
HSGSA Council Meeting Agenda

April 24th, 2023 5pm

Zoom

- 1) Call to Order: 5:10 PM
- 2) Approval of minutes (March 27th, 2023): Mojtaba, Leo
- 3) Approval of agenda: Samuel, Bukky
- 4) Business arising from minutes: No
- 5) New business
 - a. Introduction of upcoming execs for 2023-24 term
 - i. President - Akshi Malik
 - ii. VPE - Jamie Sookhoo
 - iii. VPI - Lauren MacGowan
 - iv. VPME - Samuel Akinola
 - v. VPA - Shahin Shabanipour
 - vi. VPStB - Leena Regi Saleth
 - b. HSGSA By-laws committee recommendations:
 - i. HSGSA Committee policy and procedure manual

HSGSA Bylaws committee + Execs + 3 council members met in November + January + February... met multiple times to review the bylaws and make changes (add/remove items). Missed reviewing the Committee Policy and Procedure Manual, so we're doing it now. Akshi goes over the changes that were proposed: Spelling issues; events committee section changed CSHRF to MSHRF since that's the new name of the event and it will be much simpler to manage so we'll remove the subcommittees, tours, etc; events committee meets once per term. Academic and distinguished lectureship committee... VPE is the co-chair now, so the VPE is now able to take charge of this in place of VPA if necessary. Election CRO honorarium has

been decreased from \$500 to \$350 as per usual budget approval by council. Finance committee: Maximum of 2 additional HSGSA council members changed to MINIMUM of 2 additional HSGSA council members so that we can accommodate more council members on this important committee. The Ed Kroeger Mentorship Award used to be that a winner cannot win more than once in the past 3 years. Now it's that a professor can only win the award once. External committee membership of HSGSA execs... faculty of medicine research council committee... that no longer exists so this has been removed from the bylaws. Lastly, the services and reports committee corrected to services and supports.

Samuel asks about the frequency of meeting time of the events committee. Says UMGSA wants us to have monthly meetings. Akshi clarifies that UMGSA events and meetings are different. Astrid clarifies meetings occur when events occur, not necessarily monthly if there isn't an event in a given month.

To be clear to new execs, you have your commitments to HSGSA exec meetings and council meetings and committee meetings that you chair. Then you also have to attend the equivalent UMGSA committee meetings that are run by UMGSA executives. You can run your committees as you like, in the lines of the bylaws.

MOTION: BIRT the HSGSA Council approves the proposed changes in the HSGSA Committee policy and procedure manual.

12/12 YES

c. HSGSA Finance

- i. Kayla will send all receipts to everyone from May to April... just say if you want to see it or can send it to everyone when it's done. Will be sent out later.

MOTION: BIRT the HSGSA Council approves moving \$1,000 to next fiscal year's Visiting Speaker Series

13/13 YES

MOTION: BIRT the HSGSA Council approves moving \$2,000 to this fiscal year's Graduate Student Excellence Award (totaling \$6,000)

11/11 YES

MOTION: BIRT the HSGSA Council approves moving \$1,000 to next fiscal years Manitoba Health Student Research Forum HSGSA Poster Awards (Research Days Poster Awards)

11/11 YES

MOTION: BIRT the HSGSA Council approves moving \$1,000 to next fiscal years Dr. Forough Khadem Memorial Award

9/9 YES

MOTION: BIRT the HSGSA Council approves moving remaining funds for next fiscal years contingency and promotional event fund (approximately <\$200)

11/11 YES

MOTION: BIRT the HSGSA Council approves reimbursing Alekhya Lavu for gala flowers

10/10 YES

d. IDRC Review 2.0

Mojtaba has circulated the IDRC form to everyone, gotten feedback, compiled everything, and sent it to all execs. Overall, the execs have done an amazing job. Also, IDRC members have done excellent work.

6) Other business

CCR - Due April 27th

Kayla explains: Shows us how to claim CCR credit on the appropriate website, how to log in, etc. Important that this is done by April 27th so that she can approve it before the April 28th deadline.

Next year we have the GNSA person, so... can Lauren do this? Apparently around September this will need to be added to the website and we should be able to give credit to the nursing student councilor.

7) Exec Reports

President: Gala was awesome, short MHRE meeting, HSGSA meeting, main point to discuss: UMGSA trees planting initiative. So for some background, for conference travel grants you can apply to the UMGSA. But first you need to apply to your department, then FGS, then UMGSA. And so UMGSA has some budget for this. During COVID, there weren't many conferences, so they have a bit of money saved up. Uche, the UMGSA Senator who attends our meetings, has talked about this tree planting initiative. In UMGSA exec and council meetings, this tree planting initiative has been brought up. They want to plant trees at Fort Garry. A green space for relaxation. Good for stakeholders and funding and all that. Sure, that sounds good. BUT. BUT. At a recent UMGSA exec meeting in early April, this is the first time we heard of where the money came from. Each student gives the UMGSA ~\$200/year. This money is used for ALL of the UMGSA's functions, including the conference grants. They decided that they want to spend the unused conference grant budget since not many people applied for it... and to use that money to buy trees. Ok. BUT. They intend to spend **\$25,000.00** dollars on trees. More than the entire HSGSA budget. To plant trees. This concern was expressed to the UMGSA, and they were upset. It was never made clear how much money was being spent and where it was coming from. They made it sound like the U of M would contribute money to this. So they're planting a 3' tall baby tree at a cost of ~\$1,200.00 per tree. So they're planting ~20 trees. This is their legacy of green climate stuff. They say they'll plant trees at Bannatyne, but we have no space and we don't have the right to plant on the land here (owned by the hospital).

