



UWSA

THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Open Session Minutes

February 23, 2026

Meeting of the UWSA Board
of Directors



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Open Session Minutes of the UWSA Board of Directors @12:30 pm, January 26, 2025 Hybrid Meeting

Board in attendance

Chair of Board- Christopher Yendt

President: Alan Saji Koshy

Vice President student Affairs: Harleen Doel
Vice-President External Affairs: Omega Budhathoki
2SLGBTQIA+ Students' Director: Indie Lea Dufour
WTNB Student's Director: Molly Vanderwater
Education Director: Marnie Bloom
Urban & Inner-city Director: Aleecia Doyle
Accessibility Director: Brie Villeneuve
International Students' Director: Pragun Raj Aul
Recreation and Athletics Director: Nalina Bista
Racialized Students' Director: Oyindamola Eluwade
Emerging Leader Director: Samarjeet Singh

Board Absent

Business and Economics Director: Ronel Shapiro
Environmental Ethics Director: Abhijit Sidhu
Arts Director: Denise Sharmell Cunanan
Emerging Leader Director: Teddy Max Ruben
Part-time/Mature students' director: Harmandeep Kaur Ghataura
Community Liaison Director: Ayesha Raza
Science Director: Manatpreet Kaur

Staff in Attendance

Diksha Bansal: General Manager
Ted Turner: Special projects and Strategic Initiatives Manager/Acting COO
Oluwatunmise Ogunmola: Business Manager
Cynthia Nwachukwu: General Office Assistant

1. Call to Order

The regular monthly meeting of the University of Winnipeg Students' Association Board of Directors was held on Monday, January 26, 2026, via Hybrid. The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:36 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.

3. Approval of the Order of Business

The Chair adds a verbal update on the hiring of the COO position in Section 6b.

Molly moves the motion to approve the adjusted order of business, seconded by Indie.

Motion carries.

4. Consent agenda

a. Minutes

Indie comments that the name of their directorship position was incorrectly listed and should be updated on the minutes.

Alan moves the motion to approve all minutes under item 4a; seconded by Omega.

Motion carries.

b. Reports

- i. Finance report** – He presents on the statements of operations as at December 31, 2025, stating that we have a net deficit of \$142,022 and have exceeded our budgeted numbers by \$168,493. The key items resulting in the variance in the budget are increase in IT consultant, increase in wages, a reduction in the cost of transit and expenses like printing expenses, security. We are forecasting a \$200,000 deficit for the 2025/2026 fiscal year.

Indie moves the motion to approve the finance report; seconded by Molly.

Motion carries.

- ii. President Report:** His goals consist of meeting with the dean to discuss the 40% cap and the general proposal of the FreeFlow expansion which is being taken to the university to get a guarantee of how much they want to be involved in the project. The next goal is to populate the advisory circle by February. The executives are working on the concern of depreciating microwaves at the university and ways to improve the situation.

Question:

Indie: Some students had questions about the President of the University leaving, how has this transition affected us?

- As the president of the UWSA, we appreciate the services from the president's office and respect the decisions of the board of the university. With the changes, we continue to maintain the relationship with them and respect the boards decisions.

- iii. Accessibility Director Report** – Brie was unable to present their motion at the SGM because the SGM was unable to meet Quorum. They connected with the AMA student committee and are setting up a meeting for the middle of February.

- iv. **Urban and Inner-City Director** – The Indigenous Engagement Committee met to approve student at large positions for the indigenous engagement committee. Also, she met with Cody to discuss their visions for the Indigenous executive positions.
- v. **WTNBS Director Report** – They were unable to present their motion at the SGM and will be attending a meeting on the women’s trans spectrum books on Thursday. They will also be attending the Freeflow meeting on Friday, January 30, 2026.
- vi. **2SLGBTQIA+ Students' Director Verbal Report:** Indie brings to the board attention that they are handling a situation where a student has a complaint about their professor and they are working on the issue of student deadnaming.
- vii. **VPSA Report:** At the start of the term, they worked on student group approvals. She would also like to clarify in the SLC minutes of Jan 15, 2026, that the “\$2840 will be kept as a reserve fund not printing budget”. This crosses out the statement “the remainder of \$2840 is the reserve printing budget”

Question:

Aleecia D. – Are you aware that the sport events did not consider people with accessibility?

