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UMGPS Council Meeting Documents Index Page

Wednesday, September 23rd, 2026, – 5:00PM - Teams

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August 26th, 2026, UMGPS Council Meeting Minutes.....Separate Attachment

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UMGPS Council Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, September 23rd, 2026 – 5:00 PM – Teams

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Traditional Territories Acknowledgement**
3. **Approval of the Agenda**

   MOTION: BIRT the UMGPS Council approves the agenda for September 23rd, 2026, UMGPS Council Meeting as presented.
4. **Approval of the Minutes**

   The minutes of August 26th, 2026, UMGPS Council Meeting were pre-circulated via email prior to this meeting.

   MOTION: BIRT the UMGPS Council approves the minutes of August 26th, 2026, UMGPS Council Meeting as presented.
5. **Committee Reports**

   5.1. September Committee Reports (Appendix II)
6. HSGSA Report

   6.1. September HSGSA Report (Appendix III)
7. Senate Report

   7.1. September Senate Report (Appendix V)
8. Executive Reports

   8.1. September Reports (Appendix II)
9. **Departmental Reports**
10. **Unfinished Business**
11. **New Business**

    11.1. Executive and Officer Policy

    11.2. Changes to UMGPS Clubs Policy
12. **Announcements**

    a. **Next Council Meeting:** October 28th, 2026 – TEAMS 5:00pm

    b. **October Newsletter**: If anyone has anything they want to share for the newsletter, e-mail **marketing@umgps.org**
13. Adjournment

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Appendix II: Executive Committee Reports - President – Emma Heath

SUBMITTED FOR:

September 2026

SUMMARY

MONTHLY GOALS

- Hold first board meeting
- Hold SGM
- Continuing policy revisions

MEETINGS AND OUTCOMES

- Board meeting held on September 24 (after preparation of this report)
- SGM held on September 16 (after preparation of this report)
- Continued meeting with G+S committee; moved to biweekly schedule with resumption of regular term classes

ONGOING EVENTS AND PROJECTS

- Governance and operations policy revisions
- Executive director hiring

COMPLETED EVENTS AND PROJECTS

- Board training
- SGM
- First board meeting

DOCUMENTED HOURS

- I have logged 78.5 hours for this reporting period. I anticipate I will log at least another 30 hours before the end of September.

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Vice-President Academic Affairs & Senate – Laleema Senanayake

Submitted for:

Council Meeting, September 23, 2026

Summary

Monthly Goals

- Organizing the UMGPS Children's Reading Circle for one week one week in August.
- Preparing the required documentation and follow up for UMGPS awards.
- Exploring new collaboration opportunities with Student Support Services
- Marketing UMGPS in social media and through other partnerships
- Participating in the committees VP Academic Affairs should be a part of

Meetings and Outcomes

Date	Meetings and Events	Outcome
2026-08-27	Children's Reading Circle	Successfully completed the summer initiative - Children;s Reading Circle
2026-08-31	Meeting with Nick Schroeder - Writing Tutor Progeam Coordinator of the Academic Learning Centre	Agreed to facilitate a Graduate Writing Group in partnership with the Academic Learning Centre during fall and winter semesters
2026-09-02	Graduate Student Orientation	Attended and supported the Graduate Student Orientation. Made posts for the UMGPS social media. Shared with the Manitoban
2026-09-03	Internation Student Orientation	Attended and supported the Internattional Student Orientation (morning hours). Made posts for the UMGPS social media. Shared with the Manitoban

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2026-09-10	Senate Orientation (partially)	Get to know about the senate and roles and responsibilities as a senator

Ongoing EVENTS AND PROJECTs

- Identifying and developing collaboration opportunities with various student support services across the University of Manitoba. Current partnerships include Student Advocacy and Case Management for two "Know Your Rights and Responsibilities" workshops; the Spiritual Care and Multifaith Centre for a drum circle for the UMGPS community; the Sexual Violence Resource Centre for a Healthy Relationships Workshop; and the Academic Learning Centre for Graduate Writing Groups.
- Developing social media reels and newsletter articles to promote UMGPS programs, services, and events, with a target of producing two social media reels per month highlighting UMGPS activities and available student supports. Sharing information with the Manitoban to promote UMGPS work.

