

**University of Winnipeg Students' Association Board of Directors**  
**OPEN Session Meeting Minutes, August 25, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.**  
**Virtual Meeting due to the COVID – 19 Pandemic**

**Board in Attendance:**

Co-Chair of the Board: Anjola Aderinto

Co-Chair of the Board: Alizeh Faran

President: Kiratveer (Kirt) Singh Hayer

Vice-President Student Affairs: Reza Saker Hossain

Accessibility Director: Sarah Anderson

Arts Director: Umar Awan

Business and Economics Director: Bedel Shafe'a

Community Liaison Director: Shawna Péloquin

Environmental Ethics Co-Director: Adhiraj Majumder

International Students Co-Director: Riya Katia

Part-Time/Mature Students' Director: Clifford Stornel

Recreation & Athletics Co-Director: Ripanjot Kaur Gill

Student Living Director: Ifeoma S. Onyekwelu

Women, Trans & Non-Binary Co-Director: Gursimran Kaur

Women, Trans & Non-Binary Co-Director: Mansi K. Joshi

**Board Absent:**

Vice-President External Affairs: Jonathan Henderson

Emerging Leader Director – 2 Year Term: Faith Marcial

Emerging Leader Director - 1 Year Term: Chhavi Dhir

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International Students' Co-Director: Priyanshu Setia

Recreation & Athletics Co-Director: Will Sass

Science Director: Bavleen Kaur

Urban and Inner-City Director: Dagen Perrott

Environmental Ethics Co-Director: Navdeep Singh

**Guest:**

Brendan Scott, UMSU President - MAPSS Representative

Emily Kalo, UMSU Vice President Advocacy - MAPSS Representative

**Staff in Attendance:**

Jennifer Black, General Manager

Thomas Hanan, Admin Assistant: Interim Secretary

Meagan Nenka, UWSA Chief Elections Commissioner

**Open Session**

**1. Call to Order**

The regular monthly meeting of the University of Winnipeg Students' Association Board of Directors was held on Wednesday August 25, 2021, via a virtual meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m. Following the confirmation of quorum, the house continued to the agenda.

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**2. Introduction Circle**

Chair leads a circle of introductions for everyone attending.

**3. Approval of the Order of Business**

**Kirt H. moves to approve the order of business.**

**Motion carries**

**4. Special Business**

- a. Manitoba Alliance of Post-Secondary Students (MAPSS) – For Approval

Kirt H. introduces the guests from MAPSS who have come to answer the board's questions. B. Scott and E. Kalo explain that MAPSS is a provincially focused network of student union executives. They meet with political leaders from all sides to try to raise the profile of student issues in Manitoba. All direction for the organization is decided collectively at their board meetings. International student healthcare is a major focus this year. MAPSS is not advocating that international students are reintegrated into Manitoba Health, but is instead advocating that the province buys into their insurance to help lower the costs.

**Kirt H. moves the motion tabled from the July 28 meeting of the board:**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the UWSA joins MAPSS as a member organization.**

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The board asks questions about:

- membership criteria,
- financial obligation,
- whether the priorities of MAPSS can be changed once the UWSA becomes members,
- why the UWSA hasn't previously been approached by MAPSS,
- what sort of fee structure MAPSS is proposing for international student healthcare,
- what work MAPSS has done for students with disabilities,
- the difference between perspective and direct membership,
- whether MAPSS has a representative counsel, and
- how MAPSS conducts consultation.

B. Scott states that there is no financial obligation. The board will occasionally decide on expenses collectively, but MAPSS cannot force an organization to pay for something it doesn't want to. MAPSS did reach out to the UWSA when they were first organizing but the UWSA wasn't interested at that time. The fee structure for international student healthcare has not yet been set, but the proposal was favorably received by the minister. As direct members, Kirt or

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whoever Kirt designates, will have a vote. Any student can attend MAPSS meetings as an observer.

E. Kalo states that priorities were set for the year to give them direction, but those priorities can be changed by the board. MAPSS wants the UWSA perspective. In terms of membership criteria, the member's representative will be expected to attend board meetings – outside of that it is flexible. Elections take place at the beginning of executive terms and MAPSS tries to have a representative from every member on the MAPSS executive. MAPSS does not have a representative counsel of students from marginalized communities, but it engages in consultations with community representatives from their member student unions. As a direct member, rather than an observer member, the UWSA would have a vote at MAPSS board meetings.

