



UWSA

THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Open Session Package

October 20, 2025

Meeting of the UWSA Board of
Directors

Diksha Bansal, General Manager

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University of Winnipeg Students' Association OPEN Session Meeting Minutes on September 29, 2025, @ 5:00pm Hybrid Meeting

Board in Attendance:

Emmanuel Oladele: Secretary of the Board

Christopher Yendt: Chair of the Board

Alan Saji Koshy: President

Harleen Doel: Vice-President Student Affairs

Omega Budhathoki: Vice-President External Affairs

Indie Lea Dufour :2SLGBTQ* Students' Director

Brie Villeneuve: Accessibility Director

Ronel Shapiro: Business and Economics Director

Ayesha Raza: Community Liaison Director

Marnie Bloom: Education Director

Teddy Max Ruben: Emerging Leader Director

Samarjeet Singh: Emerging Leader Director

Pragun Raj Aul: International Students' Director

Oyindamola Eluwade : Racialized Students' Director

Nalina Bista: Recreation and Athletics Director

Molly Vanderwater: WTNB Student's Director

Aleecia Doyle: Urban & Inner-city Director

Denise Sharmell Cunanan: Arts Director

Mannatpreet Kaur: Science Director

Board Absent:

Soban Faiz: Emerging Leader Director

Harmandeep Kaur Ghataura: Part-time/Mature students' Director

Abhijit Sidhu: Environmental Ethics Director

Staff in Attendance:

Cynthia Nwachukwu: General Office Assistant

Diksha Bansal: General Manager

Ted Turner: Special Projects Manager

Open Session

1. Call to Order

The regular monthly meeting of the University of Winnipeg Students' Association Board of Directors was held on Monday, September 29, 2025, via Hybrid. Christopher Y. called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. Following the confirmation of quorum, the house continued to the agenda.

2. Introduction Circle

The Chair, Christopher Y., led an introductory circle with the directors in attendance.

Aleecia D. requests to include a discussion on the incident that occurred on campus during the week of September 22, 2025, in "new business."

Alan K. requests to present information from the University of British Columbia in "new business"

Aleecia D. moved the motion to approve the new order of business; seconded by Samarjeet S. seconded it.

Motion Carries

3. Special Business

4. Consent Agenda

a. Minutes

i. BOD 250721 OPEN



Chris Y. mentioned that his last name was misspelled. He also mentioned that everyone's pronouns have not been accounted for.

Indie D. moves the motion to approve the BOD 250721 Open minutes, seconded by Aleecia D.

Motion Carries

ii. Day-Care Health and Safety Minutes

iii. Committee Meeting Minutes:

- By-laws and Policy Committee
- Finance Committee
- Student Life Committee
- Campaign and External Committee

Indie D. moves the motion to approve committee minutes; seconded by Teddy R

Motion Carries

b. **Reports**

i) **Finance Report**

Bookkeeper (representing Chief Financial Officer) presented the financial report for the financial year 2024/2025.

Questions & Answers

Indie D.: One of the UWSA lounge coordinators complained that the budget is low despite the positive balance in the financial statement.

Chris: rephrasing of Indie's question (for O. Olaleye): Where is the positive variance of the balance being channelled to?

Bookkeeper: O. Olaleye will be able to provide more clarity. A more accurate and holistic financial statement will be available in 6 months.

ii) **Executive Reports**

Alan K.: He has been working with the Winnipeg Foundation Fund. He had some meetings with the campus Security Services to discuss campus safety. He is working on the general volunteer pool for the UWSA to increase the number of volunteers for the organization. He has been working on getting the 40% grade cap on the final exam approved. He collaborated with the Human Rights and Diversity Officer to organize trainings for UWSA staff,

board members and student groups. He collaborated with Diversity Food Services to improve the food menus in the campus's restaurants. He has been working on strengthening relationships with the Canadian Federation of Students. He mentioned that lobby week is in October; there will be meetings with 5 Provincial Ministers. He has been working on some Indigenous initiatives and the Indigenous advisory circle. He attended orientation week, roll call and the after party. He had meetings with the senior administrative staff of the university in September. He is working on the Students' Mental Framework. He mentioned that the UWSA executives were concerned with the financial health of the UWSA. He hopes the CFO can shed more light on the UWSA's financial health.

Question:

Aleecia D.: Are other directors going to be accompanying the executives during the lobby week?