Why do trees cost this much? Maybe maintenance costs, installation, transportation, etc. We don't know. Uche gave this cost.

So with that much money left over from the UMGSA conference budget, they decided to plant trees. If they've been discussing this since the start of the fiscal year, how did they budget this? We only found out about their surplus of conference budget now. Also, the UMGSA gets a ton of emails from starving students. We're using our extra money for the GSEA awards to give it back to students. UMGSA won't do this because they feel the administration of these extra awards would be too laborious. This was the April 11th UMGSA exec meeting. Tomorrow is a UMGSA exec meeting where they will try to pass a motion that the

UMGSA pays \$25,000.00 for trees IF the U of M contributes the same amount. So two points on that. First, we've asked the U of M for money to help students... So if they give money for trees, that's effectively \$50,000.00 that could have gone to helping students.

At the UMGSA meeting tomorrow, if the motion goes to council, can we please ask everyone to attend the UMGSA council meeting even just as guests because that will ensure your voices are heard. These kind of decisions are why we want more representation in the UMGSA council. If it goes to the UMGSA council, there is literally ONE HSGSA voice on the council. So anyways, we'll keep you all updated on this. If it goes to council, Jamie will email the link to that council meeting to everyone.

Second point, the UMGSA council (all the Fort Garry councilors), are they aware of this? It's unlikely they know about the magnitude of this. \$25,000.00? That's a lot. The UMGSA has accused Jamie of trying to blindside the councilors, but they shouldn't be if they've been informed by the UMGSA execs. So we'll make sure that the UMGSA councilors are well informed of exactly what they're typing 'YES' for. Everything has sounded good with stakeholders, U of M, climate action, etc. but nothing about how much money is going to tree planting. So even if you can't vote yes/no, you can make your voice heard at the UMGSA council meeting. So please come!

Kayla states that in the UMGSA finance council, the tree planting funds have never been brought up. These meetings are once a month, and she missed one. So unless that's the only time they brought up the budget over the course of a year of discussing tree planting, it hasn't been adequately discussed.

So please come to the UMGSA council meeting if you can! Jamie will send the meeting link if tomorrow's motion passes and it goes to council.

VP Internal: A lot of finances this month and preparing the end of year report. Can see all of the HSGSA's finances. FGS council meeting. MHRE meeting. UMGSA finance committee meeting.

VP External: Helped with transportation and setup for HSGSA Gala. Attended FGS Student Experience Committee - reviewed advisor-student guidelines. Brought up the issue of student hours. Made them add that advisors must discuss work hour expectations when going over the advisor-student guidelines and advisors cannot restrict students from getting a second job to supplement their income or prevent

them from volunteering/participating in extracurricular activities like HSGSA. SOS (Support Our Science) - coordinating Bannatyne efforts via communications with the Fort Garry head, Theassa. Attending SOS meetings, buying supplies, coordinating communications. Received all Ed Kroeger Mentorship applications. Currently reviewing scoring criteria and will circulate the applications for review asap.

VP Academic: Started month with Gala, bioethics meetings, MHRE, Student experience committee, last few GSEA reviews, last event will be the poster workshop tomorrow.

VP Marketing and events: Mainly the Gala, couple of meetings with HSGSA, helping with social media posting for various HSGSA events. Helping Morgan with the SOS (Support Our Science) walkout. Should get people attending because at the AGM a lot of students made clear that they are passionate about funding and higher stipends. So come out if you want a living wage. Will come out for a bit on May 1st. Had a transition meeting.

VP St. Boniface: Helped with Gala - many people asked for it again next year, transition meeting with next VPStB, HSGSA exec meeting, MHRE meeting, UMGSA bylaws meeting - moved motion to move GNSA into the HSGSA umbrella and abstained from voting in that.

