

**University of Winnipeg Students' Association Board of Directors**  
**OPEN Session Meeting Minutes, December 08,2025 @5:00p.m.**  
**Hybrid Meeting**

**Board in Attendance:**

Christopher Yendt: Chair of Board

Alan Saji Koshy: President

Omega Budhathoki: Vice-President External Affairs

Brie Villeneuve: Accessibility Director

Molly Vanderwater: WTNB Student's Director

Indie Lea Dufour: 2SLGBTQIA Students' Director

Ronel Shapiro: Business and Economics Director

Nalina Bista: Recreation and Athletics Director

Aleecia Doyle: Urban & Inner-city Director

Marnie Bloom: Education Director Science director

Samarjeet Singh: Emerging Leader Director

Ayesha Raza: Community Liaison Director

Manatpreet Kaur: Science Director

**Board Absent:**

Harleen Doel: Vice-President Student Affairs

Abhijit Sidhu – Environmental Ethics Director

Denise Sharmell Cunanan: Arts Director

Oyindamola Eluwade: Racialized Students' Director

Pragun Raj Aul – International Students' Director

Teddy Max Ruben: Emerging Leader Director

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

**Staff in Attendance:**

Ted Turner: Special projects and Strategic Initiatives Manager

Diksha Bansal: General Manager

Cynthia Nwachukwu: General Office Assistant

**University of Winnipeg Students' Association Board of Directors**  
**OPEN Session Meeting Minutes, December 08,2025 @5:00p.m.**  
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**Open Session**

**1. Call to Order**

The regular monthly meeting of the University of Winnipeg Students' Association Board of Directors was held on Monday December 8, 2025, via Hybrid. The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm. Following the confirmation of quorum, the house continued to the agenda.

**2. Introduction Circle**

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

**3. Approval of the Order of Business**

The Chair requests to add an update around the recruitment committee as a standing item of business in the agenda, following the approval of the job description from the last board meeting.

**Alan moves the motion to approve the addition to the agenda; seconded by Molly.**

**Motion approves.**

**Indie moves the motion to approve the agenda overall; seconded by Omega**

**Motion approves.**

**4. Consent Agenda**

**a) Minutes**

**Alan moves the motion to approve the minutes from BOD 251124 OPEN, Executive committee 251107, By-laws Committee 251202, Day Care Health and Safety minutes; seconded by Molly.**

**Motion approves.**

**b) Reports**

- i. President's Report** – He attended a lot of meetings in November including the senate meetings to ensure student voices are heard. He gives an update on the education levy. He confirms that the student Association was allowed to impose a levy on education courses of 25 cents per credit hour to be accessed only by the education student association to create awards, grants, bursaries or foundation investments with the

**University of Winnipeg Students' Association Board of Directors**  
**OPEN Session Meeting Minutes, December 08,2025 @5:00p.m.**  
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purpose of supporting education students at the University of Winnipeg. **Note:** It is only for education students and not a university wide fee.

Question:

**Brie – They asked if the gaming lounge will be moved to a different space?**

We had conversations with facilities and recreation services to consider options within the university. We set up a temporary solution like cue balls not hitting the frames of the offices or lounges. We are looked at some options to move the space like the Duckworth gym wanting to expand gaming spaces and other options. Until then, it will be closed.

**ii. VPEA Report** – She comments that the fashion was a success, and the overall feedback was good. The thrift market was also great, and students recommended that we organise this every year. Regarding the mental health initiative, we have secured \$5000 for the initiative from doctor Pavlina's office. On the part of advocacy, she is working on a document that will highlight student issues and challenges. Alos, she comments on the rally and confirms that it caught attention but right now, it is losing some momentum. She informs that the UWSA engage podcast is still ongoing on Wednesdays and everyone is welcome to participate.

**iii. Director's Report**

**a. Urban and Inner-city director** – She resubmitted motions to city council regarding transits issues. Also, she had meetings with the daycare committee regarding the admission processes.

**b. Community Liaison Director** – She worked with the events department to ensure the fashion and thrift market was a success. She met with the racialized director on implementing the anonymous initiative where students feel safe to report experiences and issues. She has gotten a response and will be having a meeting with the vendors.

**iv. Finance Report**

**Alan K.** – The bookkeeper is the candidate that successfully went through the process and is now the business manager. He is to commence the role on December 18, 2025, and he will be active to answer questions regarding our finances.

The Chair comments that the finance report should be presented so that it is reflective of the board interest. As we move forward with the new structure, the new individual

**University of Winnipeg Students' Association Board of Directors**  
**OPEN Session Meeting Minutes, December 08,2025 @5:00p.m.**  
**Hybrid Meeting**

in this role should attend every board meeting and they present financial updates, year to date actuals to the board.

