
UMGPS Annual General Meeting Documents Index

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UMGPS Annual General Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, January 28th, 2026 - 5:30 PM - Zoom

1. Traditional Territories Acknowledgement

The University of Manitoba campuses and research spaces are located on original lands of Anishinaabeg, Ininiwak, Anisininewuk, Dakota Oyate, Dene and Inuit, and on the National Homeland of the Red River Métis.

UM recognizes that the Treaties signed on these lands are a lifelong, enduring relationship, and we are dedicated to upholding their spirit and intent. We acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past and the present. With this understanding, we commit to supporting Indigenous excellence through active Reconciliation, meaningful change, and the creation of an environment where everyone can thrive. Our collaboration with Indigenous communities is grounded in respect and reciprocity and this guides how we move forward as an institution.

2. Call to Order

3. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION: BIRT the UMGPS membership approves the agenda for January 28th, 2026, UMGPS Annual General Meeting as presented.

4. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of December 11th, 2024, UMGPS Annual General Meeting were pre-circulated via email.

MOTION: BIRT the UMGPS membership approves the minutes of December 11th, 2024, UMGPS Annual General Meeting as presented.

5. Introduction of Executive Members and Office Staff

5.1. Full Listing of Committee, Council and Board Membership for All Executives:

This listing is included as Appendix I to this meeting agenda.

6. Committee Reports

6.1. Annual General Meeting Committee Reports: These reports are included as Appendix II in this meeting agenda.

7. Health Sciences Graduate Students' Association Report

7.1. Annual General Meeting HSGSA Report: This report is included as Appendix III in this meeting agenda.

8. Senate Report

8.1. Annual General Meeting Senate Report: This report is included as Appendix IV on this meeting agenda.

9. New Business

9.1. External Organization Affiliations:

- i. The UMGPS is not a Member of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), the Canadian Federation of Students - Services (CFS-S), or the Canadian Federation of Students – Manitoba (CFS-MB), herein referred to as CFS/-S/-MB, and in that regard if and when necessary, it shall dispute all statements, claims, indications and suggestions of Membership (full or otherwise) in the CFS/-S/-MB.
- ii. The Manitoba Alliance of Post-Secondary Students (MAPSS) currently consists of 6 student associations, UMGPS included. Currently, there is no financial cost to the association or its membership to maintain this relationship.
- iii. The UMGPS will continue to represent Postdoctoral fellows at the University of Manitoba.
- iv. The UMGPS is currently an observer member with the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) and the UMGPS is expected to run a referendum in February 2026 during the election period to become a full member.

MOTION: BIRT the UMGPS membership Reaffirms the position of External Organization stipulated in the UMGPS By-Laws at the UMGPS Annual General Meeting as presented.

10.2 COPE 342 Presentation

10.3 Member Proposal

10. Announcements

10.1. UMGPS General Election: The UMGPS General Election is held each year in the Winter Term to select the UMGPS Executives for the coming academic year. All current graduate students at the University of Manitoba have the right to vote and to run for any UMGPS Executive role. Further details will be sent by the UMGPS Chief Returning Officer (CRO) directly to all graduate students before the start of the nomination period.

10.2. Winter Gala: The Winter Gala, a collaboration between UMGPS and HSGSA is held each year and will be held in March 2026.

11. Adjournment

Appendix I :

Full Listing of Committee, Council, and Board Membership for All Executives

President & Senator – Timilehin Oluwajuyitan

Full listing of Committee, Council & Board:

- UMGPS Executive Committee (Chairperson)
- UMGPS Governance and Strategic Committee (Chairperson)
- UMGPS Council (Acting - Chairperson)
- UMGPS Board of Directors (Acting - Chairperson)
- UMGPS Academic Affairs Committee
- UMGPS External Affairs Committee
- UMGPS Events and Clubs Committee
- UMGPS Equity & Inclusion
- UMGPS Gala Committee
- UMGPS Election and Referendum Committee
- UMSU Board of Directors
- FGPS Executive Committee
- FGPS Appeal Committee
- FGPS Graduate Student Experience Committee
- Tony T.K. Lau 2025 Scholarship Selection Committee (International Office)
- UM Occupational Safety and Health Committee
- UM Discipline Committee
- UM Student Senate Caucus
- UM Senate Committee on Nominations
- UM Senate Committee on Rules and Procedures
- UM Senate Committee on University Research
- UM Senate Executive Committee
- UM Senate Committee
- UM Board of Governors.

