

UWSA Board Meeting – OPEN
September 16, 2020 – 5:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting due to COVID -19 Pandemic

Board in Attendance:

Acting Chair: Nina Lam

Secretary of the Board: Hasini Abeysekera

Accessibility Director: Sarah Anderson

Community Liaison: Celina Clements

International Students' Co-Director: Elsa Owusu

2SLGBTQ* Director: Jacob K. Antman

Menno Simons College Director: Alizeh Faran

Racialized Students' Director: Ella Taylor

Urban Inner-City Campus Director: Dagen Perrot

Board Absent:

Arts Director: Wesley Fallis

Business and Economics Director: Harsimrat S. Malhotra

Graduate Students' Co-Director: Nadia M. Chaharsoughi

Graduate Students' Co-Director: Alexandra K.Nychuk

International Students' Co-Director: Onyinye Francisca Idigbe

Board on Administrative Leave:

Vice -President Student Affairs: Melanie William

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Staff in Attendance:

Karolya Vargscarr: Chief Operating Officer

Jennifer Black: General Manager

1. Call to Order

A meeting of the University of Winnipeg Students' Association Board of Directors (UWSA BOD) was held on Wednesday September 16, 2020 at 5:30pm via a virtual meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nina L. will be taking over duties as Chair of the Board for this meeting as currently the Chair position remains vacant. The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

2. Approval of the Chair

Jacob A. moves to approve Nina L. as the chair for this meeting as the position remains vacant.

Seconded by Dagen P.

Motion carries

3. Approval of the Order of Business

Dagen P. moves to approve the Order of Business.

Seconded by Elsa O.

Motion carries

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4. Special Business

5. Consent Agenda

a. Reports

i. Director Reports

Sarah A. – spoke with J. Black and S. Jhhnjhunwala about an accessibility campaign for physical access on campus, upgrading more automatic doors, working on a student initiative to gather tutors for students with disabilities.

Jacob A. – spoke about being in touch with the director of Rainbow lounge regarding their usual fundraisers.

Dagen P. – handed out swag bags at Merchants corner for Roll Call. He also made that an opportunity to connect with students and staff at Merchants corner. And also connected with Computers for Schools Manitoba to secure some computers for students.

Elsa O. – connecting and reaching out to students via social media such as Instagram and answering questions. Apart from this she also contacted Green Shield about International students' insurance coverage and spoke with J. Black about plans for the fall term.

Alizeh F. – talking to the staff at Menno Simons college about accessibility for students and whether or not there were students in need of the services. Also reaching out to other MSCSA students about how the next year will look like. Also helping out with interviews to recruit a new chair.

Ella T. – on the hiring committee for the Chair of the Board. Participating in Justice for Black Lives Winnipeg and Black Student Union stuff and connecting with the Professors at the University for community advising and research.

Celina C. – connecting with the North End Women's Centre about their needs due to COVID-19 and making a list of supplies they need to put a call out.

b. Minutes

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i. BOD 200819 OPEN

Motion to approve the August 19 minutes.

Moved by Sarah A.

Seconded by Ella T.

Motion carries

ii. BOD 200826 OPEN

Motion to approve the August 26 minutes

Moved by Dagen P.

Seconded by Alizeh F.

Motion carries

6. Communications

7. New Business

a. UWSA Rules of Order Policy & By-laws – For Approval

BE IT RESOLVED THAT by-law 6.7.ii and iii. is amended to read:

ii. The Chair of the Board of Directors shall ensure that all meetings that they preside over are conducted in an orderly fashion. The Chair of the Board of Directors is responsible for maintaining and enforcing the rules for conducting meetings, which are described ~~elsewhere in these By-Laws~~ in the UWSA Policy Manual. The rules for conducting meetings will be ~~Robert's Rules of Order~~ the UWSA Rules of Order unless



