



# UWSA

THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG  
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

## Open Session Package

February 23, 2026

Meeting of the UWSA Board  
of Directors

Diksha Bansal, General Manager

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

## **Board Absent**

Business and Economics Director: Ronel Shapiro  
Environmental Ethics Director: Abhijit Sidhu  
Arts Director: Denise Sharmell Cunanan  
Emerging Leader Director: Teddy Max Ruben  
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 her motion at the SGM because the SGM was unable to meet Quorum. They connected with the AMA student committee, and they 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 a standalone downloadable item on the UWSA website, where accessible for students for easy reference.

**Aleecia and Indie move 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 4:21 pm.

**Regular Meeting of the Management Committee of UWSA Day Care  
Minutes for January 8, 2026**

**In attendance:**

Ioulia Berdnikova-Executive Director  
Justin Friesen-member/parent  
Vanessa Wiedman-member/parent  
Andrei Hillonov-member/parent  
Brandon Deamel-member/parent  
Debbie Froese-member/parent  
Nadine Vroom-member/parent  
Sanoji Wijenayake-member/parent  
Marcela Castro-member/parent  
Yeojin Lee- UWSA staff

**Regrets:**

Kim Bhatal – Chair / parent  
Robyn Liddle - member/parent  
Nathan Laser - member/parent  
Chelsea Drane - member/parent  
Joshua Hofmeister – treasure / parent  
Mathew Busilla - member/parent  
Aleecia Doyle - member/parent/ UWSA representative

**1- Start Meeting**

1. Meeting called to order at 4:34PM by Chair – Justin F

**2- Agenda and Minutes Approval**

1. January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026, Agenda approved by Andrei H Second by Brandon D
2. November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Minutes approved by Andrie H Second by Sanoji W

**3- Reports**

1. **Daycare's Director report** – please find attached.

Ioulia talked about the fire drill on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Andrei H said that as a parent, he would like to know what is expected of parents for fire drills. Ioulia B and Yeojin L will work on the expectations and additional information. A communication will be sent via email through Lillo once it is complete.

2. **Financial Update** – Motion to accept Andrie H

Ioulia B mentioned that we are waiting for the student's levy. The health and post-secondary education tax seems high as well, but we will get it back from the government prior April 1, 2026.

Sanoji W asked if we are paying the security expenses. Ioulia B advised that we are not paying for it and it is covered by The University of Winnipeg.

**4- New Business**

1. **PD Days for 2026-** Ioulia B would like to discuss the possibility of getting three Professional development days and which dates would work out for all the parents. Brandon D will come up with some days and come up with digital form so all the parents can vote online. Ioulia B will send the link to the form to the parents through Lillo.
2. **AGM-** All board members agreed to have the AGM meeting on Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Ioulia B advised that Guitar Gary will be there and that pizza and childcare will also be provided.
3. **Parent's handbook-** Ioulia B would like to add nutrition/food information to the policy. Sanoji W asked how many families have opted out from the Friday lunches. Ioulia B mentioned that there are some families who opted out or paid for two lunches, but it's not because of financial reasons. Ioulia B also mentioned that we will provide lunch if any families are struggling financially. Approved by Andrei and second by Sanoji
4. **2026-27 budget recommendations-** Andrei H requested that Ioula B send an email to UWSA regards possible items highlighted by the auditors to ensure that going forward, our operating grant is not at risk due to a missing audit finding.

Ioulia talked about applying for a "Staff Health Spending account" for one year since we are not spending our security expense. UWSA employees have a health spending account which totals \$1000 every year. There were a few suggestions. It will be finalized during February's meeting.

5. **Genetec Lockdown Project-** the project is moving forward. Physical plant started the process. Ioulia B will provide updates when available.

## 6. In Camera –

## 5- Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

1. Next Meeting February 12, 2026, at 4:30PM
2. Adjournment: 5:45PM moved by Justin F, Andrei H, and Nadine V

## Ioulia's Notes January 2026

### **Enrollment**

- As of today, we have 147 children.
- 64 spaces are allocated for the students. As of December 24, 2025, we have 63 children (+2 from November 2025).