Vice-President Equity & Inclusion (VPEI) – Peggy Wu

Full listing of Committee, Council & Board:

- UMGPS Equity & Inclusion Committee (Chairperson)
- UMGPS Council
- UMGPS Executive Committee
- UMGPS Board of Directors
- UMGPS Election and Referendum Committee
- UMGPS External Affairs Committee
- FGPS Graduate Student Experience Committee

Vice-President External (VPE) & Senator – Armin Aghajani

Full listing of Committee, Council & Board:

- UMGPS Executive Committee
- UMGPS Governance and Strategic Committee
- UMGPS Council
- UMGPS Board of Directors
- UMGPS External Affairs Committee (Chairperson)
- UMGPS Gala Committee
- UM Appeals Committee
- UM Discipline Committee
- UM Senate Committee on Calendar
- UM Senate Committee on Curriculum, and Course Changes
- UM Student Senate Caucus
- UM Senate Committee on Instruction and Evaluation

Vice-President Health Sciences (VPHS) – Ashraf Kadar Shahib

Full listing of Committee, Council & Board:

- UMGPS Board of Directors
- UMGPS Council
- UMGPS Gala Committee
- UMGPS Executive Committee
- UMGPS Governance and Strategy Committee
- HSGSA Council (Chairperson)
- HSGSA Bylaws and Policy Committee
- HSGSA Events Committee
- HSGSA Executive Committee
- HSGSA Finance Committee
- HSGSA Internal Development and Review
- HSGSA External Committee

Vice-President Events & Clubs (VPEC) – Diwan Oulai

Full listing of Committee, Council & Board:

- UMGPS Events and Clubs Committee (Chairperson)
- UMGPS Council
- UMGPS Executive Committee
- UMGPS Gala Committee
- UMGPS Board of Directors
- UMGPS Academic Affairs Committee
- FGPS Executive Committee
- FGS Awards Committee

Vice-President Academic (VPA) & Senator – Lamia Mahzabin

Full listing of Committee, Council & Board:

- UMGPS Council
- UMGPS Executive Committee
- UMGPS Academic Affairs Committee (Chairperson)
- UMGPS Events and Clubs Committee (Co-Chair)
- Senate Committee on Academic Review Senate Committee on Admissions
- Senate Committee on Appeals Senate Committee on Awards
- Senate Committee on Curriculum and Course Changes
- Senate Committee on Instruction and Evaluation
- Senate Planning and Priorities Committee
- Senate Committee on University Research
- FGS Faculty Council
- FGS Awards Committee
- Grad Steps Committee
- UM Sustainability Committee

Vice-President Postdoctoral Affairs (VPPA) – Nazanin Vafaei

Full listing of Committee, Council & Board:

- UMGPS Postdoctoral Fellows Association (President)
- UMGPS Council
- UMGPS Executive Committee
- UMGPS Board of Directors
- Food and Human Nutritional Sciences (FHNS) postdoctoral and research
associate organization (Vice-president)
- FHNS Council (postdoctoral representative)

Appendix II :

Annual General Meeting UMGPS Committee Reports

Executive Committee

Chairperson: Timilehin Oluwajuyitan

Executive Committee

Chair: Timilehin Oluwajuyitan (UMGPS President)

Meeting Dates: November 20th & 27th, 2025

- Discussions and updates on councilors' requests and concerns.
- Discussion and update on UMGPS logo
- Discussions and updates on UMGPS Student and Teaching Awards.
- Discussion and update on holiday hamper
- Discussion and update on club funding
- Discussion and update on the Minister of Education meeting
- Discussions and updates on the UMGPS Equity and Inclusion Committee Initiatives.
- Discussions and updates on the UMGPS events and clubs committee.
- Discussions and updates on HSGSA academic and social events.
- Discussions and updates on the postdoctoral fellow research showcase day.

Executive Committee

Chair: Timilehin Oluwajuyitan (UMGPS President)

Meeting Dates: October 14th & 28th, 2025

- Discussions and updates on policy development for the assistant executive director.
- Discussions and update on harassment cases.
- Discussions and updates on the student travel award in partnership with the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.
- Discussions and updates on UMGPS Student and Teaching Awards.
- Discussions and updates on the UMGPS Equity and Inclusion Committee Initiatives.
- Discussions and updates on the UMGPS events and clubs committee.
- Discussions and updates on HSGSA academic and social events.
- Discussions and updates on the postdoctoral fellow research showcase day.

Executive Committee

Chair: Timilehin Oluwajuyitan (UMGPS

President) Meeting Dates: September 2nd & 16th, 2025

- Discussions and updates on the External Affairs Committee regarding the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) aim to strengthen contact with government representatives and ensure that graduate students' positions are considered in political decision-making.
- Discussions and update on the new UMGPS logo competition.
- Discussions and updates on UMGPS Student and Teaching Awards.
- Discussion and updates on the Student Senate Caucus meetings.
- Discussions and updates on the UMGPS Equity and Inclusion Committee Initiatives.
- Discussions and updates on the UMGPS events and clubs committee.
- Discussions and updates on HSGSA academic and social events.
- Discussions and updates on the postdoctoral fellow research showcase day.
- Discussions and updates on the UMGPS Handbook.

