

Minutes of Executive Meeting

Date: May 23, 2025

Time: 4 PM

Location: Online Meeting (via Zoom)

Attendees: Ashraf Kadar Shahib, Andy Van Domelen, Anam Ara, Deanne Nixie Miao, Roni Armon, Kibii Belindah, Ruben, Molly, Mojan, Fazia, Parisa, Mira, Michaela, Allen, Ujala

Items for Approval

Agenda of Council Meeting - May 23rd, 2025

Mover: Roni | Seconder: Michaela

YES: 12 | NO: 0 | Abstain: 1 (Ashraf)

Minutes of Council Meeting - April 28th, 2025

Mover: Andy | Seconder: Anam

YES: 12 | NO: 0 | Abstain: 1 (Ashraf)

Budget approval for 2025-2026

- **Presenter:** Nixie
- Budget reduced from \$28K to \$25K due to national changes
- Key categories:
 - Operational costs (includes Canva subscription)
 - Honorariums (added 2 DRO honorariums)
 - Awards & Financial Aid (HSGSA + external donors)
 - St. Boniface slightly reduced; Nursing unchanged
 - Academic/Professional Development:
 - 3-Minute Thesis Pitch (Anam)
 - Mental Health Workshop (Anam)
 - Community Engagement: Winter Gala reduced to \$7K
- **Motion Passed:** “Be it resolved, HSGSA approves the proposed 2025–2026 budget.”
Mover: Ujala | **Seconder:** Michaela
Vote Outcome: Yes – 11 | Abstain – 2 (Ashraf and Nixie) | No – 0

Bank account consolidation

- BMO account closed; funds transferred to ACU
- Reason: BMO lacked flexibility (no e-transfer, limited perks)
- Previously approved by council

Reconstructing MSHRF planning committee

- Proposal: Include both VP Marketing & Events and VP Academic as co-leads
- Rationale: Event complexity requires shared leadership
- **Motion Passed:** “Be it resolved, HSGSA approves the restructuring of the MSHRF Planning Committee to include both VP Marketing & Events and VP Academic.”
Mover: Ujala | **Seconder:** Ruben
Vote Outcome: Yes – 11 | Abstain – 2 (Ashraf and Anam) | No – 0

Election policy and CRO appointment changes

- New structure: 1 CRO + 2 DROs
- CRO/DROs selected via open interview process (not limited to councilors)
- Interviews conducted by experienced CROs
- Manual to be developed and shared in future meetings

Departmental collaboration initiative

- **Presenter:** Andy
- Goal: Strengthen ties between HSGSA and departments
- Plan:
 - Individual meetings with councilors
 - Google Form to gather departmental needs

- Club funding discussions to follow

Club funding transition

- Departmental grants replaced by event-based club funding
- Departments must register as clubs under UMGSA
- HSGSA provided customizable registration template
- **Deadline:** June 15, 2025 (suggested submission by June 10)
- Funding decisions prioritize departments with active events and lower reserves
- **Action Items:**
 - Departments to register as clubs by June 15
 - Customize and submit club registration template
 - Review UMGSA Governance & Operations Policy Manual
 - Submit funding proposals for upcoming events

MSHRF updates

- Planning committee: Anam, Andy, Ashraf
- 29 volunteers recruited
- Posters and marketing materials in development
- Venue and award ceremony logistics underway
- Volunteer form shared in chat

Round Tables

Executive reports

- **Nixie:** Budget creation, bank transition, attended meetings
- **Kibii:** Transition tasks, mentorship award, office hours
- **Anam:** MSHRF planning, career panel prep, academic committee coordination

- **Andy:** Marketing materials, sponsorship outreach, departmental engagement
- **Roni:** St. Boniface-specific survey, gym membership updates