Alan K.: The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) is organizing the lobby week and has provided details on that

Harleen D.: She is currently working on the students' groups' funding model. She had a meeting regarding having more indigenous engagement on campus. She has been working on drafting on motion on a 40% cap to present to the Senate and Deans' Council. She attended roll call and mentioned that it was more interactive than in previous years. She met with the University of Winnipeg's President and Vice-President (Academics) on engagement with students' groups. She met with WESMEN ON the possibilities of collaboration with students' groups to organize activities for students. There might not be a concrete structure for student group funding because of its complexity. However, work is being done to ensure that there is a work framework that can be implemented as soon as possible. But there will be a distribution of funds to reimburse student groups for their expenses. She is hoping that a breakdown of the distribution of funds will be made available for approval next board meeting. She helped new students navigate their way around the campus community.

Question:

Brie V.: How are new student groups going to get funding if they haven't filled out the form for past reports (summary)?

Harleen D.: They are exempted. But they are to provide a breakdown of their expenses.

Diksha B.: The form is not required for all student groups. However, we need to provide a breakdown of their expenses. The report is for when the group want to re-register to know what the group had previously done. It is to ensure proper itemization of expenses to know how active they are.

Harleen D.: \$20,000 has been allocated for students' groups for this year. The funding plan is a structure for future board administrations.

Chris Y.: He believes this is the feedback from the directors: the process of students' groups obtaining funding needs fewer barriers. There are a lot of students' unions that have funding models that can serve as examples for the UWSA.

Harleen D.: She is thinking of doing town hall/workshops with the students' groups on how to create a budget, so it is easier for them to submit their proposals

Omega B.: She attended roll call and believed it was more engaging than previous years. UWSA received \$2500 from the President's office to support students' initiatives. She collaborated with the University of Manitoba

Students' Union (UMSU) and Nepalese Cultural Society of Manitoba (NCSM) to represent and advocate for the affected students of the Nepal crisis at the provincial and federal levels. She is working to create a wellness program with the UWSA health plan where students can take advantage of external wellness resources. She has been working on the 40% cap in final grades. She has meetings with the Duckworth Centre leadership. She is working on the daycare waiting list, being transparent. She discovered that the UWSA had outstanding Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) dues from 2023-2025; she ensured that they were rectified. She believes that clarity is needed from the CFO concerning the finances of the UWSA. She commended the directors for being active in their communities.

iii) Director Reports

Molly V.: She intends to organize an event for Trans Day of Remembrance.

Brie V.: They did a presentation at the Accessibility Services' orientation program. They helped with the hiring of Accessibility Services' lounge coordinator.

Aleecia D.: She helped some part-time students at Selkirk who couldn't get a bus pass get one.

Indie D.: He encouraged all directors to review policies. He has been working to persuade the University of Winnipeg to train staff in addressing students with their proper names, gender, and age.

Oyindamola E.: She came with a food initiative- create an app for students to order from cultural restaurants at discounted prices. However, with some consultations with the executives, it is better to have special students' discounts for those restaurants, without having the app, for the foreseeable future. She mentioned that her summer has been busy. She has been working on events for black history month. She wants to organize a campaign to help students know their rights on campus. She is looking forward to Asian Heritage Month planning.

iv) Investigation report- Tom S.

Additional information- Chris informed the students' groups to contact him if they had further questions regarding the matter. They never did.

Alan K.: He mentioned that he was in the meeting with Tom S. but did not influence any decision.

Aleecia D.: It seems like theirs no proper appeal process. Someone (example, an Elder) who can understand the victim's need to be present with them to be able to voice their concerns

Chris Y.: He recommended that an emergency meeting be held within a week of this board meeting. This will allow Tom S. to explain the details of the investigation.

5. Communications

- Proposal of scheduling the Date for SMG 2025- Ted T.

Ted T. mentioned that we need to set the next board meeting date before setting the SMG date

6. New Business

i) Campus incident on the week of September 22, 2025,

Aleecia D: Aleecia mentioned that someone came on campus who denies that the residential school ever existed. It was harmful and abusive towards the students. Students were hurt physically, mentally and spiritually. The University banned the lady from the premises for 5 years

Question:

Ayesha R.: Is there a by-law to respond quickly to instances like these?

Alan K.: According to the by-law, he is the spokesperson, except that the board doesn't want him to be

Alan K. moved the motion that the president be the spokesperson in matters like this till April 30, 2026; seconded by Aleecia D.