### **Staff update**

- There are 39 staff on a payroll now. This number includes 2 ECEs on the long-term disability and 1 staff on the short term disability.
- 2 staff are working part-time, they are U of W students.
- Proportion of trained staff is 87.79 %. Maria is awaiting ECE II certification.
- Lan will graduate in spring 2026
- 3 ECEs are taking Developmental Studies courses. Pooja and Erin will graduate in a spring.
- Tatyana applied for workplace program at MITT for September. She is awaiting of approval of her application.
- Staff meeting will be January 13.
- PD day was on December 23, 2025.
- There are several students in a daycare from Robertson College and University of Winnipeg (Developmental Studies final practicum).
- I will participate at career fair at RRC on January 13, 2026.

### **Other items**

- Health and Safety meeting was held on December 1, 2025.
- We had 3 winter gatherings for the families and a staff winter party. It went great!
- We had a fire drill and the fire and a fire inspection on January 6, 2026.
- PS 4,5,6 went for smudging ceremony in UofW.
- We had a toybox event on November 19, 2025. The next one is scheduled for January 22, 2026.

### **PS 1,2,3 news presented by Arlene T.**

What a wonderful December we had. Weather was mild and considering we were already into full Winter mode. Children enjoyed spending time outdoors each day, sledding, shoveling and gathering as much snow as possible and have been working very diligently with their self help skills or dressing and undressing in/out

of their winter gear. Just a friendly reminder to keep the wet and snow out of our hallways, please remove outdoor shoes. Children are practicing this daily when entering the center by learning to remove their boots and carrying them to their lockers.

Children continue to enjoy their short walks over to the Rec Plex on a weekly basis, and practice their gross motor skills, hand eye coordination freely in the Community Gym. We will continue our weekly visits to RecPlex in January.

Some things we did this month: prepared our family holiday gifts, created beautiful holiday room décor and got into the holiday spirit with holiday songs and stories as we waited for PS123's Winter Gathering on December 17th. We hope everyone enjoyed the gathering as much as we did, preparing for it and seeing all of our lil friends and their lovely families.

Children participated in hearing about Hanukkah, and created some candle crafts, listened to what Hanukkah is about and some children shared some traditions they do at home.

PS123 participated in our full-blown PJ Day Fridays this month with friendly pillow fights, movies/short films, popcorn twists, and special treats.

We would like to send our heartfelt thank you to all our families for your continued participation, support and understanding with your child's daily experiences here at UWSA Day Care.

Happy Holidays and Cheers to 2026!

#### **PS 4,5,6 news presented by Julianna**

At the beginning of December, we were very busy getting ready for the winter gathering. Each room created crafts for the children to share with their families. Each room created crafts for the children to share with their families. Each room also prepared the desserts for the party.

We had a wonderful winter gathering with entertainment from Guitar Gury. The children sang songs and danced and had a great time! The families enjoyed a lot of choices of yummy desserts. We also had a small beading craft.

During the month the children also enjoyed Yoga, Zumba, Rec plex, Music, and Gymkyds for a lot of gross motor activities. Each room prepared many different craft activities which included Hanukkah and Christmas activities. The children enjoyed Latkas and Gingerbread houses. We finished the month with a Pajama party with stuffy's and books and movie in room 6.

### **Infants and Toddlers news presented by Yeojin L.**

Our infant room was busy preparing for our December winter gathering! Their little hands and fingers were hard at work preparing gifts for their families. It was so great to see all the families singing, dancing, chatting, and celebrating together!

The children were also working together to make Monorah, which is an ancient symbol representing the burning bush and the tree of life for Hanukkah and we also had Latke for afternoon snack. ( celebrate Hanukkah)

This year has been growing, learning and great engagements in our infant and toddler rooms. We look forward to many more milestones and memories next year! Happy New Year!

### **Pre-school room presented by Yeojin L.**

What a wonderful month December has been for all of us!

