

2020-2021 Report of the UWSA Board of Directors

2020-2021

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THE 2020-2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS	4
Partial Terms	5
FINAL EXECUTIVE REPORTS AND FAREWELLS.....	7
President – Shawna Péloquin.....	7
Vice President External Affairs – Jonathan Henderson.....	9
FINAL DIRECTOR REPORTS AND FAREWELLS.....	11
Accessibility Director – Sarah Anderson	11
Business and Economics Director – Harsimrat S. Malhotra.....	11
Community Liaison Director – Celina Clements.....	12
Education Director – Breanna Gans	12
Menno Simons College Director – Alizeh Faran	13
PACE Director – Valarie Bermudez.....	14
Recreation and Athletics Director – Jacob Wiseman	14
Science Director – Olivia Ferriera	15
Urban and Inner-City Campus Director – Degan Perrot	15
2020-2021 UWSA ACTIVITY SUMMARY	17
Advocacy.....	17
Campaigns.....	17
Guaranteed Livable Basic Income	17
International Students Nutrition and Wellness Event	18
More Than a Door	18
U-PASS	18
Bill 33	18
Mental Health Services & Support Resources	19
Capital Projects.....	19
Computers for Schools – Free Computer Giveaway	19
Bike Lab Security	19
Semester Bus Pass Subsidy Program.....	20
Simply Voting.....	20
Communications Statistics.....	20
Community Support.....	22
Indigeneity, Colonialism and COVID: Land Defenders and Water Protectors in a Pandemic Age – Event Donation	22
Justice for Eishia Hudson – Campaign Donation	22
Independent Living Resource Centre – 9 Steps, A Community Based Approach Toward Accessible Public Transportation – Coalition Partnership.....	22
Events	22
1 st Virtual Events.....	22
Roll Call – 3-Day Virtual Event	23
Digital Doggo Days.....	23

Zoom Room of Doom: Halloween Quarantine.....	23
Student Group Virtual Event Planning Resouce.....	24
Other Assisted Fall Term Events.....	24
Snowed In 2021 – 3-Day Virtual Event.....	24
Meet Your Director: UWSA Game Night	25
Other Assisted WINTER Term Events.....	25
Partnership with Red Tent	25
Operations.....	25
Governance and Operations Reforms.....	25
Positive Space Policy	27
Election Reforms	27
Retail and Services	27
Peggo Card Replacement	28
Peggo Card Distribution in Partnership with UW Student Central	28
UWSA Transit Subsidy	28
Health Plan Operations	28
Incorporation of New Online GSC Services for Students	28
New Retail Phone Helpline Services.....	29
Service Centres	29
Lounges (BIPoC Lounge, Access Lounge, Rainbow Lounge, WTSC)	29
Bike Lab	29
Food Bank.....	30

THE 2020-2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS – ANJOLA ADERINTO

By-law and Policy Committee - Chair

Referenda and Election By-law Interpretation and Transparent Enforcement Board/ Election Accountability Board - Chair

SECRETARY OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS - HASINI ABEYSEKERA

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PRESIDENT – SHAWNA PÉLOQUIN

Executive Committee - Chair

VICE PRESIDENT EXTERNAL AFFAIRS – JONATHAN HENDERSON

Campaigns and External Relations Committee - Chair

Executive Committee

2SLGBTQ* DIRECTOR – JACOB ANTMAN

By-Law and Policy Committee

Student Life Committee

ACCESSIBILITY CO-DIRECTOR - SARAH ANDERSON

Campaigns and External Relations Committee

Mental Health Resource Committee

Referenda and Elections By-law Interpretation and Transparent Enforcement Board

BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS DIRECTOR – HARSIMRAT S. MALHOTRA

Student Life Committee

Executive Committee

COMMUNITY LIAISON – CELINA CLEMENTS

Campaign and External Relations Committee

GRADUATE STUDENTS' CO-DIRECTOR – ALEXANDRA K. NYCHUK

Catalyst Communications and Research Board Liaison

GRADUATE STUDENTS' CO-DIRECTOR – NADIA M. CHAHARSOUGH

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INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS CO-DIRECTOR – ONYINYE FRANCISCA IDIGBE

Executive Committee

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS CO-DIRECTOR – ELSA OWUSU

Executive Committee

MENNO SIMONS COLLEGE DIRECTOR – ALIZEH FARAN

By-law and Policy Committee

Campaign and External Relations Committee

Referenda and Election By-law Interpretation and Transparent Enforcement Board

PACE DIRECTOR – VALERIE BERMUNDEZ

By-law and Policy Committee

RECREATION AND ATHLETICS DIRECTOR – JACOB WISEMAN

Finance and Operations Committee

SCIENCE DIRECTOR – OLIVIA FERRIERA

Campaigns and External Relations Committee

URBAN AND INNER-CITY CAMPUS DIRECTOR – DAGEN PERROT

By-law and Policy Committee

Finance and Operations Committee

Mental Health Resources Committee

Referenda and Elections By-law Interpretation and Transparent Enforcement Board

WOMEN AND NON-BINARY STUDENTS’ DIRECTOR – ARSHIYA BAGHERI TORBEHBAR

Finance and Operations Committee

PARTIAL TERMS

INTERIM CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS - TAYLOR DAIGNEAULT

Sat as temporary Chair from June – August 2020

PRESIDENT – JIBRIL HUSSEIN

(Resigned August 5, 2020)

VICE PRESIDENT EXTERNAL AFFAIRS – BREANNA BELISLE

(Resigned August 5, 2020)

VICE PRESIDENT STUDENT AFFAIRS – MELANIE WILLIAMS

(Resigned January 18, 2021)

ARTS DIRECTOR – WESLEY FALLIS

(Resigned September 2020)

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT LIVING – KIRATVEER HAYER

Student Life Committee

(Appointed January 2021)

EDUCATION DIRECTOR – BREANNA GANS

Finance & Operation Committee

(Appointed December 2020)