Completed Events and Projects

- The Children's Reading Circle was held on August 24, 26, and 27. Final day we had over 22 children attending the event
- Attended and supported the Graduate Student Orientation and International Student Orientation (morning hours)
- Filmed, edited, and produced five social media reels for UMGPS Instagram, highlighting various services available to graduate students on campus as well as programs and initiatives organized by UMGPS.

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Documented Hours

WEEKLY TIME RECORD

Position: VP Academic

Name: Laleema Senanayake

WEEK ENDING: 2026-08-28

DAY	DATE	Office Hours	Committe Meetings	Events	Other	TOTAL
Saturday	2026-08-22					
Sunday	2026-08-23					
Monday	2026-08-24	2.00		2.00		4.00
Tuesday	2026-08-25				2.00	2.00
Wednesday	2026-08-26		3			3.00
Thursday	2026-08-27		1.00	2.00	3.00	6.00
Friday	2026-08-28					
	TOTAL HOURS	**2.00**	**4.00**	**4.00**	**5.00**	**15.00**

WEEKLY TIME RECORD

Position: VP Academic

Name: Laleema Senanayake

WEEK ENDING: 2026-09-04

DAY	DATE	Office Hours	Committe Meetings	Events	Other	TOTAL
Saturday	2026-08-29					
Sunday	2026-08-30					
Monday	2026-08-31	2.00			1.00	3.00
Tuesday	2026-09-01					
Wednesday	2026-09-02			4.00		4.00
Thursday	2026-09-03			6.00	3.00	9.00
Friday	2026-09-04					
	TOTAL HOURS	**2.00**		**10.00**	**4.00**	**16.00**

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WEEKLY TIME RECORD

Position: VP Academic

Name: Laleema Senanayake

WEEK ENDING: 2026-09-11

DAY	DATE	Office Hours	Committe Meetings	Events	Other	TOTAL
Saturday	2026-09-05					
Sunday	2026-09-06					
Monday	2026-09-07					
Tuesday	2026-09-08					
Wednesday	2026-09-09				3.00	3.00
Thursday	2026-09-10			0.50	1.00	1.50
Friday	2026-09-11				2.00	2.00
	TOTAL HOURS			**0.50**	**6.00**	**6.50**

Documented hours (27 August – 11 September) – 31.5

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Vice-President External Affairs & Senate – Mira Safa

Submitted for: September 23, 2026

Summary

Monthly Goals

- Review incoming email, address urgent items, and establish a process for managing the remaining backlog
- Confirm a recurring meeting time for the External Affairs Committee
- Attend Senate orientation and determine committee assignments
- Prepare a student survey that identifies student's top priority

Meetings and Outcomes

- Missed the council meeting due to conference travel
- Attended Senate Orientation (September 10)

Ongoing EVENTS AND PROJECTs

- Coordinating a recurring meeting time for the External Affairs Committee (monthly)
- Attending the CASA event on September 16
- Preparing for the upcoming general meeting
- Developing a student survey to identify issues most urgent to graduate students, to inform advocacy priorities

Completed Events and Projects

- None to report for now

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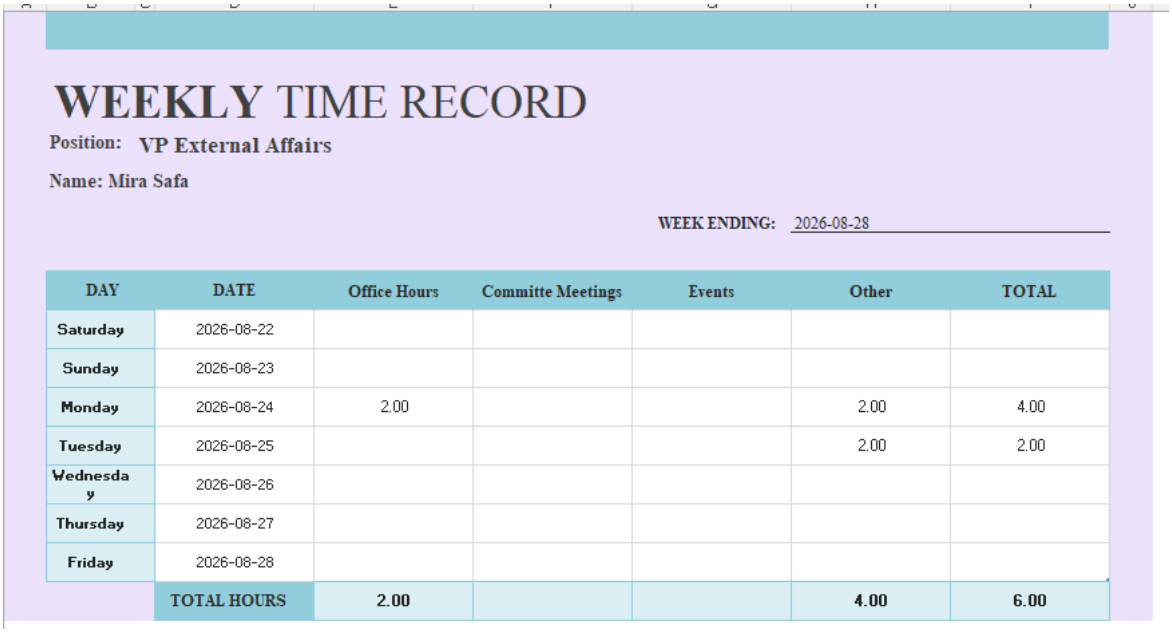
Documented Hours