**Questions:**

**Indie L.D.:** Why do we have so much deferred revenue on our budget? why do we have so much of our budget dedicated to transit? Why do we have so much in legal fees since the board has not heard from a lawyer this year? The honorariums seem to be under allocated and is this a reason why the board has not been paid?

**Christopher Y.** – This will be addressed more by the business manager, and we will be looking at what a renewed approach might be to budgeting for the organization.

**Molly V.** – The security expenses are allotted to be \$50000 per year but we haven't spent any money on it?

- The expenses are for additional security systems and daycare security that you ought to pay to the university institution like fob systems.

- v. **Executive Director committee recruitment report** – The committee is required to present and report back to the board at each individual meeting to articulate where we are in the process. The chair informs that the job description for the executive director was posted last week and interested applicants are encouraged to apply to UWSA. The committee will meet in early January to assess the first round of applicants.

**Brie moves motion to move all reports; seconded by Indie.**

**Motion approves.**

## **5. Communications**

### **i). Student Initiated project -**

There was a meeting with the ACS student association group. The genesis of the Buzzer project came about during the Science quiz because student had issues with the buzzers. A student had brought this idea forward to help improve the student services to student groups. More information will be provided in the forthcoming meeting in January.

**University of Winnipeg Students' Association Board of Directors**  
**OPEN Session Meeting Minutes, December 08,2025 @5:00p.m.**  
**Hybrid Meeting**

**ii). Ad-hoc Indigenous Engagement Committee** – She had meetings with the university to discuss indigenous engagement. She confirms that some students have shown interest in the student positions and Indigenous advisory circle.

**6. New Business**

**i. Brie V.** – The preamble is about changing the title of the accessibility director to ‘Disabled Student’s Director’. This includes revising the role to be more inclusive as they note that there are some faults to the model. They hope the role is more reflective of the disabled community.

**Preamble:**

The Accessibility Director is an essential role in the UWSA Board of Directors to ensure that the disability community is represented at our table and that accessibility and inclusion towards the multifaceted, large, and continuously evolving community of disability is not only taken into consideration as the UWSA operates but is taken as a requirement to succeed in for our mission and values.

This position was created with the intention of looking at disability through a social model; that many disabilities are actually the barriers within society and not of the individual. While the social model is an important aspect in advocating for not only the wholeness of someone who is disabled, but also how disability is largely defined by society's perception of disability and the inherent barriers that come along with it. Accessibility barriers aren't just physical barriers (like automatic doors); they include attitudinal, organizational, communicative, technological barriers, among others.

However, an important aspect of disability and accessibility that is often not talked about is that regardless of the level of inclusion, some of us will always be disabled and find barriers. This can include conflicting barriers, as perfect accessibility doesn't exist, or that some disabled individuals face barriers that are beyond anyone's control. One of the critiques of the social model is that it can fail to take this into account (depending on who you ask). This is why moving away from relying on the social model of disability will be beneficial to understanding the variety of disabilities and the experiences that may accompany it.

As well, within this motion, the need to include the disability student representative equally among other marginalized groups (referred to as Special Directors, such as the Racialized Director, 2SLGBTQIA+ Director, and WTNB Director) is important to ensure appropriate representation for this community. While the disability community is large and one representative will rarely be able to encompass the entire diversity of our experiences, someone who identifies as part of the community or has experience with advocacy for the needs of the disability community is essential to the progress of inclusion and accessibility.

**University of Winnipeg Students' Association Board of Directors**  
**OPEN Session Meeting Minutes, December 08,2025 @5:00p.m.**  
**Hybrid Meeting**

In closing, the purpose of this motion is to recognize the importance of this role and provide clearer communication to the UWSA Membership and future Directors in this position about their commitment and responsibilities, particularly towards the disability community on campus.

**Motion:**

Date: December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025

WHEREAS the Accessibility Director position is an important role that is essential to the mission and values of the UWSA.

WHEREAS the Accessibility Director title and roles were created with the implementation of the social model of disability.