Motion Carries

ii) University of British Columbia protests on the increase in ferry fees and climate change.

Alan K. gave a presentation on this. He mentioned that it indirectly affects the students at the University of Winnipeg because some travel to British Columbia often.

iii) Discussion on Reconciliation and Land Acknowledgement

Indie D. moves the motion; seconded by Molly V.

WHEREAS there is no standing committee to address reconciliation and decolonization, no official Indigenous representation on the board, and no operating Indigenous Advisory Circle as of September 22nd, 2025

WHEREAS reconciliation requires the work of the settler-colonial institutions and not the responsibility of Indigenous groups, such as the Indigenous student centre. WHEREAS Reconciliation and decolonization are mentioned as objectives of the UWSA, but there has been no active, non-tokenized work towards decolonization in several years

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the UWSA board of directors create an ad-hoc committee with the purpose of improving UWSA Board of Directors relations with the Indigenous Student Centre. The ad-hoc committee will be responsible for improving relations, updating the land acknowledgement, and developing a solution to improve Indigenous student Involvement on campus and within the UWSA.

Motion Carries

Denise C. moves the motion to move to closed session; seconded by Indie D.

Motion Carries.

UWSA staff and the secretary of the board were excused from the meeting at 7:10pm

Student Life Committee Meeting Minutes

October 16, 2025

Hybrid

Members in attendance

Harleen Doel: Vice-President Student Affairs
 Nalina Bista: Recreation and Athletics Director
 Indie Lea Dufour: 2SLGBTQ* Students' Director
 Manatpreet Kaur: Science Director

Staff in Attendance

Cynthia Nwachukwu: General Office Assistant

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:13pm.

2. Agenda

a. The Funding Proposal for approved Students' Groups

The purpose of the proposed model is to ensure a fair and transparent distribution of the \$20,000 student group funding available for 2025-26 academic year considering a large number of student groups apply during the Fall and less during the Winter based on historical registration patterns.

i. Division of Funds Between Intakes

- Fall intake (65%) – \$15,000
- Winter intake (35%) - \$5,000

ii. Printing Budget Allocation

Each recognized or affiliated student group is entitled to a **\$20 annual printing budget**. Since the total number of approved student groups is 75, we confirmed that only 17 student groups applied for funding and 58 student groups did not apply. The 58 groups will receive their printing budget directly.

- $58 \times \$20 = \$1,160$
- Remaining balance: $\$15,000 - \$1,160 = \mathbf{\$13,840}$

iii. Reserve for Unanticipated Request

A reserve fund in the amount of \$2840 will be kept for unforeseen student group needs and the remaining balance will be \$11,000.

iv. Distribution of Fall funding Requests

Minimum amount requests for student groups were kept for \$850. 12 groups requested for \$850 (per group) and five groups requested for more than \$850.

- $12 \times \$850 = \mathbf{\$5690}$
- $\mathbf{\$5,310} \div 5 = \mathbf{\$1,062}$ (per group) will be distributed among five student's groups.

Question

Indie D.: Why are students groups asking for so many funds?

- This is because students submitted their past events funding reports when they applied to be approved this year.
-

**Harleen moves Motion to approve the funding model for the 2025- 2026 academic year for student groups.
Motion approves.**

Harleen D. notes that the black scientist network faced some technical glitch in the process of application when submitting their form as a result, we wanted to look into its approval.

Motion:

That the committee approve the Black Scientist Network as a recognized student group, noting that their lapse in registration was due to a genuine technical error and not a loss of standing.

Motion approves.

b. Events proposed by Directors

Manatpreet K. – Proposes the Science Quiz which is in collaboration with the Science department and is scheduled for November 27. They had sent out invitations to sponsors and MLAs to look into the funding for science department at the Richardson building because they are lacking funding from Research Manitoba.

Questions & Answers

Nalina - What are the criteria for selecting students for the science Quiz?

- In collaboration with the events department, a QR code will be provided where students can sign up in teams or individually.

**Harleen Doel moves the motion to approve the Science Quiz showdown as proposed by the UWSA science director,
Manatpreet Kaur.
Motion approves.**

Culture Fest – Proposed by Oyindamola Eluwade to showcase diverse cultures through dance, food and acting. The event will be free, and expected number of people is 100.