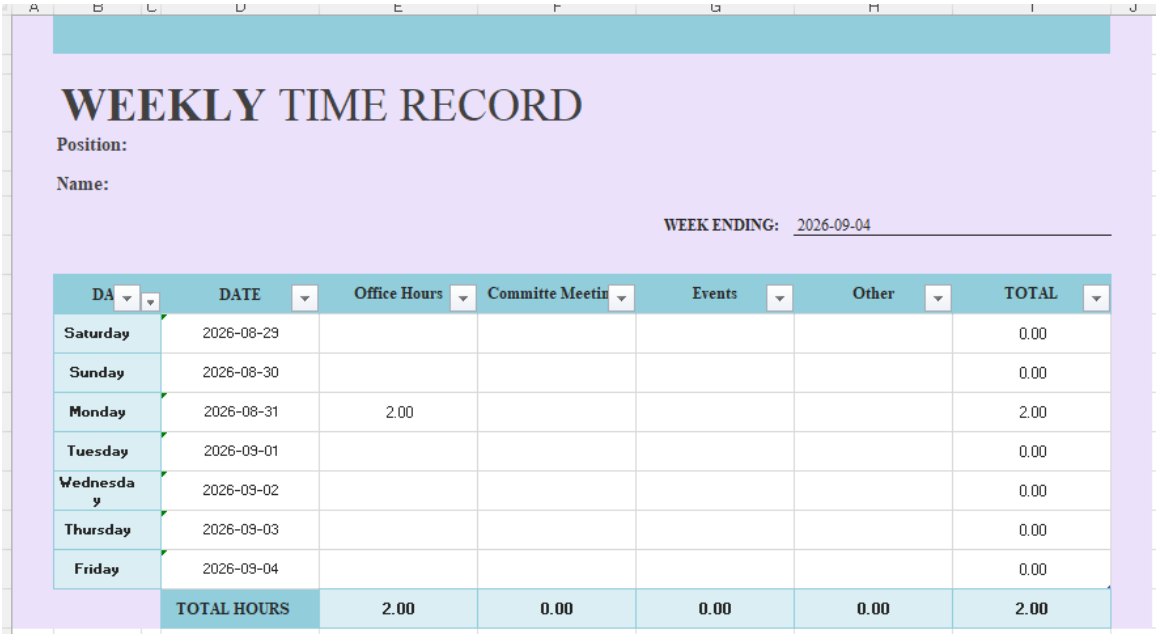
WEEKLY TIME RECORD

Position: VP External Affairs

Name: Mira Safa

WEEK ENDING: 2026-08-28

DAY	DATE	Office Hours	Committe Meetings	Events	Other	TOTAL
Saturday	2026-08-22					
Sunday	2026-08-23					
Monday	2026-08-24	2.00			2.00	4.00
Tuesday	2026-08-25				2.00	2.00
Wednesday	2026-08-26					
Thursday	2026-08-27					
Friday	2026-08-28					
	TOTAL HOURS	2.00			4.00	6.00



WEEKLY TIME RECORD

Position:

Name:

