

University of Winnipeg Students' Association Board of Directors
OPEN Session Meeting Minutes, March 30, 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

Secretary of the Board: 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

Graduate Students' Director: Jude Obidiagha

Racialized Student Co-Director: Shubham Kumar

Recreation & Athletics Co-Director: Ripanjot Kaur Gill

Science Director: Bavleen Kaur

Urban and Inner-City Director: Dagen Perrott

Part-Time/Mature Students' Director: Clifford Stornel

Community Liaison Director: Shawna Péloquin

Recreation & Athletics Co-Director: Will Sass

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

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

Environmental Ethics Co-Director: Navdeep Singh

University of Winnipeg Students' Association Board of Directors
OPEN Session Meeting Minutes, March 30, 2022 – 5:30 p.m.
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Board Absent:

International Students' Co-Director: Priyanshu Setia

Student Living Director: Ifeoma S. Onyekwelu

International Students Co-Director: Riya Katia

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

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

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

Emerging Leader Director – 2 Year Term: Faith Marcial

Racialized Student Co-Director: Manjot Singh Sembhi

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

Staff in Attendance:

Thomas Hanan, Admin Assistant

Olayemi Olaleye, Chief Financial Officer

Guests:

Keith Sinclair, Harris Consulting

Barbara Axworthy, Harris Consulting

Oyin Akinboye - Student

Jeremy Klassen – Student

Karn Sanghav – Student

Avery Keen – Student

Colton Mckillop - Student

University of Winnipeg Students' Association Board of Directors
OPEN Session Meeting Minutes, March 30, 2022 – 5:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting due to the COVID – 19 Pandemic

Lance Lecocq-Gareau – Student

Kiera Augusto – Student

Daniel Kot – Student

Ferdinand Avikpe – Student

Savannah Jolicoeur – Student

Cierra Bettens – Student

Kaynat Grewal - Student

Kanwalpreet Kaur - Student

Open Session

1. Call to Order

The regular monthly meeting of the University of Winnipeg Students' Association Board of Directors was held on Wednesday March 30, 2022, 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

Anjola A. asks all in attendance to write into the chat with their name, position, and pronouns.

3. Approval of the Order of Business

Kirt H. moves 7.a By-law and Policy package to 4.a Special Business.

Motion carries

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

University of Winnipeg Students' Association Board of Directors
OPEN Session Meeting Minutes, March 30, 2022 – 5:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting due to the COVID – 19 Pandemic

Motion carries

4. Special Business

a. By-Law and Policy Package

Thomas H. speaks to this and reads through the By-Law Package that has been posted, explaining the different sections. Most of the package is cleaning up language, and old by-laws that no longer are relevant. Key change is to how quorum of the UWSA Board of Directors meetings will work, resembling the way UWSA Committees work. The Chairs, and Secretary will no longer be counted towards quorum meaning that if one must miss a meeting they don't count against quorum. Co-Directors will both share a seat that is counted towards quorum, this brings down the number needed for quorum and eliminates co-directors cancelling each other out if one attends and the other doesn't. All of the by-law changes have been available for the last month on the website.

Cliff S. moves to approve By-law and Policy package from February 2022

Motion carries

5. Consent Agenda

a. Reports

i. Executive Reports

Kirt H.

- He had a meeting with administration to improve help provided to Ukrainian students.
- He has been working to help improve the experience of PACE students.
- There has been disproportionate resignation of UWSA workers.
- Finding new office space for student group.

University of Winnipeg Students' Association Board of Directors

OPEN Session Meeting Minutes, March 30, 2022 – 5:30 p.m.

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- He suggested that there should be a strategic meeting to transition from old to new board.
- He met with some MLAs concerning International Students' Health Care plan. Current minister is not willing to meet.
- Meeting with lawyers to discuss roles and responsibilities at the UWSA
- He has been working to introduce Cricket to the University sports calendar.
- Reviewed the UWSA By-laws, and Budget draft.
- Kirt reads out a statement:

Good Evening fellow students and UWSA Board Members. With everything going on, tonight, I want to read out a statement that I have prepared. It is written from the heart, so all I ask is that you listen to it with an open mind.