PART-TIME MATURE STUDENT DIRECTOR – EMMA ONGSANSOY

(Appointed December 2020, Resigned January 2021)

RACIALIZED DIRECTOR – ELLA TAYLOR

Campaigns and External Relations Committee

Mental Health Resources Committee

(Resigned October 2020)

RACIALIZED STUDENTS' DIRECTOR - SHUBHAM AMAN KUMAR

Campaigns and External Relations Committee

(Appointed December 2020)

FINAL EXECUTIVE REPORTS AND FAREWELLS

PRESIDENT – SHAWNA PÉLOQUIN

The UWSA organization is a student union whose first mandate is to represent the best interest of its members; it further does so through the delivery of an intersectionality of services that support our student's university journey. Over the past year, the UWSA has faced incredible challenges that has not only interfered with its ability to properly service students but that has also revealed a structural vulnerability to create harms to students. The experience and testimonies of previous executives have revealed a harmful gap in the UWSA ability to uphold its values within and outside of its governance structure, the reality of a global pandemic has stressed the importance of a sustainable, efficient, responsible and accountable governance structure. The workload carried by the UWSA 2020-2021 Board of Directors to maintain the operations and business of the student union while undergoing major organizational change to transition services online; while also facing allegations of racism and discrimination and with the absences of an executive authority is extraordinary. The ability of our directors to roll their sleeves up and to dedicate crucial attention to the operation of the UWSA at its most needed moment was crucial for our student community and union wellness.

I was elected UWSA President at the 2020 UWSA By-Election, an unusual event that occurred last in 2004. It is important to me to note that others came before me and that their leadership did have an impact on how I chose to pursue mine in this role.

Under the service of my leadership as UWSA President and main ambassador of the organization, I used our internal and external challenges as an opportunity for the UWSA as whole to shift how leadership and kindness can be express in our community and how we can engage with the union that advocates, services and supports students learning experience and opportunities at the University of Winnipeg. A lot of my work was behind the scene looking at systemic issues and gaps and addressing concerns with the university, building on creative collaboration between the University and the UWSA and creating space for more voices to be included.

At the beginning of my contract on November 4th, 2020 I started a two weeks training in order to be able to carry my position duty as soon as possible so that we could work on catching up with executive duties that where left unaddressed. My first step as President was to create more space for student leaders to affirm their potential and to bring more capacity to the board and the union by leading the appointing process for vacant directorships and UWSA senator seats. I've further held myself accountable to the new energy I was bringing to the team mid-term, and to nurture at every layer possible kindness, engagement and to honor the consortium of voices on the board and within our team. By working together, acknowledging our expectations and intents and collaborating with the university's administration, faculty, and staff has allowed us at the UWSA to bring forth the compassionate grading options for the fall

semester despite working with a tight timeline. It has further allowed us to build direct communication with the UWinnipeg Foundation and to bring students concerns and input to a space they had been excluded from for far too long in the past. We've further created and have given life to the first UWSA Senator Caucus and took the lead in addressing and challenging the systemic racism and colonial structure of our processes. We've also created more opportunity for students to engage and provide feedback on structure and process where they couldn't provide feedback in the past so that we can keep on growing in accordance with the diversity of our students and of their communities of support.

As a Two-Spirit Indigenous Woman I have been both honored and oppressed by the boundary of my role as the CEO of a non-profit and I am humbled, honored and amazed by the strength, resilience, and leadership I have encountered in our university community through my work with our student union. The UWSA 2020-2021 Board of Directors have been critical, responsible and dedicated and have shown me that leadership does not need authority to be powerful, that it does not need a position to be inspiring and that it is a space of courage, vulnerability and uncomfortable engagements. There will always be more to do, more to challenge and more to look forward to and I am grateful for the journey we've had together this year, for the team I joined mid-term and for the kindness, dedication and strength of our students leaders and of our UWinnipeg student community at-large in the uncertainty of a global pandemic. My focus in all that I do is to work for and toward a future where everyone has the freedom to be happy and the ability to grow into their authentic selves, and I am excited to see where the union will be lead next as we move forward into a changed world.

Kinanaskomitinawaw, Megwetch and Thank you to The UWSA Team for the learning, the hard work, the love and the journey.

VICE PRESIDENT EXTERNAL AFFAIRS – JONATHAN HENDERSON

First of all, miigwetch, thank you, Creator for bringing me down this path to work as Vice-President of External Affairs (VPEA) for the University of Winnipeg Student Association (UWSA). Although it was a half term, my experience within this position has been a blessing.

Next, I would like to thank Shawna Peloquin, President of the UWSA, for all the hard work she has put in, and working alongside her during this term has been great. The passion shown to do the best we can in difficult circumstances left me feeling proud about what we were able to accomplish in such a short period. Also, included in these thanks, is the UWSA staff that has made this job much easier, and without your support, I would not have had the success that I was able to achieve during my time as VPEA.

There are some accomplishments and issues that I will highlight in this report that, WE as a team, were able to tackle and complete. I mention, WE, as a team, because all the issues I addressed during my tenure, would not have been able to overcome and have the success I had without a complete team effort. This is the one thing I loved during this term as VPEA, the team work has been phenomenal, and it would be discourteous of myself, to not include a huge thank you to the staff for providing me with the strength, courage, confidence, and support to tackle many issues head on.

Within this position as VPEA, it was an honour to work, meet, and discuss many issues that affect the UWSA. Working with groups and committees such as; Board of Directors, Board of Regents, Senate, Senate Caucus, Campaigns & External Relations Committee, and the Indigenous Course Requirement Committee. Within these groups I gained lots of experience and knowledge regarding students' needs and the issues they voice, and had the opportunity to address, find solutions, and utilize conflict resolution skills in addressing these concerns.