WHEREAS it is of interest to the UWSA to move towards language that encompasses the full diversity of the disability community.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the title of the Accessibility Director be changed to the Disabled Students' Director.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT in the UWSA By-Laws section 6.19 point i. is amended to "The Disabled Students' Director, while at all times keeping in mind the general welfare of the UWSA and all of its Members, shall ensure that the interests particular to disabled students, including, but not limited to, the interest of those with chronic and temporary, physical, neurological, mental, vision, hearing, and/or developmental disabilities, are represented at the Board of Directors. The Disabled Students' Director shall act as spokesperson for these issues."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT in the UWSA By-Laws section 6.19 is amended to include an additional point underneath point iii stating, "iv. The Disabled Students' Director shall act as liaison with the Access Lounge and any other recognized disability groups on campus."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT in the UWSA By-Laws section 6.19 point iv is amended to "v. The Disabled Students' Director shall partake in any working groups regarding accessibility provided by the University of Winnipeg as a student representative."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT in the UWSA By-Laws section 4.7 is amended to include a new point stating, "The Disabled Students' director shall identify as a member of the disability community or have qualified experience in advocating for the disability community."

**University of Winnipeg Students' Association Board of Directors**  
**OPEN Session Meeting Minutes, December 08, 2025 @ 5:00 p.m.**  
**Hybrid Meeting**

**Comments:**

The Chair confirms that the governance committee had met to discuss this proposal as well as the proposal from the WTNB Director. He notes that there was the opportunity to revise the language that existed within the by-law previously around the obligations of directors to act in the best interest of the UWSA while acknowledging other considerations in the community. The edited language applied in the proposals is to get away from a space that puts directors into an irreconcilable conflict of interest.

**Ronel S.** – He states that he is of the idea that accessibility is more of an inclusive term and represents the interest of everyone and disability is more specific.

**Aleecia D.**– She agrees with changing the name to reflect the community rather than be more of an inclusive name.

**Brie moves the motion for the By-law Amendment proposal to be recommended to the Special General Meeting; seconded by Indie.**

**Motion approves.**

ii. **Molly V.** – The purpose of the revision is to change the current description of the WTNB director that states that “the woman trans and nonbinary student’s director shall act as the spokesperson for issues particular to women”. They note that the role does not include trans and non-binary people which is in fact included in the title of the position.

**MOTION DRAFT**

Date: \_

Moved By: Molly Vanderwater

BOD 25/12/08 CLOSED



**University of Winnipeg Students' Association Board of Directors**  
**OPEN Session Meeting Minutes, December 08, 2025 @ 5:00 p.m.**  
**Hybrid Meeting**

WHEREAS, Bylaw 6.16, point i UWSA General Bylaws states:

“The Women, Trans, and Non-Binary Students’ Director, while at all times keeping in mind the general welfare of the UWSA and all of its Members, shall ensure that the interests particular to women students are represented at the Board of Directors. The Women, Trans, and Non-Binary Students’ Director shall act as spokesperson for these issues.”

WHEREAS, this defined responsibility to the interests particular to women students does not include transgender or non-binary students, which is unbecoming of the title of the Women, Trans and Non-Binary Students’ Director position.

WHEREAS, the current wording in Bylaw 6.16, point i could allow the Women, Trans and Non-Binary Students’ Director to, within the parameters of the Bylaws, choose not to represent the interests particular to the transgender and non-binary Members of the UWSA and leave those Members without a spokesperson on the Board of Directors.

Be it Resolved That bylaw 6.16, point i be amended to state the following:

“The Women, Trans, and Non-Binary Students’ Director, while at all times keeping in mind the general welfare of the UWSA and all of its Members, shall ensure that the interests particular to women, trans and non-binary students are represented at the Board of Directors. The Women, Trans, and Non-Binary Students’ Director shall act as spokesperson for these issues.”

**Christopher Y.**- Both revisions came independent of each other to the governance committee but the language that we just approved from the previous proposal would also hold true. The intentionality is to capture the language within this motion, by the time it goes to the membership in advance of the special general meeting.

**Molly moves the motion for the adoption of this motion pending other the other language changes to be included and recommended to the membership at the special general meeting; seconded by Brie.**

**Motion approves.**

BOD 25/12/08 CLOSED



**University of Winnipeg Students' Association Board of Directors**  
**OPEN Session Meeting Minutes, December 08, 2025 @ 5:00 p.m.**  
**Hybrid Meeting**

iii) **SGM Date** – Ted confirms that the proposed date for the Special general meeting is January 23 at 12:30pm, 2026.

Questions:

**Indie L. D.**– If the SGM is in January, when do we plan to have our Annual General Meeting?

- The AGM will be held later in March.

**Omega** moves the motion to set the Special General Meeting date on January 23 at 12:30pm; seconded by **Molly**.

**Motion approves.**

iv) **Acting COO Report (Business manager)** – We have successful hired a business manager that will be joining our team.

**Indie** moves the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 pm; seconded by **Alan**.

**Motion approves.**

## 7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:48pm.

BOD 25/12/08 CLOSED

