

**University of Winnipeg Students' Association Board of Directors**  
**OPEN Session Meeting Minutes, November 12, 2020 – 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

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 Péloquin

Recreation and Athletics Director: Jacob Wiseman

Science Director: Olivia Ferreira

Urban Inner-City Campus Director: Dagen Perrot

Vice-President External Affairs: Jonathan Henderson

**Board Absent:**

Secretary of the Board: Hasini Abeysekera

Business and Economics Director: Harsimrat S. Malhotra

Women & Non-Binary Students' Director: Arshiya Bagheri Torbehbar

Graduate Students' Co-Director: Alexandra K. Nychuk

Graduate Students' Co-Director: Nadia M. Chaharsoughi

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**Board on Administrative Leave:**

Vice -President Student Affairs: Melanie William

**Staff in Attendance:**

Jennifer Black: General Manager

Karolya Vargscarr: Chief Operating Officer

Thomas Hanan: Administrative Assistant

**Guests in Attendance:**

Madison Carver – Student

Umar Ashfaq Awan – Student

Pearl Irabor – Student

Joan Riggs – Catalyst Consulting

**Open Session**

**1. Call to Order**

The regular monthly meeting of the University of Winnipeg Students' Association Board of Directors (UWSA BOD) was held on Thursday November 12 2020 at 5:30pm via a virtual meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. Following the confirmation of quorum, and a round of introductions. The house continued to the agenda.

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**2. Approval of the Order of Business**

**Dagen P. moves to add a motion to appoint vacant directorship and student senate seats under item 6.c**

**Francisca I. moves to approve the amended order of business.**

**Motion carries.**

**3. Special Business**

- a. J. Black reads out resignation of Racialized Students' Director, Ella Taylor:

“To all Board members, executives, staff, and friends at the UWSA,

The position I've held on the Board for the past nearly two years has taught me more than I could have hoped. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to gain insight and valuable knowledge and for the guidance which has led me to become a stronger leader.

However, I regret to inform you that I have made the difficult decision to resign from my position as the Racialized Students' Director. At this point in time, I don't feel like I have the time, space, or energy to devote to the UWSA in the way that the position deserves. The events that have transpired at the UWSA over the last year have taken a mental, emotional and physical toll on me, and I no longer feel I can continue to sit on the Board.

I look forward to keeping up with the goings-on of the UWSA, and continuing the valuable relationships I've formed in my time here.

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Thank you for everything.

Ella Taylor”

**Francisca I. moves to approve the resignation of Racialized Students' Director,**

**Ella Taylor**

**Motion carries**

**Business Unfinished at the 2020 Special General Meeting:**

- b. Report of the Chief Election Commissioner, By-Election 2020.

**Dagen P. moves to approve the report.**

**Motion carries.**

- c. Umar Ashfaq Awan presents Student Emergency Motion on behalf of 8000 students who signed online petition:

**Francisca I. moves the motion on Umar's behalf:**

**1: The UWSA raise the student issues outlined on the Petition to the Senate and request that the Senate considers building firmer requirements for faculties hosting online courses. These requirements must acknowledge the variance in learning styles and work towards supporting students through this difficult time. Examples of solutions include: recording lectures for international students, providing PowerPoints to be accessed at any time, and modifying asynchronous classes.**

**2: The UWSA engage in a proactive campaign to approach faculties/departments directly with the outlined issues of online coursework.**

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**The student body would particularly advocate for the reduction of coursework back to pre-pandemic standards and application of a more lenient grading system.**

**3: The UWSA engage in additional lobbying and campaigning work with regards to tuition fees during the COVID pandemic. We recommend bringing forward a tuition cut for the term of Winter 2021 to lessen the effects of the persisting pandemic that contributes to the plight we are all facing.**

The Board discuss if priority should be taken for one of the requests due to the winter term being a few months away. They discuss the importance of this motion and the need for more specific and concise requests. Shawna P. suggests a committee could work on this motion.

**Jacob W. moves an amendment for the UWSA's advocacy to additionally focus on improved communication between instructors and students.**

**Motion carries.**

**Francisca I. moves to table the motion to Campaigns and External Relations Committee.**

**Motion carries.**

#### **4. Consent Agenda**

##### **a. Reports**

##### **i. Executive Reports**

##### **a. Jonathan H.**

- Focused on training this week and looking forward to getting going next week.

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b. Shawna P.

- Started a week ago, enjoying learning and excited about getting to work. Trying not to rush and taking time to learn.

ii. Director Reports

c. Sarah A.

- Working on More Than a Door campaign, with Sherya's help creating a logo and sending out survey to students.
- Reached out to Shane and Hannah Burkoff (Squirmy and Grubs) about speaking at the launch of the campaign.

d. Jacob A.

- Talking with the Rainbow Lounge coordinator about possible fundraiser but nothing concrete to share.

e. Francisca I. and Elsa O.

- Working with CFS-MB to launch campaign for International Student Health Care. Facebook Live event on Friday from 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- Working with IIRSS to assist international students who are in their home countries.

f. Dagen P.

- Met with UIC Student Association, working on second round of computers for schools.
- UIC's Beginning University Successfully program helps people with multiple barriers access education – working with UIC to figure out how to continue offering the program during COVID lockdown.

g. Celina C.

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- Connecting students with funding opportunities like CERB and EIA.
- North End Resource Centre offering computers for students to get access, adjusting tactics due to Code red.

h. Alizeh F.