The highlights of my tenure included;

- Working on, familiarizing, strategizing with the Canadian Federation of Students, meeting with government officials from opposition parties (Liberal, NDP), providing media interviews, in order to speak out against Bill 33 (Advanced Education Administration Act).
- Conducting consultations in order to gain feedback to finalize the Positive Space Policy, and have it approved at the board level.
- Promoting Indigeneity and mental health during committee meetings and within Positive Space Policy (smudging, and/or mental health check-ins to begin meetings).
- Working and providing a Student Learning Experience Survey, to gain knowledge on students' learning experiences during the COVID pandemic.
- Chairing the Campaigns & External Relations Committee (within this committee we approved the student learning experience survey, approve numerous student group applications, and approve a \$5,000 donation to support Eisha Hudson).

In closing, again miigwetch, thank you for the support and experience that has come with this wonderful time as Vice-President of External Affairs. It would have been great to meet some of the staff, directors, committee members, and students in-person, but with the pandemic this was not possible. Hopefully in the near future, that will change and we can cross paths and meet each other in person.

FINAL DIRECTOR REPORTS AND FAREWELLS

ACCESSIBILITY DIRECTOR – SARAH ANDERSON

Singer John Holt once said “learning is not the product of teaching. Learning is the product of the activity of learners.” As the Accessibility Director, I am honoured to have had another year of learning, collaborating and advocating for students alongside the amazing staff and board members at the UWSA.

I began this year with the goal of addressing ableism and promoting an inclusive experience for students with disabilities at the University of Winnipeg. In the face of the COVID 19 pandemic, I partnered with fellow student leaders and the Canadian Federation of Students – Manitoba to create the Disability Hardship Grant. This helped to offset any costs related to making home learning accessible to students disabled by barriers in the province. Furthermore, I focused on initiating the UWSA’s “More Than a Door” campaign. With the incredible support of staff and executive directors, I hosted an informative campaign launch centred on accessibility and overcoming ableism, and partnered with the university to install more automatic door openers on campus. As part of the UWSA’s ongoing reformation process, I also drafted a training module on disability awareness that will be available for all present and future UWSA directors and staff. I am very fortunate to have been a part of such advancements in student wellbeing!

Another reason why I will cherish this past year is that every individual with whom I’ve interacted offered me a valuable lesson. I think back to countless board meetings where fellow directors would respectfully hear my opinion, then encourage me to view a given topic through an entirely new lens. I recall numerous occasions when I would bring ideas to staff members, and their support furthered my determination to explore new leadership territory. Unforgettable are my colleagues, both past and present, whose courage to speak in the face of conflict reminded me that there are multiple perspectives to every situation. At the forefront of my memory will always be the students who placed trust in my advocacy and reached out to share their journey. To my fellow directors, UWSA staff and students, I sincerely thank you! Your words have made me an informed student, a stronger leader, and a better person.

From the collaborative successes to the growth that has taken place, it was a pleasure being a part of this pivotal time in the UWSA’s history. Much like this year, I am certain the future has many lessons in store. I am forever grateful for this experience!

Sincerely,
Sarah Anderson

BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS DIRECTOR – HARSIMRAT S. MALHOTRA

Activities:

- *Advocated for economic cost of food by diversity foods in board meetings.*
- *Recommendation of having an engagement officer for interaction of students of business with dean of business.*
- *Discussed in tuition cost committee for scholarship for the students.*
- *Engaged with professor or advisors to get concern solved of the students.*

Activities and Projects:

As a Business and Economics Director for 2020-21, I sat on the Board of Directors the Student Life Committee, Executive Committee. I was also involved in bringing health benefits for students who opted-out as they were outside the country. Not only this but distributing free computers to the students in this online semester was a great initiative to help students. Also, foodbank also supported our students by delivering groceries which really helped students in these times. So, we did pretty much every single effort to keep students updated of the events and bylaws of UWSA as we value feedback from all the students. Throughout my term, I want to thank all my UWSA members for coordinating and bringing vision into reality in these uncertain times of pandemic.

- Harsimrat Malhotra

COMMUNITY LIAISON DIRECTOR – CELINA CLEMENTS

It has been a long arduous year for all with the onset of Covid-19 pandemic at the start of 2020. It created new and unexpected changes for the University of Winnipeg students, teaching staff, city communities and our families. We have all had to pull together to support one another, it has not been an easy transition for the majority of us, and there will still be taxing times in the months to come. I offer encouragement to those first-year students who have toiled, “giving it their all”, to get thru the trials and tribulations, and those students close to graduating, I encourage you to stay strong, the last few courses! The hard times may not be over quite yet, but stay positive. I really appreciated being a member of the UWSA Board of Directors. We moved forward very rigorously early in 2020, working side by side for change, all striving for understanding to have the student voices heard! There will be many new programs and initiatives for you to participate in this year. There can be a united support system within the UWSA, I encourage all of you to be a part of the change and as a student body to use your voices together to be heard, to overcome obstacles and to move forward for positive change. With the Covid-19 pandemic I also have met many personal and academic challenges this year, so I understand how you may be feeling. To all the students; Indigenous BIPOC, International and LGBTQ2S, to their family members and communities I ask you to “Stay Safe”, look out for one another, and know that the best is yet to come;

Always. Aka: Mama C

EDUCATION DIRECTOR – BREANNA GANS

I have had the great opportunity to be a part of the Board of Directors for the 2021 term. I sat on the Finance and Operations Committee and took part in the Positive Space Policy

Consultations. I advocated for students; keeping in mind the best interest of student's well-being during UWSA board meetings. I created a virtual platform to help increase interactions between University of Winnipeg future educators as with the pandemic it has been difficult to network with others. Students can share ideas, lessons, online resources, inspiring stories and personal experiences with one another. Having access to multiple resources as well reading others experiences allows for encouragement and ideas to be shared in a positive matter. This year has included growth and new changes that will be beneficial for the future of the UWSA team. It was great to meet many of you virtually and engaged in conversation.

- Breanna Gans

MENNO SIMONS COLLEGE DIRECTOR – ALIZEH FARAN

2020-2021 was a difficult and challenging year to be a part of the Board but also an extremely rewarding year. We were the first batch of directors and executives to work online amidst a pandemic. Given the situation, I was extremely grateful to be a woman of colour representing students at Menno Simons College but also represent students at large who perhaps looked like me.