WEEK ENDING: 2026-09-04

DA	DATE	Office Hours	Committe Meetin	Events	Other	TOTAL
Saturday	2026-08-29					0.00
Sunday	2026-08-30					0.00
Monday	2026-08-31	2.00				2.00
Tuesday	2026-09-01					0.00
Wednesday	2026-09-02					0.00
Thursday	2026-09-03					0.00
Friday	2026-09-04					0.00
	TOTAL HOURS	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00

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WEEKLY TIME RECORD

Position:

Name:

WEEK ENDING: 2026-09-11

DAY	DATE	Office Hours	Committe Meetin	Events	Other	TOTAL
Saturday	2026-09-05					0.00
Sunday	2026-09-06					0.00
Monday	2026-09-07					0.00
Tuesday	2026-09-08					0.00
Wednesday	2026-09-09					0.00
Thursday	2026-09-10			2.00	2.00	4.00
Friday	2026-09-11				0.50	0.50
	TOTAL HOURS	**0.00**	**0.00**	**2.00**	**2.50**	**4.50**

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Vice-President Equity, Inclusion, & Diversity – Kyra Swenson

Submitted for:

September

Summary

Monthly Goals

Welcome new graduate students!
Encourage student use of UMGPS office
Encourage award applications

Meetings and Outcomes

Met with Charlotte Moore, worked on further planning for Neurodivergent faculty learning event
E&I committee meeting: strategies for food giveaway execution, planning of fall/winter events
Supported Gov and Strategy committee with ongoing policy document review

Ongoing EVENTS AND PROJECTs

Partnering with UMSU, Office of Sustainability for food giveaway
Planning for office cleanup/space optimization for student use
Developing plain language version of Governance Policy

Completed Events and Projects

First body doubling event held!!
Participated in FGPS Grad Student Orientation
Participated in Indigenous Student Orientation
Participated in Asper Grad Student Orientation
Completed updating Exec and Officer Policy

Documented Hours

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WEEKLY TIME RECORD

Position: Vice President, Equity and Inclusion

Name: Kyra Swenson

WEEK ENDING: 8/28/2026

Enter Week ending date in this cell

DAY	DATE	Office Hours	Committe Meetings	Events	Other	TOTAL
Saturday	8/22/2026					
Sunday	8/23/2026					
Monday	8/24/2026	2.00				2.00
Tuesday	8/25/2026					
Wednesday	8/26/2026					
Thursday	8/27/2026		2.00			2.00
Friday	8/28/2026					
	TOTAL HOURS	2.00	2.00			4.00

WEEKLY TIME RECORD

Position: Vice President, Equity and Inclusion

Name: Kyra Swenson

WEEK ENDING: 8/21/2026

DAY	DATE	Office Hours	Committe Meetings	Events	Other	TOTAL
Saturday	8/15/2026					
Sunday	8/16/2026					
Monday	8/17/2026	2.00			1.00	3.00
Tuesday	8/18/2026					
Wednesday	8/19/2026			5.00		5.00
Thursday	8/20/2026					
Friday	8/21/2026					
	TOTAL HOURS	2.00		5.00	1.00	8.00

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WEEKLY TIME RECORD

Position: Vice President, Equity and Inclusion

Name: Kyra Swenson

WEEK ENDING: 9/11/2026

DAY	DATE	Office Hours	Committe Meetings	Events	Other	TOTAL
Saturday	9/5/2026					
Sunday	9/6/2026					
Monday	9/7/2026					
Tuesday	9/8/2026				2.00	2.00
Wednesday	9/9/2026					
Thursday	9/10/2026				2.00	2.00
Friday	9/11/2026			2.00		2.00
	TOTAL HOURS			2.00	4.00	6.00

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Vice-President Events & Clubs – Abiodun Adejumo

MONTHLY GOALS

- Coordinate UMGPS participation in the International Centre's Fall International Student Orientation.
- Continue developing mental-health programming in collaboration with HSGSA and Dr. David Ness.
- Support club and departmental funding processes, including supplementary funding applications.
- Advance recognition of committee members' service and volunteer hours.
- Develop new collaborative, recreational, and cross-faculty programming for graduate students.

MEETINGS AND OUTCOMES

- Participated in discussions concerning recognition of executive committee members' service as volunteer hours, with a temporary approach agreed upon while a longer-term solution is considered.
- Continued coordination with HSGSA and Dr. David Ness regarding a graduate-student mental-health workshop.
- Participated in the review and ratification of supplementary funding requests.
- Continued involvement in UMGPS governance and planning activities throughout the month.

