

University of Winnipeg Students' Association Board of Directors

OPEN Session Meeting Minutes, January 26, 2022 – 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

President: Kiratveer (Kirt) Singh Hayer

Vice-President Student Affairs: Reza Saker Hossain

Accessibility Director: Sarah Anderson

Business and Economics Director: Bedel Shafe'a

Environmental Ethics Co-Director: Adhiraj Majumder

Part-Time/Mature Students' Director: Clifford Stornel

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

Urban and Inner-City Director: Dagen Perrott

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 Co-Director (2-year term): Deep Thind

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

Student Living Director: Ifeoma S. Onyekwelu

Arts Director: Umar Awan

Board Absent:

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International Students' Co-Director: Priyanshu Setia

Environmental Ethics Co-Director: Navdeep Singh

Community Liaison Director: Shawna Péloquin

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

Recreation & Athletics Co-Director: Will Sass

Recreation & Athletics Co-Director: Ripanjot Kaur Gill

Science Director: Bavleen Kaur

International Students Co-Director: Riya Katia

Emerging Leader Director – 2 Year Term: Faith Marcial

Staff in Attendance:

Jennifer Black, General Manager

Olayemi Olaleye, Chief Financial Officer

Ted Turner, Special Projects Manager

Guests

Destiny Mayanjar, Student

Keith Sinclair, Harris Leadership Strategies

Barbara Axworthy, Harris Leadership Strategies

Open Session

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1. Call to Order

The regular monthly meeting of the University of Winnipeg Students' Association Board of Directors was held on Wednesday January 26, 2022, via a virtual meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m. Following the confirmation of quorum, the house continued to the agenda.

2. Introduction Circle

Anjola A. leads a circle of introductions.

3. Approval of the Order of Business

Kirt. H moves to amend the order of business to add a confidential item under special business in closed session.

Motion carries

Reza H. moves to approve the amended order of business.

Motion carries

4. Special Business

a. Finance Report – Quarter 3

O. Olaleye presents the financial report for the period of April 1 to December 31, 2021. Daycare has gone overbudget because they needed more staff to cover

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absences due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Overall revenue is 3% higher than projected, and expenses are 1% higher than projected.

	Dec YTD Actuals	YTD Budget	Var.	
Revenues	2,649,698	2,565,405	84,293	3%
Expenses	2,480,876	2,463,251	17,625	1%
Surplus/(Deficit)	168,822	102,154	66,668	

Bedel S. asks if the situation in the Daycare will improve anytime soon? How is the financial health of the UWSA? Reza H. asks why the Bike Lab cost high if service centers have been closed?

O. Olaleye explains that situation will not improve in short-term at the Daycare. 25% of their staff are currently quarantining because of the pandemic. Expenses for the Daycare will likely trend overbudget for the rest of the year. Overall, the UWSA has good financial health. There is cashflow to maintain operations for the foreseeable future and revenues remain above expenses. The Bike Lab expenses are headcount costs for the virtual programming they've continued to offer during the pandemic.

Jon H. asks where he can find student group funding in the budget.

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O. Olaleye explains that all donations are lumped under the donations line in administration this year, giving the board more flexibility to allocate donations as they see fit.

5. Consent Agenda

a. Reports

i. Executive Reports

Kirt H.

Spoke with the VP Academic about PACE students' course fees, students are currently required to pay upfront before their seat is even confirmed; continued work to improve tutoring services by partnering student groups and faculty associations who provide tutoring with the University's tutoring services; connected with the VP Academic about creating a Punjabi language program at the UofW; working with Jude to produce an International Graduate Students Handbook; working with Ifeoma to improve security at the Balmoral Hall residence; continuing work on the open source materials campaign and working on a survey for professors; working with MAPSS on a proposal for provincial buy-in for international student health care to reduce the rate; working with the RecPlex and Manitoba Cricket Association to introduce cricket as a sport on campus; attending board of regents, senate, and COO hiring committee meetings.

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Reza H.