As the Menno Simons College Director, my responsibility was to build further connections, maintain established relationships between the UWSA and MSC/MSCSA, and act as a liaison between Menno Simons College and the University of Winnipeg. Since this year looked different, I was also responsible for engaging with students and faculty at Menno Simons College in a continuous and cohesive manner. As a member of the Board, I was also responsible for bringing positive change to an established student union.

During my time as director, I sat on three committees; the Bylaws and Policy Committee, Campaign and External Relations Committee and the Election Accountability Board (formerly known as REBLITE). A particular highlight was the second half of the B&P committee. We were responsible for the election process, bringing change, prioritizing student collaboration and accountability. As a member of CERC, we primarily worked on student care and the impact of online learning. I also collaborated with fellow Board members on various different projects. I collaborated with Sarah Anderson, the Accessibility Director on the early stages of her campaign, More than a Door. I collaborated with Ted Turner; Special Projects Manager, Shreya Jhunjunwala; Marketing and Public Relations Manager, and Jonathan Henderson, Vice-President of External Affairs on the online student survey. I also sat on the chair appointing committee earlier in the year.

Although my time was short, it was extremely rewarding. I learned about leadership, collaborating with people with different skill sets, active listening, and my individual role in a group setting. I am so grateful for all people who served on the Board this year and what we accomplished in this unprecedented year. I am hopeful for what is next to come; for both myself and the Board.

Until next time,

Alizeh Faran (she/her), the outgoing Menno Simons College Director.

PACE DIRECTOR – VALARIE BERMUDEZ

It has been of great pleasure to have served as the PACE Students' Director, even if only for a short while.

When I began my term, my aim was broad. I wanted to provide a voice for PACE students. What quickly became my focus was the online student experience, and how it could be optimized, given the new challenges that we and our faculty were faced with, due to the pandemic.

To identify specific areas that could be remedied during my term, I participated in discussions with the UWSA Board of Directors and sat on the By-Law and Policy Committee, which gave perspective on issues on the main campus. I took this into account with the issues that my classmates – an astute group of HR Management students – were experiencing and reached out to others in my network.

These observations were discussed openly with the supportive faculty of PACE, which resulted in the posting of expectations for instructors into Nexus, for all PACE full-time programs. The aim of this gesture was to empower students to know what they could ask for to enrich their experiences.

I am grateful to have worked with the UWSA, an inspiring and proactive group, who have also given me to opportunity to participate in discussions to create and amend policies and by-laws, through the By-laws and Policy Committee. Also through them, I have also been able to actively participate in the Senate Caucus, to help prepare motions as they moved to Senate. I have also been newly appointed to the Library Committee where I hope to build a stronger connection to PACE. As I leave my term, I hope that I can use these connections to foster continuity of knowledge and shared experiences for your next PACE Director.

With much gratitude and respect,
Valerie Bermudez

RECREATION AND ATHLETICS DIRECTOR – JACOB WISEMAN

This past semester I served as the athletics and recreations director of the University of Winnipeg. Not only did I make progress in surveying students to improve student life, but I also played a major role in passing many motions myself during my time served on the UWSA. It has been a pleasure serving on the board of directors and was truly a great learning experience. I also believe that lots of progress and improvement has been made by the UWSA despite the difficulties in doing so because of the COVID-19 pandemic. I wish everybody well during this difficult time and if anyone has any future recommendations in how we can interrelate sports and recreation for the purpose of improving student life, please do not hesitate to reach out to me!

- Jacob Wiseman

SCIENCE DIRECTOR – OLIVIA FERRIERA

In my role as the UWSA Science Director for the 2020-2021 academic year, I sought to connect with and support my fellow science students through an unpredictable year of distanced learning. By creating an Instagram account for the UWSA Science Director position, I was able to regularly connect with the fantastic STEM groups at The University of Winnipeg, and promote upcoming student group events to a larger audience. Additionally, the account served a second function in advertising upcoming research opportunities available, such as the NSERC USRA program or talks from professors accepting honours students. At the beginning of February, I also hosted a digital workshop on scientific writing that demonstrated proper lab report writing skills and how to access digital research materials through the University of Winnipeg library. Serving on the Board of Directors for the UWSA has been an enriching learning experience, and I am thankful to my fellow directors and UWSA staff for their hard work and dedication this year.

Warm Regards,
Olivia Ferreira

URBAN AND INNER-CITY CAMPUS DIRECTOR – DEGAN PERROT

Let me first thank the students, the board, the executives, and the staff for providing guidance and strength – the sum is greater than the parts. There are many perspectives on what the right path is, but I take inspiration by the number of folks willing to put the work in to finding it. There is a strong responsibility for the Urban and Inner-City Studies Student Association director to be a critical voice of the institution while caring for the relationships within. This past year has brought with it challenges, success, and failures when it comes to that responsibility. Throughout my term, I have been grateful for the support, encouragement and most importantly critique of how I have approached the role. I learned a lot about the potential and limit of student governance. Of the difficulties of fighting for a vision of a safe and supportive community, without in the process perpetuating the same structural violence that I want to see dismantled. Thank you to all I have met and worked with, and I am excited for the future you are building.

With gratitude, Dagen Perrott

A brief year in review:

- Held weekly – bi-weekly meetings over the summer with UIC students to provide some level of community through the initial impact of Covid-19.
- Held monthly UICSA meetings over the year inviting new and returning students to discuss student politics and the direction we are heading at.
- Was present at all but one UWSA board meeting over the course of the year, in addition to chairing one of those meetings.
- Was an active member of the Finance and Operations Sub-committee.