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others are established by the Board of Directors. The Chair of the Board of Directors will try to establish consensus wherever possible within the rules, and, if consensus cannot be reached, then proceedings and voting will follow ~~Robert's Rules of Order or whatever other rules have been established by the Board of Directors~~ the UWSA Rules of Order. ~~In the event of a conflict between Robert's Rules of Order, or whatever other rules have been established by the Board of Directors, and these By-Laws, these By-Laws will take precedence.~~

iii. The Chair of the Board of Directors shall ensure that a copy of ~~Robert's Rules of Order~~ the UWSA Rules of Order and any other established rules of conduct, including these By-Laws, are on hand at all times during any meeting of the Board of Directors and at Meetings of Members of the UWSA.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT by-law 4.1.ii.d. is amended to read:

d. The Chair of the Board of Directors shall be a permanent seat on the UWSA Board of Directors. The Board of Directors upon recommendation by the Executive Committee shall appoint the Chair of the Board of Directors. ~~The Chair of the Board of Directors shall have a single vote, and may only be used in the event of an equality of votes or on committees in which they are an ex-officio member.~~

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT by-law 6.32.ix. is amended to read:

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ix. *Voting* - Motions arising at any meeting of Directors shall be decided by a majority of the votes unless otherwise stipulated within these By-Laws. ~~The Chair of the Board of Directors shall not be allowed to vote except in the case of an equality of votes.~~ Neither the Chair of the Board of Directors nor the Secretary of the Board of Directors shall vote on any matter. A motion put to the vote shall be decided by a show of hands, or another mutually agreed upon indication unless a confidential poll is requested by any Director before or after the results of a motion having been called to question. Unless a confidential poll has been requested, any declaration by the Chair of the Board of Directors (whether that be an indication that the motion has been carried, carried unanimously, carried by a particular majority of the votes or defeated) shall be final, and such results will be noted in the official Minutes of the UWSA for that meeting. These minutes shall be prima facie evidence of the fact, without proof of voting proportions for and against, of whether a motion was carried or defeated. This in no way prevents a Director from making a motion to overturn a previous decision.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Article IV. UWSA Rules of Order is added to the UWSA

Policy Manual:

[Article IV. UWSA Rules of Order](#)

Preamble

The UWSA Rules of Order were first drafted in response to a resolution approved by the Canadian Federation of Students' Circle of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Students at



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their 2018 General Meeting in pursuit of more accessible and less colonial systems for meeting and planning in the community. In March of 2018, the UWSA approved a motion by General Meeting to act on this mandate from the Circle.

Policy Statement

The UWSA Rules of Order govern all meetings of the UWSA Board of Directors, committees of the board, and general meetings of the membership. For the purposes of this policy, “the chair” refers to the Chair of the Board of Directors, the chair of a committee, or any interim chair appointed to govern a meeting of the board, a committee of the board, or a general meeting of the membership. The chair is charged with upholding the UWSA Rules of Order. The chair has the authority to alter the Rules of Order only where necessary to make rulings based on an event that the current UWSA Rules of Order does not account for.

The chair has the right to remove members from the meeting, should they break the UWSA Rules of Order or violate the policies and by-laws of the UWSA. The chair will not entertain any form of harassment or aggression during any meeting of the UWSA. A member can raise a request for intervention at any time, at which point the chair can hear their concerns and deliver a ruling based on their concern.

Procedure



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1. Meetings of the UWSA convene on a schedule as outlined in the by-laws of the corporation and in the laws of the Province of Manitoba.
2. In order for the UWSA to take action in a meeting, an actionable proposal must be brought forward and approved by voting members.
 - a. Proposals include any actionable phrase, which can be defined as a statement describing what the corporation will do should the proposal be ratified by the voting membership. Proposals can be presented in the form of non-debatable proposals and debatable proposals.
 - i. A non-debatable proposal is a motion of procedure. It includes proposals regarding amendments to the agenda, appointments of students to positions within the board or on subcommittees, proposals to table discussion to a specified time, approving minutes from previous meetings, approving director and executive reports, granting speaking rights, approving oral and/or written statements by members and staff, and any calls for the meeting to end. Non-debatable proposals move directly from the proposal stage to the voting stage. Any member with speaking rights has the right to signal to the chair a request to ask clarification questions regarding the motion. In the event that a non-debatable motion fails, it cannot be raised again in the same context.

