



UWSA

THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Open Session Package

August 19, 2020 Meeting of the
UWSA Board of Directors

This package contains minutes and
motions duly submitted to the Chair
of the UWSA Board of Directors

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE 3 ---	Open Session Minutes of the August 5, 2020 Meeting of the UWSA Board of Directors
PAGE 15 ---	Open Session Minutes of the August 10, 2020 Meeting of the UWSA Board of Directors
PAGE 20 ---	Motions Tabled from the August 5, 2020 Meeting of the UWSA Board of Directors
PAGE 21 ---	Motion to Approve By-law Amendments - Indigenous Advisory Circle
PAGE 23 ---	Motion to Strike the Chair of the Board Hiring Committee

UWSA Board Meeting – OPEN
August 5, 2020 – 5:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting due to COVID -19 Pandemic

Board in Attendance:

Acting Chair: Taylor Daigneault

Secretary of the Board: Hasini Abeysekera

Accessibility Director: Sarah Anderson

Business and Economics Director: Harsimrat S. Malhotra

Graduate Students' Co-Director: Alexandra K.Nychuk

International Students' Co-Director: Elsa Owusu

Menno Simons College Director: Alizeh Faran

Urban Inner-City Campus Director: Dagen Perrot

Board Absent:

Arts Director: Wesley Fallis

Community Liaison: Celina Clements

Graduate Students' Co-Director: Nadia M. Chaharsoughi

International Students' Co-Director: Onyinye Francisca Idigbe

2SLGBTQ* Director: Jacob K. Antman

Racialized Students' Director: Ella Taylor

Board on Administrative Leave:

Vice -President Student Affairs: Melanie William

UWSA Board Meeting – OPEN
August 5, 2020 – 5:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting due to COVID -19 Pandemic

Staff in Attendance:

Karolya Vargscarr: Chief Operating Officer

Jennifer Black: General Manager

Guests in Attendance:

Brenden Gali

Bedel Shafe'a

1. Call to Order

The regular bi-weekly meeting of the University of Winnipeg Students' Association Board of Directors (UWSA BOD) was held on Wednesday August 5, 2020 at 5:30pm via a virtual meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Taylor Daigneault will be taking over duties as Chair of the Board for this meeting as currently the Chair position remains vacant. The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:59 p.m. Following the confirmation of quorum, and a round of introductions.

2. Approval of the Order of Business

Ali N. moves to add "President and VPEA resignation" to the agenda under 3.a.

Motion carries

Dagen P. moves to approve the agenda as amended

UWSA Board Meeting – OPEN
August 5, 2020 – 5:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting due to COVID -19 Pandemic

Motion carries

3. Special Business

a. CFS – MBCampaigns

Brenden G. provided a presentation on the Canadian Federation of Students - Manitoba, the presentation began before the meeting was called into order as the house was awaiting for quorum. The presentation began with an introduction about himself and the organization. The bulk of the presentation included highlights of this academic year's campaigns.

b. President and VPEA resignation

J. Black stated that at 5:28 p.m. she received resignation letters from Jibril H. & Breanna B. J. Black read the letters aloud for the record. Hereafter they are transcribed in full.

Submitted from Jibril Hussein to K. Vargscarr and J. Black

August 5, 2020 at 5:28 p.m.

Members of the Board, Staff and Students,

I am writing this letter today to speak about my experience as an Executive Director at the University of Winnipeg Students' Association (UWSA) since starting at the beginning of May. These are solely my personal experiences and the Board and staff should take

UWSA Board Meeting – OPEN
August 5, 2020 – 5:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting due to COVID -19 Pandemic

this moment to reflect on the past couple of months as well. I would like to start by thanking everyone who voted for and supported our vision for the future. Since being elected in March with the highest voter turnout in 17 years, it has been an honour to have been able to work alongside each and every one of you. The change that was made in less than 5 weeks and the people that we have met through these efforts has taught me more than I could have ever realized.

