

## **Science Students' Association – Agenda for council meeting**

**Date & Time – February 7th, 6:00pm Winnipeg time**

**Venue – Science Lounge**



**Chaired by – Yashas Samtani, chairperson**

1. Call to Order

2. Acknowledgement of Treaty 1 Territory:

The University of Manitoba campuses is located on original lands of Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation. We respect the Treaties that were made on these territories, we acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and we dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.

3. Approval of the Agenda

4. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes dated  25\_01\_2024.pdf &  31\_01\_2024.pdf

5. **Reports of councillors:**

- I. President & Vice President (see 10.1)
- II. Senate (see 10.2)
- III. UMSU (see 10.3)
- IV. Indigenous Students' Representative (see 10.4)
- V. International Students' Representative (10.5)
- VI. Women's Representative (see 10.6)
- VII. Accessibility Representative (see 10.7)
- VIII. Lounge Programmer (see 10.8)
- IX. Student Services (see 10.9)
- X. Treasurer (see 10.10)
- XI. Director of Academics (10.11)

- XII. Special Events (see 10.12)
- XIII. Director of Communications (see 10.13)
- XIV. First Year Representative (see 10.14)
- XV. 2SLGBTQ+ Representative (see 10.15)
- XVI. Racialized Representative (see 10.16)
- XVII. Women's Representative (see 10.17)

6. **Reports of committees**

- a) Executive Committee Report (see 10.a)

7. New Business

- a) Motion \_\_\_\_\_ (see ..)

8. Unfinished Business & Final Considerations

9. Adjournment

10. Attachments

## **ATTACHMENTS**

### **10.1) President & VP Reports:**

#### **Pres/VP Report**

**1) Faculty Council (Feb 9)**

- President Benarroch and Dr. Diane-Hiebert Murphy attended the meeting to speak on the strategic plan and facilitate an open discussion. Several key points were raised by faculty members, including concerns about international student caps, issues surrounding new student housing development, the temporary closure of bike paths, and backlogs in infrastructure repairs.
- Dr. Mark and Krystyna spoke on the Machray renovation and ensuring the transition is as smooth as possible. A concern was brought up regarding whether the tunnels will be closed for the duration of the renovation - this will be confirmed as soon as possible, but regardless of the outcome, Krystyna assured that accessibility accommodations will be available to students should the need arise. With the library closing, alternative study spaces for students were briefly discussed and are still being evaluated at this time.

- Dr. McKenna presented COCAP's proposed changes to various science courses across departments, including a few housekeeping items from when there was a major overhaul of chemistry course offerings, as well as increased flexibility in required courses for statistics minors. In addition, The Science Entrepreneurial Mindset course code (SCI 4000) is changing as it will now be offered as both a Faculty of Science and Asper School of Business course under two separate course codes.
- Dr. McKenna discussed revisions to the terms of reference for the Endowment Committee, aimed at updating the language to better reflect current roles and practices. Amy spoke on SSA's role in transitioning funding outreach initiatives from Endowment to Referendum funds, beginning in the next fiscal year. We expect this funding source shift to better align with the objectives and goals of outreach.
- Four faculty members were appointed to new senate terms, and two nominees were granted the status of Professor Emeritus in recognition of their outstanding achievements and dedication to the Faculty of Science/UM community.

## **2) Courtyard Meeting (Jan 26)**

- The initial vision of the courtyard was to create a tranquil and sustainable space for students to unplug. However, since then student groups have expressed a desire for the courtyard to also serve as a space for semi-sheltered events outdoors, potentially including a barbecue area.
- Amy and I met with the architects involved on the initial project, as well as Dr. Luong, Krystyna and Trevor, and after much discussion, we emphasized that any proposed changes or designs should aim to align with both the original vision and the feedback we have been receiving from students.
- The architects will develop mock-ups incorporating some elements we want while preserving the atmosphere/sustainability of the courtyard - we are hoping that they come up with a practical design for student use.
- New patio tables and chairs have been ordered to double the current capacity of the patio, addressing the need for more seating space.
- The door leading out to the patio is both an inconvenience and an accessibility concern - Krystyna will reach out to the physical plant regarding this issue, however, SSA will likely need to cover at least a portion of the associated costs.