Executive Committee

Chair: Timilehin Oluwajuyitan (UMGPS President)

Meeting Dates: August 5th & 19th, 2025

- Members of the Executive Committee attended graduate student orientations across Campus, welcoming new graduate students to the University.
- Discussions and updates on Student and Teaching Awards
- Discussions and updates on the postdoctoral fellow research showcase day.
- Discussions and update on completion of the Audit
- Discussions and update on UMGPS Student Handbook
- Discussions and updates on completion of UMGPS & HSGSA Ad-Hoc Graduate Student Gala Committee contract.
- Discussions and updates on the UMGPS Indigenous Awareness Initiative event plan.
- Discussions and updates on the UMGPS events and clubs committee.
- Discussions and updates on HSGSA events.
- Discussions and updates on the UMGPS email and website transition.

Executive Committee

Chair: Timilehin Oluwajuyitan (UMGPS President)

Meeting Dates: July 8th & 22nd, 2025

- Discussion and updates on the meeting with the University president, vice-provost (student), and dean of the faculty of graduate studies.
- Discussions to lunch, Student and Teaching Awards on July 17th, 2025
- Discussions and updates on Senate Meetings.
- Discussions and updates on the appointment of Associate Vice-President, Indigenous Representative
- Discussions on the proposed event for the UMGPS Indigenous Awareness Initiative.
- Discussions and updates on the UMGPS events for the new academic year.
- Discussions and updates on the UMGPS email and website transition.
- Discussions and updates on the postdoctoral fellow research showcase day.
- Discussions and updates on HSGSA events.

Executive Committee

Chair: Timilehin Oluwajuyitan (UMGPS President)

Meeting Dates: June 10th & 24th, 2025

- Members of the Executive Committee attended the convocation ceremony held on both campuses, celebrating graduate student success.
- Appointment of Associate Vice-President, Indigenous Representative (Taylor Galvin).
- Discussion and updates on the overlap between graduate studies, health insurance, and federal government benefits.
- Discussion and updates on the meeting with the University president, vice-provost (student), and dean of the faculty of graduate studies.
- Discussions regarding the development of a new application for Student and Teaching Awards.
- Discussions and updates on Senate Meetings.
- Discussions on the proposed event for the UMGPS Indigenous Awareness Initiative.
- Discussions and updates on the UMGPS events for the new academic year, along with the approval of new clubs.
- Discussions and updates on the UMGPS email and website transition.
- Discussions on developing a proposal for the postdoctoral fellow research showcase day.
- Discussions and updates from the HSGSA president.
- Discussion and updates on the concluded UMGPS and HSGSA gala event, including students' suggestions for future events.

Executive Committee

Chair: Timilehin Oluwajuyitan (UMGPS President)

Meeting Dates: May 13th & 27th, 2025

- Discussions regarding the transition from past to new executive members, including proper orientation to their respective portfolios.
- Discussion and updates on executive workshop training.
- Discussion and updates on the conference grant application are delayed due to technical issues from the Faculty of Graduate Studies.
- Discussion and updates on the Student Care/ Alumo stakeholder meeting and orientation.
- Discussion and updates on the recruitment of the Associate Vice-President, Indigenous Representative.
- Discussion and updates on the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) foundation conference.
- Discussion and updates on the UMGPS tax clinic in both campuses.
- Discussions and updates from the incoming HSGSA president.

Governance & Strategy Committee

Chairperson: Timilehin Oluwajuyitan

The Governance and Strategy Committee will be meeting in January 2026, as per Article VI Section 3C of the Governance and Operations Policy.

Equity & Inclusion Committee

Chairperson: Peggy Wu – Vice-President Equity & Inclusion

Reporting Period: May–November 2025

In collaboration with former UMGPS President C. Yendt, drafted Appendix C of the UMGPS Executive and Officers Manual to establish the role description, responsibilities, and expectations for the newly created Associate Vice-President, Equity and Inclusion (Indigenous Engagement) position.

Worked closely with the Indigenous Student Centre (ISC) and Indigenous Graduate Student Success Coordinator Don Davies to identify Indigenous graduate students interested in serving as Associate Vice-President, Indigenous Engagement on the UMGPS executive team. Participated in candidate interviews alongside the President, presented a recommendation at a bi-weekly Executive Committee meeting, and supported the successful appointment of Taylor Galvin as Associate Vice-President, Indigenous Engagement.

Drafted the proposal “UMGPS Fall 2025 Indigenous Awareness,” outlining ideas for Indigenous-focused learning and engagement activities. The proposal is currently pending further verification of details, with the intent of co-develop programming with ISC for Winter 2026.

Represented UMGPS at the Spring Graduate Orientation at the International Centre in May, welcoming new students and sharing information about UMGPS and equity-focused resources.

Participated in the Winnipeg Pride Parade as part of the University of Manitoba delegation, representing UMGPS and showing support for 2SLGBTQIA+ students, staff, and faculty.

Represented UMGPS at the installation of Mr. Dave Angus as the 15th Chancellor of the University of Manitoba, sitting on the platform as part of the academic procession during the Spring 2025 Convocation at the Investors Group Athletic Centre. Volunteered for the “UM is stepping up in support of wildfire evacuees” initiative, helping with organizing and sorting donations and promoting the effort within the graduate student community.