During our time at the UWSA, we have sat through long 12 hour days at City Hall to save the U-Pass, worked with administration on the implementation of a new Flex parking pass for students, removed the fees graduate students pay to get their transcripts when they apply to grad school at the University of Winnipeg, and began examining the role of police and contract security within our UWSA spaces. As well, we began exploring the potential implementation of an anti-racism subcommittee, hiring an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Officer, and studying ways to renovate the Hive to ensure that we can utilize the space to its full potential.

The UWSA prides itself on standing up for **all** BIPOC students, staff and community members. However, I believe that this is not the case and this institution sadly perpetuates the same pervasive racism and prejudice they claim to actively be against. The workplace environment is the most toxic environment that I have ever experienced, and it fails to encourage healthy dialogue among students with a variety of viewpoints.

UWSA Board Meeting – OPEN
August 5, 2020 – 5:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting due to COVID -19 Pandemic

Recently, this has manifested in the questioning of my racial identity while answering questions at a June Board meeting and by the lack of condemnation by the Board on the violent threats being made against UWSA Executive Directors online. The acting Chair failed to restrict claims in regard to the questioning of my racial identity and no members of the Board stood up to say the comments were inappropriate. I will not stand by an organization and be in an environment that does not make me feel safe.

These past couple months have been incredibly traumatizing and the lack of care and empathy by staff and some members of the Board has been quite concerning. I would like to thank those Board members who have reached out and voiced their concerns in meetings. As someone that is diagnosed with epilepsy that can potentially be triggered by high levels of anxiety and stress, I am making the decision to resign from my position as President of this organization effectively immediately. This decision was made out of an abundance of caution for my mental and physical health, to recover from the trauma and out of concern for the safety of my family and friends due to direct violent threats by many students on and off campus.

I challenge the UWSA to right its wrongs and ensure that it is truly a space that is safe for all students, regardless of how they identify or their political affiliations. I hope that the UWSA can work with each individual who has felt they have been victimized or hurt by the UWSA. I would also like to encourage the Board of Directors to reassess the role

UWSA Board Meeting – OPEN
August 5, 2020 – 5:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting due to COVID -19 Pandemic

of the General Manager being in charge of Board affairs, the continual conflict of the Chief Operating Officer and to make the change that is needed.

Respectfully, it is not within the purview of the UWSA Board to question the race of a member of the BIPOC community and for a member to claim that *“you are using your blackness as a shield”*. It is also not within the purview of the UWSA Board to invalidate my identity and my lived experiences with racism and bigotry. As I mentioned previously, this is an opportunity for all of us to do better and I am in no way suggesting that I am perfect either. This is also an opportunity for myself to do better. I would like to add that this is not an attempt to not be held accountable on policies and decisions made, as I have participated fully in all measures to be held accountable to this point.

To those who are part of the BIPOC community or larger social justice movements/ organizations that have participated in these online threats and harassment, please consider your role in perpetuating the same ideals you fight against and reflect on the harm that can also be done in the process. We all have a role to play and we are on the same team fighting the same fight.

In closing, I leave the Board with this quote, *“Justice is about individualization and not mass application”*. I know that you will continue to effect change that you all personally have been fighting for, and I wish you the best in your personal endeavours. I will

UWSA Board Meeting – OPEN
August 5, 2020 – 5:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting due to COVID -19 Pandemic

continue to learn, engage in respectful dialogue and do better in terms of my actions. I will also continue fighting for what I believe is right, for the change I want to see in our communities and for students, but I will do so in an environment that truly cares for my well-being, keeps me safe, puts people before organizational reputation and does not question my racial identity.

All the best,

Jibril Hussein

Submitted from Breanna Belisle to K. Vargscarr and J. Black

August 5, 2020 at 5:28 p.m.

2020/08/05

Members of the Board, Students, and Staff,

I would like to start by thanking each and every person who voted for, and supported me, in my position with the University of Winnipeg Students' Association (UWSA). This experience was one of great personal growth. During my time with the UWSA we have advocated for the U-Pass, ensured graduate students had a student association they could turn to, and began to consider the role of police and contract security within UWSA space. The people I have met through these endeavours taught me more than they could've realized, and for that, I thank you.

