

University of Winnipeg Students' Association Board of Directors
OPEN Session Meeting Minutes, December 1, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting due to the COVID – 19 Pandemic

Board in Attendance:

Co-Chair of the Board: Anjola Aderinto

Co-Chair of the Board: Alizeh Faran

Secretary: Emmanuel Oladele

President: Kiratveer (Kirt) Singh Hayer

Vice-President Student Affairs: Reza Saker Hossain

Vice-President External Affairs: Jonathan Henderson

Accessibility Director: Sarah Anderson

Arts Director: Umar Awan

Business and Economics Director: Bedel Shafe'a

Environmental Ethics Co-Director: Adhiraj Majumder

Recreation & Athletics Co-Director: Ripanjot Kaur Gill

Science Director: Bavleen Kaur

Graduate Students' Director- Jude Obidiagha

Racialized Student Co-Director- Manjot Singh Sembhi

Racialized Student Co-Director- Shubham Kumar

Emerging Leader Director (1-year term)- Karanpartap Singh

Emerging Leader Director (1-year term)- Chhavi Dhir

Emerging Leader Co-Director (2-year term)- Amanpreet Singh

Environmental Ethics Co-Director: Navdeep Singh

Recreation & Athletics Co-Director: Will Sass

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Board Absent:

International Students' Co-Director: Priyanshu Setia

Student Living Director: Ifeoma S. Onyekwelu

Emerging Leader Co-Director (2-year term)- Deep Thind

Urban and Inner-City Director: Dagen Perrott

Emerging Leader Director – 2 Year Term: Faith Marcial

Part-Time/Mature Students' Director: Clifford Stornel

Community Liaison Director: Shawna Péloquin

Women, Trans & Non-Binary Co-Director: Gursimran Kaur

International Students Co-Director: Riya Katia

Women, Trans & Non-Binary Co-Director: Mansi K. Joshi

Staff in Attendance:

Jennifer Black, General Manager

Thomas Hanan, Admin Assistant

Meagan Nenka, UWSA Chief Elections Commissioner

Guests:

Gabrielle Prefontaine- Dean of the Library

Joshua Herter - Assessment and Communications Librarian

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Chris Minaker - Associate Vice-President, Strategic Communications and External Relations

Ryan Gorrie - Architect for the library renovation project

Open Session

1. Call to Order

The regular monthly meeting of the University of Winnipeg Students' Association Board of Directors was held on Wednesday December 1, 2021, via a virtual meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:39 p.m. Following the confirmation of quorum, the house continued to the agenda.

2. Introduction Circle

The Chair, Alizeh F., leads a circle of introductions with the directors in attendance.

3. Approval of the Order of Business

Jonathan H. moves to remove "Standing Committee Appointment Shuffle" from the agenda due to directors not knowing their schedule for the winter term yet.

Motion Carries.

Bedel S. moves to approve order of business as amended.

Motion Carries.

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4. Special Business

a. Transformative Library Renovation – Presentation

C. Minaker mentioned he has been in talks with UWSA for four to five years about the renovation of library. The university plans to create more spaces in the library.

G. Prefontaine and R. Gorrie gave a presentation about the library renovation. G. Prefontaine discusses the issues with the library currently that impact the student experience – inaccessibility, leaks, security risks, overcrowding, which is not a reflection of students or the land it occupies. Gives a brief history of the project's development.

R. Gorrie goes through the different floors of the library design and discusses the Indigenization of the library being an integral element of the projects design, using the constellation as main design element, and allowing for smudging in the library for example. Inspired by conversations with Indigenous stakeholders like Dan Thomas. He also discusses accessibility and elevators to make sure all students can have an easy time navigating the library. Plan on bringing the 1C03 Gallery to the library and doubling its size.

C. Minaker discusses the budget is \$56 million in 2021 dollars and \$60 million in 2023 dollars. The plan is to obtain \$30 million from the federal government, and \$10 million each from; the provincial government, private sector, and students.

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The plan is to collect a proportion of the amount from students every year over the next twenty years. C. Minaker requests that UWSA approves to conduct a referendum for the project.

Question 1: Sarah A. - Is there a plan to accommodate visually impaired people and different cultures?

Answers: R. Gorrie- The project is designed to accommodate everyone including visually impaired people and other cultures. G. Prefontaine says there is an associate dean who is focusing solely on accessibility as well as one of the librarians is responsible for finding out how to make the library more accommodating for people with disabilities. A design mandate throughout, a strong statement about the land that we are on without diminishing the broader diversity.

Question 2: Bedel S. - Is the amount being collected from students going to be adjusted for inflation?