ONGOING EVENTS AND PROJECTS

- Coordinated UMGPS participation in the International Centre's Fall International Student Orientation, including arrangements for the UMGPS information table, representatives, chairs, power access, and distribution of the UMGPS handbook.
- Prepared for UMGPS representation and welcome remarks during International Student Orientation.
- Coordinated with the International Centre regarding UMGPS participation in the Bulldog Outdoor Movie event and supported the proposed co-sponsorship arrangement, provided the cost was shared among the four participating organizations.
- Continued planning the mental-health workshop with HSGSA and Dr. David Ness, with a focus on stress management for graduate students.
- Continued developing the Life After Graduate Studies series and identifying potential presenters for the four career pathways.
- Continued exploring interfaculty recreational programming, including football and chess activities.
- Continued planning initiatives aimed at improving graduate-student engagement, collaboration, and community building during the Fall term.

COMPLETED EVENTS AND PROJECTS

- Finalized UMGPS participation requirements for International Student Orientation, including speaking to the new graduate students, distribution of the new UMGPS handbook.
- Advanced supplementary funding applications through the appropriate review and ratification process.
- Reached a temporary solution regarding recognition of committee members' volunteer contributions.
- Confirmed UMGPS's willingness to co-sponsor the International Centre's outdoor movie event on

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the condition that the cost be divided among all four co-sponsors.

DOCUMENTED HOURS

- Approximately 40 hours.

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Appendix XVI: President – Ashraf K. Shahib

HSGSA President Monthly Report Ashraf Kadar Shahib

Summary

During August 2026, operations were centered around preparing for the new academic year and concluding summer recruitment efforts. Key activities included finalizing the MHRE Director and Associate Director recruitment process, initiating enhancements for the HSGSA Student Lounge, and representing the association at various departmental orientations, culminating in the FGPS Orientation at Bannatyne. Consistent engagement in executive governance continued through regular HSGSA, UMGPS, and CaHST meetings.

Monthly Goals

- Finalize recruitment and conduct interviews for the MHRE Director and Associate Director positions.
- Coordinate and execute purchases for the HSGSA Lounge improvements.
- Represent HSGSA at various incoming student orientations, including the College of Nursing, Physician Assistant program, and the bannatyne FGPS Orientation.
- Maintain active participation in university and college-level councils, including the Max Rady College of Medicine Executive Council.

Meetings and Outcomes

Date	Meeting
04-08-2026	UMGPS Executive Meeting
05-08-2026	MHRE Interviews
06-08-2026	HSGSA Executive Meeting
13-08-2026	Meeting with Dr. Soheila Karimi
14-08-2026	CaHST Monthly Meeting
18-08-2026	Max Rady College of Medicine Executive Council Meeting
18-08-2026	UMGPS Executive Meeting
20-08-2026	HSGSA Executive Meeting
24-08-2026	College of Nursing Orientation
25-08-2026	Physician Assistant Orientation
26-08-2026	UMGPS Council Meeting
28-08-2026	CaHST Monthly Meeting
31-08-2026	FGPS Orientation at Bannatyne

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Ongoing EVENTS AND PROJECTs

Administrative Operations: Continuous preparation of agendas, verifying meeting minutes, updating mailing lists, and drafting executive and council reports.

Stakeholder Communication: Extensive email correspondence managing HSGSA Council affairs, director recruitment, and mental health workshop planning.

Lounge Enhancements: Organizing and processing purchases for the HSGSA Lounge enhancement project.

Completed Events and Projects

MHRE Recruitment: Successfully conducted interviews for the MHRE leadership positions.

Student Orientations: Presented at the College of Nursing Orientation, Physician Assistant Orientation, and the extensive FGPS Orientation at Bannatyne.