UWSA Board Meeting – OPEN
August 5, 2020 – 5:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting due to COVID -19 Pandemic

The UWSA aims to be an institution which stands alongside *all* students, though this cannot be further from the day to day reality. The workplace itself is toxic, failing to encourage dialogue among any number of viewpoints. Most recently, this has manifested in barring the UWSA Executives, as students, from meetings when items such as the budget were being discussed.

I also stand alongside my colleague, Jibril Hussein, who has voiced his disappointment concerning the continued perpetuation of pervasive racism and prejudice within the UWSA. I cannot sit idly by as my colleague is afraid to go to work. This should never be the case. Personally, I can speak to the UWSA being a workplace which is inherently traumatic. For this reason, to focus on my mental health, and begin to recover, at this time, I will be announcing my resignation effective immediately.

I challenge the UWSA to rectify its wrongs, and ensure all at the UWSA are treated equally, regardless of how they identify or their political affiliations. Students at UWinnipeg deserve better than a students' association which is not willing to represent ***all*** students.

In this instance, I see the quest of justice to be a process of individualization, and not one of mass application. I sincerely hope the UWSA can work with each individual who feels they have been victimized by the UWSA. Additionally, I would encourage the Board

UWSA Board Meeting – OPEN
August 5, 2020 – 5:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting due to COVID -19 Pandemic

of Directors to make substantive change- in my experience this would mean to both rethink the positionality and continual conflict of the Chief Operating Officer, as well as do more than simply apologize. Be better and make your workplace one where all can go to work and feel both safe, respected and understood.

As I close, I would like to note the prior views are solely my own and note my experiences. This is not an attempt to avoid being held accountable, as I have participated fully in all measures to be held accountable to this point. I will continue to learn, grow, and be a better version of myself.

I wish everyone I have encountered the best, as they continue on their path in life, or with their academic studies.

Take care,

Breanna Belisle

The Chair steered the meeting into a discussion and allowed members to add comments.

Ali N. also stated for the record that the above two individuals who resigned had requested to join today's meeting. We communicated to them that the

UWSA Board Meeting – OPEN
August 5, 2020 – 5:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting due to COVID -19 Pandemic

board would discuss their participation as the first item of business and then communicate the decision to them immediately but then we received these letters.

Dagen P. moves to accept the resignation of Jibril Hussein and Breanna Belisle.

Motion carries

4. Consent Agenda

a) Reports

i. Director's Reports

Dagen P. – has been reaching out to students about registration and secured some tech support from the University for the laptops project.

Sarah A. –has been connecting with students about Accessibility Services, accommodations, and inclusions. Is connecting with the students with disabilities mailing list to try to keep communications open.

Alizeh F. – connecting with faculty, staff, and MSCSA trying to figure out what the year will look like, figuring out student needs.

Ali N. – continuing work with graduate students, participating in a panel on the Indigenous Summer Student Program and attended the Catalyst meeting.

UWSA Board Meeting – OPEN
August 5, 2020 – 5:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting due to COVID -19 Pandemic

Elsa O. – working on the ISA social media with Francisca, keeping in touch with IRSS and attending meetings with international students over-seas and in country.

Ali N. moves to approve the reports

Motion Carries

b) Minutes

- i. Mental Health Resource Committee 200724 OPEN
- ii. BOD 200724 OPEN

Sarah A. moves to approve the minutes omnibus

Motion Carries

5. Communications

a. Roll Call Schedule Update – For Information

J.Blackpointed to the schedule included for information in the board package. More updates to come.

CLOSED SESSION

7. Consent Agenda

Elsa O. moves to enter closed session with an invitation to attending staff.

Motion Carries

UWSA Board Meeting – OPEN
August 5, 2020 – 5:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting due to COVID -19 Pandemic

a. Minutes

i. BOD 200724 CLOSED

8. New Business

- i. Catalyst Consulting Proposals
- ii. Executive Participation in Meetings
- iii. Further Action regarding the 2020-2021 Executive Slate

Meeting lost quorum at 7:44 p.m.