Attended two meetings with the President’s Office.

In the first meeting, graduate-student concerns raised about the need for more co-op, practicum, and industry-partnership opportunities across faculties, as well as challenges faced by international students related to post-graduation work permits and the pause of the International Education Stream (IES) draws.

In the second meeting, highlighted ongoing issues with Winnipeg Transit service to the Fort Garry and Bannatyne campuses—such as delays, “ghost” buses, and overcrowded buses that bypass stops—and emphasized how these problems affect students’ ability to reach campus safely and on time.

Met with U of M StudentCare / ALUMO representatives to discuss expanding health and dental plan opt-out options and increasing flexibility in coverage so that it better reflects diverse student circumstances and financial realities.

Attended the 2025 Equity & Anti-Oppression Student Forum hosted by the Office of Equity Transformation, representing UMGPS and engaging with other student leaders on equity, diversity, inclusion, accessibility, and anti-oppression work.

Participated in the “Anti-Oppression: Framework and Praxis” workshop offered by the Office of Equity Transformation to strengthen my capacity to support EDIA initiatives within UMGPS.

Took part in the Fall Graduate Orientation and Fall International Student Orientation, delivering a brief presentation with the executive team and answering questions from new students, while highlighting UMGPS services and equity-related support.

Joined the Indigenous Student Centre’s event “Remembering Residential Schools – Shirt Making” at Migizii Agamik, engaging with ISC staff and students and supporting programming centered on Residential School Survivors.

Attended National Day for Truth and Reconciliation programming, including the pipe ceremony, opening remarks from the President, and the sharing of healing journeys by Residential School Survivors, to deepen understanding and help inform future VPEI advocacy.

Participated in the UMGPS Gala Meeting as part of the executive team.

Participated in two consultation meetings on Winnipeg Transit service for the Fort Garry and Bannatyne campuses, providing feedback on issues such as delays, “ghost” buses, and overcrowded buses that bypass stops, and, given limited resources, discussing how service could be scheduled more effectively to meet demand.

Participated as a UMGPS representative on the Graduate Student Experience Committee, contributing to discussions on new professional-development workshops and potential micro-credentials for graduate students.

Actively participated in internal discussions with the executive and staff team, regularly offering feedback and suggestions.

Continued to build relationships with key campus partners (ISC, Office of Equity Transformation, StudentCare, the President’s Office, etc.) and helped share information about EDIA and reconciliation-related events and opportunities with graduate students through UMGPS communication channels and personal networks.

UMGPS Equity & Inclusion Committee Membership:

- Peggy Wu (Chairperson)
- Taylor Gavin (Associate Vice-President Indigenous [AVPI])
- Brie Willoughby
- Jalal Rhaman
- Katarina Hein
- Peace Ifeanyi
- Sharin Fatema

Academic Affairs Committee

Chairperson: Lamia Mahzabin (VP Academic & Senator)

This Term, the UMGPS Academic Affairs Committee served the graduate community through the UMGPS Student Award, Teaching Award and Holiday Hamper Programs. Committee members were selected to ensure representation from various departments across campus, including both Master's and PhD programs, to reflect the diverse voices of students in the decision-making process. They also signed the code of conduct to avoid conflict of interest while on duty.

At the meeting held in November 2025, the committee compiled and submitted the results of UMGPS Student and Teaching Awards 2025 to the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (FGPS).

Please find the highlights from 2025/2026 term:

- Approval of the method for reviewing UMGPS Awards applications.
- Review the Holiday Hamper Program applications with VPEC.
- Collaborated with VPEC on events – Meet and Greet, Gimli Beach Day, Peer Support Hour etc.

UMGPS Academic Affairs Committee Membership:

1. Lamia Mahzabin, VP Academic and Senator, UMGPS (Chairperson)
2. Dr. Kelley Main, Dean FGS
3. Timilehin Oluwajuyitan, President, UMGPS
4. Diwan Oulai, VP Events & Clubs, UMGPS
5. Anam Ara, Vice President Academic, HSGSA
6. Ahmed Nusayer Ashik
7. Ali Karoobi
8. Ayodeji Ajilore
9. Basel Aljada
10. Bashiru Salifu
11. Chiemelie Onah
12. Emmanuella Nti
13. Farah Noreen
14. Farshid Ghiyamihoor
15. Fatemeh Dorani
16. Fatiha Rashid Sharmi
17. Ghazale Farjam
18. Henok Alemneh
19. Ibrahim Rasaq
20. Jaden Wisneski
21. Jordan Carrette
22. Kasuni Abeykoonge
23. Khatereh Salimi
24. Kosar Eivani

25. Madison Herget-Schmidt
26. Mahin Hasan
27. Maria Hangad
28. Mohammad Hasan
29. Nasiba Ahmed
30. Olivia Lovett
31. Oluwafisayo Stephen Ayita
32. Ravinder Singh
33. Robin Blott
34. Shubhpreet Ubbi
35. Somashree Chattapadhya
36. Tobias Bergmann
37. Vera Anokyewaa Amponsah

Recommendations:

- Academic representatives should come up with ideas for academic events, such as seminars or workshops to support the Academic Affairs Committee.
- Academic Affairs Committee members should be offered a discount or perks at UMGPS events as they are not eligible to apply for UMGSA Awards and Holiday Hamper.