Harleen D. states that the ISS is conducting a similar cultural event, and we do not want to overstep boundaries, but we can work in collaboration with the ISS next year.

**Harleen D. moves the motion to approve the Culture Fest event as proposed by the Racialized student's director.
Motion Unanimously denied.**

Around the world – Another cultural event not focused on talents but tabling different cultural accessories and materials.
**Harleen moves the motion to approve the event idea, "Around the world" as proposed by Racialized students' director.
Motion approves.**

Trans Day of Remembrance Gathering – Proposed by Molly Vanderwater. A simple event made to give queer and trans students a safe space to gather. Its purpose is to provide a safe space for students.

**Harleen moves the motion to approve the event, Trans Day of Remembrance gathering proposed by WTNB Student's
Director.
Motion approves.**



Fall Movie Night – Proposed by Alan Saji Koshy.
Event is pushed to a later date.

Town Hall- Proposed by Alan Saji Koshy. The purpose of the event is to serve as an info session where students and student groups can ask question basically to improve student engagement.

Comments

Indie D.: Recommends a hybrid session for student group who are not able to make it in person.

*Harleen moves the motion to approve the Townhall event proposed by the Alan Koshy, the UWSA president.
Motion approves.*

Pie-A-Prof Day – Proposed by Manatpreet Kaur. It is a fundraising event for the upcoming science quiz and celebrates teachers' day. She would like to propose it for Nov 10th, which is World Science Day for Peace. The event will also create opportunities for professors and students to bond and talk about science.

Harleen D. asks if members have additional comments and confirming none, moves to the approval of the event.

*Harleen moves the motion to approve the event, Pie-A-Prof Day as proposed by the UWSA Science Director.
Motion approves.*

3. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:59pm.

Harleen D. moves the motion to end the meeting at 1:59pm.

Motion approves.

President's Report - October 2025

BOD Meeting – October 20, 2025

October has been an active and reflective month, focused on following through with earlier initiatives while addressing new challenges that emerged across our community. Much of our work this month has centred around advocacy, institutional collaboration, and supporting students through moments of strain and transition.

While the pace has been intense, it has also been deeply rewarding. We continue to build on the foundations laid in August and September, moving steadily from planning to implementation.

Report on overtime hours:

September: Must trace back and will do soon and report to board October (till Oct 15): 28 Hours

University Relations and Advocacy

Strategic Plan Implementation

- UWSA has been invited to participate in the *Pillar 4: Engaging with Our Community* steering committee for the University's 2025–2030 Strategic Plan.
- This is a direct opportunity to help shape how the University delivers on community engagement, student involvement, and partnership development in alignment with institutional goals.
- Regular meetings will begin in November, with the UWSA President representing our student voice on the committee.

Meeting with Senior Administration

- Continued collaboration with President Todd and AVP Provost Pavlina on shared advocacy efforts.
- Discussions have progressed on establishing a *joint government lobbying strategy*, ensuring that student concerns, particularly around affordability and housing, are included in university-level advocacy.
- Updates on *international student awards* were also provided; developments are being brought to Senate soon.

Institutional Support

- The University has confirmed the \$25,000 gift to the UWSA to support student-led initiatives.
- Further consultation will determine how these funds can best advance student programming, equity initiatives, and community-building efforts.

Student Advocacy and Solidarity

Campus Event and Indigenous Solidarity

- The UWSA expressed strong solidarity with the *Indigenous Students' Association (ISA)* and *Indigenous Student Services Centre (ISSC)* in response to recent events that caused distress within the Indigenous student community.
- In alignment with the University's *Pillar on Indigenization*, we continue to urge the institution to move toward meaningful and accountable action.
- The UWSA stands committed to working alongside Indigenous leadership, ISA, and ISSC to strengthen support for Indigenous students.

Daycare and Student Parent Support

- Following board and director discussions, meetings are being scheduled to re- establish consistent dialogue on *Daycare Management Committee (DMC)* priorities.
- We recognize the importance of the daycare as an essential service for student parents and will work to ensure improved communication and inclusion in decisions affecting them.

Food Bank Services

- We continue to recognize the Food Bank's vital role and are in early discussions about expanding access and capacity in future semesters. We have had conversations with CFS-MB with regards to expansion and prospects
Community Engagement and Partnerships

UWSA Engage Podcast / CKUW Partnership

- *UWSA Engage*, our new radio and podcast partnership with CKUW, officially launched this fall.
- Three episodes have been completed, highlighting student services, advocacy updates, and community conversations.
- The goal is to release episodes regularly throughout the term, establishing it as a consistent and accessible platform for student voices.