9. Other Business

10. Adjournment

UWSA Board Meeting – OPEN
August 10, 2020 – 5:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting due to COVID -19 Pandemic

Board in Attendance:

Acting Chair: Taylor Daigneault

Accessibility Director: Sarah Anderson

Community Liaison: Celina Clements

Graduate Students' Co-Director: Alexandra K.Nychuk

International Students' Co-Director: Elsa Owusu

International Students' Co-Director: Onyinye Francisca Idigbe

Menno Simons College Director: Alizeh Faran

Racialized Students' Director: Ella Taylor

Urban Inner-City Campus Director: Dagen Perrot

Board Regrets:

Secretary of the Board: Hasini Abeysekera

Business and Economics Director: Harsimrat S. Malhotra

Board Absent:

2SLGBTQ* Director: Jacob K. Antman

Arts Director: Wesley Fallis

Graduate Students' Co-Director: Nadia M. Chaharsoughi

Board on Administrative Leave:

UWSA Board Meeting – OPEN
August 10, 2020 – 5:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting due to COVID -19 Pandemic

Vice -President Student Affairs: Melanie William

Guests in Attendance:

Katarina Cvitko, Student

Staff in Attendance:

Jennifer Black: General Manager, Acting Secretary

1. Call to Order

The duly called meeting of the University of Winnipeg Students' Association Board of Directors (UWSA BOD) was held on Monday, August 10, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. via a virtual meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:14 p.m. following the confirmation of quorum.

The Chair explained that this meeting was called for the express purpose of reviewing and proposing amendments to the by-laws, accommodating the temporary suspension of all standing committees including the By-law and Policy Committee.

2. Approval of the Order of Business

Dagen P. moves to approve the order of business

Motion Carries

UWSA Board Meeting – OPEN
August 10, 2020 – 5:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting due to COVID -19 Pandemic

3. Proposal Discussion

Ali N. moves:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Chair of the Board of Directors is reclassified as a part-time staff position, compensated at an hourly wage.

Ella T. moves an amendment:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Chair of the Board of Directors is reclassified as a non-unionized part-time staff position, compensated at an hourly wage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the by-law mandating that The Chair of the Board must be a currently enrolled member of the UWSA is removed.

Ali N. accepted as a friendly amendment

Motion Carries

Ella T. moves:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we consult with Black Elders as well as Indigenous Elders on the Positive Space Policy and include consultation with both Indigenous and Black Elders on Positive Space Initiatives.

Motion Carries

Sarah A. moves:

UWSA Board Meeting – OPEN
August 10, 2020 – 5:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting due to COVID -19 Pandemic

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we consult with a community disability advocate and students with disabilities in the development of the Positive Space Policy.

Alizeh F. moves an amendment:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we consult with a community disability advocate, mental health advocate, and students with disabilities in the development of the Positive Space Policy.

Motion Carries

The following motions were proposed and discussed but not formally voted upon due to the sudden loss of quorum. These motions shall be tabled to the next meeting of the board.

Dagen P. moves:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we consult with community 2SLGBTQIA* advocates and students from the 2SLGBTQIA* community in the development of the Positive Space Policy.

Ella T. moves an amendment:

UWSA Board Meeting – OPEN
August 10, 2020 – 5:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting due to COVID -19 Pandemic

BE IT RESOLVE THAT we consult one Trans advocate, one Two-Spirit advocate, and one Queer advocate, and students from the 2SLGBTQIA* community in the development of the Positive Space Policy.

Ali N. moves:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we consult with the Spence Neighbourhood Association in the development of the Positive Space Policy.

4. Adjournment

Quorum was lost at 5:56 p.m.

MOTION STABLED FROM THE AUGUST 10, 2020 MEETING OF THE UWSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DATE: AUGUST 10, 2020

MOVED BY: DAGEN PERROT

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we consult with community 2SLGBTQIA* advocates and students from the 2SLGBTQIA* community in the development of the Positive Space Policy.

AMENDMENT MOVED BY: ELLA TAYLOR

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we consult one Trans advocate, one Two-Spirit advocate, and one Queer advocate, and students from the 2SLGBTQIA* community in the development of the Positive Space Policy.