Events and Clubs Committee

Chairperson: Diwan Oulai (VP Events & Clubs)

The UMGPS Events and Clubs Committee has diligently worked hard to host events that are socially orientated. Some include a wellness and mental health workshop. These events were done for the graduate population to make their graduate journey more fun and engaging, but also filled with hope, rest and tools that will help them and make that journey a successful one. Here are some of the highlights from this year's committee:

The committee arranged the viewing of the Champions League final in the UMGPS lounge from 2pm on May 31. This brought together graduate students from different cultures and backgrounds cheering for the team they love.

The committee organized a meet and greet event on June 27th at St Vital Park from 4pm onwards. It was an opportunity for the graduate students to come together, have fun, relax and meet informally their newly elected executives.

The committee organized, in collaboration with the International Centre, a day trip to Gimli on July 17th from 9am to 4pm, a day trip to FortWhyte Alive from 9pm to 2 pm, and a movie night at 8pm. These events and collaboration were an opportunity to strengthen relationship between UMGPS and the IC but also to reach a greater audience.

The committee also organized a Welcome (back) event on September 11th from 4:30pm to 6:30pm at the UMGPS lounge. The event was put together to welcome new and returning grad students to the University of Manitoba.

On September 23rd, we had an open mic/karaoke event at the VW Social Club from 7pm onwards. It was an evening of relaxation and fun with other graduate students.

On October 2nd and 3rd, we had two mental health workshops at the Fort Gary campus and the Bannatyne campus respectively. It happened from 11am to 12pm at Fort Gary and from 1pm at Bannatyne campus. After both events, they were craft activities (both campus) and yoga (Fort Gary). It was an opportunity for graduate students to come and find some tools that would be useful to deal with mental health issues.

In the Halloween season, we organized a pumpkin carving competition at the UMGPS lounge from 4:30pm to 6:30pm on October 30th. This was a way for us to celebrate Halloween and for grad students to come together and have fun. We had groups of students made up of at least 4 students competing and only three winners. Each winner went with a gift card of \$100 CAD, \$75 CAD, and \$50 CAD respectively.

On the last Tuesday in October and November and the last Monday of September, we had Peer Support Hour happening from 5:30pm to 6:30pm. This was an opportunity for grad students to come together, to share their grad experiences, to listen to others' stories and get advice from their peers on school life.

To end the term brilliantly, we are having a game night on December 3rd at the UMGPS lounge from 4:30 to 6:30pm.

Events & Clubs Committee Membership:

1. Diwan – UMGPS VP Events and Clubs (Chairperson)
2. Lamia – UMGPS VP Academic and Senator (Vice chair)
3. Thalia – Staff
4. Andy – HSGSA Designate (VPA)

5. Chamali Kodikara
6. Jagpreet Kaur
7. Narthaky Vimaladhas
8. Khaterreh Salimi
9. Samuel Barrett
10. Sara Petkau
11. Clarissa Klenke
12. Mohamedelmufasta Ahmed
13. Teah Goossen
14. Israk Iram Oyshe
15. Danyel Ramirez
16. Emmelynn Cullen
17. Aishika Dissanayake Mudiyansele
18. Anushika Rathnayake
19. Andrea Mandzuk
20. Sasha Kullman
21. Daniel Rose
22. Rei Shibue

External Affairs Committee

Chairperson: Armin Aghajani (VP External)

Served as the UMGSA representative on the FGS Appeals Committee.

Served as the UMGSA representative on the Senate Committee on Academic Review.

Served as the UMGSA representative on the Senate Committee on Instruction and Evaluation.

Served as the UMGSA representative on the Senate Committee on Libraries.

Served as the UMGSA representative on the Senate Committee on University Research.

Attended meetings and conferences of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) and followed up on their action items to support the UMGSA's goal of becoming a full CASA member.

Initiated and maintained correspondence with Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) to leverage their capacity in support of graduate student priorities.

Followed up with the Ministry of Advanced Education and Training regarding commitments and issues outlined in their 2023 mandate letter that affect graduate students.

Led the launch of the "Legal Care" program as a new component of the students' health and dental plan, providing additional legal support services for members.

Appendix III :

Annual General Meeting HSGSA Report May 1st, 2025 – November 30th, 2025 Vice-President Health Sciences – Ashraf Kadar Shahib

HSGSA Report: Ashraf Kadar Shahib (HSGSA President/UMGPS VP Health Sciences)

Over the past six months, I have been deeply engaged in a broad range of executive, administrative, and community-building responsibilities as HSGSA President. Our work has focused on reinforcing our internal governance, promoting student well-being, and strengthening our representation at both faculty and university-wide levels.