Golden Key Association Collaboration

- Continued communication with the *University of Winnipeg Golden Key Association* to explore event collaborations, workshops, and mentorship opportunities.

ICR 10th Anniversary Project

- UWSA has joined as a partner in the SSHRC grant initiative celebrating *10 Years of the Indigenous Course*



Requirement (ICR).

- This project will create a film, an archival collection, and public exhibits reflecting on The ICR's history and significance.
- The UWSA will contribute a student advocacy perspective in this collaborative work led by Dr. Mary Jane McCallum.

Alumni Mentorship Program

Planning continues for the *Alumni-UWSA Mentorship Mixer*, scheduled for November 5, 4–6 PM in Riddell Hall.

- The event will feature alumni panels and networking, with support from Career Services and the Office of Alumni Relations.
- Discussion ongoing with Kyla and Danielle to finalize speakers, panel topics, and event logistics. External Advocacy and Partnerships

Canadian Federation of Students (CFS-MB)

- Continued correspondence to clarify outstanding dues from previous years.
- Enrollment data is being gathered to finalize an accurate statement of accounts before moving forward.
- UWSA remains committed to transparent collaboration with CFS-MB and ensuring that student funds are managed responsibly.

ACMP Collaboration

- Partnered with the *Afro-Caribbean Mentorship Program (ACMP)* for their “How to Get into Grad School” event on October 23.
- Event highlights systemic barriers and opportunities for equity-deserving students pursuing graduate studies.

Governance and Internal Development

Committee Engagement

- Efforts to reinstate regular *biweekly staff meetings* are underway to strengthen communication, team morale, and project coordination.
- The executive team has emphasized the importance of committees resuming consistent operations, as many ongoing initiatives rely on committee decisions and feedback.

Financial Oversight

- Continued internal review of UWSA's *financial health* to ensure sustainability and transparency.
- Collaboration ongoing between staff and executives to ensure accountability in all funding and partnerships.



This month has been both challenging and motivating, a period of acting, building accountability, and reaffirming our role as student advocates. Many of our August and September projects have now entered their next stages, and it's inspiring to see our collective efforts taking form.

Serving as your President remains an honour. I am deeply grateful for the collaboration, trust, and commitment that continue to define this team. Together, we're building momentum that I believe will outlast this term and strengthen the UWSA's foundation for years to come.

There are a lot of things that may have been missed in the report but Myself and the Team have been hard at work. Beyond regular hours and pushing boundaries and I could not be prouder of everyone. And We will continue to work on everything and give you the best of service.

In solidarity and service,

Alan Saji Koshy (He/Him)

President

Alan Saji Koshy

University of Winnipeg Students' Association

Vice President Student Affairs Report – October 2025

Weekly Check-Ins & Regular Updates

This month included the usual weekly check-ins and ongoing touchpoints with fellow executives and staff. While my capacity was limited at times due to ongoing illness over the past couple of weeks, I remained as engaged as possible and ensured that key updates continued to be tracked.

UMSU Healthcare Rally

We joined the UMSU rally advocating for the reinstatement of healthcare coverage. This was an important show of solidarity across student associations, and while the turnout was modest, it was encouraging to see collective student voices being raised on such a critical issue.

Student Life Committee

I attempted to hold a Student Life Committee meeting during the first week of October. Unfortunately, quorum was not met at that time. However, by the time of this Board meeting, the committee will most likely have met, and I will report verbally on the discussions and outcomes. The minutes will also be included in the package.

University Video Project

Together with the team, I contributed to a short video project for the university, where we provided one-liner quotes highlighting student experience and life on campus.

WUSC Welcome Back Lunch

I attended the WUSC Welcome Back Lunch, where I had the chance to connect with Sunday and David from IRSS. Our conversations focused on ways to address long-lasting



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gaps in support and opportunities for collaboration moving forward. These discussions provided helpful insights into ongoing student concerns and potential next steps.

Acknowledgements

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Alan and Omega for stepping in and taking on additional responsibilities over the past few weeks while I was unwell. From lobbying efforts to meetings, they ensured important work continued seamlessly, and I am truly grateful for their support.

:This month's report is shorter than usual due to my illness. If additional updates arise between submission and the meeting, I will provide them verbally.

