UMSU Board of Directors Meeting
February 27, 2020
UMSU Council Chambers, 176 Helen Glass
6:30pm

Attendance
Nina Lam, UMSU Chairperson
Kyle Hiebert, Recording Secretary
Jakob Sanderson, UMSU President
Kyra Fanning, UMSU VP Community Engagement
Sarah Bonner-Proulx, UMSU VP Advocacy
Mbuli Matshe, UMSU VP Finance & Operations
Victoria Nwabuisi, International Students’ Representative
Eliza Hydesmith, Accessibility Representative
Jillian Boersch, Arts Student Body Council
Zac Wronski, Arts Student Body Council
Amy Tran, Community Health Students’ Association
Shaylyn Maharaj-Poliah, Education Students’ Council
Shawn Williment, Faculty of Agriculture Students’ Organization
Arnav Sud, Manitoba Medical Students’ Association
Oluwatosin Daso, Nursing Students’ Association
Harry Singh, Physical Education Recreational Kinesiology Student Council
Brad Cottyn, Students’ Architectural Society
Lisa Thomas, College of Rehabilitation Sciences – Respiratory Therapy
Jasmine Tavares, St. Paul’s College Students’ Association
Cory Frederickson, St. Paul’s College Students’ Association
Dani Stackiw, Science Students’ Association
Chloe McElheron, Science Students’ Association
Demi Andromidas (proxy), Science Students’ Association
Jenny Peters, Social Work Students’ Association
Chimdi Chijioke, University College Residence Students’ Association
Tyrese Gibbes, University of Manitoba Engineering Society
Erin Thomas, University of Manitoba Engineering Society
Lauren Gray, University 1 Student Council
Kezia Wong, University 1 Student Council
Soussi Gounni, University 1 Student Council
Nada El Tobgy, Director of Bannatyne Operations
Okechukwu Efobi, UMGSA
Eric Schillberg, Governance Committee Chairperson
Michael Catanese, Judicial Board Chairperson
Thomas Blumer, UMSU General Manager
Business

1. Call to Order

UMSU chairperson, Nina Lam calls the meeting to order at 6:41 p.m. with the reading of a statement of acknowledgement that the meeting is taking place on Treaty 1 Territory.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOTION – BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

Moved by Soussi Gounni seconded by Mbuli Matshe.

Motion carried.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

a. February 13, 2020

MOTION – BE IT RESOLVED THAT the draft minutes from the Board of Directors meeting on February 13, 2020 are approved as recorded.

Moved by Mbuli Matshe, seconded by Nursing Students’ Association.

Motion carried.

4. Presentations

No presentations.

5. Current Business

a. MOTION 0469

WHEREAS on December 12, 2019 the Government of India passed the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) providing preferential treatment to certain religious minorities from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan fleeing religious persecution in the process of obtaining Indian citizenship, while openly discriminating against Muslims, India’s largest minority;

WHEREAS the law comes as a precursor to the National Register of Citizens, under which anyone in India would be considered a non-Indian until they can provide documentation to prove their citizenship, leaving millions of Indians from socially marginalized and economically deprived backgrounds who have little chance of securing the documents to confirm their citizenship, to
risk losing it altogether, being transferred to detention centers and being left stateless, devoid of citizenship and the privileges it affords;

WHEREAS these laws come right after the revocation of Article-370 in August, 2019 that granted a special status to Kashmir, the only Muslim-majority state in India along with the arrest of popular political leaders and activists without charge, their continuing detention, the world’s largest and longest internet shut down over the regions for almost 6 months, heavy military presence with strict curfews and frequent lockdowns;

WHEREAS independent India has seen the largest series of protests against the CAA and NRC and the other recent developments which have left many minority groups, especially Muslims, in India feeling vulnerable and targeted by their own government;

WHEREAS different social groups have come together peacefully to resist these regrettable acts that upend the long-standing fundamental ideas of equality, liberty, pluralism and secularism enshrined in the Indian Constitution;

WHEREAS in attempts to suppress these protests the government has employed draconian means, including unprovoked violence against peaceful protesters and university students leading to several dozen deaths, with thousands having been arrested, detained, and hospitalized across the country so far, with the numbers rising every day;

WHEREAS the recent developments in India have led to international outrage, with demonstrations and public statements by several activists and student groups in support of the peaceful protesters, and condemning the draconian means by the government

BE IT RESOLVED THAT UMSU release a statement showing their unequivocal support for the Indian community on campus;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT UMSU release a statement showing solidarity with the peaceful protesters in India exercising their democratic right to dissent;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT UMSU release a statement condemning the unprovoked violence and the draconian means employed by the Indian government, especially the attacks on university students on their campuses;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT UMSU work with the interested groups on campus to arrange an event surrounding interfaith dialogue and peace.