I have chaired and attended regular HSGSA executive and council meetings, ensuring that our organization's operations run smoothly and that major decisions reflect the consensus of our team. I have also been present at UMGPS executive meetings and participated in Faculty Council sessions, consistently advocating for graduate student interests at every possible level.

A significant part of our work has been dedicated to planning and delivering cornerstone events like the Manitoba Student Health Research Forum (MSHRF) and our HSGSA Summer Event. For these, I worked closely with VPs and Volunteers to oversee awards, logistics and certificate preparation. The HSGSA have also organized a variety of workshops, including those addressing conflict resolution, mental health, and professional development, while championing major community-building events such as Culturo-Fest, Movie Night, and the Meet the Professionals panel.

The HSGSA also played a hands-on role in setting up and transitioning signing authorities for our bank accounts, led our overall budget planning, and ensured that all financial documents were in order. My administrative responsibilities also included streamlining club funding processes, preparing orientation material for department sessions, and promptly responding to all inquiries from students and the Council.

As President, I have facilitated performance appraisals with the executive team to foster ongoing accountability and development. I also managed recruitment, interviews, and onboarding—for positions like the MHRE Director and Associate Director—ensuring our leadership pipeline is strong and supportive of future organizational growth.

HSGSA has launched and supported numerous academic and professional development initiatives, such as the Dr. Patrick Choy Distinguished Lectureship and various wellness and mentorship programs. As part of my broader commitment to student life, I have been active in committees including the Academic and Events Committees and organized wellness workshops, mental health talks, and town halls to keep our community engaged and informed.

Each month, I prepared detailed executive and council reports, verified and circulated meeting minutes, and maintained meticulous agenda documentation. I ensured regular office hours, managed extensive email communications, and was responsive to all queries to keep Council members and students well informed and supported.

Appendix IV:

Annual General Meeting PDFA Report May 1st, 2025 – November 30th, 2025

Vice-President Postdoctoral Affairs – Nazanin Vafaei

Roles:

- President, University of Manitoba Postdoctoral Fellows' Association (UM-PDFA)
- Vice-President (Postdoctoral Fellows & Research Associates), Department of Food and Human Nutritional Sciences (FHNS)
- Postdoctoral Representative, FHNS Department Council
- Member, UMGPS Sponsorship Committee
- Member, UMGPS Technical Team for Events

1. Committees, Councils, and Boards Served On

- UM Postdoctoral Fellows' Association (UM-PDFA) – President
- FHNS Department Council – Postdoctoral Representative
- FHNS Postdocs & Research Associates Organization – Vice-President
- UMGPS Sponsorship Committee – Member

- UMGPS Technical Team for Events – Member
- UMGPS Council – Voting Member
- External Partnership Engagements with: Office of Donor Relations, FGPS, Research Manitoba, RRC Polytech, RCMP, Canola Council of Canada, etc.

2. Written Report: Activities and Achievements This Term

A. UM-PDFA Leadership and Governance

- Strengthened governance structure and visibility of the newly formed PDFA under the UMGPS umbrella.
- Coordinated establishment of financial and administrative processes (FOAP setup, banking activation, sponsorship agreements).
- Led preparation of PDFA policies, communications templates, sponsorship materials, and operational workflows.
- Actively advocated for postdoctoral needs with university leadership and external partners.

B. 2025 UM Postdoctoral & Graduate Research Showcase (Lead Organizer)

This inaugural university-wide Research Showcase was a major achievement, drawing

approximately eighty-six attendees.

Planning & Coordination

- Oversaw full logistical planning for the two-day event.
- Managed venue booking, catering, photography, certificates, AV coordination, and event-day operations.
- Coordinated opening remarks from President Michael Benarroch, Dean Kelley Main, and myself.

Funding & Sponsorship

The event secured strong financial backing through competitive funding and coordinated outreach:

- \$5,000 from Research Manitoba (competitive grant)
- \$12,100 from UM faculties (via coordinated proposals to Deans)
- \$1,400 from different external sponsors

Total funding secured: \$18,500, reflecting broad support and confidence in the showcase's value.

Program Highlights

- 20 oral presentations and 21 poster presentations across disciplines.
- Award ceremony was hosted with Dr. Stephen Kirkland, recognizing top oral and poster presenters.
- Smooth coordination of participant registration, volunteer support, photography, and program flow.

Post-Event Work

- Currently preparing the post-event evaluation document, budget recommendations, sponsorship guidance, and a detailed procedural guide for future showcase organizers.

C. FHNS Departmental Representation & Postdoc Organization Work

- Represented postdoctoral concerns, training priorities, and research issues at FHNS Council meetings.
- Supported planning and communications within the FHNS Postdocs & Research Associates Organization.
- Contributed to enhancing postdoc engagement and professional development efforts within the department.