Answer: C. Minaker - The fee for students will remain the same when it is approved. However, the University will take a loan of \$10 million (for a period of twenty years) from a credit union. The loan will be paid back with money collected from students.

Question 3: Jude O. - Will there be documents explaining the symbols in the library, such as the constellation? Is there accommodation for green spaces?

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Answer: R. Gorrie. – It is part of the plan through signage, wayfinding, active sharing and living library situations to communicate the knowledge and build on it. Also, there will be green spaces provided in the new library. Renovating the courtyards, and creating a brighter space. Green space is important when you're talking about Indigenous and land-based knowledge.

G. Prefontaine thanks the directors for their kind words and support and shares how the library will be open to the front of the building, which will bring openness to community.

b. Final Election Report – For Ratification

M. Nenka shares that there was a 6.4% voter turnout. (9th in turnout in past 15 by-elections). She also mentioned that most voting was done online. Telephone voting was not supported by by-laws, so they had some available in the event of someone needing phone explanation of how to vote online. A voter raised an issue with limited campaigning for the election and yes/no voting, to which M. Nenka responded to help make clear.

Anjola H. presented the Electoral Accountability Board's (EAB) report.

Sarah A. has an issue with the recommendation to remove telephone voting. She is concerned about those who are visually impaired. Kirt. H raises an issue on the lack of responsiveness from people who were overseeing elections.

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M. Nenka's recommendation was made solely because of the observation that the service has never been used but agrees that there would need to be another accommodation made.

Bedel moves to ratify the final report of the 2021 UWSA By-Election

Motion carries

5. Consent Agenda

a. Reports

i. Executive Reports

Kirt H.

- Progress was made on open-source education in the last month, spoke to UMFA president. There is work going on to improve the tutoring services. The alumni association and neuro-science association are working towards creating mentorship program. There have been security concerns at the Balmoral residences that have been addressed with Security. He has been working on introducing new sport, Cricket, at the Rec-Plex. He wants to introduce the idea of the Punjabi language program. He has been meeting with Minister Ewasko, and discussed Bill-33 and health care plan for international students. The farmers' protest was

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successful. He created a an All Clubs Executives group (ACEs) and he wants to formalize the group. He attended board of Regents and Senate meeting. He went to a Muslim event. He went to Winnipeg Jets game with Dr. Currie. He met with different students and universities.

Jonathan H.

- Participated in Healthcare for All campaign to change the international students' health care plan. More student groups have been approved. He is working with CKUW on a new radio show to showcase student groups. There will be 2 days of 2-3 hours training. Met with Minister Ewasko to discuss Bill-33. Working on Unsheltered Relatives event.

Reza H. -

Important External Meetings:

Attended Senate Student Appeals Full Committee meeting. Attended multiple Senate Student Appeals sub-committee meetings. Attended multiple Executive Committee meetings. Attended meeting with the UWinnipeg SEO of External Engagement Chris Minaker where I discussed concerns regarding the security, room bookings for students and student groups, and asked to allow student groups to serve food/drinks at their on-

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campus events if they follow the health and safety guidelines.

Attended meeting with the Minister of Advanced Education, Skills, and Immigration honorable Wayne Ewasko. Attended the All-Clubs Executives meeting. Attended Muslim Students' Association event. Attended a meeting with UMSU President Brenden Scott to discuss U-PASS. Attended the Board of Regents meeting.

Attended the Senate meeting. Met with the Director of Security Wade Carrier to discuss students' concerns about the safety on campus and the campus entry process. Attended meeting with UWinnipeg VP of Finance to discuss the student budget survey.

Attended the Reasonable Accommodation Info session. Met with the UWBSA executives. Volunteered at the Student Outreach Campaign table. Met with students for advocacy related helps.

Important updates:

As a part of the Student Outreach campaign, we did our first tabling this month where two UWSA Directors also volunteered with me. We gave away some UWSA promotional materials and collected signatures for the healthcare for All campaign.