Councilor reports

Department	Councilor	Updates
Immunology	Fazia	<p>Over the past few weeks, departmental activity has largely centered around various committee meetings involving both students and faculty. Given this widespread involvement and the resulting scheduling constraints, we have not been able to organize any major student-led initiatives during this period.</p> <p>However, we have several important events and plans in the pipeline:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brown Bag Meeting – Thursday, May 27th We are organizing an informal brown bag lunch meeting open to all students. The objective of this gathering is to provide updates on departmental happenings, discuss recent and upcoming initiatives, and, most importantly, encourage student engagement. During this meeting, we will also open the floor to those interested in running for the next Student Representative positions, aiming to start the conversation around the upcoming election cycle. 2. Department Picnic – June 20th The annual Department Picnic is scheduled for June 20th. This social event will bring together students and faculty for a casual day of connection and community building outside of the academic setting. 3. Annual Student Event – Summer Outing We are currently in the planning stages of our annual student summer event. This year, the idea is to organize a day trip either to Gimli or another local destination suitable for a group hike. This event will serve as an opportunity for students to unwind, connect,

		<p>and enjoy Manitoba's outdoors together.</p> <p>Despite the slower pace this month due to committee responsibilities, we remain committed to fostering student engagement and building a strong, connected community within our department. We look forward to reconnecting with everyone during the upcoming events.</p>
Biochemistry and Medical Genetics	Anam	<p>We have BMG Research Day on 8th May which was a pretty good event for students engagement, presentation, and professional development opportunity. Rest most of the people are busy with progress meetings.</p>
Oral Biology	Mojan	<p>In the Oral Biology Department, we are going to have two graduations soon! My thesis defense will be on June 2nd, and one of our PhD students is going to do her thesis defense soon as well. We had two poster presentations at the Manitoba Dental Association (MDA) convention on April 11th.</p>
Medical Microbiology and infectious diseases	Ruben (Proxy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Two PhD defences in March and April. 1 MSc and 1 PhD defences this month ● We have great trainees joining MMID from the Canadian International Development Scholarships 2030 (BCDI 2030) programme https://bcdi2030.ca/ ● MMID had its 10-year Academic Review, External Examiners voted one of the best departments across Canada ● Community Outreach programme in August – Habitat for Humanity
Physician Assistant	Kayla	Sent Regrets

Physiology and Pathophysiology	Molly	For the physiology and pathophysiology department, we are currently still seeking out division representatives for both Respiratory and Endocrinology. However, we are also looking into planning a summer event after progress meetings.
Pharmacology and Therapeutics	Parisa	Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics: We had four PhD proposal defenses, and four PhD students are defending their theses this month. We are planning an outdoor student gathering this month.
Community Health Sciences	Narges	Absent
College of Pharmacy	Mira	April 2025: For April, our focus has been on welcoming the four new graduate students joining the College of Pharmacy. We are organizing a Grad Life 101: Unlocked event designed to help them feel connected and supported as they begin their programs. The event will include light refreshments, an “Ask Me Anything” corner, and a short group discussion to reflect on the survey results and share upcoming plans. May 2025: We are planning to book the university gym for a session that includes a group yoga class, followed by time in the gym with access to basketball, pickleball, or badminton. Unfortunately, we couldn’t find a yoga instructor, we will proceed with booking the gym only. This event is intended to promote both physical and mental well-being in a relaxed and social environment. June 2025: We are meeting next Thursday to discuss viable options for a June event; we’re thinking of an outdoor thing specially the weather is good now. July 2025: Planning for the camp is going well, I met with students on zoom last Friday to finalize sleeping arrangements and carpooling arrangements. As well as prepared a survey to

		finalize dietary restrictions, emergency contacts, etc.
Human Anatomy and Cell Science	Aurelion	Sent Regrets
Pathology	Ujala	No Major Updates
Masters of Rehabilitation Sciences	Lea	Sent Regrets
Nursing	Michaela	<p>The College of Nursing held the Helen Glass Research Symposium in late April, which showcased ongoing Graduate research initiatives in the College of Nursing. There is a group of about 15 individuals from the College attending the International Council of Nurses Congress in Helsinki. GNSA is working on filling their executive positions for the 2025/2026 year. We currently have interested parties for 3 of 4 roles. Handover between executives will take place in June. There has been a new Associate Dean of Graduate Studies appointed within the College of Nursing and the GNSA is looking forward to meeting with her and building a strong allyship. Graduate programs in the college of nursing are currently undergoing a combination of internal and external reviews which are ongoing. Plans are underway to have GNSA representation present to help with volunteer work at the College of Nursing graduate student orientation days in late August. The GNSA has officially broken for the summer, and meetings will re-commence in September.</p>
Physical Therapy	Allen	No updates, successor TBD