UMGSA Senator: Absent, no regrets

8) Department Reports:

Department	Councilor	Updates
Immunology	Xinyun Liu	Great in Immunology. Student seminars and journal clubs are ending soon... invited speaker in place of journal club. Brown bag with students where the main issue brought up was stipend issues. Talked with Morgan and department head about this, and will bring up stipends at the broader departmental meeting with all PIs present. Three things desired: 1.) Increase stipend 2.) Mechanism to ensure a certain amount of earned scholarships go to stipend 3.) Increase opportunities for TA or other jobs 4.) Stipend is not enough, so students should be able to have another job. PIs should be understanding of when students want a weekend

		<p>job. We'll see how it goes.</p> <p>If anything is successful, will pass on news to other councilors. Will have to be careful not to 'anger' PIs. Rehearsed this conversation with department head, so hopefully the other PIs are open to talk. May also be good to bring a breakdown of cost of living to PIs to show that the stipend is not enough. But this may sound like a lecture. But it might be good for a receptive audience. For Immunology, won't do this. BUT their debt:income ratio is far better than hours, so a cost of living analysis may still be valuable.</p> <p>A student was kicked out of the department. Big controversy over whether the student was given due process in this decision. For example, the internal chair tried to mediate this problem... but the internal chair is biased as a colleague of the PI that kicked out the student. So in the future, how can the rest of us be confident in this process. This student spoke to Jamie / the dean of FGS. There is a protocol and the protocol was correctly followed. The student was allowed 3 attempts to 'redeem' themselves, but it was insufficient. You know the annual progress reports where you can be rated (satisfactory, needs improvement, unsatisfactory). When you get unsatisfactory 2x in a row, you must withdraw. To get unsatisfactory even once, your entire committee plus grad studies chair plus the head of department must sign off on this. And if this happens 3x in a year, you're done. The Immunology students get a feeling that the PI didn't properly support and bullied the student. Jamie: There is a structure to follow, and even if the PI bullied the student, the rest of the committee and other judges agreed that the progress was unsatisfactory. A committee member asked if there were external issues, they said no. One PI agreed that the student's performance was poor. Ultimately, this was handled correctly. Student did not perform adequately in the first year. These details can't be discussed in further detail. Never seen someone get unsatisfactory before, this is exceptional. Again, usually students get 2 chances to attain satisfactory. He got 3. Performance was the issue. Note: PIs do not at all ever want to do this. It's damaging to their career as well when their student is kicked out. The PI that did this was not spiteful. They did not want to do this. Final point: The committee and PIs did recommend the student to withdraw themselves rather than being kicked out. This would be best</p>
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		for the student's future. So that could have happened.
Biochem and Med Gen	Ghanan Bin Akhtar	Departmental seminars have ended. Summer students are approaching labs. Department council is planning summer events and will meet soon.
Oral Biology	Olubukola (Bukky) Olatosi	Ok. February had 2 master's students defend their theses. Involved in international workshop and HSGSA Gala committee. Department was represented in 3MT finals. One member of department got the People's Choice Award (Bukky)
Med Micro	Ryan Ha	PhD defense occurred. April Fool's abstract competition. In process of planning a symposium around HIV/TB. Wrapped up student seminars. Recruiting for a new faculty member; have met with 3 candidates.
Physician Assistant	Daniella Castro/Sarah	Submitted financial report for the HSGSA grant. Finished second term final exams. Onto term 3 for the first year PAs.
Physiology and Pathophysiology	S.Mojtaba Hosseini	Journal clubs ongoing. Master's students have graduated. Invited the Edge of Science speaker. Attended department council meeting.
Pharmacology and Therapeutics	Manik Chhabra	Student get together on 31st March - pizza and games. Go a few master's students. One transferred to PhD.
Community health Sciences	Lauren MacGowan	Formal event at Fort Garry Hotel postponed to fall semester for new students to come. Having a bonfire and food and hangout and games on April 30th. Also participating in the MS walk at the end of May. Department has registered for this and people can walk and fundraise. Non-departmental students can join in! It's Sunday morning, and after might be pancake time! Otherwise, people are wrapping up classes.
Physical Therapy		
Occupational Therapy	Katrina Holzhaeuer	MOT 1's are finishing second semester soon and will go on placement. MOT 2's are in second semester till end of June and will have advanced placements. Few social events, but are fundraising for grad in October.
Pharmacy – Primary	Lara Haidar for Samuel Akinola	March had a workshop including pharmacoeconomics, epidemiology, knowledge translation. May 5th a talk from industry experts. Also talked with dean - did a poll of grad students about a wellness group. Will form a subcommittee for this. Also, discussed the stipend with dean - possibly will see results soon! Update in May.
Human Anatomy - cell science	Courtney Clark	In March went to Activate for social event. Planning another outdoor social event soon. Collaborated with the new departmental admin to establish a monthly newsletter to share opportunities and achievements. Also, are working on a social media engagement strategy (Twitter, Instagram, etc.) for the department to attract new students and inform current students. Organized a biweekly casual writing/study group over Discord.

		Encourages people to sit together and ask questions or study in silence together - a meaningful school feel. There are ~20 people in the department. Can also book the HSGSA lounge for group study sessions.
Pathology	Harshal Senthil	Harshal sent regrets
Masters of rehabilitation sciences	Quinn Taylor	MSC rehab is planning a student get together before the summer.

- 9) Round Table: Last meeting for this executive... next meeting will be in May with new execs. Anything?
- a) Samuel: Update number of students in Pharmacy.
 - b) Kayla: Wish you all the best~! You're all super awesome and feel free to reach out!
 - i) Morgan: Ditto~!
- 10) Adjournment: 6:46 PM
- 11) Next Council Meeting: May 29th, 2023 @5pm



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