D. UMGPS Sponsorship Committee & Technical Team Contributions

As a newly joined member of the UMGPS Sponsorship Committee and UMGPS Technical Team, I have not yet participated in active event planning cycles. However, I have begun familiarizing myself with committee processes and expectations, and I am prepared to contribute

in upcoming terms.

My current contributions relevant to these committees are drawn from extensive work completed through the UM-Postdoctoral Fellows' Association (UM-PDFA), including:

- Developing sponsorship proposals, outreach strategies, and funding templates used to successfully secure support for the 2025 UM Postdoctoral & Graduate Research Showcase.
- Coordinating technical and administrative components for the Showcase, including registration systems, communications materials, certificates, AV coordination, and event-day technical flow.
- Bringing a postdoctoral perspective to discussions on improving event inclusivity, visibility, and user experience—expertise that will directly support my work within UMGPS committees going forward.

E. External Relations & Advocacy

- Worked closely with the Office of Donor Relations to identify and reach appropriate university contacts.
- Engaged with Research Manitoba, RRC Polytech (Labs4Market), and RCMP to build partnerships and secure participation in PDFA initiatives.
- Represented postdocs in discussions on research culture, institutional processes, and professional development opportunities across UM.

3. Committee Members (Where Applicable)

UM-PDFA Executive Team

- Dr. Nazanin Vafaei – President
- Dr. Ruchira Nandasiri – Treasurer
- Dr. Ruth Boachie – VP Professional Development
- Dr. Amir Barzegar – VP Advocacy
- Dr. Armina Soleymani – VP Communications
- Dr. Manpreet Kaur – VP Events & Community Engagement

FHNS Postdocs & Research Associates Organization

- Dr. Nazanin Vafaei – Vice-President
- Supported by postdocs and research associates within FHNS

UMGPS Committees

- Sponsorship Committee – UMGPS executives + committee volunteers
- Technical Team – UMGPS VP Marketing, event coordinators, and technical volunteers

4. Summary

This term marked major progress in building postdoctoral community capacity, strengthening PDFA governance, advancing institutional partnerships, and successfully delivering the inaugural 2025 UM Postdoctoral & Graduate Research Showcase—a new signature event for UMGPS.

I remain committed to supporting postdoctoral success, visibility, and community building across the University of Manitoba.

Appendix V :

Annual General Meeting Senate Report

UMGPS Senate Report

1. Senate Meeting – May 14, 2025

Meeting Link: https://umanitoba.ca/governance/sites/governance/files/2025-06/2025_05_14_senate_minutes.pdf

Key Highlights

- **Graduation Approvals:**
Over 3,000 graduates expected to convocate in June. Senate approved several degrees notwithstanding deficiencies, including a posthumous PhD in Biosystems Engineering and three Juris Doctor degrees with minor credit discrepancies.
- **Medals & Prizes:**
Senate approved the Spring 2025 medals and prizes list.
- **Chancellor Transition:**
Senate recognized Chancellor Mahon's final meeting and celebrated her two-term service.

Elections & Appointments

- **Board of Governors:**
Professor Ferris elected for a three-year term (2025–2028).
- **Senate Executive Committee:**
Ms. Bruce, Professor Oliver, and Professor Shaw elected for new three-year terms.

Curriculum & Academic Changes

Senate approved multiple curriculums, academic schedule, and graduate program changes across:

- French, Spanish & Italian
- Faculty of Law
- Social Work (USB)
- College of Rehabilitation Sciences
- Several Graduate Studies units

Strategic Plan Consultation: Moment UM

- Senate participated in a consultation on draft key indicators and sample actions toward implementing the UM Strategic Plan (2024–2029).
- Feedback highlighted concerns about waitlists, instructional materials costs, and accessibility support.

President's Report

- Federal lobbying expected on international students & Tri-Agency funding.
- Board to soon consider budget & tuition for 2025/26.
- Convocation week encouraged all faculty/administrators.

2. Senate Meeting – June 25, 2025

Meeting Link: https://umanitoba.ca/governance/sites/governance/files/2025-09/2025_06_25_senate_minutes.pdf

Key Highlights

- **Curriculum Approvals:**

Senate approved several Graduate Studies proposals including changes in:

- Academic Guide (Visiting Student Researcher)
- Mathematics
- Sociology & Criminology

In Memoriam

Tributes were delivered for:

- Professor Witold Kinsner (Engineering)
- Professor David Punter (Botany, Science)

Program Suspensions

- Continued suspension of admissions to the Bachelor of Human Ecology (Family Social Sciences), ensuring remaining students can complete the program.

Major Information Items

- Moment UM Leading Change Together implementation plan shared.
- Awards reports, academic review updates, curriculum mapping corrections, and Letters of Accomplishment included.