Moved by Victoria Nwabuisi, seconded by Arts Student Body Council.

Amitoz Singh speaks in favour of the motion.

Soussi Gounni speaks against the motion.

Eric Schillberg, speaks against the motion.

Nada El Tobgy, speaks in favour of the motion.

Erin Thomas, speaks against the first and last be it resolved causes.
Cory Frederickson, speaks against the motion.

Amitoz Singh, speaks in favour of the motion.

Arnav Sud, speaks in favour of the first be it resolved clause.

Zac Wronski, speaks in favour of the motion.

MOTION – to strike the following clauses:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT UMSU release a statement showing solidarity with the peaceful protesters in India exercising their democratic right to dissent;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT UMSU release a statement condemning the unprovoked violence and the draconian means employed by the Indian government, especially the attacks on university students on their campuses;

Moved by Soussi Gounni, seconded by Cory Frederickson.

Victoria Nwabuisi, speaks against the amendment.

Motion to vote by secret ballot.

Moved by Erin Thomas.

Motion to amend carried.

MOTION – to strike the following clause:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT UMSU release a statement showing their unequivocal support for the Indian community on campus;

To be replaced with:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT UMSU release a statement showing their support for students on campus affected by violence in their home countries which could be put in advertisement for the interfaith dialogue.

Moved by Erin Thomas, seconded by Mbuli Matshe.

Victoria Nwabuisi speaks against the motion.

Motion to amend failed.

Motion carried.

6. New Business

a. MOTION 0470
WHEREAS tuition tax credits are currently available to all students in Canada, with no prerequisites;

WHEREAS grants and loans offered by the Government of Canada depend on factors such as province of residence, family income, dependents, tuition fees and living expenses, which poses a threat to students who would be excluded from the credit due to not meeting these rigorous factors;

WHEREAS other provinces (such as Ontario, Saskatchewan, BC, and others) have eliminated their equivalent of the tuition tax credit, raising costs for many students with no alternative benefits;

WHEREAS UMSU’s duty is to advocate for lower tuition costs;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT UMSU ceases any lobbying efforts to eliminate the tuition tax credit;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT UMSU receive Board approval for any lobbying efforts that eliminate financial support to students

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT UMSU continue to work with UCRU for possible alternatives to lobby for further expansion of Government of Canada grants and loans.

Moved by Soussi Gounni, seconded by Shawn Williment.

Motion referred to Governance Committee.

7. Reports of the Executive

   a. VP Community Engagement

       UMSU VP Community Engagement, Kyra Fanning, provides a summation of her written report, submitted to the Board of Directors as part of the February 27, 2020 board package.

   b. VP Finance & Operations

       UMSU VP Finance & Operations, Mbuli Matshe, provides a summation of his written report, submitted to the Board of Directors as part of the February 27, 2020 board package.

8. Reports of the Committees

   a. Executive

       Jakob Sanderson reports that MOTION 0468 which was referred to Executive Committee will be discussed at the next Board of Directors meeting.
b. **Finance**

*Mbuli Matshe* reports that Finance Committee has approved credit card statements and is reviewing the 2020/2021 budget.

c. **Governance**

No report.

d. **Member Services**

*Mbuli Matshe*, reports that travel grants is over the budget line and is working with Finance Committee for a solution.

e. **Selections Committee**

No report.

f. **Judicial Board**

*Michael Catanese* reports that the Judicial Board is preparing for the upcoming election season.

9. **Reports of Board Members**

*Victoria Nwabuisi* reports that she is in the works of planning a cultural celebration event for March. Any interested students should email her at isr@umsu.ca.

*RSAC* announces their event, Colour Night, happening on March 7th.

10. **Announcements**

No announcements.

11. **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.