

University of Winnipeg Students' Association Board of Directors
OPEN Session Meeting Minutes, January 13, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting due to the COVID – 19 Pandemic

Board in Attendance:

Chair of the Board: Anjola Aderinto

2SLGBTQ* Director: Jacob K. Antman

Accessibility Director: Sarah Anderson

Community Liaison: Celina Clements

Education Director: Breanna Gans

Graduate Students' Co-Director: Alexandra K. Nychuk

Graduate Students' Co-Director: Nadia M. Chaharsoughi

Indigenous Students' Co-Director: Gracie Grift

International Students' Co-Director: Elsa Owusu

International Students' Co-Director: Onyinye Francisca Idigbe

Menno Simons College Director: Alizeh Faran

PACE Director: Valerie Bermudez

President: Shawna Peloquin

Recreation and Athletics Director: Jacob Wiseman

Science Director: Olivia Ferreira

Urban Inner-City Campus Director: Dagen Perrot

Vice -President External Affairs: Jonathan Henderson

Women and Non-Binary Students Director: Ershiya Bagheri

Board Absent:

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Business and Economics Director: Harsimrat S. Malhotra

Indigenous Students' Co-Director: Zackery Anderson

Secretary of the Board: Hasini Abeysekera

Racialized Students' Director: Shubham Aman Kumar

Board on Administrative Leave:

Vice -President Student Affairs: Melanie William

Staff in Attendance:

Jennifer Black: General Manager

Thomas Hanan: Admin Assistant/Secretary

Guests in Attendance:

Gabrielle Prefontaine: Dean of the Library

Marcella Poirier: Chief Development Officer

Joshua Herter: Library Assessment and Communications

Chris Minaker: Senior Executive Officer for External Engagement

Umar Aman: UWSA Senator

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Open Session

1. Call to Order

The regular monthly meeting of the University of Winnipeg Students' Association Board of Directors was held on Wednesday January 13, 2021 at 5:30pm 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.

2. Approval of the Order of Business

Alizeh F. moves to approve order of business

Motion carries.

3. Special Business

a. Library Project Presentation

Gabrielle P. and Marcella P. share a presentation with the board about the library redevelopment plans to Centennial Hall. The project is motivated on surveys on student needs over the years, and a commitment to Indigenization and reconciliation. They have hired an Indigenous architect who is passionate about the project. Some other improvements include; gender neutral washrooms, improved accessibility, improved wayfinding and security, and improved air quality. The presenters take questions from the board.

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Jonathan H. asks if there will be rooms where smudging to help focus is allowed. Marcella P. and Gabrielle P. state yes, expanding that there will be specific areas with the ventilation that allows for this and will not require an advanced notice be submitted. Shawna P. asks how social distancing has been considered. They say it has not changed too much since surveys have shown that many students want distance and individual work spaces. Sarah A. requests that they consider developing beyond the minimum standards for accessibility. Marcella P. and Gabrielle P. prioritizing is part of their plan. Dagen P. asks how the book collection will be changed and if digital workspaces will expand. We learn they will be moving part of their collection to a storage off site, but are excited to build the libraries overall collection to where it should be, and digital work spaces will be expanding as well.

4. Consent Agenda

a. Reports

i. Director Reports

a) Jacob A.

- Due to internet issues this last month not much to report.
- Discussing with Ezi about options for homo-hop.

b) Celena C.

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- Nothing to report due to code red, and difficulty reaching people.

c) Dagen P.

- Helping settle new students at UIC.
- Continued work for computer for schools.
- Many By-law and Policy meetings.

d) Breanna G.

- First meeting, nothing to report.

e) Valerie B.

- Examined current policies for student handbook, and working on ideas to help PACE students who are impacted by the difficulties of digital learning.
- Met with program coordinator and the executive director, and discussed feedback inconsistency, student exam experiences, and group work.

f) Alexandra N. and Nadia C.

- Working on how to help graduate students during the pandemic.
- Emergency bursary created in partnership with FGS, awards announced on Friday.

g) Sarah A.

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- Continuing brainstorming for More than a Door campaign.
- Considering upgrades to Access Lounge to anticipate campus return.
- Will be moderating Uniter event on Thursday.

h) Shawna P.

- CERC met with ad-hoc committees to work on Student motion and will resume in the new year.
- The senate approved alternative grading, including pass or fail option.
- Had meeting with NDP leaders about Bill 33.
- New university foundation president meetings coming up to build relationships.
- Two Bylaw and Policy meetings, more to come.
- Snowed in events; included Instagram live events and game nights that might continue on a regular basis, advises board to reach out to events if they have any ideas.

i) Jonathan H.

- Getting back into the swing of things, doing lots of training, and excited for all the ideas coming.
- Working with CFS against Bill 33

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j) Jacob W.

- Continuing to survey students
- Constructed a motion with Dagen P. on consistency of grading.

k) Olivia F.

- Finalized scientific writing workshop for January 29. Once the workshop is done a condensed version will be available on the website.

l) Elsa O. and Francisca I.

- Helping international students with immigration issues because of COVID and working with IIRSS on finding solutions.
- Working on healthcare/health plan options for international students who need additional coverage.
- Meeting with CFS for the Healthcare for All campaign.
- Francisca went live on Instagram to talk about what is going on for international students.

m) Alizeh F.

- MSCSA started the Connections through Compassion campaign. Working on finding speakers for January – March events.

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- Planning ahead with MSCSA for this semester.
- Bylaw and Policy meetings

b. Minutes

- i. BOD 201202 OPEN
- ii. CERC 201216 OPEN
- iii. DMC 201112 OPEN
- iv. SGM 201104

Shawna P. moves to approve the consent agenda omnibus

Motion carries

5. Communications

a. Director Resignation

J. Black shares with the board that the new Part-Time Mature Students' Director, Emma Ongsansoy, resigned for personal reasons.