Our biggest highlight was our Winter Gathering, where families came together to play games, enjoy sweet treats, and make memories with their children. It was heartwarming to see everyone having fun and connecting with one another. We also had the pleasure of celebrating Hanukkah with the children. They enjoyed engaging in Hanukkah-themed activities, learning about the traditions, and of course, tasting delicious latkes, which quickly became a favorite snack.

Whenever the weather allowed, we made sure to spend time outdoors. The children loved exploring, playing, and enjoying the fresh winter air—it added a lovely balance to our festive indoor activities.

As we wrap up the month of December, we want to extend our warmest wishes to all our families. Happy New Year!

We look forward to an exciting and inspiring year ahead.

## Daycare Financials – January 2026

There is a file attached named “**Daycare Jan 2026 financials**” linked to the email. Please refer to that file.

## **UWSA Statement of Operations – January 2026**

There is a file attached named “**UWSA Operations – January 2026**” linked to the email. Please refer to that file.

# President's Report – February 2026

Submitted by: Alan Saji Koshy, President

## Executive Summary

The past month has been characterized by a heavy administrative and recruitment-focused workload. Key priorities included the **UWSA Executive Director (ED) recruitment process**, which involved multiple rounds of interviews and briefings, wrapping up initiatives from the start of the term, event engagement, and consistent representation in **University Senate** and **Board of Regents** committees.

## Calendar-Based Workload Summary

- **Total Identified Meetings:** 45+ distinct sessions.
- **Primary Workload Drivers:**
  - **Recruitment (ED Search):** Occupied significant hours in the second week of February alone.
  - **Governance (Senate/BOR/UWSA BOD):** Recurring weekly and biweekly meetings. 100% attendance on GCRC, SASMC, SAC, SEC, SEM-Pillar 4, Senate, and Board of Regents meetings.
  - **Student Advocacy/Engagement:** Consistent "Office Hours" (Wed/Thu) and UWSA Engage (CKUW 95.9 FM).
- **Peak Density:** February 9–11 saw the highest concentration of high-stakes meetings, averaging 6+ hours of scheduled sessions per day and additional hours of follow-up work.

## Categorized Meeting report

- **Governance & Policy:** Senate Student Appeals, Board of Regents, Senate Meetings, and OAG Report follow-ups.
- **Executive Operations:** Weekly Exec Check-ins, Staff/Exec Check-ins, and Office Hours.
- **Community & Advocacy:** Black History Month event planning, Winter Connect, International Day for Women and Girls in Science, and Lohri Mela.
- **Stakeholder Relations:** Meetings with Minister Cable, Alumni Mentorship events, Government events at the legislative, ALUMO meetings, Faculty meetings, WUSC meetings, IRS, ISS, Meetings with Senior Admin.

## Governance & Internal Operations

- Continued participation in Executive Committee, Senate, and Senate Student Appeals Committee meetings to ensure student representation in academic and governance processes.
- Ongoing coordination with UWSA executives and staff through weekly check-ins to align

- priorities, monitor deliverables, and support Winter Term programming and advocacy goals.
- Continued support for internal governance processes, including board engagement and follow-up on policy and procedural priorities discussed earlier in the term.
- Round 1 interviews are done and the committee is hoping to wrap up the next bit of the process by the end of the month. The successful hiring of a qualified ED will be the single most impactful structural change of the 2025-2026 term, stabilizing the organization for future administrations. Looking forward to the completion of the process.

## **Advocacy and Internal/External Relations**

### **Public Advocacy & Student Rights:**

- **Opposition to "Nuisance Protests" By-law:** Registered the UWSA as a primary opponent to the City of Winnipeg's proposed by-law, framing it as a direct threat to the democratic expression of students.
- **Mental Health Leadership:** Active participation in the **MHCC-CSMC Post-Secondary Student Mental Health Round Table** to advocate for increased provincial funding and on-campus support.