## **3) Outreach Committee Meeting (Feb 6)**

- Attended by Hiruni (thank you!)
- Science Rendezvous: April 30th
  - Lots of booths and shows, will need some volunteers eventually
- Science Outreach Fund
  - Taking applications again this year, closes March 15th

- If you have an outreach initiative with another club, apply!
- Science Ambassador Program
  - IE a volunteer program; 120 ppl enrolled!
  - Profs/Sci Initiatives can reach out to students on this list

#### **4) Bylaws Committee Vacancy**

- Need to fill 1 spot on Bylaws committee
- The committee meets periodically to review and suggest amendments to the bylaws
- Anyone on council can volunteer; if more than one person puts their name forward, candidates will give 2 minute speeches. Elected members will vote on their choice.

#### **5) Election Reminder**

- Nominations are February 10-15. Email Sean Ticsay, our CRO, at [ssacro2024@outlook.com](mailto:ssacro2024@outlook.com) for a nomination form starting as early as 9am on Feb 10.
- Mandatory All Candidates Meeting: Feb 15 at 6pm
- *REMINDER: this is the last council meeting before elections; please remember to be kind to the other candidates. You may be running against fellow councillors, and at the end of the election we still remain a team until the end of May regardless of the election outcome.*
- *REMINDER: Councillors running in the election are not permitted to enter the office or partake in any SSA duties during the campaign period. They are however highly encouraged to attend our SSA general meeting happening that week (Laurie Schnarr, Vice-Provost, will be attending).*

#### **10.2) Senate reports:**

Nothing to Report.

#### **10.3) UMSU Reports:**

#### **10.4) Indigenous Students' Rep Reports:**

-currently searching for an instructor to help with a beading circle/class  
-scholarships have been released

#### **10.5) International Students' Rep Reports:**

### **10.7) Accessibility Rep Reports:**

Verbal Report

### **10.8) Lounge Programmer Reports:**

### **10.9) Student Services Reports:**

### **10.10) Treasurer reports:**

 Treasurer Report - February 7th 2024 SSA Council Meeting.pdf

 SSA - Scotiabank January 2024 Statement.pdf

### **10.11) Director of Academics reports:**

## **Academics Report**

**Meeting Date: February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Noor:**

**Tutoring Program:**

- Tutor Appreciation Event will be held on February 15<sup>th</sup>, from 6 – 8 PM. We are planning to have food and some activities like a paint night. I will also announce the scholarship recipients for the Fall 2024 term.

**MedTALKS:**

- Still in talks with Kapilan. We are looking at the first week of March, March 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>. The speaker is a Family Physician: Dr. Jattan.

Meeting with the Faculty:

- I will be meeting with Kathy Synkiw from the Academic Undergraduate Advising Office on February 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 PM. Amy suggested that the Academics team should discuss initiatives and suggestions with the Faculty.

Anthony:

Peer Mentorship Program:

Nothing to report

Clarissa:

Rentals Program:

- Remember to fill out form when people return stuff from the rental program

### **10.12) Special Events Reports:**

#### **SSA Meeting #13 Special Events Report**

**February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Jacob, Huda, Rabia, Carl, Amina**

#### **Information:**

##### **1. Gala**

- a. Will begin advertising in March
- b. Currently deciding on photobooth and other vendor add-ons

##### **2. Ski trip**

- a. Just confirming final few attendees
- b. Rabia making rooms currently
- c. Costco run and other meal conformations needed


##### **3. Other events**

- a. Planning social for early March
  - i. Theme TBD
- b. Also planning smaller events (trivia, succulent painting, open mic, karaoke, etc.)
- c. Collaboration with academics (Noor)

#### **Motions:**

1. Motion to transfer the rest of our orientation funds (~\$1000), \$1000 from our event funds, and \$12,000 from the gala funds to cover the rest of the ski trip
  - a. Note these numbers may slightly change due to changing costs of food or changes in numbers
    - i. A final number will be given
    - ii. For reference: the whole trip costs just under \$34,000 and the students will be covering about \$20,000 through registration fees
  - b. Reasons for this include: wanting to cover all meals this year, rising cost of food, rising cost of lift + equipment, and safer buses
  - c. For reference: \$65,000 out of \$90,000 was used for the gala last year
  - d. 70 students to attend
2. Motion to amend the budget for future councils to include a ski trip budget if we want to continue to do this trip
  - a. Inflation is REAL
  - b. There has never been a budget for the ski trip
  - c. It is something students looks forward to

#### **10.13) Director of Communications Reports:**

 DoC\_Report\_2024-02-07.pdf

#### **10.14) First Year Representative Reports:**

#### **10.15) 2SLGBTQ+ Representative Reports:**

Nothing to report

#### **10.16) Racialized Representative Reports:**



### **10.17) Women's Representative Reports:**

 Womens\_Rep\_Report.pdf

### **10.a) Executive Committee Reports:**

 Exec\_Report\_-\_Feb\_7.pdf