Documented Hours

Category / Task	Date	Time Spent
UMGPS Executive Meeting	04-08-2026	1 hr
MHRE Interviews	05-08-2026	2 hr
HSGSA Executive Meeting	06-08-2026	1 hr
Meeting with Dr. Soheila Karimi	13-08-2026	1 hr
CaHST Monthly Meeting	14-08-2026	1 hr
Max Rady College of Medicine Executive Council Meeting	18-08-2026	1 hr
UMGPS Executive Meeting	18-08-2026	1 hr
HSGSA Executive Meeting	20-08-2026	1 hr
College of Nursing Orientation	24-08-2026	1 hr
Physician Assistant Orientation	25-08-2026	30 min
UMGPS Council Meeting	26-08-2026	1 hr
CaHST Monthly Meeting	28-08-2026	1 hr
FGPS Orientation at Bannatyne	31-08-2026	5 hr
Office Hours	August 1 to 31	6 hr
WhatsApp Correspondence	August 1 to 31	6 hr
Email Correspondence	August 1 to 31	12 hr
Record Keeping and Documents	August 1 to 31	15 hr
Total Quantified Hours	August 1 to 31	**56 hr 30 min**

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Appendix IV: Postdoctoral Affairs – Amit Koul

Summary

Monthly Goals

1. Establish and begin organizing the University of Manitoba Postdoctoral Fellows Association (UM-PDFA) committee and its activities.
2. Plan the 2026 UM Postdoctoral Research Showcase, tentatively targeted for October 2026.
3. Develop a regular monthly postdoctoral research meeting/seminar series to promote research exchange, networking, and potential collaborations across departments.
4. Improve communication with postdoctoral fellows across the University by identifying department-level contact lists and/or a university-wide distribution mechanism.
5. Explore funding, room booking, and catering support through UMGPS and FGPS for UM-PDFA activities

Meetings and Outcomes

1. Organized the first UM-PDFA committee meeting for July 10, 2026 (12:00-1:00 p.m., Zoom). The meeting provided an opportunity for committee members to connect and discuss future UM-PDFA activities.
2. Discussed the UM Postdoctoral Research Showcase held previously and the possibility of organizing the Showcase again in October 2026.
3. Discussed establishing monthly postdoctoral research meetings where postdocs from different departments can present their research and connect with colleagues.
4. Contacted/communicated with UMGPS regarding communication with postdoctoral fellows. UMGPS has a university-wide postdoctoral email distribution mechanism but cannot provide the list directly to UM-PDFA; UM-PDFA can forward announcements to UMGPS for distribution.
5. Requested access to a postdoctoral email/contact list from FGS/FGPS by signing a non-disclosure agreement (NDA); a response regarding access to the list is still pending from FGPS.
6. Began coordinating with FGPS Associate Dean Steve Kirkland regarding a planned UM-PDFA Lunch and Learn event (Idea Start). Evelyn Castillo Marzo was identified as the FGPS contact to assist with room booking and catering.
7. Initiated planning for potential event space (UC 204 or UC 543/544), with an anticipated attendance of approximately 50 people, subject to RSVP numbers.

Ongoing EVENTS AND PROJECTs

1. 2026 UM Postdoctoral Research Showcase: planning is underway for a possible October 2026 event. The committee is working toward gauging interest among postdoctoral fellows before finalizing details.
2. Postdoctoral contact list: committee members have been asked to identify postdocs in their respective departments. A uniform postdoctoral email list is awaited from FGPS after the signing of NDA.

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3. Registration/interest form: proposed creation of a Google Form to determine interest and register postdocs for the Research Showcase is underway. The resulting contact information may also help coordinate future monthly research meetings.
4. Monthly postdoctoral research meetings: exploring a once-monthly Friday/lunch-hour format with a room equipped for presentations. The goal is to provide opportunities for postdocs from different departments to present research, learn about work across the University, network, and explore collaborations.
5. Funding/catering: exploring whether FGPS funding can support light lunch/catering for postdoctoral events. A preliminary budget for Lunch and Learn (Idea Start) is to be prepared.
6. Lunch and Learn: room availability/capacity and catering arrangements are being explored with FGPS. Attendance is tentatively estimated at about 50, with final catering numbers to be based on RSVPs.

Completed Events and Projects

1. First UM-PDFA committee meeting was held and initial priorities for the association discussed.
2. Initial planning framework established for the 2026 Postdoctoral Research Showcase.
3. Initial concept for a recurring monthly postdoctoral research seminar/meeting series developed and discussed with the committee.
4. Department-level postdoctoral contact list is awaited from FGPS.
5. Communication pathway identified whereby UM-PDFA announcements can be sent to UMGPS for distribution to all postdoctoral fellows.

Documented Hours

N/A

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Appendix V: Senate Report

Senate hasn't met for term yet.