- Was an active member of the By-laws and Policy Sub-committee and contributed to the re-writing of the UWSA election by-laws.
- Participated in monthly Merchant Corner Inc Board meetings and contributed to their by-law revisions.
- Helped lead a partnership between Computers-4-School Manitoba, the UWSA, and UIC that provided 50 free computers to UofW students in fall term. This partnership has continued into the winter term.
- Facilitated the UIC roll call event with incredible support from the UWSA.

Began the work of documenting the exact responsibilities of the UICSA director, formalizing our constitution, and defining what the position entails.

2020-2021 UWSA ACTIVITY SUMMARY

ADVOCACY

With disruptions to the Vice-President Student Affairs (VPSA) office, the UWSA faced a gap this year in providing advocacy services for students facing charges of academic and non-academic misconduct. The service was shared between staff portfolios until it found a permanent home in the Services Manager's portfolio.

Most of the casework this year was academic misconduct. Students struggled with the transition to virtual classes, and miscommunication/ lack of communication between students and instructors was frequently reported. There was also a disproportionate number of casework involving international students, where lack of awareness of what does and doesn't count as academic misconduct was frequently reported.

With the Services Manager as a permanent support to the advocacy portfolio, the UWSA will be able to provide better orientation and training to incoming executive, more consistent and timely advocacy services to students, and a more balanced and fair workload for the VPSA.

CAMPAIGNS

GUARANTEED LIVABLE BASIC INCOME

The board released an official statement in support of Federal Motion 46 which called on the government to introduce legislation and work with provincial and territorial governments and Indigenous peoples to ensure that a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income:

- (i) accounting for regional differences in living costs,
- (ii) for all Canadians over the age of 18, including single persons, students, families, seniors, persons with disabilities, temporary foreign workers, permanent residents, and refugee claimants,
- (iii) paid on a regular basis,
- (iv) not requiring participation in the labour market, education or training in order to be eligible,
- (v) in addition to current and future government public services and income supports meant to meet special, exceptional and other distinct needs and goals rather than basic needs, including accessible affordable social housing and expanded health services,

replaces the Canada Emergency Response Benefit on an ongoing and permanent basis in a concerted effort to eradicate poverty and ensure the respect, dignity and security of all persons in respect of Canada's domestic and international legal obligations.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS NUTRITION AND WELLNESS EVENT

International Students' Co-Directors Francisca I. and Elsa O. worked with CFS-MB to launch a campaign for International Student Health Care. A Facebook Live event was held as part of the campaign launch. Throughout the year the International Students' Co-Directors continued to work with UWinnipeg's International, Immigrant, and Refugee Student Services to assist international students who are in their home countries.

MORE THAN A DOOR

Accessibility Director, Sarah Anderson created an information and lobby campaign centred on accessibility and overcoming ableism and partnered with the University to install more automatic door openers on Campus.

The campaign was kicked off in November with a launch event hosted via Zoom. The panel was moderated by Sarah and included Shane and Hannah Burcaw of the YouTube channel "Squirmy and Grubs" and UWinnipeg Accessibility Services staff.

The campaign is ongoing and is preparing for when students return to campus, with the long-term goal of making all doors on campus accessible.

U-PASS

Over the spring of 2020 the U-Pass was a very active area of focus. Executive and Directors worked to prepare UWSA delegations to speak to the program reductions the City was proposing. These delegations were successful in ultimately lobbying for a path forward for the U-Pass. Much discussion was then had with the parties involved to assess how and if a U-Pass made sense for students in September as we moved to adapt to what we were learning would be an essentially closed campus.

The Board then proposed the U-Pass bursary initiative which was eventually implemented as the Post-Secondary Bus Pass Subsidy. Executive and staff continue to stay in touch with the City on the best ways to prepare to begin to offer the U-Pass the service again. We are presently establishing how and when we would assess the viability of the U-Pass for September of this year.

BILL 33

Working with Exec and Board to establish and mobilize a strategy and response to the Provincial Government's proposed amendments to the Advanced Education Administration Amendment Act (Bill 33) has been a consistent and dominant area of focus this year. If legislated, Bill 33 will give the minister the ability to issue guidelines for tuition or student fees, and would allow the minister to decide if a tuition or student fee exceeds the guidelines. In the

event it is determined that a student or tuition fee exceeds the guidelines, the minister must direct the Minister of Finance to deduce an equivalent amount from any grant requisitioned for the university. In summary, this legislation would allow the government a new and overreached interference of centralization of control over our student fees and the power to adjust the rate of tuition without any further dialogue or consent from student unions and postsecondary institutions. The board has worked, and continues to work, in close tandem with CFS-MB and has liaised and lobbied with government and UWinnipeg Admin to represent our perspectives and requests concerning this legislation. These efforts are on-going.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES & SUPPORT RESOURCES

With the increased need for mental health support, the board formed an ad-hoc committee to guide staff in compiling a list of mental health services that can be easily accessed by students, staff and faculty members of the University of Winnipeg. The list is available on the UWSA website and distributable materials are being considered for the eventual return to campus. Staff reached out to each and every one of the resources on the list to gather as much information as possible on services provided, demographics served, and associated costs. The list is scheduled to be updated every 4 months in perpetuity.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

COMPUTERS FOR SCHOOLS – FREE COMPUTER GIVEAWAY

Spearheaded by Urban and Inner-City Campus Director, Dagen Perrott, the UWSA partnered with Computers for Schools Manitoba to provide free computers for UWinnipeg students. The program helped students stay connected to campus during the all-virtual semesters necessitated by COVID-19. The program operated in both the Fall and Winter Terms, with a \$5000 capital donation each term to cover the cost of the computers.

Details include:

- Campus/Delivery/Pick-Up Facilitation;
- Facilitated the distribution of 50 upcycled computers from Computers for Schools each semester;
- 100 people served!

BIKE LAB SECURITY

The Bike Lab has been subject to break-ins periodically since its creation; however, an uptick in this activity jeopardized the ability of the Bike Lab to offer safe and consistent services. Break-ins targeted the Bike Lab windows. Between May 2019 and July 2020 there were 4 successful break-ins and 3 attempted break-ins.