- Attending MSCSA meetings, connecting with local organizations to find out how we can help them through Code Red.
- Working on virtual Common Unity event – speakers invited from different community organizations to present on their work.

i. Valerie B.

- Has nothing to report.

j. Jacob W.

- Interested in consulting sports teams to get a sense of what support is needed for students right now.
- Looking to start a social media platform specific to sports teams and looking to connect with KATSA.

k. Olivia F.

- Nothing to report.

b. Minutes

- BOD 201021 OPEN
- B&P 201023 OPEN
- DMC 201022 AGM
- MHRC 201028 OPEN
- SLC 201105 OPEN

**Shawna P. moves to approve the consent agenda omnibus.**

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**Motion carries.**

**5. Communications**

**6. New Business**

- a. New Director Committee Appointments Volunteering for committee seats:

**Jacob A. moves to approve the following committee appointments:**

- i. Jacob Wiseman – Finance & Operations Committee**
- ii. Olivia Ferriera – Student Life Committee**
- iii. Valerie Bermudez – By-law & Policy Committee**
- iv. Arshiya Bagheri Torbehbar – Student Life Committee**

**Motion Carries.**

- b. By-law Amendment Proposal – Circulated Oct 29, 2020

**Valerie B. moves that the following by-law amendments are adopted:**

4.1.iii

The UWSA will hold representation on the University of Winnipeg Board of Regents (UWSA President plus three [3] additional seats) and the University of Winnipeg Senate (UWSA President plus one [1] student representative for every three [3] academic staff representatives under clause 17(1)n of the University of Winnipeg Act, but not fewer than six [6]). These UWSA representatives shall be elected ~~as per By-Law 5.03~~ in accordance with these by-laws.

4.3.vi



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If, after the UWSA General Election, there are vacancies within the required number of student representatives outlined by the University of Winnipeg Act for the University of Winnipeg Board of Regents and/or the University of Winnipeg Senate, the UWSA Board of Directors shall be permitted to appoint students to fill those vacancies. ~~These appointments must be made by July 1 of each year.~~

4.7.v

~~There shall be no cooperatively held~~ Individual Executive Director, Senator, and Regent ~~appointments~~ seats may not be co-operatively held.

5.22.x

As per the University of Winnipeg Act, the UWSA holds seats on the University of Winnipeg Board of Regents and the University of Winnipeg Senate. ~~Senate and Regent seats shall be open for election during the UWSA General Election. Senate and Regent seats shall only be open during a By-Election when vacancies remain at the commencement of the By-Election cycle.~~

- a) One (1) seat on the Board of Regents will be open for election annually. ~~through the UWSA General Election.~~ The number of Senate seats open for election annually shall be determined in consultation with the University Secretary and in accordance with the University of Winnipeg Act. ~~and three (3) seats on the Senate will be considered open for election only during a UWSA General Election.~~
- a. ~~There will be no co-regent or co-senator candidacies.~~

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- b) One UWSA Senate seat shall be reserved for each of the following:
- a. The UWSA President;
  - b. The Vice President External Affairs;
  - c. The Vice President Student Affairs;
  - d. The PACE Director;
  - e. A graduate student.

5.29.iv

The UWSA Senate seat ballot shall be a cumulative vote in which voters may select multiple Senator candidates up-to the number of available seats as determined in accordance with these by-laws. Should there be more candidates than available seats, the candidates with the most votes shall win the election.

~~The UWSA Senate seat ballot shall list all candidates. Voters will have three votes and may not vote for a single candidate more than once. Should there be more than three candidates the three candidates with the most votes will win the election.~~

6.5.xix

The Vice President External Affairs shall be a student representative on the University Senate.

6.6.v

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The Vice President Student Affairs shall be a student representative on the University of Winnipeg ~~Senate Appeals Committee~~ Senate and shall sit on the Senate Appeals Committee and the Senate Student Services Committee.

~~6.6.vii~~

~~The Vice President Student Affairs shall serve as a student representative on the Senate Student Services Committee.~~

6.25.v

The PACE Director shall be a student representative on the University Senate and shall sit on the University of Winnipeg Senate Professional, Applied, and Continuing Education Committee ~~on behalf of the UWSA.~~

**Motion carries.**

- c. Motion to appoint vacant directorship and student senate seats.

**Shawna moves:**

**WHEREAS the provincial austerity agenda and the uncertainty of the global pandemic require an unprecedented amount of leadership and due diligence, it is crucial to have all student leadership position filled to assist and support the organization and its members.**

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**BE IT RESOLVE THAT the Executive committee open application process for vacant UWSA directorship and Student Senate seats.**

**BE IT RESOLVE THAT The Executive committee present its appointment recommendation to the board meeting of December**

**Motion carries.**

**Shawna P. moves to take a 10-minute break.**

**Motion carries.**

**Shawna P. moves that we enter closed session with an invitation to attending staff and Joan.**

**Motion Carries.**

## **Closed Session**

### **7. Consent Agenda**

- a. Minutes
  - i. BOD 201021 CLOSED

### **8. New Business**

- a. Catalyst Consulting Follow-up with Joan Riggs

### **9. Other Business**

- a. Board of Directors Sharing Circle – Nov 26 at 6 p.m.

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**10. Adjournment**

**Quorum lost at 8:46 p.m.**