The board asks further questions about:

- how the elections process works,
- how MAPSS will support its long-term growth without membership fees,
- how rules are changed within the organization.

Shawna P. proposes an amendment:

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the UWSA joins MAPSS as an *observer* member.**

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**Amendment fails**

B. Scott states that there is an open nominations process. While MAPSS encourages the board to elect a representative from each member organization, the candidates are approved by a vote of the board. There is currently no intention to become a larger organization with staff and an office, so there's no need for member fees. Changes to the constitution can only be done by a unanimous vote, so mandatory fees would have to be approved by the UWSA representative.

**Motion carries**

**Abstention: Shawna P.**

**5. Consent Agenda**

a. Reports

i. Executive Reports

a) Kirt H.

- working with MAPSS on student advocacy issues and Bill 33 – we met with the Minister Ewasko,
- UWSA also independently met with Minister Ewasko –

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- Met with VP Academic and is proposing changes to the syllabus to include a section on mental health – advocating for a section in the Nexxus content bar where the syllabus must be placed by the professor so it is easily accessible to students.
- Wrote a statement on the situation in Afghanistan and the farmers protests in India.
- Working on an international student advocacy issue with Reza.
- Working with alumni committee and looking to create a partnership with them – planning monthly alumni meet up to increase opportunities for mentorship – planning a subcommittee to aid communication between alumni, UWSA, and career services.
- Met with Chris Minaker in person for the first time, looked around the admin offices and worked on developing the relationship.
- Got interviewed by the CBC twice – UWinnipeg vaccination policy and the federal election.
- Planning to volunteer with the vaccine implementation on campus – anyone who is interested in participating please email me availability.

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- Planning for UWSA to have a table at UWinnipeg orientation to increase engagement – also looking for volunteers for that.

b) Reza H.

- Focusing on student advocacy this month, met with many students via zoom and helped them prepare for their meetings.
- Attended Senate Academic Standards Committee meeting.
- Managing some non-academic misconduct complaints – received a complaint about PACE and lack of support from that department and I'm working on that case.
- Some students have been reaching out with complaints about the vaccine mandate, so we've been navigating that.
- Connecting with the CEO of nimbus learning – researching the service and preparing it for the committee – connecting with legal and university, and the CEO again, will be bringing it back to F&O for a final decision next month and bring it to the next board meeting.
- Found a clause in the by-laws that was amended by a vote of the board in 2016 but not properly integrated into the by-law package at the time. The clause states that executive must deliver a written report, but directors may give oral or written



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reports. This was changed so that executive may also give oral reports. Since this decision was already made with due process, J. Black will be putting the amendment in the by-laws. If you have concerns about this, please let J. Black know as soon as possible.

ii. Director Reports

a) Sarah A.

- Continuing work on More Than a Door,
- Worked with Thomas on a PowerPoint about academic accommodations and the appeal process.
- Went around campus today with UWinnipeg Facilities to review possible locations for automatic doors and to see what the university has already done since the campus closure. Good progress is being made on accessible doors, washrooms, and lockers.
- Collaborating with accessibility services.

b) Bedel S.

- Participated in departmental meetings.
- Met with BASA about facilitating in person welcome events for the department that abide by public health guidelines.

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- Working with Accounting Association on membership program for the association to grow engagement.
  - Took part in welcoming the first WUSC student this year.
  - Attended Executive Committee Meeting.
- c) Umar A.
- Nothing to report.
- d) Shawna P.
- On day 60 of the healing village.
  - Attended By-law and Policy Committee and Campaigns and External Relations Committee.
  - Working on a Land Back workshop through the Truth and Growth campaign. Meeting with staff and Adhiraj about that next week.
- e) Adhiraj M.
- Attended Campaigns and External Relations Committee's first in-person meeting. Discussed student group applications but did not have quorum for approval.
  - Connecting with Shawna about collaborative projects.
- f) Riya K.
- Nothing to report
- g) Cliff S.

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- Took part in By-law and Policy Committee meeting.

h) Ripan G.

- Planning a meeting with the Kinesiology and Athletic Therapy Students Association to assist with their plans for the fall.
- Supporting Wesmen events.

i) Mansi J.

