

UWSA Board Meeting – OPEN
June 3, 2020 – 5:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting due to COVID -19 Pandemic

Board in Attendance:

Acting Chair/ President: Jibril Hussein

Secretary of the Board: Hasini Abeysekera

Accessibility Director: Sarah Anderson

Business and Economics Director: Harsimrat S. Malhotra

Community Liaison: Celina Clements

Graduate Students' Co-Director: Alexandra K.Nychuk

Graduate Students' Co-Director: Nadia M. Chaharsoughi

International Students' Co-Director: Elsa Owusu

International Students' Co-Director: Onyinye F. Idigbe

Urban Inner-City Campus Director: Dagen Perrot

Vice -President External Affairs: Breanna Belisle

Vice -President Student Affairs: Melanie William

Board Absent:

Arts Director: Wesley Fallis

Indigenous Students' Director: Cameron Adams

2SLGBTQ* Director: Jacob K. Antman

Racialized Students' Director: Ella Taylor

Staff in Attendance:

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Karolya Vargscarr – Chief Operating Officer

Jennifer Black – General Manager

Guests in Attendance:

Riya Nigam

1. Call to Order

The regular monthly meeting of the University of Winnipeg Students' Association Board of Directors (UWSA BOD) was held on Wednesday June 3, 2020 at 5:30pm via a virtual meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the chair position currently being vacant, the President of the UWSA acted as the Chair in accordance with UWSA by-laws. The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:58 p.m. following the confirmation of quorum and a round of introductions was done.

2. Approval of the Chair

Motion to approve the President as chair for today's meeting.

Moved by Breanna

Seconded by Celina

Motion carries

3. Approval of the Order of Business

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“7.a – Committee Appointments” were moved to end of new business under 7.e

Moved by Melanie

Seconded by Dagen

Motion Carries

“Emergency measures act” was added into the agenda under 4.d and “Black Lives Matter” was added to Communications

Moved by Breanna

Seconded by Melanie

All in favour

Motion to approve the agenda as amended

Moved by Francisca

Seconded by Ali

Motion carries

4. Special Business

a. Introductions

Motion to strike out item a. as it was done at the start of the meeting

Moved by Elsa

Seconded by Dagen

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All in favour

Motion carries

- b. Update – Resignation of the Chair of the Board of Directors

Motion to accept and approve the resignation of the Chair Ryan Beady.

Moved by Breanna

Seconded by Melanie

All in favour

Motion carries

- c. Roberts Rules of Order

The Chair stated that the rules of order are determined by the Chair. Jibril is personally more comfortable with Roberts Rules, and they will be the rules for this meeting. Once a chair is appointed, it will be up to them to choose their preferred rules of order.

- d. Emergency Measures Act

Breanna explained that the Provincial Emergency Measures Act allows the UWSA to conduct virtual meetings despite our by-laws prohibiting them.

5. Consent Agenda

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a) Reports

i. Executive Report

- a. Jibril – requested that director reports be submitted to the General Manager 5 days in advance of the meetings so they can be compiled into the open session package. Welcomed and thanked everyone for being present. This team is focused on building overall student engagement on campus. Has met with all directors one-on-one before the meeting, and is eager to collaborate on anything you want to work on. Increasing student engagement and the feeling of community will be even more important once we're able to be back on campus.
- b. Breanna – please connect with us if you need support on anything at all. Excited and inspired by the ideas shared at the one-on-one meetings. There was a major win for graduate students, they no longer have to pay for transcripts on internal grant applications. Has been working with the bike lab and major institutions on campus. Focusing on campus security and international student health plans. Has been working with Winnipeg Harvest to strengthen relationship.
- c. Melanie – really enjoyed meeting with everyone. Met with administration on May 1st and presented them with 5

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proposals. First was Grad studies proposal, which was approved. The Second was a flex parking pass option was also approved (flex parking allows the option to choose a MWF or TR pass at approx. 30% discount to the full pass rate). Has been attending senate meetings, connecting with PACE, int'l student services, and admin to address systemic issues. Restructuring student group funding and a few other initiatives. The other initiatives presented to administration are: third, implementing secure study spaces accessed by student cards; forth, renovating the HIVE so that it is safe and accessible; fifth, partnering with the UWinnipeg Foundation on fundraising campaigns.

ii. Director's Reports

- a. Sarah – Worked with CFS to create grant for students with disabilities. Happy to report that the applications are now being received. Working on Foodbank issue and meeting with the Exec. Survey sent out to students with disabilities to see how they're doing and taking that information to apply to the role. Trying to reach out in ways that support students' need for privacy.