### **Community & Alumni Engagement:**

- **Alumni Mentorship Moderation:** Served as the lead moderator for the *"Let's Talk Success"* panel on Feb 4. Facilitated high-level networking between current students and distinguished alumni, reinforcing the value of a University of Winnipeg degree.
- Provided executive support for the **Lohri Mela Event (UWPB), Black History Month** venue tour.
- Attended the **International Day for Women and Girls in Science** at the Legislative building.
- Attended various Black History Month events across campus
- Was actively present at the Gallery launch with the **Beading Métis Resurgence** on February 12.
- Was part of **Louis Riel Day Celebration** at the Bulman center.
- Attended **all Wesmen games (UM and UW)** and showed active collaboration. Worked with them to arrange performances and remained a crucial stakeholder in student engagement. Looking forward to the playoffs coming up.

### **Looking Ahead (March Priorities)**

- Rescheduled Dean's-level academic advocacy meeting and follow-up.
- Completion and dissemination of the student mental health supports.
- Continued healthcare advocacy initiatives and Winter Term awareness activities.
- Strengthening internal governance processes and board support mechanisms.
- Follow up on procedures for figuring out the education levy/awards.
- Plan for UWSA Gala for the end of the term.
- Mental health campaign and active presence.

- Budget planning and AGM prep.
- Finish up microwave review and see if we can install more microwaves for students across different campuses.
- Event participation, student participation and election support.

**Alan Saji Koshy (He/Him) President**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Saji Koshy', written in a cursive style.

**University of Winnipeg Students' Association**

## **Vice-President Student Affairs Report – February 2026**

Over this reporting period, my responsibilities primarily focused on student advocacy, governance participation, event planning, and follow-ups from previously passed motions. Alongside regular executive duties and office hours, I attended multiple committee and Senate-related meetings, coordinated with student groups, and worked closely with the Events and Communications teams to ensure initiatives approved by the Board were implemented.

In addition to governance work, a considerable amount of my time was spent assisting students navigating academic processes, including misconduct matters and general academic concerns.

### **Governance, Meetings, and Representation**

Throughout this period, I participated in several governance and committee responsibilities, including Senate-related meetings, executive meetings, office hours, and collaborative discussions with various campus partners and student groups.

These meetings included participation in student appeal and academic misconduct processes, discussions related to campus initiatives, and coordination meetings for upcoming programming. The purpose of attending these meetings was to ensure student representation, raise student concerns when necessary, and follow up on matters that impact student academic experience and campus life.

I also maintained regular communication with departments across campus to ensure student issues are being addressed in a timely manner.

### **UWSA Sports Day**

The UWSA Sports Day was successfully organized and executed and turned out to be a very positive start to what we hope becomes an ongoing yearly tradition. More than 70 students registered for the event, which is a strong turnout for a first-time initiative.

Participation levels remained high throughout the activities and overall student engagement was excellent. The atmosphere was welcoming and students expressed interest in having similar recreational programming in the future.

I would like to acknowledge the Events Team and our volunteers, whose effort and coordination played a significant role in making the event run smoothly. Their preparation, logistics support, and on-site management ensured the event's success.

For future iterations, we will also work toward improving accessibility accommodations, as suggested by Directors. The goal is to ensure that students with accessibility needs can fully participate moving forward.

Overall, this event serves as a strong foundation, and we intend to continue it annually and expand participation each year.

## **Follow-Ups from Previous Board Meeting**

### **Tabling Fair Communication**

During the previous Board meeting, a concern was raised regarding whether the tabling fair email had been distributed, specifically in relation to the Urban and Inner-City Student Association.

Immediately following the meeting, I confirmed with the Events Department and Communications Team that:

- The email had been sent, and
- It was also sent directly to the Urban and Inner-City Student Association referenced by the Director.

Screenshots of the communications confirming this will be attached to the Board package for transparency and record keeping.

## **Student Group Funding & Application Approvals**

At the previous meeting the Board approved student group applications and funding allocations.

Following those approvals:

- Confirmation emails have now been sent to the respective student groups
- Funding notifications have been communicated
- Groups have been informed about next procedural steps

This completes the implementation of the Board's decision from the last meeting.