Harleen Kaur Deol (She/Her)

Vice-President Student Affairs
University of Winnipeg Students' Association



Vice-President Of External Affairs Report

Reporting Period: September 17 – October 15, 2025

This month's focus was on:

- Strengthening external advocacy and partnerships
 - Improving communication, visibility and coordination within the organization
 - Advancing student-focused initiatives such as international student health care advocacy, the UWSA Fashion Show, and campus wellness collaborations
 - Addressing governance and by-law matters to ensure organizational transparency and accountability
-

Key Areas of Work

1. Governance, Meetings & Policy

- Multiple meetings like Senate Appeals, Board of Directors, Board of Regents and bylaws, Daycare committee meetings, etc
 - Coordinating the development of a briefing note for reinstating the NP (No Paper) grade option in consultation with Colin Russell, Pavlina, and Deans- ongoing
 - Facilitated board communication during a campus incident, drafting statements and coordinating executive and ISA responses.
 - Supported the organizational review process and improved meeting communication flow
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2. Campaigns and Advocacy

CFS-MB Lobby Week

From October 1–4, 2025, I participated in the Canadian Federation of Students Manitoba (CFS-MB) Lobby Week at the Manitoba Legislature and had an opportunity with student leaders across the province to directly engage with Members of the Legislative Assembly and Ministers on issues impacting post-secondary students.



Day 1: Francophone Student Support

Meetings focused on removing language barriers and expanding access to French-language post-secondary programs and pathways. The delegation discussed ways to ensure Francophone students can pursue diverse fields of study in their preferred language. Conversations were held with Minister Glen Simard and MLA Konrad Narth, emphasizing the need for equitable academic opportunities for Francophone students across Manitoba.

Day 2: Student Well-being and Health Care Access

The team met with Cindy Lamoureux, MLA for Tyndall Park, to discuss student housing affordability, the lack of mental health resources on campuses, and the reinstatement of barrier-free, publicly accessible health care for international students. These conversations underscored the urgent need for sustainable support systems for students' academic and personal well-being.

Day 3: Accessibility and Affordability in Education

A meeting with Minister Renée Cable, Minister of Advanced Education and Training, addressed key student priorities such as affordable tuition, housing security, campus safety, and continued advocacy for international student health care. The dialogue aimed to strengthen collaboration between government and student bodies to ensure fair, accessible education for all.

Day 4: NDP Caucus Engagement

The final day included discussions with members of the NDP caucus, where issues such as affordability, accessibility, and student safety were again emphasized.

Additionally, I personally met with MLA Tyler Blashko (Lagimodiere) on October 15th to discuss campus-specific challenges at the University of Winnipeg and ongoing student advocacy work.

Follow-up meetings are scheduled for:

- October 29 – with the Conservative Caucus, to continue the dialogue across party lines.
- A subsequent meeting with MLA Cindy Lamoureux on October 28th for progress updates.
- A UWSA delegation meeting later this month with the Minister of Education on October 27th and the PC Conservative Party Leader.

Beyond Lobby Week, I continue to represent students on the Student Senate Appeals Committee and

other university committees, and meetings with university administration, ensuring consistent advocacy at the institutional level.

Coming up: CFS Annual General Meeting in Toronto.

International Student Health Care Campaign and Rally

In alignment with provincial lobbying efforts, I have taken the lead to organize a campaign aimed at reinstating public health coverage for international students in Manitoba.

Rally Planning

- A large-scale student rally in collaboration with VPEA of UMSU (Jared Ramos Murphy) has been planned to take place in front of the Manitoba Legislative Building on October 30th.
- Working on extending invitations to Cindy Lamoureux, Leah Gazan, representatives from the Manitoba Health Coalition, and faculty from Rady Health Sciences.
- Mobilization efforts include outreach to international student services, student groups, mentors, alumni, community partners, and faculty members or anyone in solidarity.

Petition and Legislative Strategy

- A joint petition (paper and online) is being finalized with input and signatories as coordinated, multi-union effort involving UMSU, UWSA, RRCSA, St. Boniface Students' Association, and Brandon University Students' Union.
- The finalized version will include all union logos and be submitted for legislative reading by MLA Cindy Lamoureux.
- The petition aims to gather broad student support ahead of the legislative reading.

Social Media and Storytelling Campaign

- A parallel digital campaign is underway, focusing on lived experiences through short videos, reels, and posts.
- A call-out video and poster-making event are being organized to engage students and prepare for the rally.

