

UMGPS Council Meeting Documents Index Page

Wednesday, February 25th, 2026 – 5:30PM - Zoom

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UMGPS Council Meeting

Wednesday, February 25th, 2026, 5:30pm Hybrid

1. Call to Order

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 25th 2026, as presented

Sasha/Robin

Carried

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

BIRT: The UMGPS approves the Council meeting minutes from January 21st meeting as presented.

Nisali/Sasha

Carried

5. Committee Reports

6. Senate Report

7. HSGSA Report

8. Executive Reports

9. Departmental Reports

10. Unfinished Business

11. New Business

11.1 2026-2027 UMGPS General Election

i. Campaign Prep Period: February 23- March 8, 2026

ii. Campaign Period: March 9-15, 2026

iii. UMGPS/HSGSA Joint Election Forum: March 9, 2026

Voting Period: March 16-17, 2026

12. Announcements

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

13. Open Floor Discussion

14. Adjournment

Appendix II: January Committee Reports

Timi O – President

Yet to be received.

Acting President & Vice-President Events & 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

Meeting Dates: January 14, 2026

Events in January

- Creative De-stress Night (January 23)

Events in February

- Grad Students Social Hour (February 13)

Events and Clubs Committee Members:

- 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
- Khatereh 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 Council Report (Reporting period: January 1–31, 2026)

I am pleased to submit this report on HSGSA executive activities and priorities for January 2026. This month focused heavily on governance, academic representation, major HSGSA events (AGM, Council meeting), and coordination with UMGPS and university leadership.

Governance and Representation: Throughout January, I actively represented HSGSA at multiple governance tables to ensure health sciences graduate student concerns were heard. I attended MHRE, FGPS Council, and UMGPS Council meetings, as well as the UMGPS Governance and Strategy Committee, engaging on issues related to graduate governance, policy, and strategic planning. I also participated in the UMGPS AGM and Town Hall.

HSGSA Internal Leadership: Within HSGSA, I chaired and attended executive meetings that focused on planning for the AGM, Council, Gala, academic events, and ongoing advocacy work. I chaired the HSGSA Council meeting and the HSGSA AGM in January, supporting motions, constitutional responsibilities, and the dissemination of reports to our membership. I also attended the HSGSA Academic Committee meeting, where we discussed upcoming academic awards and support initiatives for graduate students in the health sciences.

Events, Gala, and External Engagement: A significant portion of my time was devoted to preparation for the UMGPS x HSGSA Winter Gala and related sponsorship activities. I attended multiple Gala Committee meetings and separate sponsorship meetings, including those with YEN and RBC, to advance funding and partnership opportunities for the event. In addition, I participated in the CaHST meeting and met with the University of Manitoba President, Dr. Benarroch, to highlight HSGSA priorities and strengthen institutional relationships.

Academic and Financial Support Activities: I evaluated Continuing Education Grant applications to support graduate student professional development and training. I also worked on the preparation and review of PCL nominations and evaluating them. These activities ensured that HSGSA continues to facilitate funding and recognition opportunities for our members.

Communications, Administration, and Time Summary: The month included substantial administrative and communications work, including email and WhatsApp correspondence, office hours, and record keeping. I maintained regular office hours, responded to emails related to the HSGSA AGM and Council, tax clinic, MSHRF 2026, and the Bench to bedside event, and supported executives by verifying reports, agendas, and meeting minutes.

Vice-President Equity, Inclusion, & Diversity – Peggy Wu

- Monthly update (UMGPS–VPEI):
Attended the AGM (left early due to class).
- Attended the Governance & Strategy Committee meeting; noted follow-ups/action items.
- Prepared for the Equity & Inclusion Committee meeting (agenda review, notes/questions).
- Registered to volunteer for the Elders and Traditional People Gathering 2026.
- Replied to the decoration vendor to apologize and confirm we won't proceed (venue finalized at RBC; no budget/need for additional décor).
- Responded to emails and introduced UMGPS to fellow students, explaining our mandate and responsibilities.
- Promoted UMGPS and shared information about the upcoming executive elections with peers.
- Addressed recent concerns and challenges raised by students and discussed potential approaches and solutions in informal discussions.

Vice-President Academic & Senate - Lamia Mahzabin

Yet to be received

Vice-President, External Affairs & Senator - Armin Aghajani

Yet to be received.

Vice President, Postdoctoral Affairs – Dr. Nazanin Vafaei

January Executive Report

January focused on administrative coordination, financial follow-ups, and external reporting obligations. Key priorities included account management, award processing, and preparation of required reports for funding partners.

Key Activities

- Attended several internal and coordination meetings related to Council operations and ongoing initiatives.
- Followed up with UMGPS leadership and staff regarding the status of the UMGPS account to enable incoming deposits from multiple faculties.
- Coordinated next steps for the distribution of awards and honoraria to winners.
- Supported communication between executives and UMGPS contacts (including Willow and Timi) to clarify outstanding questions and requirements.
- Worked closely with Steve to finalize the required Research Manitoba report, including compiling event details and requested information.

Financial & Administrative Updates

- UMGPS account confirmation is pending; deposits and award disbursements will proceed once finalized.
- Financial coordination with multiple faculties remains ongoing.

Challenges / Risks

- Delays in account confirmation may affect timelines for award distribution.
- External reporting deadlines require timely input from multiple stakeholders.
- Next Steps (February) Finalize the Research Manitoba report with Steve and submit it by the deadline.
- Confirm UMGPS account status and proceed with fund deposits and award disbursement.
- Continue attending meetings and supporting Council and executive coordination.

Appendix III. UMGPS Senate Report

University of Manitoba Senate Meeting from December 3rd 2025 Link:
[2025 12 03 senate minutes.pdf](#)