(Language amendment recommended by J. Black:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we consult with community 2SLGBTQIA* advocates, prioritizing Trans and Two-Spirit advocates; and students from the 2SLGBTQIA* community in the development of the positive space policy.)

MOVED BY: ALEXANDRA NYCHUK

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we consult with the Spence Neighbourhood Association in the development of the Positive Space Policy.

INDIGENOUS ADVISORY CIRCLE

The Indigenous Advisory Circle (The Circle) is an initiative developed by last year's UWSA President, Meagan Malcolm, in coordination with the Indigenous Students' Association and approved by motions to the board in March and April of 2020. The Circle is an appointed body of Indigenous representatives created to ensure that the business of the UWSA is conducted in meaningful collaboration with Indigenous Peoples by giving direction on Indigenous projects and initiatives, guiding campaign and lobby work, and reviewing open session committee minutes and providing feedback prior to their ratification. By-laws must be developed and put in place before appointments can be made to The Circle and before its work can begin. The by-laws proposed in the following motion reflect the mandate of The Circle as approved by the board, and appointment mechanisms developed with Meagan prior to the end of her term.

MOTION RECOMMENDATION

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following by-laws are adopted:

By-law 7.22 Indigenous Advisory Circle (The Circle)

The Indigenous Advisory Circle shall be composed of the two (2) Indigenous Students' Directors; one (1) Urban and Inner-City Campus Representative; one (1) Graduate Students' Representative; one (1) Women and Non-Binary Students' Representative; two (2) students-at-large; and one (1) Elder. The Chair and the Secretary of the Circle shall be non-voting students-at-large.

- i. All members of the Indigenous Advisory Circle must identify as Indigenous.
 - a. The Urban and Inner-City Campus Representative shall be appointed by the Urban and Inner-City Campus Students' Association.
 - b. The students-at-large; Graduate Students' Representative; Women and Non-Binary Students' Representative; the Elder; the secretary; and the Chair shall be appointed by The Circle Selections Committee, comprised of the two (2) Indigenous Students' Directors and the President of the UWSA (or delegate). The Circle Selections Committee shall be chaired by the Chair of the Board of Directors and its appointments shall be ratified by the Board of Directors.
- ii. The Indigenous Advisory Circle works to ensure that the governance, programs and services of the UWSA are operated in true and meaningful collaboration with Indigenous People.
- iii. The Circle shall advise and give direction on Indigenous projects and initiatives, implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, and the implementation of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Inquiry Calls to Justice that relate to post-secondary institutions and Indigenous students including, but not limited to, language rights and the right to education.

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- iv. The Circle shall guide the UWSA in campaign and lobby work to improve access to education for Indigenous students and to address barriers and racism that Indigenous students experience.
 - v. The Circle shall receive and review the open session minutes of all standing and ad-hoc committees of the board, except for those of the REBLITE Board, and shall make recommendations on this business as it pertains to the mandate of The Circle prior to its ratification by the Board of Directors.
 - vi. The Circle shall meet at least monthly, no less than seven (7) days prior to each meeting of the Board of Directors.

By-law 6.16 Duties of the Indigenous Students' Directors

- v. The Indigenous Students' Directors shall be ex-officio members of the Indigenous Advisory Circle.

By-law 6.30 Salaries

- iii. Each member of the Indigenous Advisory Circle shall be entitled to a five-hundred dollar (\$500) honourarium at the end of their term.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the following by-law is amended:

By-law 8.5 Minutes of Standing and Ad-hoc Committee Meetings

- i. Minutes from Standing and Ad-Hoc Committee Meetings must be submitted to the subsequent [meeting of the Indigenous Advisory Circle for review and recommendation before being submitted to the Board of Directors for approval](#). Motions passed by Standing and Ad-Hoc Committees are not ratified until the minutes of that meeting have been approved by the Board of Directors.

MOTION TO THE UWSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS: CHAIR OF THE BOARD HIRING COMMITTEE

DATE: AUGUST 19, 2020

MOVED BY:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following people are appointed to the Chair of the Board Hiring Committee:

- Jennifer Black, General Manager
- Director Volunteer
- Director Volunteer