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- b. Dagen – UIC weekly check ins with students through zoom in an informal space to share stories and support. Community is very important on our campus. Preliminary research on how to provide laptops for students in the fall, assessing student need and departmental capacity. Working on providing spiritual services for students virtually, connecting students with Elders and Ceremony while making sure that the means are respectful and safe. Figuring out how computer lab resources can be made available if campus remains closed.
- c. Ali – met with the Dean of Graduate Studies and the Officer for Communications and Awards to discuss some of the issues grad students are having due to COVID-19. Discussing the lack of community, some programs are over-represented, so tried to reach out to underrepresented grad students.
- d. Nadia – Zoom party to improve communications between grad students, because we're very busy and need a committee to connect.
- e. Harsimrat – Interacting with business students, coordinating with BASA team, trying to get student voices heard.
- f. Celina – Is out of province, but has connected with organizers of the Justice for Black Lives organizers, gave advice on

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ensuring safety. Is suggesting partnering with Bear Clan.

Connected with Natalie Bell,

Black-women’s community leader, regarding upcoming

events. Connected with North End Community Helpers

Network trying to find out what events will be happening now

that COVID-19 is restricting things, helping to coordinate

volunteers where events are still being held. Hope is to

connect students with the events happening in the North End

near the Selkirk campus. Connecting students with the

community and the community with the university and

students.

- g. Elsa and Francisca – noticed that in the international student community, students connect only with students from their own countries, we aim to create a community amongst all international students. Reached out to IIRS. Created an Instagram page as a safe space for international students, immigrants, and refugees to express themselves. Want students to be able to express things outside of institutional questions. Will be connecting with the UWSA to blast it on our socials. Reaching out to community and emphasizing the demographic barriers. Instagram isn’t quite up and ready to

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go yet. Handle: @uw.isa. Zoom chatted with students in their home country who are on their way to UWinnipeg to answer questions and get people settled. IIRS invited us to host the International Students Dinner.

b) Open Session Minutes – For Approval

- i. BOD 200421 OPEN
- ii. EXEC 200427 OPEN

Motion to approve the reports and minutes omnibus

Moved by Sarah

Seconded by Francisca

Motion Carries

6. Communications

- a. Black Lives Matter

The Chair briefly spoke about the Black lives matter protest which will be taking place at the Legislature building and advised that the UWSA will be taking part in this event.

7. New Business

- a. Motion – Student Life Committee

Melanie proposed the following motion:

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WHEREAS the management of student conference funding by the Student Life Committee has raised a number of concerns including:

- 1) High risk of conflict of interest;**
- 2) High risk of privacy breach; and**
- 3) High risk of creating negative student interactions with the UWSA.**

AND WHEREAS the Student Life Committee has a history of managing student and director event proposals but has been unable to fill this duty in recent years due to the high volume of conference funding applications.

AND WHEREAS the UWSA makes a number of bursary and award donations to the Award and Financial Aid Office to be securely and fairly managed by their professional team:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT UWSA student conference funding is a donation made annually from the UWSA operating budget to the University of Winnipeg Award and Financial Aid Office for secure and fair distribution;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the conditions of this donation include:

- 1) That a seat on the selections committee for UWSA student conference funding be reserved for a UWSA representative; and**

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- 2) That the University of Winnipeg Award and Financial Aid Office**
- submits an annual report to the UWSA detailing the funds**
- awarded and any remaining funds.**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the UWSA by-laws and policy be amended as follows:

REMOVE: By-law 7.21.iv Student Life Committee: The Student Life Committee shall be responsible for hearing applications for student conference funding support.