Coordination and Next Steps



- Weekly meetings and daily check-ins are being held and partner unions to monitor progress.
- Additional collaborations with external advocacy groups are being explored.
- Website updates are in progress to highlight campaign details and upcoming tabling events.

Through both the CFS-MB Lobby Week and the International Student Health Care Campaign, advocacy efforts have amplified student voices at both institutional and provincial levels. The groundwork laid through meetings with multiple parties and ministries has strengthened cross-campus solidarity and advanced the conversation around accessible education and equitable health care.

Next steps include:

- Finalizing and submitting the international student health care petition for reading in the Legislature.
- Executing the rally and digital campaign to maximize awareness and student participation.
- Continuing government meetings to sustain advocacy momentum.
- Expanding coalition engagement with community partners and student associations.

These efforts collectively demonstrate a strong and consistent commitment to representing student needs, building coalitions, and ensuring that Manitoba's post-secondary landscape remains accessible, inclusive, and equitable.

3. Campus Events & Community Engagement

- Planning and promotion of:
 - UWSA Fashion Show (November) – With thrift drive, sustainability partnerships, and cultural outreach.
 - Thrive week events and Thrive connect
 - Town hall
 - Wellness week for January etc.

There are lots of events that were successfully organized by multiple student groups. On top of planning more larger events coming up, I look forward to every student groups events. So far, I have been able to show up for most of the student group events and participate, and it's always such a delight when I can make time for it.

4. Engage Podcast & Visibility



I was able to coordinate and record episodes for the engage podcast with:

- Cody (ISA President): student experiences and collective advocacy.
- Mary Feltham (Chairperson, CFS National): Advocacy journey from Grenfell Campus to Lakehead University; discussed national organizing, student movement evolution, and balancing leadership and David Ohene-Amoako (Deputy Chairperson, CFS National): Leadership, representation, and equity in higher education from a national perspective.
- Emmanuel Iwuoha (Corporate Account Manager, UWSA): Behind-the-scenes look at health plan, U-Pass, and student services operations.
- Upcoming Episode: Megan Riddell (Counselling Services) for Thrive Week, focusing on campus mental health and self-compassion.

Visibility & Media Engagement:

- Released a World Mental Health Day video spotlighting community care.
- Planning more content on advocacy storytelling and social media reels.

4. Partnerships & Initiatives

- Developing a groundwork for UWSA Food Pantry, exploring partnership with CFS- MB, Diversity Food Services and Downtown Biz etc.
- Meeting with Binara Hewagamage, our program manager who supports All UWSA programs (Foodbank, Bike Lab, SafeWalk), all UWSA student lounges (Access, BIPOC, Rainbow, Women Trans-Spectrum), and CFS-MB to explore this initiative.
- Began exploratory discussions with Patricia Navidad, who is the National Lead for Services and Marketing, who coordinates with ISIC (International Student Identity Card) to expand UWSA's student benefits and community ties.
- Ongoing collaborative conversations with the student wellness center, on UWSA health plan support, soup coupons support, free menstrual products supply, and more.
- Advancing Fashion Show and Thrift Drive logistics.
- Continuing the development of food security and working on a soup program proposal for the Winter term in partnership with the President's Office.

5. Communications



- Facilitated urgent board communication during the campus event during TRC week
 - Drafted and distributed coordinated internal emails and public statements.
 - Managed communication between ISA, Events, and the Board.
 - Proposed a communication flow and decision-making process for emergent issues.
 - Led development of solidarity statement drafts responding to the incident, integrating reconciliation and student well-being perspectives.
-

Hours & Workload

- Averaged 12–14 hours per weekday, plus 8 hours on Saturdays.
- Total estimated workload: 360–400 hours this period.
- Includes extended coordination during crisis response, late-night drafting, and many hours of meetings and consultations etc.

Omega Budhathoki (She/Her)

Vice-President External Affairs

University of Winnipeg Students' Association

EDUCATION DIRECTOR REPORT

Date: October 20, 2025

Organization: University of Winnipeg Students' Association

Summary

- Reprogramming events due to low engagement
- Refocusing efforts to WestCAST Conference
- Met with Wayne and Alan
- Gathering student interest and presentation ideas
- Next steps: contacting Jake Bell (EdSA President) to discuss their focus and plans for WestCAST