REPORTING DATE: December 1st, 2021 – January 19th, 2022

INTERNAL MEETINGS

December 14th – Events/Communications Check-in meeting

December 14th – Special Projects Check-in meeting

December 20th – Meeting with the Uniter and the CKUW

December 20th – Communications and events meeting

December 20th – Chaired the UWSA Senate Student Caucus

December 21st – Special projects check-in meeting

December 22nd – Alternative grading discussion meeting

December 28th – Special projects check-in meeting

December 28th – Events and Communications check-in meeting

January 4th – Special Executive meeting

January 11th – Special projects check-in meeting

January 18th – Special projects check-in meeting

January 19th – Finance and Operations committee meeting

January 19th – ECF Interview

EXTERNAL MEETINGS

December 6th – Attended the Senate Academic Standards and Misconduct

Committee meeting to advocate for a student

December 7th – Senate Student Appeals committee meeting

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December 7th – Two student advocacy meetings

December 9th – Three student advocacy meetings

December 10th – Meeting with UWinnipeg AVP – External Engagement

December 10th – Student advocacy meeting

December 14th – Senate Student Appeals committee meeting

December 15th – Three student advocacy meetings

December 16th – Four student advocacy meetings

December 17th – Two student advocacy meetings

December 20th – COO Candidate interview

December 21st – Senate Student Appeals committee meeting

December 21st – COO Candidate interview

December 22nd – Attended PACE Academic Review committee meeting as support person for three different students

December 23rd – Two student advocacy meetings

January 3rd – Student advocacy meeting

January 10th – Meeting with the university registrar Colin Russell

January 11th – Two student advocacy meetings

January 12th – Two student advocacy meetings

January 12th – Attended COO candidate presentation

January 13th – Student advocacy meeting

January 13th – Attended COO candidate presentation

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January 14th – Student advocacy meeting

January 14th – Attended the departmental review committee meeting as a support person for a student

January 17th – Presented the alternative grading policy proposal for Winter 2022 at the Senate Executive committee

January 18th – Senate Student Appeals committee meeting

January 18th – Attended the UW Career fair as a UWSA representative

January 19th – Meeting with the university registrar Colin Russell

ACTIVITIES

UWSA Closure and Staff holiday extension: On January 4th, 2022 I and the other executives met to discuss the effects of the rise in pandemic cases in Manitoba as well as university's decision to remain closed until January 10th. Considering the health and safety of our staff and members, we decided that the UWSA services and operations would remain closed until January 10th. To avoid any further complications, the holiday period for the UWSA staff were extended to January 9th as well. However, as advised by Director of the UWSA Daycare center, the UWSA Daycare center remained operational during this period.

Alternative Grading Policy Proposal for Winter 2022 term: As the number of pandemic cases drastically rose during a time when the students and faculty at the University of Winnipeg were preparing to begin the Winter term with larger

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in-person capacity and consequently, the university had to shift to online learning, I think that it is reasonable and important to advocate for an alternative grading option for Winter 2022 courses and spanned courses (6 credit) that will continue in the winter term to ensure that our students are fully supported at a difficult time like this. I submitted a motion draft on January 6th and I am hoping to present the motion at the January Senate meeting.

Fall 2022 Reading week survey: Due to some date conflicts, university is considering changing the Fall term reading week date in 2022. During the last senate meeting where this motion was brought, I expressed that the students at our university should be consulted before making a decision on this matter and so, we are currently conducting a survey to ask for students' opinions which will be shared at the next university Senate meeting.

Student Outreach Campaign: Since the classes are being offered online now at our university, we are not going to be able to host any tabling until the campus reopens for in-person learning. In the meantime, we can discuss some alternative online event ideas to increase student engagement. If you have any idea for such event, you can reach out to me, and we can discuss that at the Student Life committee meeting.

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Jonathan H.