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- ii. All other motions are considered debatable and are subject to following the procedure outlined in The Proposal Stage, The Discussion Phase, and The Voting Stage.

3. Proposal Stage (“The Table”)

- a. In this stage, members may table their proposals for all members to see. The chair will allow up to 5 minutes for the directors to propose friendly amendments.

- i. Friendly amendments are amendments that the director moving the proposal agree to. A director can agree to an unlimited number of friendly amendments before the motion moves from the table to the following phase.

- ii. When the 5 minutes expire or when the proposing director directs the chair to move the proposal as it is worded, the proposal is considered to be “on the floor” and the chair begins the discussion phase.

4. Discussion Phase (“The Floor”)

- a. After the proposing member speaks to their idea, the chair will recognize all other members by moving around the circle. Each member with speaking rights will be allowed to ask questions pertinent to the proposal, propose amendments to the wording, provide their comments for the record, or pass.

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- i. The proposing member may redirect any questions to another willing member with speaking rights.
 - ii. If a member is not speaking to the wording of the proposal, any member present can say or sign “topic,” at which point the chair will remind the speaker to focus on the wording of the proposal in their questions and comments. Should a member need 3 reminders from the chair, their comments will be considered “in bad faith” and the chair will end that member’s speaking turn.
 - iii. If an amendment is proposed during the discussion phase, the defending member may choose to accept it as friendly (not voted upon) or contest it by putting it to a vote requiring 50% + 1 of voting members approve.
 - iv. If a proposal is amended through this process, the chair will restart the rotation from the person who amended the wording so that all members have a chance to speak to the revised wording.
- b. The chair will go around the circle once and then ask if there are any further questions warranting a second cycle.
 - i. Each member may only speak once during these two rotations.
5. Voting stage
- a. The member who originally put forth the proposal may speak for two minutes about the final wording of the proposal. They have this time to

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explain why they believe the membership should accept or decline the motion as it is written.

- b. The motion is put to a vote. The vote must achieve approval from 50% +1 voting members to be ratified.
- c. The chair does not serve as a tiebreaker under any interpretations of these rules. In the event of a tie, the proposal will be considered defeated.

6. Special Motions

- a. When the membership wants to hold a non-binding discussion that appears in the minutes, a member may propose a special discussion phase.
- b. A special discussion phase must be worded as a question for the membership with speaking rights to answer, provide commentary, seek counsel, or pass.
- c. The rules of the discussion stage as outlined above in effect upon the approval of the special discussion phase with the following exceptions
 - i. Special discussion phases cannot be amended
 - ii. The chair will only go around the circle once

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- iii. The member who proposes a special discussion may append a time limit on speaking times, no less than 3 minutes and no greater than 10 when they propose the special discussion phase.

Moved by Ella T.

Seconded by Dagen P.

Motion carries

c. State of Emergency Measures By-laws – For Approval

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following by-laws are adopted into the UWSA By-law Package as “By-law 10: State of Emergency Measures”.

By-law X. State of Emergency Measures

Section A. Definitions

10.1 Election

The Annual General Election and By-Election of the UWSA as governed by the provisions found elsewhere in these by-laws.

10.2 Meetings of the UWSA

Any meeting authorized under the provisions of these by-laws including, but not limited to: meetings of the board, committees of the board, and general meetings of the membership.

10.3 State of Emergency



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Any circumstance which prohibits access to the University of Winnipeg campus or otherwise impedes the physical convening of the UWSA General Offices, membership, or board including, but not limited to: flood, fire, pandemic, natural disaster, government ordered state of emergency, and force majeure.

Section B. Procedure

10.4. Procedure for Calling a State of Emergency

- i. A state of emergency shall be called by the Chief Operating Officer of the UWSA under direction of the UWSA Executive and subject to approval by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.
- ii. The meeting at which a State of Emergency is approved shall be considered duly convened regardless of restrictions on virtual or telecommuted meetings found elsewhere in these by-laws and the Act.

