

UWSA Board Meeting – Open Session
November 15 2017 – 5:00 PM
UWSA Board Room – 515 Portage Avenue

Board In Attendance:

Chair of the Board: Michael Barkman

Secretary of the Board: Alexandria Ireland

President: Laura Garinger

Vice President External Affairs: Megan Linton

Vice President of Student Affairs: Brenden Gali

Vice President Internal Affairs: Morgan Brightnose

Accessibility Director: Mohamed Behi

Arts Director: Janel Bortoluzzi

Business and Economics Director: Devin Woodbury

Community Liaison Director: Jerico Nieves

Education Director: Taylor Daigneault

Environmental Ethics Director: Avery Letkemann

Graduate Students' Director: Laura Cameron

LGBT* Director: Solène Stockwell

PACE Students' Director: Tolu Ilelaboye

Science Director: Sia Kermani

Status of Women Director: Jade DeFehr

Students in Attendance:

Youth Parliament Representative: Abby Pudwill

MSCSA Representative: Reid Kotschorek

Board Absent:

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Aboriginal Students' Co-Director: Daphne Comegan

Aboriginal Students' Co-Director: Corey Whitford

Board of Regents Student Representative: Abraham El-Giadaa

Inner City Campus Co-Director: Lisa Strong

Inner City Campus Co-Director: Martina Saunders

International Students' Director: Simran Badhan

Recreation & Athletics Director: Kaijun Zhou

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The regular monthly meeting of the University of Winnipeg Students’

Association Board of Directors (UWSA BOD) was held on Wednesday, November 15,

2017 at 5:00 p.m. in The UWSA Board Room. The President and Chair being present.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m. The President moved to approve

the Order of Business and seconded by the Art’s Director. The President moved to

amend The Order of Business by moving “Youth Parliament of Manitoba – Funding

Request” from Items for Discussion to Communications and was seconded by the

Education Director. The motion to amend carried. The Order of Business as

amended was carried.

Consent Agenda

Open Session Minutes

Tuesday, October 17th, 2017 BOD Open Session Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved as corrected.

Executive Committee Minutes

No Discussion

Finance & Operations Committee Minutes

No Discussion

Campaigns & External Relations Committee Minutes

No Discussion

Student Life Committee Minutes

The minutes of the last approved as corrected.

Reports

Executive Report – For approval

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The Executive Directors reported on highlights of the month including: Bill 31 lobbying, the By-Election, Sexual Violence Policy consults, and the upcoming weekend CFS national general meeting. The BikeLab is looking for volunteers to work FabLab and is working on winter programming.

Executive Hours – For approval

The President and Vice President of External Affairs reported on their banked hours.

Director’s Report – For approval

Oral Reports:

The Science Director reported on attending the SGM, science club meetings, and SOSA, Biology, and Chemistry student group meetings and events. They organized a discussion on year goals and plans with invites to all science student groups. Printing is now available for all students in the SOSA lounge. They are working to have the computer labs in the science building available for one hour per day for students. They attended Student Life Committee meetings. They reported on upcoming events and advertising of the available science courses that fill humanity requirements.

The Environmental Ethics Director reported on attending the meeting of the Sustainability Counsel. They are working with planning the youth Grassroutes festival in January and are working with Divest UW. They reported attending GESA meetings and advertised for the upcoming Beerfest. They attended student life committee meetings and volunteered with the Call to Conversation Conference.

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The Education Director attended the EDSA last meeting of the semester. They are working on theft issues within the student lounge. They reported on a successful Sweater Sale fundraiser. They are looking into professional development opportunities for students. They reported on past and upcoming events. They spoke at the Standing Committee against Bill 31 and attended the CFS Day of Action.

The Arts Director reported on promotion of Thrive Week on mental health and the self-care wall. They are in close contact with Crossing to launch another journal with Jan. 29th as a tentative date. There is a student cover art contest for volume 2 of the journal under the topic of critical evaluation of Canada 150 with the winner receiving \$150.00. They reported on other upcoming events and promotion.

Grad Director

The Graduates' Students Director reported on reaching out to graduate students, graduate departments and plans to develop a Facebook group. They are working on the Grassroutes planning committee. They reported on working with the Student Pipeline Action Committee on a Water is Life fundraiser.

The LGBT* Director attended and volunteered at the Call to Conversation Conference. They attend the Finance & Operations Committee Meeting and had conversations with folks on the topic of campus bathrooms.

The PACE Director met with the President and the Vice President of Student Affairs on the development of the position of PACE Director. They reported on the intimidating aspects of the main campus for many PACE students.