This has been a tough few weeks. Tough on me, tough on our staff, tough on the board of directors, and of course, tough on the UWSA and the entire student body.

As someone in a leadership position, I expect a certain amount of politics. However, this has gone too far. Right now, our student union is in trouble, and as President, I will do everything I can to resolve our outstanding issues and move us forward, together.

As leader, I want you all to know that I take accountability for this situation. While I don't agree with everything that has been said about me, I want you to know that I see what is happening and it keeps me up at night. When students get together and write a letter criticizing me, for example, I hear them. I take it seriously. When I have an executive member who is making complaints about me, I hear them too. I take it seriously.

However, things have gone too far and are spinning out of control. Small incidents are being taken out of context and twisted to be something they are not. Not only have people attacked my character and slandered me personally, but the recent vote was suspended and the students collectively have not had their vote count.

There has been lots of discussion around our Positive Space Policy. The irony is that this has not been a positive space for me. My mental health has suffered. My physical health has suffered. While some would portray me as a bully, in many ways, I am the one being bullied here. I do not say this for sympathy, I only say it to pull back the veil on what is really happening here.

University of Winnipeg Students' Association Board of Directors

OPEN Session Meeting Minutes, March 30, 2022 – 5:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting due to the COVID – 19 Pandemic

My whole life I have dealt with challenges. Some of them personal. Some of them external. And it is not lost on me that, as a person of colour, sometimes we are targeted in ways that others are not. In instances like these however, the very tools that are designed to protect me and other marginalized students are being weaponized against individuals of those same groups.

Thankfully, as of last night, the EAB has recognized that they were not authorized to suspend, or recommend the suspension, of the election results. These results, per the UWSA by-laws, must now be ratified. Thankfully, cooler heads have prevailed.

I hope that this brings our organization together and helps us move forward. However, I worry that there are some who want to pursue their own personal agendas. That they want us to spend our whole year on investigations and arguing. Sometimes arguments can occur but they want to make it so that we get nothing accomplished despite our disagreements.

On the other hand, I would rather move forward as an organization and work collaboratively with all of you. I would like to hold strategic planning meetings with the board. I would like to initiate advocacy campaigns with the administration and government. I would like to host fun events, identify new supports for students, ensure that our organization runs smoothly, and make it so that the UWSA is left in a stronger position at the end of my term than it was at the beginning.

I know that not everyone on this Board voted for me. But 75% of voters did. The election is now behind us. I ran uncontested, and next year, the people who do not like me will have a chance to vote for a new candidate that they support. But for the next 365 days, I would ask that everyone put down their anger and try to work together. It will not be helpful if we spend our entire year fighting each other. This is not for me, but for the UWSA and for the students.

Jonathan H.

- He has been working with CKUW Radio Station.
- Working on missing and murdered indigenous women and girls event
- Working with Eishia Hudson's family.
- At conference currently for residential school survivors, been an intense 2 days,
- Speaking with a group about Crypto-currency – awareness event and workshop

Reza H.

University of Winnipeg Students' Association Board of Directors
OPEN Session Meeting Minutes, March 30, 2022 – 5:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting due to the COVID – 19 Pandemic

- Been working with advocacy cases
- He attended the board of regents' meetings and senate committee meetings.

ii. Director Reports

Sarah A.

- Met with Ted and Thomas about the More Than a Door campaign
- Met with Karolya about the accessibility training module, had their last meeting with the external person and will adapt information into all to the UWSA training for accessibility

Umar A.

- This month was slow.

Bedel S.