Alizeh F. moves to approve resignation

Motion carries.

6. New Business

a. Student Senate Caucus By-law Amendments

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J. Black shares with the board the process of writing the by-laws and acknowledges the help of senator Madison Carver on this project. The board share their support.

Shawna P. moves:

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

By-law 7, Section D – Student Senate Caucus

7.24 Student Senate Caucus (SSC)

- i. The Student Senate Caucus shall be comprised of the President, Vice President Student Affairs, Vice President External Affairs, all UWSA Senators elected or appointed in accordance with these by-laws, and any Student Senator otherwise appointed to the Senate. The UWSA President shall be the chair of the SSC.**
- ii. The Student Senate Caucus shall meet no more than 2 business days prior to meetings of the Senate.**
- iii. In order to accommodate the Senate Executive Committee's motion submission deadlines, special meetings may be called by any Student Senator wishing to draft a motion to the Senate. Requests for special meetings shall be submitted to the Chair.**
- iv. The Student Senate Caucus shall be an open forum for Student Senators to discuss the affairs of the Senate and its Committees, develop questions and position statements to be delivered to the Senate, and coordinate advocacy,**

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student representation, and leadership on students' academic and policy driven issues.

v. The Student Senate Caucus shall nominate student representatives to the Committees of the Senate.

vi. The Student Senate Caucus shall appoint a secretary from its membership to take minutes at meetings of the SSC. Minutes of the SSC shall be submitted for information to the UWSA Board of Directors.

Motion carries.

b. Rescheduling the 2021 General Election.

Shawna reads the motion out to the board. Directors call for transparency for about the board's reasons for postponing the election and for communications to highlight the relevant Catalyst Consultation recommendations. Celena C. suggests announcing as early as possible to allow room for questions from students, especially those who might want to run. Shawna P. clarifies that the election is only moving for this year, and not for other years moving forward. This extra time will allow the work needed to the electoral system to finished in time. The terms of those elected will not be affected because terms begin in May.

Shawna P. moves:

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WHEREAS significant concerns about the safety of the UWSA Elections have been raised by the participants of the 2020 General Election and the general student populace.

AND WHEREAS harassment, unfair application of rules, and hostile conditions have been found to especially target Black students, Indigenous students, and Students of Colour.

AND WHEREAS these conditions are in direct conflict with the UWSA's core values, namely: accessibility, anti-oppressive leadership, authentic representation, organizational integrity, and empathy.

AND WHEREAS the UWSA has engaged Catalyst Consulting on an in-depth review of the 2020 General Election, the complaints resulting from its events, and the UWSA's election by-laws and procedures; engagement which has yielded formal recommendations for election and governance reform.

AND WHEREAS by-law review and writing takes time and consideration; by-law changes must be posted with two weeks' notice; and the election cycle is currently scheduled to commence on February 1, 2021:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the UWSA General Election is rescheduled to begin on March 1, 2021 with voting to take place March 29-31.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT that the By-law and Policy Committee is tasked with reviewing the recommendations by Catalyst Consulting and providing a

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set of election reform by-laws for notice no later than February 10, 2021 to be voted upon at the February 24, 2021 meeting of the UWSA Board of Directors.

Motion carries.

c. Motion: Consistency of Grading

Jacob W. reads out the motions for the board followed by Dagen P. who prefaces that motion is not perfect but the main issue is how UofW GPA's have different scales from other universities, and that this is a multi-department issue. The first motion is intended to urge the university to look at these issues, and the second motion is a short-term fix.

Breanna G. highlights personal experience in education but shares that this type of lobbying will be challenge, a sentiment shared by many on the board. Many on the board share that there is a vagueness in the motion, especially the second motion. Alexandra N. worries that those in the sciences where the grading leans the opposite direction with lower percentages needed for higher letter grades, will be negatively affect by standardization. Sarah A. thinks that connecting with the students will help create the power needed for this kind of motion. Dagen P. and Jacob W. further explain that in the departments mentioned in the motion, many courses have no students that received A+ marks at all. Other universities could be consulted to understand their grading systems to improve ours.

Jacob W. moves:

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WHEREAS the grade scales used by many departments at the University of Winnipeg are not uniform;

AND WHEREAS this contributes to inconsistency in grading between departments and other postsecondary institutions, not accurately reflecting their academic performance;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT The UWSA lobbies senate to review overall grading scales to ensure consistency;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT special attention is given to the top three grade differences in the departments of Kinesiology, Urban and Inner-City Studies as well as religion and culture.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT recommendations are made from the review for revisions to the grading scale to ensure a fair grading system that positions students to succeed going forward in their academic careers.

Motion fails.

Francisca I. moves to table the failed motion to CERC

Motion Carries.

Jacob A. moves to table the following motion to CERC:

WHEREAS the grade scales used by various departments at the University of Winnipeg are not uniform;

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AND WHEREAS this contributes to inconsistency in grading between departments and other postsecondary institutions, not accurately reflecting their academic performance;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the UWSA lobbies senate to standardize the overall grading system across departments to ensure consistency

Motion Carries.

Shawna P. motions to move to closed Session and invite T. Hanan.

Motion Carries.

Closed Session

7. Consent Agenda

- a. Minutes
 - i. BOD 210113 CLOSED

8. New Business

- a. Recommendation to investigate CEC
- b. Catalyst Consulting final report

9. Other Business

10. Adjournment

Shawna P. moves to adjourn 8:53 p.m.

Motion carries.