## **Student Advocacy & Case Support**

A substantial portion of my work continues to involve direct student support. Over this reporting period, I

have assisted multiple students who:

- Were navigating academic misconduct procedures
- Needed help understanding appeals processes
- Required guidance regarding academic standing and university policies
- Sought general advocacy support

These cases often require meetings, follow-ups, explanation of university procedures, and coordination with appropriate offices. This work remains ongoing and continues to be one of the most time-intensive aspects of the VPSA role.

## Upcoming Initiative – UWSA Talent Show

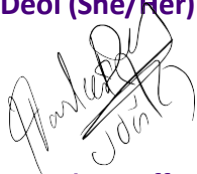
Our next initiative is organizing a **UWSA Talent Show** aimed at increasing student engagement and providing students a platform to showcase skills outside academics.

The promotional poster is expected to be released around the time of this meeting. I encourage Board members to attend and support the event as it will help strengthen campus involvement and community building.

Overall, this reporting period involved balancing governance responsibilities, student advocacy, and programming implementation. We successfully launched a new campus- wide recreational event, completed follow-ups requested by the Board, and continued providing direct assistance to students navigating university processes.

Moving forward, priorities include expanding programming participation, improving accessibility accommodations in events, and continuing advocacy support for students.

**Harleen Kaur Deol (She/Her)**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Harleen Kaur Deol', written over a horizontal line.

**Vice-President Student Affairs  
University of Winnipeg Students' Association**

# Vice-President of External Affairs' Report – Jan/Feb 2026

## Executive summary

### 1. Governance (Senate, Board of Regents, UWSA Board of Directors)

During January and February, I participated in recurring governance responsibilities, including:

- Weekly Executive meetings
- Internal Check-ins meetings
- Senate meetings
- Board of Regents (BOR) meetings
- SEM (Strategic Enrolment Management) – Pillar 5 discussions postponed
- Student Senate Appeals Committee meetings

I have also continued consultations with senior leadership, including ongoing strategic discussions with Dr. Pavlina Radia (Provost and VP Academic) regarding tuition, mental health capacity, and student needs. A 1-hour and 40-minute strategic meeting was held to share emerging consultation themes and discuss opportunities for strengthened institutional response. Additional one-on-one meetings have been proposed to continue this work. The meeting focused on tuition discussions, institutional planning, enrolment strategy, student appeals, and long-term financial sustainability.

I also met with government representatives regarding preliminary information from the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) report and will be following up as further information becomes available.

### 2. Student Advocacy & Engagement

#### Office Hours & Student Access

- Consistent office Hours (Wednesdays and Thursdays)
- Weekly Executive check-ins
- Staff/Executive coordination meetings
- Student engagement through weekly UWSA Engage (CKUW 95.9 FM) podcast

#### Tuition & Capacity consultation

Significant consultation work was conducted in January and February, including:

- Two 4-hour capacity assessment consultations with ISS and IRS
- Additional departmental consultations (PACE scheduled)
- Exploration of service strain trends, communication gaps, and mental health pressures
- Ongoing advocacy around tuition transparency and reinvestment visibility

The focus has been to share emerging student themes with administration not as finalized conclusions but as a basis for collaborative institutional alignment.

#### Opposition to “Nuisance Protests” By-law

The UWSA formally came forth as a primary opponent to the City of Winnipeg’s proposed “Nuisance Protests” by-law. The by-law was framed as a direct threat to democratic student expression and the right to protest.

### **3. Mental Health Leadership & Campaign Work**

Mental health advocacy has remained a central priority to me.

#### Provincial & national Advocacy

- MHCC Post-Secondary Student mental Health Round Table
- Canadian health Coalition report launch panel on disparities in international student healthcare
- Continued advocacy for increased provincial funding and sustainable campus supports through media interviews, podcasts, social media etc.

#### UWSA Mental Health Campaign – “I Was Here”

The campaign was officially announced at Winter Connect. Current progress includes:

- Library video series filming in progress
- Campaign launch video in development
- March programming release underway
- Proposal to shift Mental Health Week programming from May to March for stronger engagement
- Collaboration meetings with Counselling Services to coordinate March programming
- 100 soup coupons secured through Counselling Services as a tangible student support initiative
- Community partner meetings to develop seminars and roundtables focused on:
  - Equity
  - Access
  - Redefining student success

Dr. Gino has also offered additional financial support for campaign expansion.

