

UMGPS Council Meeting Documents Index Page

Wednesday, January 21st, 2026 – 5:30PM - Hybrid

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UMGPS Council Meeting

Wednesday, January 21st, 2026 – 5:30 PM – Hybrid

1. Call to Order

2. 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. University of Manitoba 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.

3. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION: BIRT the UMGPS Council approves the agenda for the January 21st, 2026, UMGPS Council Meeting as presented.

4. Approval of the Minutes

MOTION: BIRT the UMGPS Council approves the minutes of November 26th, 2025, UMGPS Council Meeting as presented.

5. Committee Reports

5.1. November Committee Reports (Appendix II)

6. HSGSA Report

6.1. November HSGSA Report (Appendix III)

7. Senate Report

7.1. November Senate Report (Appendix V)

8. Executive Reports

8.1. November Reports (Appendix II)

9. Departmental Reports

10. Unfinished Business

11. New Business

11.1. Selection of Councillor Consolidator

11.2. Special Council Meeting Inquiry

12. Announcements

- a. Next Council Meeting: February 25th, 2026**
- b. February Newsletter: If anyone has anything they want to share for the newsletter, e-mail marketing@umgps.org**

13 Adjournment

Appendix II: November-December Committee Reports

Executive Committee

Chair: Timilehin Oluwajuyitan (UMGPS President)

Meeting Dates: December 9th, 2025

- Discussions and update on UMGPS new logo.
- Discussion and updates on the outcome of the meeting between the UMGPS team and the Manitoba Minister of Education.
- Discussions and updates on UMGPS councilors' late recruitment and documentation.
- Discussions and updates on HSGSA academic and social events.
- Discussions and updates on the postdoctoral fellow research showcase day.
- Discussions and updates on the Winter orientation.
- Discussions and updates on the UMGPS events and clubs committee – Holiday Hamper.
- 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 next council and annual general meeting (AGM)

Executive Committee

Chair: Timilehin Oluwajuyitan (UMGPS President)

Meeting Dates: November 20th & 25th, 2025

- Discussions and updates on policy development for club funding
- Discussions and update on UMGPS logo competition.
- Discussions and updates on UMGPS Student and Teaching Awards.
- Discussion and updates on the UMGPS meeting with the Manitoba Minister of Education.
- Discussions and updates on UMGPS councilors' recruitment, documentation and professionalism.
- 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 – Culture festival.
- Discussions and updates on the postdoctoral fellow research showcase day.
- Discussions and updates on the next council and annual general meeting (AGM)

Vice-President Events and Clubs – Diwan Oulai

Full listing of Committee, Council & Board:

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

Events and Clubs Committee

Chairperson: Diwan Oulai (VP Events and Clubs)

The UMGPS Events and Clubs Committee has diligently worked hard to do some events that are socially orientated as well as wellness and mental health orientated. 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 of October and November and the last Monday of September, we had the 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 had a game night on December 3rd at the UMGPS lounge from 4:30 to 6:30pm.
- We recently added new committee members to our numbers.

Service and Support Committee Membership:

- Diwan – UMGPS VP Events and Clubs (Chairperson)
- Lamia – UMGPS VP Academic and Senator (Vice chair)
- Thalia – Staff
- Andy – HSGSA Designate (VPA)
- Chamali Kodikara
- Jagpreet Kaur
- Narthaky Vimaladhas
- Khaterah Salimi
- Samuel Barrett
- Sara Petkau
- Clarissa Klenke
- Mohamedelmufasta Ahmed
- Teah Goossen
- Israk Iram Oyshe
- Danyel Ramirez
- Emmelynn Cullen
- Aishika Dissanayake Mudiyansele
- Anushika Rathnayake
- Andrea Mandzuk
- Sasha Kullman
- Daniel Rose
- Rei Shibue

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

This year, 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 other social and academic events. 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, Summer Event** 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 a major update, we have clubbed our bank accounts into one, enabling a smooth process of **finance management**.

As President, I have facilitated performance appraisals with the executive team to foster ongoing accountability and development. We have also recently concluded our first IDRC review, and all the executives received very high scores. 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. I've also been occupied with the reforming of the HSGSA Election Process, by the inclusion of a DRO, and also introducing a hiring process for the CRO and DRO.

The 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 and mental health talks, to keep our community engaged and informed.

We've also spent significant time on the restructuring of our policy manual as we have brought on major changes with regard to the roles and responsibilities of the executives. These documents have been successfully approved by our council and have been amended.