Three internal Meetings:

1. *UWSA Annual General Meeting (AGM), March 16, 2022, at 5:30 Pm.*
2. *Finance & Operations Committee Monthly meeting, March 09, 2022, at 11:00 am.*
3. Election Accounting Board meeting - 220308 – March 08, at 5:30 pm

Adhiraj M.

- Slow for him.

Jude O.

- Was able to have a meeting with the International Student office about their handbook and give them input regarding international graduate students.

Dagen P.

- Mostly focused on helping Merchants' Corner and getting transit supports for students over there.

Cliff S.

- Passed on some mature students' issues at PACE to Reza H. and been answering questions for student groups

Shawna P.

- Been having a tough time and contracted covid

b. Minutes

University of Winnipeg Students' Association Board of Directors
OPEN Session Meeting Minutes, March 30, 2022 – 5:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting due to the COVID – 19 Pandemic

- i. BOD 220126 OPEN
- ii. B&P 220211 OPEN
- iii. CERC 220121 OPEN
- iv. DMC 220113 OPEN
- v. DMC 220127 OPEN
- vi. DMC 220210 OPEN / DMC 220210 BUDGET 22/23
- vii. EXEC 220218 OPEN
- viii. F&O 220216 OPEN
- ix. SSC 220126 OPEN
- x. BOD 220310 OPEN
- xi. SIAC 220224
- xii. AGM 2022 Minutes

Kirt H. moves to approve entire consent agenda omnibus

Motion carries

6. Communications

- a. Finance and Operations Presentation
 - i. 2021 Financial Statements
 - ii. 2021 UWSA Report of the Auditor

T. Hanan explains that at the Annual General Meeting the UWSA Auditor, S. Hall, went through the financial statements and report of the auditor.

- iii. Budget 2022/23 Draft

O. Olaleye goes through the 2022/23 budget and leaves an opportunity for anyone to ask questions.

Kirt H. moves to approve the UWSA Budget 2022/23 Draft

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University of Winnipeg Students' Association Board of Directors
OPEN Session Meeting Minutes, March 30, 2022 – 5:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting due to the COVID – 19 Pandemic

b. 2021/22 Report of the Board of Directors

T. Hanan summarized the report.

Dagen P. moves to approve 2021/22 Report of the Board of Directors

Motion carries

c. 2021/22 Report of the By-law and Policy Committee

T. Hanan summarized the report.

Kirt H. moves to approve the 2021/2022 Report of the By-law and Policy Committee

Motion carries.

d. CEC & ECF's Election Reports

T. Hanan explains to everyone in attendance that the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Campaign Facilitators submit their final report after the closure of the election.

Kirt H. moves to approve the final report of the CEC and ECF for the 2022

General Election.

Motion carries.

Cliff S. moves to ratify the election results as the EAB submitted;

Kiratveer (Kirt) Singh Hayer - President

Jonathan Henderson - Vice President External Affairs (2-year term)

Arts Director – Umar Awan

Business & Economics Director – Jaspinder Kaur Dhillon

Community Liaison Director – Sarah Anderson

Emerging Leader Director (2-year term) – Shubhdeep Kaur

University of Winnipeg Students' Association Board of Directors
OPEN Session Meeting Minutes, March 30, 2022 – 5:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting due to the COVID – 19 Pandemic

International Students' Director - Tomiris Kaliyeva & Christine Quiah (Co-Directors)

Part Time/Mature Students' Director – Clifford Stornel

Racialized Students' Director – Oyin Akinboye

Recreation & Athletics Director – Vandan Khunt

Science Director - Kaynat Grewal

Student Living Director – Vlad Samon

U-Pass Referendum Question

Option Votes

Yes 564 (87.0%)

No 84 (13.0%)

Transformational Library Renovation Referendum Question

Option Votes

Yes 318 (54.1%)

No 270 (45.9%) Motion carries

Motion carries.