Section C. Meetings

10.5. Meetings of the UWSA Under a State of Emergency

- i. Under a State of Emergency, meetings of the UWSA may be duly convened and shall be considered valid regardless of restrictions on electronic or telecommuted meetings found elsewhere in these by-laws.
- ii. Meetings of the UWSA held by electronic or telecommunication platforms must permit all persons participating in the meeting, including those entitled to vote on its business, to communicate adequately with each other during the meeting.

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- iii. Notice of meetings and methods of registration shall be duly posted on the UWSA website and shared on UWSA social media in accordance with the timelines stipulated for that type of meeting as provided for elsewhere in these by-laws.
 - a. The duty to post physical notice of meetings on campus bulletin boards, as set out in these by-laws, shall be waived during the period of a State of Emergency.

10.6 State of Emergency Meeting Procedures

- i. The General Manager in coordination with the appropriate chair shall arrange virtual meeting spaces as needed and shall reasonably ensure that meetings are accessible for directors, staff, and members.
 - a. Attendees of a meeting shall be provided an alternative method of contacting the chair to report accessibility issues, should the mechanisms provided by the virtual meeting space fail.
- ii. For the purposes of quorum, all attendees of a meeting held on a virtual platform shall be considered present if their phone or electronic device registers them as present. It is the duty of attendees to report communication issues to the chair.
 - a. Meeting quorum shall be monitored by the chair and the secretary.
Where quorum is lost due to technical difficulties, the meeting shall not be considered adjourned until 30 minutes have elapsed in which the

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member who lost connection can attempt to reconnect, or until the member reports through an alternative method that they are unable to return to the meeting.

- b. No business shall be discussed or approved in the interval in which quorum has been lost.
- iii. Where voting takes place at a meeting held on a virtual platform, the chair shall ensure that each vote is validly submitted and verified.
- iv. No proxy shall be valid at a virtual or telecommuted meeting.

Section D. Elections and Referenda

10.7 Election and Referenda Held During a State of Emergency

- i. Under a State of Emergency, the UWSA shall reasonably ensure that the bi-annual election and referenda cycle is respected.
- ii. The timing of an election cycle mandated elsewhere in these by-laws may be reasonably rescheduled and extended to accommodate the drafting of State of Emergency election rules, as determined by the Chief Elections Commissioner and approved by the REBLITE Board. Notwithstanding the foregoing, an election cycle must take place within the academic term during which it was initially scheduled.
- iii. An election cycle may only be cancelled during a State of Emergency when conditions exist that make voting impossible, as determined by the Chief

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Elections Commissioner and REBLITE Board, acting reasonably and exhausting all options to complete the scheduled election, subject to approval by a 2/3 majority of the Board of Directors.

10.8 State of Emergency Election Rules

- i. The Chief Elections Officer, in coordination with the General Manager and the Chair of the Board, shall draft a set of interim State of Emergency election rules to be approved by the REBLITE Board.
- ii. The State of Emergency election rules shall work in tandem with the election rules found elsewhere in these by-laws. Where there is contradiction between the State of Emergency election rules and the general election rules found elsewhere in these by-laws, the State of Emergency election rules shall be paramount and considered the applicable rules for an election cycle held during a State of Emergency.
- iii. State of Emergency election rules shall be established on the following timeline:
 - a. A set of rules guiding nominations and referenda question submission shall be prepared prior to the commencement of the nomination period of the given election cycle.
 - b. A set of rules guiding campaigning, campaign materials and expenses, election forums, voting, balloting, ballot count, campaign violations,

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complaints, and appeals shall be prepared prior to the All Candidate's Meeting.

- iv. Election rules enacted during a State of Emergency shall only be valid for the duration of the individual election cycle in question and shall expire once all complaints and appeals are resolved.
- v. Complaints with respect to the State of Emergency election rules may be made by any UWSA member. These complaints shall be considered appeals and shall be filed with the REBLITE Board in accordance with the election appeals rules found in the State of Emergency election rules and elsewhere in these by-laws.
- vi. During a State of Emergency election cycle, online balloting shall be arranged and all election rules contained in these by-laws mandating physical polling stations shall be inapplicable and of no force or effect.