- This was an oversight on our part; we will work towards considering this in our planning next year and work with accessibility services to make these events more inclusive and accessible.

- viii. **VPEA Verbal Report**– Her focus has been working on the mental health campaign and will be announcing when this event will take place. She is collaborating with the UWSA events department and student counselling to plan the budget programming for this event.

Indie moves the motion to approve all reports including the finance report; seconded by Aleecia. Motion Carries.

No dissent.

Comments:

Alan K. – The executives have a number of partnership events that they will be attending, and it will be great for everyone to attend. Here is the list of events, Alumni Association Mentorship event, Black History Month, ACMP and conferences.

5. New Business

- a. **Motion for a new business – Aleecia D.**

Motion for closed session January 26th

PREAMBLE

At some point the UWSA open-session board meeting minutes were available online, but at least since this summer they cannot be found on the website. I have had students ask about the board meetings, ask “What does the UWSA do?” and “when was this decided?” these questions can be answered by the open session board meeting minutes being available publicly.

Since the UWSA board members have expressed a lack of engagement from students on campus, I believe having the open-session meetings available to students will provide an avenue for students to feel engaged with what we do. Our committees also are open to students for open-session minutes. But if we have in our by-laws that the student life committee can have students attend at-large members, yet we never have public committee meeting dates, how will they ever be involved?

Having a committee schedule available publicly will also keep board members accountable to actually attending the committee meetings and making quorum as well.

WHEREAS By-law 8.2 states “Open Session Minutes Are public documents and may be viewed by any person. See the definition for Open Session in the definition section of these By-Laws.”

WHEREAS By-law 8.5 states “Open Session minutes from Board of Directors Meetings shall be maintained electronically. They shall also be made available to the Members. This may include posting copies on bulletin boards, posting copies on an internet web site, and/or distributing paper copies upon request”

WHEREAS the UWSA values state “authentic representation” and promises to engage the campus in an inclusive, democratic, post-secondary system.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the board of directors decide on an adequate timeline for the release of open session board meeting minutes, with consultation and director from the Chair of the Board and the Manitoba Corporations Act.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the UWSA Secretary finalizes the Board Meeting minutes within the decided upon timeframe

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the UWSA media team publishes the open sessions minutes in a clear, easy to find location on the UWSA website

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the UWSA media team makes the committee meetings available publicly on the UWSA website and UWSA social media (Instagram)

Comments:

Chris Y.: The motion makes perfect sense, and everything seems fine. But we should interrogate and understand is that ‘committee meeting’ minutes are not normally a public enterprise in a corporate lens because committees are a product of the board and so they do not have agency unto themselves. The reason is that even though the committee approved the minutes, it does not have the full authority to say that the minutes are okay. The board could redact the minutes.

Aleecia D.: She comments that if we are having issues with engagement, then posting the minutes could be one way to improve engagement.

Chris Y.: Additionally, the content of the motion is to address the fact that this content isn’t publicly available on our website. If the board is fine with this, it can be moved to the public session.

D. Bansal: She confirms that the previous board minutes are already posted except the December board minutes because it must be approved by the board in the January board package.

Chris Y.: Going forward, we would request that the minutes should not be buried in the packages and should be available as standalone downloadable item on the UWSA website, where accessible for student for easy reference.

**Aleecia and Indie moves the modified motion that the board mandates that all board meeting minutes be available as standalone items on the UWSA website in a location best served for their priority
AND THEN BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT all committee, dates, and locations are made publicly available to members on the website including board meetings**

**AND THEN BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT those changes be implemented by the February board.
Motion Carries.**

Comment:

Chris Y.: The chair confirms that the implication of the motion is that the content is moved to the public session.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:21pm.