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The Accessibility Director has been working with the Office Manager on setting up the Access Lounge to open in January. They attended the Finance & Operations Committee Meeting and the Call to Conversation Conference.

The Business and Economics Director has developed a survey, pending approval by the Dean, for business and economics students.

The Community Liaison Director attended the sit in and banner drop protesting Bill 31. They have been talking with different business and organization leaders on ways to partner with the UWSA.

The Status of Women Director attended the Call To Conversation Conference. They are working with DivestUW and had a film screening. The Women-Trans Spectrum centre had their first meeting with the new coordinator. They reported they will not be posting survey results for the Inclusive Gym Initiative to protect anonymity but will continue to answer any questions from students regarding the survey results.

The MSCSA Representative reported on the implementation of a suggestion box in Menno Simons. They are working to increase the accessibility of the lounge. They reported on upcoming speaker series events and will be participating at the Grassroutes Sustainability Festival.

Other

Special General Meeting Minutes – For Approval

The minutes of the SGM were read and approved as corrected.

By-Election Results – For Approval

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No Discussion. It was moved by the Vice President of External Affairs and seconded by the LGBT* Director to approve the consent agenda as omnibus. The motion to approve carried.

Communications

YP Presentation Funding Request

Abby Pudwill, Director of Procedures, presented the Youth Parliament funding request. Youth Parliament requested funding between \$500 and \$1000 towards the Reconciliation Fund, to Sponsor Membership, or to cover printing costs. Youth Parliament is partnered with Peaceful Village. \$500 would sponsor approximately four students.

It was moved by the Business and Economics Director and seconded by the Community Liaison Director that the UWSA provide a financial contribution of \$500 to Youth Parliament Winter Session towards the Youth Parliament Reconciliation Fund or to support a student from the Peaceful Village Fund. The motion carried.

By-Election Report – For Approval

The Chief Elections Commissioner could not make it to the meeting so the Chair provided an outline of the report on their behalf.

It was moved by the Environmental Ethics Director to approve the report and seconded by the Science Director.

During Discussion concerns were raised on online voting such as students being pressured to vote by others, students unaware of election rules, costs for students, inaccessibility with impacts on democratic process as online voting is only available through Wi-Fi and software available to those in the middle – upper class,

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and lack of support from the Canadian Council of Disabilities towards online voting.

Supports towards online voting were the potential to increase voter turnout and increasing environmentally friendly practices.

Discussion continued on the need to look at alternatives to online voting to increase voter turnout such as increasing the wage and responsibilities of polling officers, adding more voting booths, increased advertising of elections, and decreasing voting lines at the ballot boxes.

The motion to approve the report carried with one abstention: The Vice President of External Affairs.

CKUW Presentation

Rob Schmidt, the CKUW Station Manager presented on a partnership request with the UWSA to support construction of the new CKUW space. CKUW did not have a cost estimation of a specific amount requested from the UWSA.

During discussion concerns of the accessibility of the space were raised based on the highlighted staircase running through the middle of the space. CKUW designed the staircase to increase accessibility for staff to move through the first and second floor with the intention that folks who are cannot use the stairs will leave the space and take the near by elevators. The CKUW has complied with the U of W Accessibility Guidelines however, when raised by the Accessibility Director and the Vice President of External Affairs, CKUW has not had an accessibility audit completed. CKUW is hoping to open for next September with the design. CKUW has also gone to the University of Winnipeg Foundation for funding of the design.

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Directors raised concerns of the lack of budget to base costs off of, and the use of the staircase to connect the space despite its lack of accessibility. The stair continues the glorification of folks that can use stairs and the design only connects able-bodied people to the second floor. This assumes only able-bodied people want to connect throughout the space. The community that utilizes the CKUW is diverse and CKUW engages the community. Directors discussed how to pursue to account for all bodies and continue for community engagement.

Directors raised frustration that the CKUW is calling for a partnership with the UWSA after the design is already finished. The UWSA was not consulted on the design aside from the President viewing a copy of the design last year. The Vice President of External Affairs discussed the problems of lack of diversity at decision-making levels and that accessibility services provides academic services not audit services. The failure of a secured accessibility audit would have been avoided if the CKUW discussed the design earlier with the Accessibility Director or the Vice President of External Affairs. The Chair reminded the board there was no motion on the table.

The Executives will move forward with the advice from the board with more information coming to the January Board meeting.

UW Community Renewal Corp Merchants Corner Budget

In 2016, the University of Winnipeg Students' Association Inc. ("the UWSA") entered into a tri-partite agreement with Merchants Corner Inc. ("MCI") and the University of Winnipeg ("U of W") for the dedicated use of a rent-free office space within the U of W space at 541 Selkirk Avenue ("Merchants Corner". The

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Consideration was a one-time contribution of \$75,000 to offset the capital costs of constructing Merchants Corner. UWSA has made that capital contribution.