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.

Finally, we are currently working on a couple of academic events, a preparatory 3MT round for the students to practice and get positive feedback from peers. We are also planning a "Bench to Desk" talk in collaboration with Dr. Samantha Pauls. Lastly, we are working on a potential Winter Social Event for the graduate students as well.

Peggy Wu: Vice-President Equity, Inclusion, & Diversity: November-December Council Report

1. External & Advocacy Support

- Attended the meeting with the Minister of Advanced Education and Training as part of the UMGPS leadership team, contributing equity and inclusion perspectives on graduate student affordability, well-being, and immigration-related stressors.
- Supported discussions on international student challenges, including financial pressures, health coverage, and barriers affecting academic focus and research continuity.

2. University Leadership Preparation

- Prepared equity- and access-focused discussion topics for an upcoming meeting with the University President, with emphasis on:
- Potential fee discounts for professional certification and licensing exams for graduate students.
- Expanded interdisciplinary micro-credentials and cross-faculty learning opportunities.
- Improved recognition of graduate student professional development and PhD career pathways.

3. Committee & Governance Work

- Drafted the agenda and preparatory materials for the January Equity & Inclusion Committee meeting.

4. Events & Engagement

- Attended the Winter 2026 Faculty of Graduate Studies Orientation and delivered a brief overview of the VPEI portfolio to incoming graduate students.
- Conducted preliminary outreach to decor vendors and requested proposals in support of planning for the 2026 Gala.

Lamia Mahzabin, Vice-President Academic & Senate

Yet to be received

Armin Aghajani – Vice-President, External Affairs & Senator

Yet to be received

Nazanin Vafaei – Vice President, Postdoctoral Affairs

Yet to be received

Appendix III. UMGPS Senate Report

UMGPS Senate Report

1. Senate Meeting – Nov 5, 2025

Meeting Link: https://umanitoba.ca/governance/sites/governance/files/2025-11/2025_11_05_senate_minutes.pdf

Executive Summary – Senate Meeting (November 5, 2025)

The University of Manitoba Senate met on November 5, 2025, chaired by President Michael Benarroch, with extensive representation from faculty, deans, staff, students, and assessors across the institution. The meeting addressed academic governance decisions, policy updates, strategic issues, and institutional priorities.

Key Approvals and Decisions

Senate approved several items without debate, including:

- The **2026–2027 Academic Schedule**
- Revisions to the **2025–2026 Academic Schedule** (College of Nursing)
- Multiple **graduate curriculum and course changes** (Community & Global Health, Disability Studies, Pharmacy)
- Revised **Terms of Reference for the Senate Committee on University Research**

Additional approvals included:

- New **articulation agreements** between the Price Faculty of Engineering and Red River College Polytechnic, allowing diploma graduates advanced standing into engineering degrees (effective September 2026).
- Revised **admission requirements** for the Diploma in Agriculture (effective Fall 2027).
- New **maximum time limits** for Dentistry and Dental Hygiene programs to ensure curriculum relevance (effective September 2026).
- Two new **endowed professorships** in Clinical Health Psychology (\$1.43M fund) and Internal Medicine Clinical Science (\$1M fund), recommended to the Board of Governors.

Strategic and Institutional Updates

The President’s report highlighted major national and institutional developments:

- Positive outcomes in the **federal budget** for research funding, including long-term investments in Tri-Council funding, international research recruitment, and doctoral/postdoctoral support.
- Important changes to **international student policies**, including faster visa processing for doctoral students and removal of PAL requirements for graduate applicants at public institutions.
- Ongoing advocacy regarding **public transit challenges** affecting student and staff mobility between campuses.
- Provincial priorities related to **data sovereignty, intellectual property retention, and innovation infrastructure**.

Consultations and Discussions

Senate received a request for consultation regarding a one-time increase of 25 seats in the Asper School of Business Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) program for Winter 2026 intake; no concerns were raised.

The **Senate Assessment Survey 2025** results were discussed, identifying areas for improvement such as:

- Encouraging broader participation in discussions

- Ensuring psychological safety in meetings
- Improving decision-making efficiency
- Enhancing meeting technology and engagement formats

Other Highlights

- Marketing expenditures for the institutional branding campaign were reported at approximately **\$1.2 million**, representing 0.12% of the total budget.
- Senate approved the minutes of the October 1, 2025 meeting.
- The meeting adjourned at 2:26 p.m.