ADD: By-law 7.21.iv Student Life Committee: The Student Life Committee shall be responsible for reviewing and ruling on applications for Student Group and director led UWSA events.

AMEND: Policy 11.05 External Funding, Sponsorship, and Donations.

Moved by Melanie

Seconded by Sarah

Motion Carries

- b. Motion – UWSA Volunteers**

Breanna proposed the following motion:

WHEREAS engagement in community life helps to improve students' co-curricular record;

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AND WHEREAS students can gain valuable and employable experience when volunteering in their community;

AND WHEREAS there are many volunteer opportunities available to students in the broader community, but they can be difficult to navigate:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the UWSA creates a new program called “The University of Winnipeg Student Association Volunteers” that matches student volunteers with external volunteer opportunities relevant to their area of study.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Student Life Committee will be responsible for vetting potential volunteer partnerships with external organizations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT The UWSA Volunteers will be under the portfolio of the VPEA and led in partnership with the Organizer of Student Experience.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the By-law and Policy Committee is tasked with drafting a set of policies to guide the UWSA Volunteers program.

Moved by Francisca

Seconded by Sarah

Motion Carries

c. Motion – Organizer of Student Experience

Melanie proposed the following motion:

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WHEREAS the VPEA oversees all matters included in by-law 6.5, including external partnerships;

AND WHEREAS the VPEA cannot reasonably direct enough attention to the UWSA Volunteers program without assistance:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT a volunteer position is created titled “Organizer of Student Experience” to help manage the UWSA Volunteers program;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT management of the Organizer of Student Experience is a duty of the VPEA;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Organizer of Student Experience is appointed by the Executive Committee, subject to ratification by the board; BE

IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the By-laws and Policy Committee is tasked with drafting a policy governing the Organizer of Student Experience duties.

Moved by Dagen

Seconded by Elsa

Motion Carries

d. Motion – Campaigns Organizer

Breanna proposed the following motion:

WHEREAS the campaigns and lobbying goals of the UWSA are time consuming and multiple initiatives must be pursued at the same time;

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AND WHEREAS provincial cuts and uncertainty require an unprecedented amount of campaign and lobby work;

AND WHEREAS in emergency situations, such as the sudden changes to the U-Pass conditions, it is beneficial to have students on hand to assist with lobbying;

AND WHEREAS it is a strategic goal of the UWSA to create new opportunities for students to get hands-on experience in campaign and lobby work:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT a Campaigns Organizer position is created to assist the VPEA;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Campaigns Organizer sits as a student-at-large on the Campaigns and External Relations Committee;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Campaigns Organizer is appointed by the Executive Committee, subject to ratification by the board;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the By-laws and Policy Committee is tasked with drafting a policy to govern the Campaigns Organizer duties.

Moved by Ali

Seconded by Melanie

Motion Carries

e. Committee Appointments

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The following appointments were proposed to the Board of Directors:

Executive Committee:

Directors: Melanie, Breanna, Jibiril, Harsimrat, Elsa and Francisca;

Bylaw and Policy committee:

Directors: Melanie, Breanna, Jibiril, 1 vacant director spot;

Finance and Operations:

Directors: Harsimrat, Ali, Nadia, Dagen, 1 vacant director spot;

Students-at-large: David Teffaine and Linsey Nidy;

Student Life Committee:

Directors: Jacob, Ella, Elsa and Francisca, 1 vacant director spot;

Students-at-large: Cassidy Steiner, Kierra Reiner, and the Organizer of

Student Experience

Campaigns and External Relations Committee:

Directors: Celina, Sarah, Cameron, and Dagen

Students-at-large: Victoria Olivera and Sarah Pelland

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Daycare Management Committee:

Directors: Wesley

Motion to approve the proposed appointments omnibus

Moved by Dagan

Seconded by Melanie

Motion Carries

Motion for short recess

Moved by Melanie

Seconded by Sarah

Motion carries

8. Closed Session

Motion to enter closed session with an invitation to attending staff

Moved by Dagen

Seconded by Ali

Motion Carries

9. Other Business

10. Adjournment

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Motion to adjourn at 7:30 p.m.

Moved by Melanie

Seconded by Elsa

Motion carries

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