MCI has now developed a budget for the operation of the educational and community space at Merchants Corner in which basic operating costs are covered by rent revenues. However, the operating budget does not presently cover community hosts or a community animator. (“community positions”) These community positions are meant to increase the safety and security of people using the facility and to facilitate various forms of community programming in the space. In addition to meeting community needs, successful community animation will likely generate additional revenues for Merchants Corner by fee-paying users. However, in the early years of operation the costs of these community positions will likely exceed the revenues.

MCI is seeking funding from a variety of sources to cover the costs of the community positions. These sources may materialize and may be sufficient to meet the required operating costs. MCI also understands that UWSA may be willing to convert its one-time capital contribution into a multi-year contribution to operations. In that case, MCI will need to replace the capital contribution of UWSA to meet its capital costs. If the conversion from capital contribution to operating grant is required, it would be most advantageous to MCI if the operating grant was for a period of three years, at a minimum of \$25,000 per year.

MCI would greatly appreciate UWSA considering this option, with the understanding that the conversion from a capital contribution to an operating grant would be at the discretion of MCI.

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The President provided a brief history of the Merchants Corner community space. The UWSA has been formally added to the Merchants Corner Board. MCI does not have any sources of revenue right now to have staff positions. The point of the project is to provide a community feel in the neighbourhood. The agreement that was signed was for the UWSA money to go into the capital budget that came from the building fund. MCI wants to use the money for community positions.

After reviewing the bylaws it was moved by the President and seconded by the Community Liaison Director to convert the \$75,000 capital contribution to an operating grant at the discretion of MCI. The motion carried with one abstention: the Vice President of Internal Affairs.

Items for Discussion

Call 2 Conversation Donation

It was moved by the Vice President of External Affairs and seconded by the Vice President of Student Affairs:

Where the UWSA has continued efforts to decolonize;

And Whereas the UWSA strives for accessible events;

And Whereas the Call 2 Conversation Conference was the first ever conference of it's kind, working on decolonization efforts in the LGBT2Q* community;

Be it resolved that the UWSA offer \$400 of support the Call 2 Conversation Conference for ASL interpretation services.

The Vice President of External Affairs presented that folks would not be able to access the conference without ASL. At the day of the conference they found out

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they could not afford ASL but continued to hire ASL as they did not want to turn back from accessibility.

The motion carried.

Sexuality and Disability Panel Discussion Donation

It was moved by the Vice President of External Affairs and seconded by the LGBT* Director:

Whereas the UWSA’s goals for the year include accessibility;

And whereas the UWSA supports student involvement

Be It Resolved the UWSA support the Sexuality and Disability Panel discussion in February, with in-kind communications support and \$60 of ASL interpretation.

The motion carried.

Campus Bathrooms

The LGBT* Director presented on the issues brought forward to them on campus bathrooms including but not limited to: change tables, lack of placement of non-binary bathrooms in library, lack of menstruation products, lack of cans in men’s bathroom stalls, lack of chairs in bathrooms, and the cleanliness state of accessible bathrooms. These issues intersect with many board members constituencies.

The UWSA will make a meeting with student services on lack of cans and cleanliness to resolve these two issues.

Status of Women, Accessibility Directors, Pres, LGBT*, VPIA, Community Liaison on the team for

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It was moved by the LGBT* Director and seconded by the Vice President of Internal

Affairs:

Whereas; Giving there has been a few problems identified with the bathrooms,

Be It Resolved the UWSA create a working group to identify items missing in our bathrooms and make our bathrooms more accessible and inclusive.

The motion carried. Directors that voiced they would like to be on the working group included the LGBT* Director, Status of Women Director, Accessibility Director, the President, the Vice President of Internal Affairs, and the Community Liaison Director.

Other Business

The Science Director raised concerns about the goals in the C.E.C. report for changes and will be doing research into the recommendations. They reported concern towards that PACE students were not on the email list for the by-elections. The Vice President of Internal Affairs noted the lack of breakdown on costs for changes recommended. The Chair noted the reported is approved and the changes are in the hands of the executive and bylaw and policies committees.

The Education Director reported a meeting on introducing a levy for education students to create a fund for EDSA students.

The Vice President of Student Affairs is working on positive spaces and frameworks of student groups.

Adjournment

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It was moved by the Vice President of Internal Affairs and seconded by the Science Director to adjourn. Adjournment was carried. The regular monthly meeting of the UWSA BOD was adjourned at 8:00pm.