

## UMGPS Council Meeting Minutes

### **1. Call to Order (5:32pm)**

### **2. Land Acknowledgement:**

The University of Manitoba campuses are located on original lands of Anishinaabeg, Ininiwak, Anisininewuk, Dakota Oyate and Dene, and on the National Homeland of the Red River Métis. We acknowledge that our water comes from Shoal Lake 40 First Nation, and our hydro from the hydro dams located in Treaty 5. We respect the Treaties that were made on these territories, we acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past and present, and we dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of Reconciliation and collaboration.

### **3. Approval of the Agenda**

**BIRT: The UMGPS approves the Council meeting agenda for February 25<sup>th</sup> 2026, as presented**

*Sasha/Robin*

*Carried*

### **4. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**BIRT: The UMGPS approves the Council meeting minutes from January 21<sup>st</sup> meeting as presented on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026.**

*Nisali/Sasha*

*Carried*

### **5. Committee Reports**

- i. Grad Student Social Hour held February 13th as a Valentine's-themed event to encourage graduate student connection and community building.
- ii. Creative De-Stress Night held in January, providing graduate students an opportunity to relax and focus on activities outside academic workloads.
- iii. Events and Clubs Committee meeting held January 14th; another meeting scheduled for the following week.
- iv. Meeting held with the Vice-Provost (Student Affairs), Laurie, and Kelly Main regarding current university initiatives affecting graduate and undergraduate students.
- v. Transit Concerns:
- vi. Student complaints regarding Winnipeg transit accessibility and reliability were discussed.
- vii. The university has been in communication with the City of Winnipeg and continues to hold quarterly meetings to address transit concerns and explore possible improvements.
- viii. Construction progress reported to be on schedule.
  - o Efforts underway to renovate second- and third-floor spaces to allow student access during ongoing construction.
  - o Parking challenges at the Bannatyne campus were discussed; discussions with the Health Sciences Centre are ongoing to explore possible solutions.

## **6. Senate Report**

### **7. HSGSA Report**

- i. HSGSA held its Annual General Meeting and approved restructuring of the executive structure.
- ii. Motions related to governance changes were successfully passed.
- iii. Hiring of Chief Returning Officer (CRO) and Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) completed for upcoming HSGSA general elections.
- iv. Campaign period currently underway.
- v. Graduate Student Excellence Award (GSEA) and Graduate Student Merit Award (GSMA) applications opened in January and extended into February.
- vi. Evaluation of applications is ongoing with the assistance of faculty reviewers.
- vii. Planning ongoing for the upcoming Winter Gala; ticket sales are currently open.
- viii. Planning underway for a Financial Literacy Workshop scheduled for April.
- ix. Participation in meetings addressing issues affecting Health Sciences students.
  - a. Support provided to other academic initiatives and events in collaboration with partners such as MSHRF

### **8. Executive Reports**

- i. Attended the UMGPS Annual General Meeting in January.
- ii. Participated in Governance and Strategy Committee meetings.
- iii. Prepared for Equity and Inclusion Committee meeting (agenda review, notes, and questions).
- iv. Registered to volunteer for the Elders and Traditional Peoples Gathering 2026.
- v. Coordinated communication with vendors regarding gala decor planning.
- vi. Engaged with fellow students to explain UMGPS roles and responsibilities.
- vii. Promoted upcoming UMGPS executive elections among graduate students.
- viii. Addressed student concerns through informal discussions and explored potential solutions.
- ix. Focused on administrative coordination, financial follow-ups, and external reporting obligations during January.
- x. Worked on account management, award processing, and report preparation for funding partners.
- xi. Attended coordination meetings related to council operations and ongoing initiatives.
- xii. Followed up with UMGPS leadership and staff regarding account status to enable incoming faculty deposits.
- xiii. Coordinated the next steps for distributing awards and honoraria to recipients.
- xiv. Collaborated with Steve to finalize the required Research Manitoba report, including event documentation and requested information.

- xv. Confirmation of the UMGPS account remains pending; deposits and award disbursements will proceed once finalized.
- xvi. Financial coordination with multiple faculties continues.
- xvii. Delays in account confirmation may affect timelines for award distributions.
- xviii. External reporting deadlines require timely input from multiple stakeholders.
- xix. Finalize and submit the Research Manitoba report.
  - xx. Confirm account status and proceed with deposits and award distributions.
- xxi. Continue coordination with council and executive teams.

## **9. Departmental Reports**

### **10. Unfinished Business**

### **11. New Business**

#### **UMGPS General Elections**

- i. Nominations opened for multiple executive positions.
- ii. The Vice President Academics position remains open due to lack of candidates.
- iii. Councillors were encouraged to share the opportunity with interested graduate students.
- iv. Election Timeline:
  - o Campaign preparation period: February 23rd – March 8th
  - o Campaign period: March 9th – March 15th
  - o Joint Election Forum (UMGPS & HSGSA): March 9th
  - o Voting period: March 16th – March 17th
- v. Councillors were encouraged to participate in the election process and support candidates.