Regardless of an unfavorable weather condition, our tabling was successful, and I felt that continuing the campaign would be tremendously valuable for the students. As the final exams have

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approached near, we would probably not do any tabling in the month of December unless otherwise decided by the Board of Directors and I am looking forward to doing it again in the Winter term. We organized the Reasonable Accommodation Info session on November 29th where the UWinnipeg HRDO presented some very useful information regarding the accommodation policy and procedure. The info session was very successful and after the event, the HRDO expressed in an email that she would be happy to do more such sessions in the Winter term. I am planning to do one more session at the beginning of the Winter term if the situation permits. I also heard from the Accessibility Advisor Hemali Vyas after the info session and Hemali Vyas also expressed interest in conducting info sessions focused on the 2SLGBTQ+ and BIPOC students in collaboration with the UWSA. We received some concerns regarding the campus security from a few students and I actively worked this month to ensure that those concerns are properly addressed, and the reported issues are resolved. Some students think that it is necessary to have an alternative method to verify students' eligibility to enter campus in special circumstances, for example, when a student loses the student card. So, I am advocating for a more flexible campus entry process

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with alternative ways to verify students' identity and eligibility to enter campus. Advocacy service is one of the most important and impactful services provided by the UWSA. Since the beginning of my term as the VPSA, I have been working hard to provide the best possible service to our students and I am committed to bringing any possible improvement to the service. So, I have decided to do a survey among the students who used our advocacy services recently to ask for their feedback on their overall experience, and any suggestions for possible improvement. I brought this idea to the last Executive committee meeting, and all of the committee members supported the idea. Once the survey is conducted, the results of the survey will be shared with the Board of Directors with appropriate privacy protections in place.

ii. Director Reports

Sarah A.

She has been working on making the access lounge more available. She presented at a National conference for NEADS. Talked with K. Vargscarr about revised training module.

Bedel S.

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He was busy with recruitment. He attended Finance and Operations (F&O), and Executive Committee.

Umar A.

He attended Finance and Operations meeting. Student outreach tabling, and met with students. Let's the board know he joined the Muslim Students Association.

Adhiraj M.

Met with T. Turner about the Green fund. Attended Campaign and External Relations (CERC) and F&O committee.

Jude O.

Nothing to report.

Navdeep S.

Met with T. Turner about the Green fund. Attended committee meetings.

Ripanjot G.

There is going to be fitness center orientation in the winter term. Been working with Motionball student group. Tabled for No Good Way day against the use of the R word and supporting athletes and people with disabilities.

Reported for Co-Director Will S., who met with Trisha, Manager of Recreation Services, planning for some fitness centre orientations for new students and prospective students looking to have a tour of facilities.

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Amanpreet S.

He is just new. He did not attend any meeting but looking forward to attending more.

Karanpartap S.

Just started and still trying to understand what he has to do.

b. Minutes

- BOD 211103 OPEN
- CERC 211123 OPEN
- EXEC 211110 OPEN
- EXEC 211124 OPEN
- F&O 211110 OPEN
- SSC 211123 OPEN

A. Majumder moves the motion to approve consent agenda omnibus.

Motion carries.

6. Communications

a. Unsheltered Relatives Initiative

Jonathan H. explains that rather than calling people homeless, they would like to be called unsheltered relatives. Last year Jonathan did a one day call out for donations

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and food handout that went well but wanted to do more this year to help during this difficult time for so many. He has been working with multiple partners to help with the initiative. The partners approved by CERC are;

- Helping Hand Warriors
- Healing Together
- Canadian Armed Forces
- UWSA
- U of W
- CFS-MB
- Minster Ewasko's Office

The University plans to donate \$2,500. Food packages and cookie packages will be provided to our unsheltered relatives. The date for doing this is 11:00 a.m. on December 21, 2021 if any directors are interested in volunteering. We're also doing a donation drive that A. Nguyen has already posted – calling for community donations for the hamper drive and warm clothing.

7. New Business

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a. Transformative Library Renovation Referendum Question

Bedel S. moves:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following referendum question is presented on the ballot during the 2022 UWSA General Election:

“Do you support a new fee of \$3.00 per credit hour, amounting to approximately \$10 Million (or 20% of the total project cost) over a 20-year contribution term, to fund the Transformational Library Renovation – building more space for study and student collaboration, expanding connective technologies, and Indigenizing the University of Winnipeg library?”

Motion carries.

b. Indigenous Advisory Circle Appointments

Jonathan H. moves:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following appointments to the Indigenous Advisory Circle are ratified:

Kelly Krakalovich – Chair

Megan Lindell – Women and Non-Binary Students' Representative

Kate Rempel – Student-at-large.

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Motion carries.

Jonathan H. moves to enter closed session

Motion carries.

Closed Session

8. Consent Agenda

a. Minutes

i. BOD 211103 CLOSED

9. Communication

10. New Business

11. Other Business

a. Mid-Term Check-ins – Please schedule via Doodle poll

b. Please RSVP to Board Orientation 2.0 – Dec 8 from 2pm – 7 p.m.

c. Next Meeting of the Board: January 26, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

12. Adjournment

Reza. H moves to adjourn the meeting at 8:04pm.

Motion carries