

UWSA board of Directors Meeting
November 27, 2015 – 6:00 p.m.
2M70 – 515 Portage Avenue

In Attendance:

Peyton Veitch: President
Kevin Settee: VPEA
Ashtyn Walker: Education Director
Karolya Vargscarr: GM (guest)
Adrienne Tessier: Arts Director
Oladele Ojewole: Community Liaison Director
Leah McDonnell: Graduate Students' Co-Director
Morgan Brightnose: Aboriginal Students' Co-Director
Samantha Tinkler: Science Co-Director
Julia Piche: Science Co-Director
Lester Aidoo: International Students' Co-Director
Lena Spiteyna: campus reporter for the Uniter (guest)
Mallory Black: Rec and Athletics Director
Hazim Ismail: Part-time and Mature Students' Director
Jonathan Northam: LGBT* Director
Emily Epp: VPIA
Jesse Blackman: VPSA
Kelby Loepky: Status of Women Director
Ariel Melamedoff: Chair of the Board
Ted Du: Business and Economic Director

Regrets:

Carly Cressman: Accessibility Director

Absent:

Anna Huard: Graduate Students' Co-Director
Sadie-Pheonix Lavoie: Aboriginal Students' Co-Director

1. Call to Order

Chair calls the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

2. Approval of the Order of Business

Motion to amend the agenda

Moved: A. Tessier

E. Epp

Items of Discussion a) iv. Election Report

P. Veitch

Strike items C-F

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By-laws stipulate that amendments to policy and policy must be provided notice 14 business days in advance.

P. Veitch

Communications item B CFS AGM

E. Epp

Election By-laws items for discussion F

Motion to approve the agenda as amended.

Moved: A. Tessier/Ashtyn

Motion carries.

3. Communications

a. Potluck

A. Tessier invited the Board to her house to have an end of term potluck.

Would like to have it in December, around December 18-20.

Encouraged the board to keep an eye out on their emails, and will provide an entrée, salad, and dessert.

b. CFS AGM

- P. Veitch was elected Treasurer for CFS National

- K. Loepky, P. Veitch, and Sadie Attended the AGM over the past 4 days

- P. Veitch outlined the CFS structure, mandate, and connection to the UWSA.

- Called for a \$15 an hour minimum wage and the election of an underemployment youth strategy.

- ISIC updates tasks the federation with investigating the UK program to capture successes of that program

- Ethical Purchasing Network for materials, tasked the organization with adding tuques, mits, scarves, and other winter apparel for folks that live in cities like ours.

- Bilan Arte, current National Chair, was re-elected, Anne Marie Roy, Deputy Chair, was also re-elected. The three of them will be the 2016 Executive starting in June, 2016.

c. Introductions

4. Consent Agenda

a) Reports

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- i. Director Reports – for approval
 - ii. Executive Reports – for approval
 - iii. Executive Hours – for approval
 - iv. Chief Election Commissioner Report – for approval
- b) Open Session Minutes
- i. Board of Directors Meeting Minutes (October 29, 2015)
 - ii. Executive Committee Meeting Minutes (November 18, 2015)

Motion to approve the consent agenda omnibus.

Moved: P. Veitch/K. Loeppky

Motion carries.

5. Items for Discussion

a. Election Report

Myles Smith, Chief Elections Commissioner provided his report on the By-election. Highlights included: Excellent polling officers, completing the by-election operations under budget, 348 votes out of 950, 3.7% (check figures against report). One complaint over social media, no effect on the integrity of the by-election, and asked the director candidate to remove the post from Facebook, and did not lead to an appeal.

3.7% voter turnout percentage is low, believed to be a drop due to 2012 and 2014 referenda questions about the U-pass, which was a very hot button issue. Also in 2013, when it was 7.2% there was a referenda question providing ethical purchasing, another important issue. This year we did not have referenda questions, which is why the CEC believes the turnout was low. The CEC went over the voter turnout by location and day, as well as concerns regarding lack of voter information. Three concerns:

1. Because of a weird school schedule this year, it started kind of late. Was not hired until just before week 1 started, condensed a lot of what he needed to do into a short period of time.
2. Was unable to get the voter program up and running. In previous years there was voter software, we could not access it or use it in time.
3. There was a recount called by the CEC, who misinterpreted one of the by-laws regarding spoiled ballots, so the numbers presented are the result of that recount.