Unsheltered Relatives Initiative was a success, raised \$4500 and delivered 300 meals, built relationships outside the university walls, brainstorming ideas to continue the event annually and considering building a facebook page to build ongoing momentum inspired by the Mutual Aid Society; working with CFS-MB on upcoming Bill 33 consultations; there's been a provincial cabinet shuffle and a new minister for post-secondary; working with Eishia Hudson's family on an endowment fund, so far raised \$5,500 and needs to fundraise to at least \$10,000 to create an endowment, hoping to be able to announce the endowment on the anniversary of her murder in April; continuing work with CKWU to have student groups radio show, looking at a Saturday slot and still needs a director to volunteer; has approved more student group funding through CERC; partnering with the Moosehide campaign for men against violence against women; looking to support a land-based teaching program through the UofW.

ii. Director Reports

Sarah A.

Worked with K. Vargscarr on interviewing organizations to create a more advanced training module for accessibility; hoping to pull knowledge from a variety of sources to create something that represents more diverse needs; attended COO hiring committee meetings.

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Umar A.

Attended F&O; has been presenting about the UWSA in his classes.

Deep T.

Helped with the Unsheltered Relatives Initiative.

Adhiraj M.

Attended COO hiring committee meetings and CERC.

Jude O.

Working on the international graduate students' handbook and starter kit;
connecting with people at UWSA, UofW, and UofM for ideas for the kits and
building an action plan for the project.

Navdeep S.

Attended CERC.

Dagen P.

He has been working on the Merchants Corner Inc Board. Is in a new role as
chair on this board and is assisting in policy work and strategic planning.

Ifeoma O.

Working on a mental health event that is currently being vetted by the Events
Department, the next step will be to bring it to SLC.

Kumar S.

Working on informing students about the UWSA in classroom presentations.

Chhavi D.

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Attended CERC.

Bedel S.

DATE: January 26, 2022

INTERNAL MEETINGS

1. Finance & Operations Committee, January 19, 2022, at 11:00 am.
2. Executive Committee, January 19, 2022, at 2:30 Pm.

EXTERNAL MEETINGS

1. Uwinnipeg Accounting Students' Association, January 14, 2022, 5:00 pm

ACTIVITIES

I have participated in the Hot Meals for Unsheltered Relatives on Tuesday, December 21, from 11 am – 1 pm! Along with UWSA staff, some of the executive and other Directors were able to distribute much-needed meals.

We loaded up cars with meals from the Feast Café Bistro (587 Ellice Ave) and then drove to hand them out. It was nice to chat with some of the Unsheltered Relatives

b. Minutes

- BOD 211201 OPEN
- DMC 211110 OPEN
- DMC 211209 OPEN
- F&O 211208 OPEN

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- F&O 220119 OPEN

Bedel S. asks about enrollment in DMC 211209 OPEN. We are licensed for 32 infants, but the day care has 36 infants enrolled. J. Black will connect with the Daycare Director about the question and follow up with the board.

Jude O. moves to approve the consent agenda omnibus with an amendment to the correct the spelling of Bedel's name in the package table of contents.

Motion carries

6. Communications

None.

7. New Business

- a. State of Emergency Election Rules – General Election 2022 – For Approval

J. Black explains that the emergency rules satisfy the requirement under by-law 10 for holding an election during a declared state of emergency.

Bedel S. asks if there is a possibility that the university will move to in person classes after the reading break. If so, will there be an option for students to vote in person? Sarah A. raises concerns about online elections and asks for confirmation that there will be voting options for students with disabilities.

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J. Black states that the campaign and voting emergency election rules will be approved over reading week by the Election Accountability Board. The ECFs will draft the rules with input from the University about their plans for campus access. This package provides nomination and communication rules, consistent with those for the 2021 general elections.

Sarah A. recommends connecting with Accessibility Services for input on supporting students with disabilities to participate in the elections. J. Black will pass this recommendation along to the election managers.

Dagen P. moves to approve the State of Emergency Election Rules – General Election 2022

Nomination Rules.