The CERC committee has been difficult to coordinate; efforts continue to secure collaboration.

#### 4. Events & Campus Presence

##### Event Planning & Participation

- Black History Month events
- Winter Connect: our final connect Event
- International Day for Women and Girls in Science
- Lohri Mela
- Gallery launch: *Beading Métis Resurgence* (February 12)
- Wesmen games (continued campus collaboration; playoffs upcoming)
- UW Club 50th Anniversary meetup
- Shivaratri event
- ISS Valentine's event
- Nepali student Maghe Sankranti event etc.

##### Upcoming

- Planning for UWSA Gala (end of term)

#### 5. Stakeholder Relations

##### Significant stakeholder engagement included:

- Meeting with Minister Renée Cable
- Legislative government events
- ALUMO meetings
- Alumni mentorship events
- Faculty meetings
- WUSC meetings
- Meetings with Senior Administration
- Meeting scheduled with VP Research & Innovation regarding collaborative opportunities
- Meetings with community partners on mental health programming etc.

#### 6. Campus Infrastructure & Operational Advocacy

##### Facilities & Campus Environment

- Proposal discussions for naming a UWSA street
- Green space utilization planning
- Installation of snapframes in washrooms
- Conversations regarding Free Flow programming and sustainability vs. utilization balance

##### Student Supports

- Feasibility discussions for a UWSA Food Pantry
- Meeting with Daycare leadership and Catherine regarding new mentorship- research programming

- Exploration of establishing a faculty advisor presence at the daycare

## **7. Strategic Priorities Moving Forward (March Focus)**

- Launch of the “I Was Here” Mental Health Campaign
- Release of the full March programming calendar
- Continued tuition and capacity consultations across departments
- Strengthened collaboration with administration on student reinvestment transparency
- Follow-up government meetings
- Development of roundtables on Equity, Access, and Redefining Student Success
- Ongoing governance participation and student appeals

**Omega Budhathoki**  
**Vice-President External Affairs**  
**University of Winnipeg Students' Association**

## **Board of Director Monthly Report – February 23rd, 2026**

Accessibility Director

Brie Villeneuve

As mentioned in the January BOD Meeting. The SGM could not meet quorum, and I was unable to present my motion. I look forward to doing so at the AGM.

I have connected with the AMASC as mentioned in my last report, and coincidentally, a meeting was already planned. This is taking place on Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>, and I will be in attendance.

This past week, many of my efforts have been focused on opposing the City Council's "Safe Access to Vulnerable Infrastructure By-Law". I initiated conversations with the Board and Executives to help mobilize students to respond and act fast. The By-Law is going to EPC on the 17<sup>th</sup> and then to City Council on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

The Hiring Committee continues to be doing well, and I'm excited for our future as we are near the transition stage.

My next steps are helping ensure CERC can meet promptly and looking out for the next By-Laws and Policy Committee meeting. As well, I will continue to communicate updates regarding the actions against the Safe Access Bylaw. I also look forward to catching a meeting of the new UWinnipeg ASL club.

Thank you,  
Brie

## Molly Vanderwater

- I have continued communications with WTSC and the WGSSA regarding the matters of the books stored in the WTSC. I met with them and we discussed our action plan moving forward, which will involve assessing which books may be eligible to be moved to a new part of the university or donated. Natasha (WTSC) has begun discussions with Binara on that matter. I will also be helping make a record of the material within the WTSC for easy access for students.
- I attended a meeting regarding Free Flow with the executives. It was very productive, and I look forward to seeing the progress made on Free Flow from here on out.
- I very briefly attended Homo Hop and was able to slightly connect with the community, however I had to go home for personal reasons.
- I will continue pursuing the matter of ensuring chosen names are respected on campus with Indie and make progress on the anonymous reporting system, however my workflow will likely be lacking due to a personal matter that has greatly affected my mental health.
- I plan to attend an event for the Trans Day of Visibility in March and will update the board on the result of that event during the March meeting.