- Nothing to report.

b. Minutes

i. BOD 210728 OPEN

ii. B&P 210809 OPEN

iii. EXEC 210809 OPEN

**Kirt H. moves to amend the motion under item 3.a. to add the text below in italics to read:**

**“Sarah A. moves to appoint Bedel S. and Jonathan H. to the hiring committee, alongside the General Manager and Chair *of the Executive Committee.*”**

iv. EXEC 210812 OPEN

**Kirt. H moves to approve the consent agenda omnibus.**

**Motion carries**

## **6. Communications**

a. UWSA Transit Subsidy – For Information

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T. Hanan reads the update provided by Special Projects Manager, Ted Turner:

“This partnered initiative with UWinnipeg Awards and Financial Aid provides financial support to students who apply, have purchased a post-secondary (term) transit pass and meet the needs based criteria. Successful applicants receive an \$83 rebate toward the \$283 cost of the transit pass, this works out to a rough equivalent cost (\$200) of what a U-Pass would be if the program was active. We had approved 25K for this initiative in the Spring of 2020 this was matched by UWinnipeg to offer 50K collectively.

The uptake for the initiative was as follows:

Total winter 2021 term awards: \$5,146 (62 students awarded)

Total fall 2020 term awards: \$4,914 (63 students awarded)

Total awarded in fiscal year: \$10,060

Applications for the fund are presently active again for the Fall term. The rate of a post-secondary transit pass will increase again in January 2022. The increase last year was from \$273 to \$283. We should project a similar increase. If 50K was allocated in awards of \$83 per student, it would amount to 602 students receiving the bursary, we would estimate slightly downward of this number to account for the projected increase.”

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b. UWinnipeg Vaccination Policy – For Information

Kirt H. reads the update provided by Marketing and Public Relations Manager,

Alex Nguyen:

“On Thursday, August 19, 2021, the University of Winnipeg announced they will require proof of full vaccination against Covid-19 and mandatory masks to access the campus.

The UWSA supports the university’s decision for mandatory vaccinations and mask mandates. Our number one priority is the safety of students and staff. In order to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and the delta variant we will continue to follow The University of Winnipeg’s COVID-19 policies and the Manitoba health orders.”

Sarah A. asks how the UWSA will support students falling through the cracks of this policy and whether the UWSA will be supporting students who are having trouble accessing education because of a medical decision.

Kirt H. states that UWinnipeg is providing a clemency period up until October 15 to help students meet the demands of this policy. From a public health perspective, it makes sense to support this policy, and it is in line with recent

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vaccine and mask mandates announced by the province. Exemptions under medical and human rights criteria will be navigated by the university. Our position is that we want students to have a safe return to campus and avoid another lockdown. The executive talked about this for a long time and feel it is the right move to support the policy but are open to further conversations with the board if deemed necessary.

**7. New Business**

a. Report of the By-law and Policy Committee – For Approval

J. Black presents the proposal. The committee held consultations with past election participants and used the feedback to formulate some changes. Because the committee was working under a very tight timeline, it is only presenting a modest package of amendments, with the intention to keep meeting and hold more consultations to prepare another set of proposals for the 2022 General Election.

**Cliff S. moves:**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law 5.25.iii Election Campaign Facilitators Powers and Duties is amended to remove the words in red below to read:**

“The ECFs shall organize ~~all~~ campaign opportunities for candidates and volunteers including debates, forums, classroom presentations, meetings with student groups, and any other campaign opportunity targeting ten (10) or more voting members.”

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**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT By-law 5.35 Campaign Opportunities is amended to remove the words in red and add the words in purple below to read:**

**i.** Campaign opportunities shall be any promotional engagement for candidates targeted at classrooms, student groups, or any group of ten (10) or more students, table bookings or campaign displays (not including posters or banners), debates, forums, and any other publicly promoted engagements.

~~**ii.** All campaign opportunities shall be approved or arranged by the ECFs.~~

**ii.** ~~Planning for~~ Campaign opportunities shall be ~~done~~ collaboratively planned by all candidates during the All-Candidates' Campaign Preparation Week (Week 3).

**iii.** During Campaigning (Weeks 4 and 5), candidates may independently arrange campaign opportunities additional to those developed collaboratively during Week 3. In these instances, candidates shall notify the ECFs and any other candidate contesting for the same position of the additionally planned campaign opportunities no less than 24 hours in advance of said opportunity.

**iv.** During Campaigning (Weeks 4 and 5), the ECFs shall provide support by request to candidates who require additional guidance arranging campaign opportunities.