7. New Business

a. Student Group Letter Discussion

The Chair introduces this topic: at the 2022 Annual General Meeting of the UWSA, an open letter to the UWSA was presented on behalf of 12 student groups. The Chair leaders a circle to address this letter:

- Kiera A. - Feels it is a ridiculous that the EAB approved Kirt's results, and waited 6 days to share that decision.
- Avery K. – agrees with Kiara

University of Winnipeg Students' Association Board of Directors

OPEN Session Meeting Minutes, March 30, 2022 – 5:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting due to the COVID – 19 Pandemic

- Cliff S. - Would like answers as to why it would take 6 days for it to take to hear this and does not know why it took so long. It was decided on the 24th and it was only announced today. It feels like that information was kept from students.
- Dagen P. – Cliff S. raises valuable points, there is a section of the students that do not have faith in the organization. The UWSA and the board need to find a path forward and think about the feeling of disillusion with this institution students have. Lots of this gets turned into who said what.
- Savannah J. - I would like to know what specifically the UWSA has done to acknowledge and what discussions were had internally regarding the concerns brought forward in our open letter?
- Jeremy K. – Very little was done outside of a post on what is going on, there was very little done to inform the public about the issue. Had to search for information to find it.
- Karn S. – Believes the board and students should respect and follow the election result.
- Kaynat P. – We should go with the results since 75% of students voted in favor.
- Sarah – There is lack of transparency in terms of our lines of reporting. Out losing of quorum, and maybe we can fix some lines of reporting.
- Kirt H. – Aware of everything brought forward and takes it seriously, but a vocal minority are using intimidation tactics to force him to resign. Looking at legal action. Are we creating a governance structure that will prove people's innocence? He will be bringing into the investigation other candidate's cases of pre-campaigning, looking to try and collude and making comments based on race.
- William S. – UWSA needs to work on good communications.
- Reza H. – This has not been easy. Our students will be the center of any discuss and thanks student groups.
- Shawna P. – In full support of students, and acknowledges that not a majority of students voted, only 8.3%. Part of our responsibility is giving students faith in the election system and sitting president. Shawna P. has not felt safe this last year, and when meeting in person was being escorted by security. Looking for a better action than the EAB and lack of action

University of Winnipeg Students' Association Board of Directors

OPEN Session Meeting Minutes, March 30, 2022 – 5:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting due to the COVID – 19 Pandemic

shows that we are fine with student groups complaints, more needs to be done. To close the chapter with the UWSA and it has been triggering and wants to see this investigation happen.

- Sarah A. – As a board they do have to go through due process. Just because there isn't a result right now does not mean they are not looking at it.
- Kiera S. – Understands there is a process that must be done, and it feels like there is a slap in the face not being transparent. Will Kirt's statement from the reports be made public?
- Umar A. - does believe we should continue with the election results. 445 students voted for Kirt. A democratic process is open to opinions and criticism. Conflict may occur but does see that the EAB failed to provide mediation when it was supposed to.
- Anjola A. – Actions are being taken but cannot comment on much of it and takes responsibility for the delay on the EAB results. And thanks students for coming. Encourage people to participate in a continued way. Staff is greatly reduced right now.
- Cliff S. asks if we are going to send any response to the Student Group letter
- Reza H. explains to publish a statement, we will need the board directive on that in closed session.
- Kiera S. – UWSA never sent us any response to our letter the first time, and only found out about this meeting was the posts about it.

Deep T. moves to enter closed session inviting Harris Leadership for 10 b.

Motion carries

Closed Session

8. Consent Agenda

- a. Minutes
 - i. BOD 220310 CLOSED

University of Winnipeg Students' Association Board of Directors
OPEN Session Meeting Minutes, March 30, 2022 – 5:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting due to the COVID – 19 Pandemic

ii. BOD 220126 CLOSED

iii. EAB 220305 CLOSED

9. Communication

10. New Business

- a. Interim COO Contract
- b. COO Hiring
- c. President Concerns

Quorum lost at 8:55PM

11. Other Business

- a. Next Meeting of the Board: April 27, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

12. Adjournment