Would recommend at least one station open until 6PM, and open at Richardson an hour later and close an hour earlier.

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Myles answered questions regarding the Buehler location and the past practice of a mobile polling station. That could happen in Buehler and Menno Simons in future elections.

Motion to approve the CEC Report and to ratify the election results welcoming the new members.

Moved: E. Epp/M. Brightnose

Motion carries.

b. Merchant's Corner

Motion to advance \$75,000 to Merchant's Corner Inc. that the UWSA previously approved paying upon occupancy of a dedicated space in Merchant's Corner.

Moved: P. Veitch/H. Ismail

Motion carries.

E. Epp projected the original letter confirming the UWSA's partnership with the project and the promised funds.

P. Veitch further motivated with context about Merchant's Corner and the development arm of the University of Winnipeg, the Community Renewal Corporation.

E. Epp and P. Veitch answered questions related to the Capital budget expenditures to date.

c. Elections By-law Amendment for Recommendation

Motion to recommend the Election By-Law Amendments to the next fully appointed Special General Meeting.

Moved: J. Blackman/Jonathon

Motion carries.

J. Blackman contextualized some of the highlights, including influences from other students' union, date selection for by-laws, harassment and complaints, and answered all questions.

A. Tessier suggested including a definition of "harassment" and the discussion led to defer to the RRWLE Policy.

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A. Melamedoff asked about the change with the CEC’s report to the Board, the CEC would report to a committee instead, and the report would be presented to the Board for recommended approval.

A. Tessier confirmed that the election by-laws would apply to the General Election in 2016.

d. GICs

P. Veitch outlined the tasking of the Executive with the investigation of the feasibility of investing a portion in the UWSA’s Building Fund. Met with the Community Finance Officer of the Assiniboine Credit Union and spoke with her about the advantages and disadvantages of GICs for the UWSA.

Currently the UWSA’s Building Fund is invested in a high interest savings account that pays 1.45% rate of interest. The GIC investment motivation is to collect more interest, more like 1.5-2.95% (confirm figures with P. Veitch). A \$500,000 investment in a GIC would earn an additional \$5-7000 per year, which is not hugely advantageous for us because once we invest it we cannot withdraw the principle amount until the maturation of the account.

The rate of return is not significantly better than what we are currently getting, and it locks up the principle amount, so P. Veitch would not recommend an investment in GICs at this time, but opened the floor to questions.

e. Committee Composition

E. Epp explained that with new directors we require new composition of some of our committees and presented a slide showing the new committee composition.

CERC:	SLC
Jonathan Northam	Carly Cressman
Sadie-Pheonix Lavoie	Ashtyn Walker
Dele Ojewole	Lester Aidoo/Bianca Zinzombe
Leah McDonnel/Anna Huard	Ted Du
EXEC	F&O
Jesse Blackman	Morgan Brightnose
Emily Epp	Kelby Loeppky
Kevin Settee	Mallory Black
Adrienne Tessier	Julia Piche/Samantha Tinkler

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Hazim Ismail	
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F
&O:

Mo

Motion to approve the recommended committee re-composition.
Note: Above composition does not include students-at-large.

Moved: E. Epp
Seconded: M. Black
All in favour, none opposed
Motion carries.

Motion to approve a 10 min recess.
Moved: H. Ismail/D. Ojewole
Motion carries.

Motion to move into Closed Session and to invite Karolya Vargscarr in.
Moved: J. Northam/J. Blackman
Motion carries.

6. Closed Session

- a) Student Group Approval
- b) Approval of Closed Session Minutes
- c) Student at-large Recommendation

7. Other Business

- a) E. Epp completed a budget presentation for information, outlining her role to keep the board apprised of the budget and went through, department by department. Surpluses and deficits were contextualized and explained, with the opportunity to ask questions provided.
- b) J. Blackman suggested a December Board Meeting date discussion.
A. Melamedoff said there is a set number of meetings we must have throughout the year but may not need to have one in December and there

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are only 3 business days between exams and the beginning of the holidays.

A. Melamedoff recommended having a meeting the first or second week back in January. The Board agreed.

c) A. Melamedoff said that in December or January he would like to discuss how members are feeling about their positions and the Board.

Motion to adjourn at 8:04 PM.

Moved: P. Veitch/M. Brightnose

Motion carries.