UWinnipeg Physical Plant recommended working with Ultra-Lite Shutters to install Heroal brand aluminum shutters on the 4 Bike Lab windows (2 large and 2 small). The shutters are resin filled and part of the Ultra-Secure series. UWinnipeg partnered with the UWSA by offering to cover the costs of installation of the electrical switching required to operate the shutters, replacing broken glass prior to installation, and providing future maintenance of the units. The board approved \$6,153.84 of capital funding to cover the initial installation costs of the shutters. Bike Lab staff were trained to ensure that the shutter system is used when no one is present at the Bike Lab to prevent further window damage.

SEMESTER BUS PASS SUBSIDY PROGRAM

Due to COVID-19 and the suspension of on-campus classes, the Board of Directors voted to suspend the U-Pass fee and program for the Fall and Winter Terms. In order to provide a comparable service to UWinnipeg students who depend on the U-Pass, the board earmarked capital funds to provide the Semester Bus Pass Subsidy. The Subsidy is a partnership with UWinnipeg who, in addition to administering the Subsidy through the Award and Financial Aid Office, matched the UWSA's donation of \$25,000 to the fund. The Subsidy provides \$78 per student applicant to cover the price differential between the U-Pass and the City of Winnipeg's standard Post-Secondary Semester Bus Pass.

SIMPLY VOTING

After two years of discussions with Simply Voting and UWinnipeg's Technologies Services Centre, the UWSA purchased an annual subscription to Simply Voting's digital voting software with \$3,261.51 of capital funds. TSC has partnered with the UWSA to provide the voter data extract, and training on the administration of the software has been provided for incoming Chief Elections Commissioners. In addition to providing greater data security and ease of use for the CEC and polling officers, the availability of online polls doubled the standard voter turnout for an average by-election.

COMMUNICATIONS STATISTICS

(AS OF MARCH 16, 2021)

FACEBOOK

Page Likes: 4,708

Increase in likes since last 2019-20: 91

INSTAGRAM

3032 followers

Increase in followers since 2019-20: 542

TWITTER

New followers since May 1, 2019: 130

FACEBOOK EVENTS

17 Events
33.7K People Reached
380 Event Responses

SOCIAL MEDIA ADS

Ad Reach: 25,182 (number of times people saw the ad at least once)
Ad Impression (Number of times our ad was on screen) – 103,993
Link Clicks: 429
Total Spend: \$677.92

UNITER ADS

Roll Call Online Ad: \$0
By-Election Online ad: \$78.75
Snowed In Online: \$157.50
Uniter General Election Online Ad: \$157.50
Total Spend: \$393.75

WEBSITE

Total number of visitors in the last 365 days: 103,068
Total number of visits in the last 365 days: 514,838
Top 5 most-visited pages: Home page, Health Plan, U-Pass, Job Opportunities, Student Groups

THE SCOOP

UWSA Bi-Weekly Email Newsletter: 694 Current Subscribers
Increase of 249 subscribers since 2019-20.

HANDBOOK

Designed, produced and distributed 1100 handbooks to students at UWSA Roll Call and with partnerships with UW Bookstore, Diversity Food Services, Campus stores.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

INDIGENEITY, COLONIALISM AND COVID: LAND DEFENDERS AND WATER PROTECTORS IN A PANDEMIC AGE – EVENT DONATION

In November, the board approved a \$500 donation to the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives to help fund their event: “Indigeneity, Colonialism and COVID: Land Defenders and Water Protectors in a Pandemic Age” featuring Winona LaDuke, Palmela Palmater and Niigaan Sinclair. The event was free and drew over one thousand participants from the community.

JUSTICE FOR EISHIA HUDSON – CAMPAIGN DONATION

On April 8, 2020, a 16-year-old Indigenous youth, Eishia Hudson, was killed by a Winnipeg police officer. Eishia is described as an ambitious athlete, with a smile that could lighten a room. She was a great aunty; she loved spending time with her nieces and nephew, and it made her smile just seeing the smile on their faces. She was a Daughter, a granddaughter, a sister, an aunty, a cousin, a loyal person, a friend and so much more.

Winnipeg Police’s Internal Investigation Unit cleared the officer of all charges, despite his testimony contradicting the video evidence. Since then, Eishia’s family has been organizing to honour and fight for justice for Eishia and raise awareness of police brutality in Winnipeg. Their work includes the retention of legal counsel in seeking a public inquiry into the slaying of their daughter. The board approved a \$5000 donation to support the Justice for Eishia Hudson cause.

INDEPENDENT LIVING RESOURCE CENTRE – 9 STEPS, A COMMUNITY BASED APPROACH TOWARD ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION – COALITION PARTNERSHIP

The ILRC’s campaign targets accessibility of public transit in Winnipeg with the goal of ensuring that all community members can exercise their right to public transportation by eliminating physical barriers and creating policies that prioritize access to accessibility features for passengers who need them.

The UWSA has joined this coalition effort with Accessibility Director, Sarah Anderson, sitting as the representative at coalition meetings.

EVENTS

1ST VIRTUAL EVENTS

Ask an Academic Advisor
March 2020

- Instagram Live
- VPSA went live with a UWpg Academic Advisor
- Students joined the chat to ask questions live
- ~30ppl

COVID Coping: COVID-19 + Mental Health Discussion
April 2020

- Zoom Discussion
- VPEA + Panelists from UWpg Wellness, Social Media Mental Health Advocate and Local Mental Health Activist
- ~15ppl

ROLL CALL – 3-DAY VIRTUAL EVENT

Sept 2020

- Zoom/Instagram Live/Facebook Live
- Largest Annual flagship event welcoming students back to campus with a celebration of student life and UWSA services + supports.
- First large-scale virtual event
- Daily Instagram Giveaway packs
- Free Film Screening
 - UWpg Film Fest
- Free Workshops
 - Vision Board Worskhop
 - Beading Workshop
 - Miss Gender Cooking Tutorial
- Free UWSA Swag Bag pickup and delivery
- Virtual DJ After Party
- ~400-700ppl