President's Report

- **Capital Projects:**
 - Joyce Fromson Pool major repair approved.
 - Province is purchasing UM land for the Anne Oake Family Recovery Centre and potential Victoria Hospital expansion.
- **UM 150 Planning:**
Celebrations planned for February–December 2027.
- **AI Policy & External Engagements:**
Premier met with UM to understand AI developments.
- **Repatriation/Rematriation Guidance:**
New policy and guidance document released by the Office of the Vice-President (Indigenous).

Question Period

Topics raised included:

- AI Research Assistant tool in Libraries
- Dimensions EDI program
- Student Reflections on Instruction (SRI) release timelines and biases

Micro-Diploma in Leadership (Leadership in Action)

- Senate approved a new Micro-Diploma targeted at leadership learners across faculties, including practicum components and broad elective options.

3. Senate Meeting – October 1, 2025

Meeting Link: https://umanitoba.ca/governance/sites/governance/files/2025-10/2025_10_01_senate_minutes.pdf

Graduation & Convocation

- 1,395 graduands approved for Fall 2025.
- Largest total annual graduands in UM history: 5,662 for 2025.
- Two degrees granted notwithstanding deficiencies (MA in Music Research posthumously; MD degree with exam exemptions due to disability).

Medals & Prizes

Senate approved medals and prizes list for October Convocation.

Student Senate Caucus Elections

- Ms. Shelli Traskovski was elected as the student voting member on Senate Executive.
- Assessor appointment to be corrected due to eligibility issue.

Information Items

Reports shared on:

- Awards (May, June, August)
- Provincial approval for expanded Master of Nursing – Nurse Practitioner intake
- Items approved by Board of Governors & Board Executive Committee

President's Report

- **Leadership Reappointment:**
Dr. Hiebert-Murphy willing to continue as Provost; advisory committee established.
- **Microsoft Storage Limits & LOD Training:**
New storage caps prompting support training.
- **Campus Safety Education:**
Sessions held at both campuses.
- **Budget Planning:**
BAC meeting held awaiting provincial estimates.
- **Government Relations:**
Meetings with the Premier; focus on health, education, agriculture, AI, quantum, and Arctic research.
- **Enrolment Updates:**
 - Undergrad enrolment +3.1%
 - International undergrad enrolment –16%, down from –31% the previous year
 - International grad enrolment –20–24%
 - Global student interest in Canada declining sharply (35–40% vs 80% historically)

Question Period

Topics included:

- Risks of Microsoft/US-based data infrastructure
- Feasibility of self-hosted options (Next Cloud/own Cloud)
- Self-declaration of absence system (increasing make-up exams; privacy governance)

IST confirmed data stored in Canadian data centers, but risk management remains important.

4. Senate Meeting – December 3, 2025

Meeting Link: https://umanitoba.ca/governance/sites/governance/files/2025-11/2025_12_03_senate-agenda_reduced.pdf

Closed Session Items

- Senate will review the Report of the Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees (confidential).

Elections

- Senate will elect two representatives to the Senate Executive Committee as leave replacements (Jan–June 2026).
- Nominees include Shawn Clark (Engineering) and Christine Shaw (Libraries).

Items for Concurrence Without Debate

These are curriculum items approved by committees and presented for formal Senate concurrence:

- Major course and program changes across multiple faculties, including:
 - Agricultural & Food Sciences (Plant Biotechnology program revisions).
 - Arts (Asian Studies, Anthropology, Political Science, Canadian Studies, etc.).
 - Engineering (significant updates in Biosystems, Civil, Electrical & Computer, Mechanical—including new *Mechatronics Stream*).
 - Environment, Earth & Resources, Health Sciences, Medicine, Law, Pharmacy, Science (including closure of the B.Sc. Biotechnology major/honours).

Information Items

The following items are for information only:

1. Awards Committee Report (Oct 20).
2. Teaching Evaluation Review Sub-committee Report (discussion item).
3. Summer Term Academic Schedule Review (major review report).
4. President's Correspondence regarding extension of suspended admissions to three BComm (Hons) majors:
 - International Business
 - Leadership & Organization
 - Management Information Systems
5. Provincial approval for suspension of Human Ecology (Family Social Sciences) programs.
6. Faculty Annual Activity & Budget Summary Reports (2024–25).
7. Items approved by Board of Governors (Oct 28).

Report of the President

- President's oral report.
- Discussion: Draft Statement on Freedom of Expression for UM community members.

Question Period

- Questions about non-agenda items must be submitted in advance to University Secretary.

Minutes

- Approval of minutes at the November 5, 2025, meeting.

Reports from Senate Executive & SPPC

- Senate Executive Committee report.
- SPPC Chair to provide oral updates.

Additional Committee Reports

Extensive academic program and regulation changes from:

- Asper School of Business
- Biosystems Engineering
- Human Anatomy & Cell Science
- Preventive Dental Science
- Admissions Committee – revised requirements for BComm (Direct Entry & Indigenous Category).
- Curriculum Committee – formal closure of BSc Biotechnology programs.
- University Research Committee – proposal to establish Behavioral Management Research Centre.

Adjournment

- Senators asked to send regrets to the University Secretary.