

University of Winnipeg Students' Association Board of Directors
OPEN Session Meeting Minutes, January 27, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting due to the COVID – 19 Pandemic

Board in Attendance:

Chair of the Board: Anjola Aderinto

Accessibility Director: Sarah Anderson

Business and Economics Director: Harsimrat S. Malhotra

Community Liaison: Celina Clements

Education Director: Breanna Gans

Graduate Students' Co-Director: Alexandra K. Nychuk

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:

2SLGBTQ* Director: Jacob K. Antman

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Indigenous Students' Co-Director: Zackery Anderson

Graduate Students' Co-Director: Nadia M. Chaharsoughi

Secretary of the Board: Hasini Abeysekera

Racialized Students' Director: Shubham Aman Kumar

Staff in Attendance:

General Manager, Jennifer Black: Organization Support

Administrative Assistant, Thomas Hanan: Secretary

Guests in Attendance:

Joan Riggs, Catalyst Consulting

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 27, 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

Breanna G. moves to approve order of business

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Motion carries.

3. Special Business

4. Consent Agenda

a. Reports

i. Executive Reports

a) Shawna P.

- Many B&P meetings about reforming elections and working on releasing information on Friday to students.
- Working with National movement for Plant Based Food on Campus focusing on sustainability targets.

b) Jonathan H.

- Positive Space Policy consultations this week.
- CERC meeting on Friday looking at Grading Consistence motion from Jacob W. and Dagen P.
- Working with CFS strategizing against Bill 33, meeting with NDP.
- Setting up meeting with the new provincial Minister of Advanced Education

ii. Director Reports

a) Sarah A.

- Hosted the United Speaker Series

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- Continuing work on More Than a Door Campaign.
- Worked K. Vargscarr on new CEC accessibility training.

b) Harsimrat M.

- Attended departmental Student Steering Committee and met the new Student Engagement Assistant.
- Building relationships between the Faculty Dean and students.

c) Breanna G.

- Working towards a virtual meet-up with education students for encouragement and networking.

d) Alexandra N.

- Will be attending Canadian Association for Graduate Students conference next week.

e) Dagen P.

- B&P meetings, and working on UIC Students Association structure.

f) Elsa O. and Francisca I.

- Continuing outreach and support work with IIRSS.

g) Jacob W.

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- Works with a non-for-profit and looking into presenting it the board but connecting with Exec about the potential conflict of interest.

h) Valerie B.

- Followed up with program coordinator on the student handbook and had an updated appendix that outlined instructor expectations.
- Was just appointed to the senate library committee and hopes she can work on provisions of texts for PACE.

i) Olivia F.

- Hosting a scientific writing workshop on Feb 5.
- Connecting with Sciences student groups and helping to promote their events.

j) Alizeh F.

- B&P meetings weekly, working on election process.
- Working on MSCSA elections and how they look for 2021.

k) Gracie G.

- Got ISA Council running and started an Instagram, @isa_uwinnipeg – started promotions with intros of Executive members and events.

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- Partnering with UWinnipeg Indigeneity on the Norway Series – bringing Elders and Knowledge Keepers in to share their knowledge with anyone from the UWinnipeg community who wants to attend.
- Working on updates to the ISA Constitution to help them through COVID and account for practice changes.

b. Minutes

- BOD 210113 OPEN
- B&P 210112 OPEN
- DMC 201210 OPEN
- EXEC 210118 OPEN

Dagen P. moves to approve consent agenda omnibus

Motion carries

5. Communications

a. Executive Director Resignation

Shawna P. reads out the resignation of Vice President of Student Affairs; Melanie Williams:

Members of the Board, Students, and Staff,

After many months of being on coerced administrative leave, I have made the difficult decision to resign from my position as Vice President Student Affairs.

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I would like to start by thanking each and every person who voted for and supported me, along with my team, in my position within the University of Winnipeg Students' Association. I have participated fully in all measures to be held accountable, and this experience was one of great difficulty and personal growth.