DIGITAL DOGGO DAYS

Last Thursday of every month Sept – April

- Instagram
- Worked with UWSA Comms to repost students' cute pictures of pets at home
- UWSA Swag Bags provided as prizes for participating
- ~100ppl

ZOOM ROOM OF DOOM: HALLOWEEN QUARANTINE

Oct 2020

- Zoom
- Hosted a Halloween Costume party with games and fun prizes for students who participated

STUDENT GROUP VIRTUAL EVENT PLANNING RESOURCE

Fall 2020

- Living PDF
- Created a 2020/2021 Student Group Guide with UWSA Communications Department
- Guide outlines helpful tips for planning a Virtual Event
- Guide outlines what a virtual event is + tips for different kinds of virtual events
 - Meetings
 - Webinars and conferences
 - Networking and social events
 - Fundraisers
 - Online Expos and Fairs
 - Screenings
 - Performer events
 - Workshops
- Guide outlines a step-by-step guide on how to plan these events, and how the UWSA can support.
- Guide also outlines Student Group basics, Student Group Benefits, UWSA Positive Space Policy etc.

OTHER ASSISTED FALL TERM EVENTS

- BIPOC Lounge Events
- 2020 UWSA SGM
- By-Election Speeches

SNOWED IN 2021 – 3-DAY VIRTUAL EVENT

Jan 2021

- Zoom/Instagram Live/Facebook Live/Netflix Party
- Flagship event welcoming students back to campus for Winter Term, usually held in the Bulman on campus, the event was entirely re-designed for virtual engagement.
- 3 days of virtual events + Prize giveaways!
- Workshops
 - Mindfulness Workshop w/ UW Wellness
 - Hip Hop Workshop w/ Studio 393
 - Cozy Craft Workshop w/ Arts Junktion
- QnA w/ UWSA Pres + International Students' Director
- Virtual Game Night + Gather Room
- Screening on Netflix party
- Snow Ball: Virtual DJ After Party Live on Instagram and Zoom
- ~100-200 ppl

MEET YOUR DIRECTOR: UWSA GAME NIGHT

Bi-Weekly Thursday night

Feb 2021 – April 2021

- Zoom
- Every other Thursday, UWSA hosts a game night where students can join and play JACKBOXtv and get to know their directors
- Highlight a new director each session, and UWSA Events Staff hosts with icebreakers and runs the game for everyone.
- ~30ppl

OTHER ASSISTED WINTER TERM EVENTS

- Uniter Speaker Series
- CFS Anti-Racism Training
- UWSA Positive Space Policy Consultations
- Truth and Growth Discussion Circle
- Anti - Bill 33 Campaign Support
- 2021 Election Meeting Support

PARTNERSHIP WITH RED TENT

Red Tent “Creating and Anti-Oppressive Culture of Consent” Workshop

March 2021

- Zoom
- Free 2hr 2part workshop for UWpg students, UWSA Board, Fulltime and Partime Staff and Communities of Support.
- ~10-25ppl

OPERATIONS

GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONS REFORMS

This year, the board of directors worked with Catalyst Research & Communications to identify key issues in the UWSA’s democratic and organizational structure. The key issues were identified as:

- The UWSA exists to support students at the University of Winnipeg. The student body is diverse and representative of different social, cultural, and political identities. Honouring and respecting that diversity is fundamental to the UWSA in its work.
- To respect the diversity of the UWSA membership, we need to strengthen our platforms and spaces that promote dialogue and debate. We need safe spaces for disagreement, and to maintain respect for each student engaged in these

- conversations. When it comes to supporting racism, elections, and open discussions, the UWSA must, and can, do better.
- While social media has some value in raising issues, we were reminded that important social issues like addressing racism cannot be resolved solely through social media.
 - We learned that the UWSA will need to find better ways to support Executives as they transition, particularly when they have very different ideological foundations or approaches.
 - We are committed to establishing a change management strategy between Executives that honours both sets of student leaders – one group transitioning out and the other coming in.
 - Most Executives have ambitious agendas that cannot be achieved in their one-year term. We need to engage students with UWSA initiatives and strategies that go beyond the annual election cycle and campaigns. Many of the issues that students want to see changed are systemic in nature and take longer than one year.
 - We want the election process to be focused on the strengths that our student leaders bring, instead of replicating systems and processes that are known to harm individuals. We want to get creative and constructive about our election process.
 - The UWSA is committed to doing its part in ending all forms of discrimination, including Anti-Black and Indigenous racism. When accusations of racism came up, the UWSA Board took leadership to respond to the issue. As we moved forward throughout the past few months, we recognized that there are multiple strategies to address racism and many students put forward their thinking. This critical discussion deserves more platforms so that we, at the UWSA, can do better. We learned that doing harm to others does not address racism – holding people accountable through relationship is how we can all learn and change.
 - We want to recognize the UWSA Board and Executive who respected the process to try and address this situation and find solutions. We would like to thank former Executives and board members who continue to participate in the process to make the UWSA a stronger organization.
 - We have been reminded through these many difficult situations that relationships matter and when we work at having honest and respectful relationships, we can get through any issue together.

Catalyst made a number of recommendations to address the UWSA’s election processes; organizational and governance stability; executive transition; complaints within the elections process and within the governance process; complaints within the workplace and staff/ executive relationships; board orientation and development; and student campaigns.

The board implemented the first round of reforms to incorporate Catalyst’s election recommendations prior to the commencement of the 2021 General Election. For the full report on Catalyst’s recommendations and the action taken by the UWSA, see the March 8, 2021 [UWSA Reforms Final Report](#).

POSITIVE SPACE POLICY

The UWSA Positive Space Policy was updated this year with consultations being held to get input on the policy and help it evolve into something stronger. Staff, and students both gave suggestions that were incorporated into the policy with the intention for it to be a living document that is constantly improving and being revisited every 3-6 months.