Moved by Sarah A.

Seconded by Jacob A.

Motion carries

c. State of Emergency Motion – For Approval

Be it resolved that the UWSA calls a formal State of Emergency and implements the State of Emergency Measures.

Moved by Dagen P.

Motion carries.



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d. Re-Striking the Committees – For Approval

Be it resolved that the UWSA re-strike the committees of the board with the following director appointments:

By-law and Policy Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alizeh Faran • Dagen Perrot • Jacob Antman
Campaigns and External Relations Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celina Clements • Sarah Anderson • Alizeh Faran • Ella Taylor
Executive Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harsimrat Malhotra
Finance & Operations Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dagen Perrot
Student Life Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harsimrat Malhotra • Jacob Antman
REBLITE Board (Referenda and Elections By-law Interpretation and Transparent Enforcement Board)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah Anderson • Dagen Perrot • Alizeh Faran

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Be it further resolved that the student-at-large appointments made at the June 3, 2020 meeting of the board are nullified.

Be it further resolved that the UWSA circulates postings inviting student-at-large applicants to the subcommittees in accordance with the by-laws and policies of the organization.

Moved by Dagen P.

Motion carries

e. Simply Voting Capital Proposal – For Approval

J. Black motivated expensing the online voting platform for the 2020 By-Election to the UWSA capital budget to free up space in the already tight elections budget to make other accommodations for the online election.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the UWSA allocates \$3,261.51 of capital funds to a one-year Unlimited Plan subscription with Simply Voting.

Moved by Alizeh F.

Motion carries

f. Computers for Schools MB Capital Proposal – For Approval

Dagen P. motivated that this motion is a straight-forward service that we can provide for students who are struggling right now.

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Be it resolved that the UWSA allocates \$5,500 of capital funds to provide 50 students with the upgraded computer models with Windows installed.

Be it further resolved that the UWSA evaluate the success of the program after the fall term and assess whether the program should run again in the winter term.

Moved by Dagen P.

Motion carries

g. Guaranteed Livable Basic Income Motion – For Approval

Jacob A. motivated that the federal motion for a Universal Basic Income addresses the need for continued and growing social supports which would help students in perpetuity reach their full potential.

Be it resolved that the UWSA will release an official statement in support of Motion 46 which calls on the federal government to introduce legislation and work with provincial and territorial governments and Indigenous peoples to ensure that a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income

- (i) accounting for regional differences in living costs,**
- (ii) for all Canadians over the age of 18, including single persons, students, families, seniors, persons with disabilities, temporary foreign workers, permanent residents, and refugee claimants,**

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(iii) paid on a regular basis,

(iv) not requiring participation in the labour market, education or training in order to be eligible,

(v) in addition to current and future government public services and income supports meant to meet special, exceptional and other distinct needs and goals rather than basic needs, including accessible affordable social housing and expanded health services, replace the Canada Emergency Response Benefit on an ongoing and permanent basis in a concerted effort to eradicate poverty and ensure the respect, dignity and security of all persons in respect of Canada's domestic and international legal obligations.

Moved by Jacob A.

Motion carries

Dagen P. moved to take a five-minute recess.

Motion carries

Ella T moves that the meeting enters closed session with an invitation to attending staff.

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Motion carries

Closed Session

8. Consent Agenda

9. New Business

10. Other Business

a. Board of Directors Schedule 2020-2021 – For Approval

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors 2020/2021 meeting schedule shall be:

Wednesday, Sept 30 – 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct 21 – 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, Nov 12 – 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec 2 – 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan 13 – 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb 3 – 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb 24 – 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Mar 10 – 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Mar 31 – 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Apr 21 – 5:30 p.m.



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT that a Special General Meeting shall be called for
Wednesday, November 4 at 12:30 p.m. and the Annual General Meeting shall be held
Wednesday, March 17 at 12:30 p.m.

11. Adjournment

Ella T. moves to adjourn at 7:03 p.m.

Motion Carries