Since being elected in March with the highest voter turnout in 17 years, my team and I advocated for the UPass to be included in the municipal budget and worked with administration to implement a variety of student initiatives including a flex parking pass, waiving graduate student transcript fees and improving safety through student card access and re-examining the role of police and contract security on campus. We launched a large-scale renovation of the Hive, initiated a partnership with Legal Aid, and proposed an investment campaign to senior administration called 'Heart and Soul'. We made plans to remodel the UWSA website and create better resources for first year students and succeeded in restructuring the selection procedure for awards and scholarships to be fair and follow a due process. We were working with administration to provide input on a UWinnipeg library remodel and met with local organizations to provide better support for the Foodbank and Bike Lab. We created a plan to restructure student club funding in a way that was equal and organized, as there is no existing structure for most of the UWSA's branches. These are just a few highlights of what we were able to accomplish during our

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one month in office. We had begun to remodel the association from its very core structure into one that was inclusive, robust, and far more efficient than the current model is. It was a great honour to be voted into office in such a historic way, with the voice of students behind us, and with passionate and bold new ideas to transform the UWSA into a students' union that had integrity, respect and took the best ideas from every corner of campus.

We worked tirelessly to create policy changes to build a community with an open environment where free expression was encouraged, individuality was welcomed, and all opinions were respected, as well as considered. However, this organization was clearly not ready for such a change.

The UWSA aims to be an institution which stands alongside all students, though this cannot be further from the truth. My experience as an executive has been nothing short of traumatic. This workplace perpetuates an environment that actively causes harm to those within it. I challenge the UWSA to rectify its wrongs, and ensure all students at the UWSA are treated equally, regardless of how they identify with their political affiliations. Students at UWinnipeg deserve much better than the institution that serves them now. As a student leader, I have given all that I can. I have come to realize that no matter how hard I try, or how much of myself I give, this organization is not ready to change as ideological pressure is rooted so deeply within the UWSA that it blatantly disregards and fails those who it claims to protect. I hope that one day, under different

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leadership, the union can truly reflect the needs of all students and be true to its mission, as we aspired to do.

I wish everyone I have encountered the best in their personal endeavours. I still believe in the platform that we were elected on and I will continue to learn, engage in respectful dialogue and advocate for what I believe is right. I will work tirelessly for the change I want to see in our communities and for students at large, but I will do so in an environment that is respectful and safe.

Sincerely,

Melanie William

Harsimrat M. moves to approve resignation.

Motion carries.

Abstentions: Shawna P., Gracie G. and Celina C.

6. New Business

- a. Motion: Committee Appointment

Fransica I. moves: BE IT RESOLVED THAT Breanna Gans is appointed to the Finance & Operations Committee.

Motion Carries.

- b. Motion: Uniter Board Seat Appointment

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Shawna P. calls for a volunteer from the board to sit on the Uniter Board. Jacob Wiseman volunteers.

Shawna P. moves to appoint Jacob Wiseman to Uniter Board.

Motion carries.

Shawna P. moves to enter closed session and invite attending staff.

Motion Carries.

Shawna requests that directors who would like staff to leave closed session can alert her at any time via private message and she will dismiss staff while maintaining anonymity.

Closed Session

7. Consent Agenda

- a. Minutes
 - i. BOD 210113 CLOSED
 - ii. EXEC 210118 CLOSED

8. New Business

- a. Catalyst Consulting Final Report
- b. Executive Director Resignation
- c. Director of Student Living Seat Appointment

Shawna P. moves to enter open session

Motion Carries

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Shawna P. moves to approve Kiratveer Hayer as Student Living Director

Motion Carries.

Abstentions: Francisca I., Gracie G., Alexandra N., Celina C., Olivia F. and Breanna G.

9. Other Business

- a. Next meeting of the board – Feb 10, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

10. Adjournment

Alexandra N. moves to adjourn 7:50 p.m.

Motion carries.

DRAFT