### **12. Announcements**

- i. Next Council Meeting – tentatively March 25<sup>th</sup> – Hybrid
- ii. Next Board Meeting - TBD
- iii. Next Annual General Meeting - TBD

### **13. Open Floor Discussion**

### **14. Adjournment (5:54pm)**

### UMGPS Council Meeting Attendance February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026

<i>Position/Department</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Signature</i>
President and Senator	Timilehin (Timi) Oluwajuyitan	<b>Sent Regards</b>
VP Academic and Senator	Lamia Mahzibin	Present
VP External and Senator	Armin Aghajani	<b>Absent</b>
VP Events & Clubs	Diwan Oulai	Present
VP Equity & Inclusion	Peggy Wu	<b>Absent</b>
VP HSGSA	Ashraf Kadar Shahib	Present
VP Postdoctoral Affairs Association	Nazanin	<b>Absent</b>
Executive Director	Willow Josephson (Non-voting)	Present
Marketing & Communications Coordinator	Thalia Vu (Non-Voting)	Present
Governance & Office Operations Coordinator - Takes minutes	Alora Hayward (Non-Voting)	Present
<b><i>Agric &amp; Food Science</i></b>		
Agribusiness & Agricultural Economics	NONE	

Animal Science	Tsiamaidy Tolojanahary	<b>Absent</b>
Biosystems Engineering	Khang Duong / Faisal Ahmed	Khang Present
Entomology	Emmelyn Cullen	Present
Food & Human Nutritional Science	VACANT	
Plant Science	VACANT	
Soil Science	Aishika Dissanayake / Anushika Rathnayake	Aishika Present
<b>Architecture</b>		
City Planning - UMAPS	Mitch Sorenson / Matt Kozicki	<b>Both Absent</b>
Interior Design	VACANT	
Landscape Architecture	Michael Rados	Present
<b>Arts</b>		
Economics	Oluwafemi (Femi) Awopegba	Present
English, Theatre, Film & Media	VACANT	
Linguistics	VACANT	
History	Brie Willoughby	Present
Political Studies	VACANT	
Psychology	Dallas Murphy (Proxy Nisali Muthumuni)	Nisali Present
Sociology & Criminology	Peace Ifeanyi	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Management</b>		
Management - MBA/MFin/MSCM	Pengyuan Tao / D Islam	<b>Both Absent</b>
<b>Education</b>		
Education - PhD	VACANT	
Education – Admin, Foundations & Psychology	VACANT	
Education – Curriculum, Teaching & Learning	VACANT	
<b>Engineering</b>		
Biomedical Engineering	Khang Duong / Faisal Ahmed	Khang Present
Civil Engineering	VACANT	
Electrical & Computer Engineering	VACANT	
Mechanical Engineering	AHM Nazmush Sakib	Present

<b><i>Environment, Earth &amp; Resources</i></b>		
Environment & Geography	Rei Shibue	<b>Absent</b>
Earth Sciences	Djelika Sogoba	<b>Absent</b>
Natural Resources Institute	Kaitlyn Plastino / Robin Blott	Both Present
<b><i>Graduate Studies</i></b>		
Applied Health Sciences	Andrea Mandzuk	Present
Peace & Conflict Studies	Jalal Rhaman / Sharin Fatema	<b>Both Absent</b>
<b><i>Kinesiology &amp; Recreation Mgmt.</i></b>		
Kinesiology & Recreation Mgmt.	Emma Heath / Jamie Alexiuk	<b>Both Absent</b>
<b><i>Science</i></b>		
Biological Sciences	Ni Ann	<b>Absent</b>
Chemistry	Danyel Ramirez	<b>Absent</b>
Mathematics	Berkant Cunnuk	<b>Absent</b>
Microbiology	Badriya	<b>Absent</b>
Physics & Astronomy	Katarina Hein	<b>Absent</b>
Statistics	Mary Taiwo	Present
<b><i>HSGSA Departments</i></b>		
Oral Biology	Manikanta Kella	<b>Absent</b>
Biochemistry & Medical Genetics	Marton Rohaly	Present
Community Health Sciences	Amalia Santiago	Present
Human Anatomy & Cell Science	Taylor Orchard (Proxy Suraj Shaji)	Suraj Present
Immunology	Ahmed Zohni	<b>Absent</b>
Medical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases	Clarissa Klenke	Present
Pathology	Akaljot Grewal	<b>Absent</b>
Pharmacology & Therapeutics	Afroza Parvin / Khushali Trivedi	Kushali Present
Physician Assistant Program	Kaitlyn MacGregor	<b>Absent</b>

Physiology & Pathophysiology	VACANT	
Nursing	Daniel Rose	Present
Pharmacy	Sasha Kullman	Present
Rehabilitation Sciences	Mary Osunlusi / Chiemelie Onah	Mary Present
<b>Guests</b>		

Minute-Taker \_\_\_\_\_ Date

President \_\_\_\_\_ Date

*The above is a true and accurate account of the proceedings of the committee. Please inform the Governance and Office Operations Coordinator of any errors and/or omissions.*