Motion carries

b. U-Pass Referendum Question – For Approval

T. Turner speaks on the U-Pass referendum. There is not an approved fee for the U-Pass which is the reason for the referendum. The question is formatted for durable funding so that there will not have to be future referendums for at least the 4-year term of the agreement. The question includes a metric for

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determining the “openness” of campus at which it would be appropriate to reinstate the mandatory fee.

Bedel H. moves:

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

“Providing the pandemic has not resulted in the majority of courses being provided remotely do you support the reinstatement of the U-Pass, which provides unlimited ongoing access to Winnipeg Transit for full-time UWinnipeg students for a fee of \$212.00 per term (adjusted annually to maintain a 50% discount from the City of Winnipeg Transit full adult bus fare)?”

Kirt H. moves a friendly amendment:

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

“Do you support the UWSA reinstating the U-Pass once the majority of University of Winnipeg courses are offered in-person, providing unlimited ongoing access to Winnipeg Transit for full-time students, for a fee of \$212.00 per term (adjusted annually to maintain a 50% discount from the full adult transit fare)?”

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Jonathan H. asks if the question should be clearer that every full-time student will be charged. Bedel S. asks if the \$212 fee is for the fall 2022. Dagen P. and Sarah A. express concern about the framing of campus being “open” being determined by course offering rather than actual attendance, is it possible to amend this framing? Sarah A. echoes that the question is not clear enough that all eligible students are charged. Jude O. asks if the transit subsidy will stop if this is reinstated. Navdeep S. asks if there will be an option for opt-outs. Ifeoma asks if a survey will be sent out to gauge student interest.

T. Turner explains that there is no opting out of the U-Pass for eligible students because it is a universal buy-in program like the health plan. The fee is set in relation to the adult transit fare, as stated in the question, so the fall 2022 cost depends on whether transit adjusts the fee before fall 2022. Regarding attendance vs. course offerings, this was a long debate we had with the University, transit, and staff and we agree with your concerns. Unfortunately, actual attendance cannot be determined until well after deadlines required for the UWSA and the city to ensure we could reasonably offer the program. Reframing the question based on attendance isn't viable. The transit subsidy wouldn't exist in its current form with the U-Pass reinstated, but the board would be invited to assess different avenues to provide bursary support for

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students who need it. In terms of a survey, the referendum is the survey – if students don't support the pass, they vote no.

Jude O. asks if it's possible to make the pass compulsory for 1st year students and optional after that. Adhiraj M. expresses opposition to the pass because the discount isn't significant enough. Dagen P. expresses support for the pass because the discount is a significant sum for many students. Sarah A. stresses that the question should be amended to be clearer that it is a mandatory fee.

T. Turner says that Jude's proposal is creative but unfortunately suspects there would be little appetite for that negotiation with the city. The mandatory nature of the fee is part of the concept from inception. Information on the discount difference between the adult pass/post-secondary pass/U-Pass will be fully provided and advertised with the awareness campaign so students can make an informed decision.

Dagen P. moves to amend the motion to read:

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

"Do you support the UWSA reinstating the U-Pass once the majority of

University of Winnipeg courses are offered in-person, providing unlimited

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ongoing access to Winnipeg Transit for *all* full-time students, for a fee of \$212.00 per term (adjusted annually to maintain a 50% discount from the full adult transit fare)?”

Motion to amend carries

Main motion carries

c. Election Campaign Facilitator 2 Hire – For Approval

Reza H. moves that the meeting enter closed session for discussion on the hiring motion.

Motion carries

Reza H. moves that the meeting enter open session.

Motion carries

Reza H. moves that Amy Voloshanovskiy is appointed as ECF 2.

Motion carries

Closed Session

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Dagen P. moves that the meeting enter closed session with an invitation to the representatives from Harris Leadership Strategies.

Dagen P. further moves that the board take a 5-minute recess

Motion carries

8. Consent Agenda

9. Communication

10. New Business

11. Other Business

12. Adjournment

Quorum lost at 7:45 P.M.