~~**iv.** All candidates contesting for the same position shall have equal access to the same campaign opportunities.~~

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~~v. Candidates found to have arranged for private campaign opportunities shall be in violation of these by-laws and subject to consequences in accordance with the Election Complaints Policy.~~

v. Classroom presentations may only be made with instructor permission and must follow any restrictions imposed by the instructor within their classroom, subject to compliance with these by-laws.

vi. The ECFs, in coordination with the UWSA Communications Department, shall arrange for the purchase of ad space in the Uinter to feature UWSA Election Campaign promotions and/or candidate bios.”

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT By-law 5.48.iv Election Accountability Board (EAB) is amended to remove the words in red and add the words in purple below to read:**

“Quorum for a meeting of the Election Accountability Board shall be ~~50% + 1 of the membership of the EAB minus any members in a conflict of interest or three (3) voting members, whichever is more.~~ **five (5) voting members of the EAB.** At least three (3) UWSA Directors must be present at a meeting of the EAB in order for it to meet quorum.”

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law 7.14.iii (Voting and Decisions at Standing and Ad-Hoc Committees) is removed in its entirety:**

~~“The Chair of a Committee does not vote on any motion except to break a vote that is tied.”~~



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**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT By-law 6.7.viii (Duties of the Chair of the Board of Directors)**

**is removed in its entirety:**

~~“The Chair or acting Chair may vote on any motion upon which there is an equality of votes.”~~

**Kirt H. moves an amendment:**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the definition of campaign opportunities is removed from the by-laws.**

Kirt H. states that while the proposal moves in the right direction, the campaign opportunities section is still too limiting of campaigning and unfairly restrictive.

Cliff S. expresses opposition to the amendment. This amendment was already discussed at the committee and voted down. The proposal loosens restrictions significantly and does not limit campaigning, it just requires honesty from candidates about their activities. The proposal is already uplifting.

Reza H. speaks to the language of the amendment and suggests that all instances of campaign opportunities would need to be removed, rather than just the definition, in order to accomplish Kirt's goal.

Shawna P. expresses that she feels triggered by the discussion and not free to discuss what she experienced under the old election rules because the meeting is in open

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session. This amendment goes against the decision made by the By-law and Policy Committee. Kirt supported the decision in that meeting.

Kirt H. states that while the committee agreed to this proposal it is ultimately up to the board to approve. Kirt states that he accepts that the proposal is moving in the right direction but doesn't think it is good enough. Campaigning is not the same thing as harassment. It's an arbitrary restriction that doesn't make things more equal. Candidates would be free to do as much campaigning as they want with this amendment.

Kirt H. amends the amendment to read:

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the definition of campaign opportunities is removed from the by-laws and all instances of "campaign opportunities" are removed from the by-laws.**

Adhiraj M. expresses support for the amendment. Candidates should be free to participate fully.

Bedel S. expresses concern about removing an accountability mechanism without replacing it with something better. Suggests that the amendment goes back to the committee for further discussion.

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Cliff S. states that the proposal isn't restrictive, it just asks candidates to be informative so that people who have felt unsafe in the past can be better prepared.

Ripan G. expresses that the last election felt very unfair and candidates who could have won were given a disadvantage because of unfair restrictions on campaigning.

Sarah A. expresses support for the intention of the amendment but states that she doesn't feel that removing the definition is enough to achieve the freedom that's wanted.

Shawna P. expresses opposition to the amendment. This matter should be considered again by the committee in advance of the General Election.

**Amendment fails**

**Motion carries**

**Abstention: Kirt H.**

**Bedel S. moves to enter closed session and take a 10-minute break.**

**Motion carries**

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**Meeting recesses at 7:52 p.m.**

**Meeting called back to order at 8:03 p.m.**

**Closed Session**

**8. Consent Agenda**

- a. Minutes
  - i. BOD 210728 CLOSED

**9. Communication**

- a. COO Hiring Competition, Harris Leadership – For Information

**10. New Business**

**11. Other Business**

- a. Roll Call Director Volunteering – Email [s.sarty@theuwsa.ca](mailto:s.sarty@theuwsa.ca) by August 27 to sign up!
- b. Next Meeting of the Board: September 29, 5:30 p.m.

**12. Adjournment**

**Quorum lost at 8:05 P.M.**