The purpose of the UWSA Positive Space Policy is to foster and maintain a welcoming, safe, and inclusive environment committed in being free from barriers, harassment, abuse and all forms of oppression. This policy is intended for those who study, work, and otherwise participate in any aspect of UWSA operations and initiatives. The procedures attached to this policy supports victims first, and also support those who violate the policy through education, awareness, mediation, and shared community accountability. This policy strives to provide support and restoration for all involved through providing opportunities for growth and healing.

ELECTION REFORMS

Following the Governance and Operational Reforms recommendations received from Catalyst Research & Communications, the board voted to postpone the election by one month so that the By-law and Policy Committee could engage in an extensive review of the UWSA's election by-laws and policies. A student feedback form was also set up on the UWSA website from February 12 – 24, 2021. After careful consideration, the UWSA Board voted to pass a set of election reforms on February 24, 2021.

The reforms include:

1. Staggered two-year terms for the UWSA Vice-President External Affairs (VPEA), Vice-President Student Affairs (VPSA), and four Emerging Leader Directors.
2. Creation of Four Emerging Leader Directors positions.
3. Introduction of an Election Evaluation and Feedback Policy.
4. Creation of two new roles of Election Campaign Facilitators.
5. Modifications to the Chief Election Commissioner role.
6. The Election Accountability Board (EAB) replaces Referenda and Elections By-law Interpretation and Transparent Enforcement (REBLITE) Board.
7. Collective campaign opportunities for candidates.
8. Removal of slates and collusion between candidates.
9. Simplification of the nomination process.
10. Creation of All Candidate's Training and Campaign Preparation Week.

For the full election rules please see [Sections IV and V of the UWSA By-Laws](#) and [Article XIV of the UWSA Policy Manual](#).

PEGGO CARD REPLACEMENT

Due to campus closure, the UWSA is providing Peggo card services by appointment. Students with lost or deactivated peggo cards can make an appointment to schedule to pick up replacement cards where they would receive an authorization form to transfer any outstanding payments. <https://theuwsa.ca/peggo-pickup/>

PEGGO CARD DISTRIBUTION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UW STUDENT CENTRAL

The UWSA in partnership the UW student services is providing Peggo cards for new students despite the campus closure. The student central is responsible for providing new students with appointment dates and confirmation. The UWSA will be present on all the appointment dates to distribute new Peggo cards.

UWSA TRANSIT SUBSIDY

UWinnipeg Fulltime students who purchase a Post-Secondary Semester Pass can apply for the UWSA Transit Subsidy. The UWSA Transit Subsidy is provided to full-time University of Winnipeg undergraduate or graduate students who purchase a Post-Secondary Semester Bus Pass for the winter term of the 2020-21 academic year. This subsidy is provided by the UWSA in partnership with the University of Winnipeg to help UWSA members with the cost of local transportation, in the temporary absence of the U-Pass.

HEALTH PLAN OPERATIONS

Due to the current public health situation and campus closure, the UWSA Health Plan office will not be open until further notice. However, we now carry out our services remotely. Students can now find and submit all UWSA Health Plan forms online.

- A fillable PDF opt-change form is available on the UWSA website. <https://theuwsa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Opt-Change-Form-201920-1.pdf>
- Students who wish to opt-in would have to complete this opt-change form and forward to the health plan opt-change email optchange@theuwsa.ca .
- For students who needs an opt-change form signed by service coordinators (Graduate students, Pace and students registered under Accessibility), the UWSA health plan coordinator sends a **program confirmation email** to the various service coordinators before processing.

INCORPORATION OF NEW ONLINE GSC SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

GreenShield Canada has teamed up with various virtual health corporations to provide remote health services to create more health service options for students. Some available virtual services that were recently provided by GSC include:

GREENSHIELD STUDENT CENTRE – Direct online assistance for students’ general health coverage inquiries, direct deposit setups and claims.

INKBLOT TECHNOLOGIES – GSC students have access to Inkblot Technologies (Inkblot), Canada’s fastest-growing virtual mental health platform.

MAPLE PREMIUM VIRTUAL CARE SERVICE - Maple is Canada’s premium virtual care service that offers students timely and effective care from Canadian-licensed doctors online.

BEACON - BEACON has recently updated content available for promotion to students. BEACON assists students with their mental health and wellness by utilizing cognitive behaviour therapy. Students can access BEACON to seek support.

The UWSA Retail department is working closely with the UWSA Communications Department to provide make these resource available on the UWSA website.

NEW RETAIL PHONE HELPLINE SERVICES

In addition to services provided via email, the UWSA now offers direct student support via phone call despite the campus closure. Students can reach a UWSA staff via phone call on Monday and Wednesday 10pm – 3pm to inquire and get direct assistance on Peggo card issues and health coverage claims.

SERVICE CENTRES

LOUNGES (BIPOC LOUNGE, ACCESS LOUNGE, RAINBOW LOUNGE, WTSC)

With the university being closed for students to access due to Covid-19, service centre lounges have transferred their programming to a virtual platform. In addition to collective meetings conducted every month, the lounges hosted movie nights and open mic nights as a mean for students to come together and have a good time.

BIKE LAB

Bike Lab was not allowed to serve clients due to COVID-19 restrictions throughout the year. However, the Bike Lab coordinators have adapted by making DIY videos to help the clients perform basic maintenance and small repairs on their bikes at home. The videos are posted on UWSA Instagram weekly. Bike Lab also launched their own radio show, outSPOKEn. Tune in on CKUW 95.9 every Monday at 1 PM!

FOOD BANK

UWSA Food Bank was not able to operate this year due to COVID-19. All clients were directed to Harvest Manitoba and were assigned other food bank locations. With the intention of helping out students in need, the Food Bank ran a Holiday Hamper Delivery project in December in collaboration with Diversity Food Services. 50 grocery hampers and 50 gift cards were distributed to students in need. In January, dry food items from the Food Bank storage were delivered to student parents of the UWSA Day Care.