoming risk assessment of divestment, and presented at the National General Meeting of CFS on this subject. VPEA continues to assist with developing the We>Tar Sands campaign.

Students' Right to Organize Legislation

President is working with our legal counsel to draft sample legislation outlining legal protections for student union autonomy and the right to collect fees.

Student Charter of Rights

VPSA and President met with Colin Russell to suggest language and amendments to the latest draft of this document. A final draft will be ready for ratification soon.

Media

Both the President and VPEA had several media appearances during this period with outlets including the Winnipeg Free Press, CKUW and CBC. Topics addressed included the implementation of a Fall Reading Week for 2016 and the provincial budget.