

Youth Parliament of Manitoba Inc.
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the 94th Session

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Parliament: 94	Meeting: AGM	Date: 22 March 2015	Time: 13:00
Location: Room 2C27 University of Winnipeg 515 Portage Avenue Winnipeg, MB R3B 2E9			
Recorded by: Ryan Sherbo (houseleader@ypmanitoba.ca)			

Present: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kamal Dhillon• Joseph Broda*• Ariel Melamedoff• Brent Hardy*• Ryan Sherbo• Nihal Bhullar• Daniel Denton• Madeline Lischka• Mitchell van Ineveld• Julia Minarik• Dave Gwun• Deborah Tsao• Madeline Metcalfe*• Johise Namwira• Taylor Daigneault * By video conference	Proxies: (*partial) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Michael Kvern
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Agenda: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Call Meeting to Order2. Approval of Agenda3. Approval of the Minutes from AGM4. Approval of the Minutes from Election Meeting
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<p>5. Presentations 5.1 Budget (Director of Finance) 5.2 Year in Review (Past Chairperson) 5.3 State of the Corporation Address (Chairperson) 6. Membership Feedback 7. Reports and Motions of Standing and Ad Hoc Committees 7.1 SOBLOC – Amendments to Governing Documents</p>	
<p>8. Adjournment</p>	

Appendices:

- State of the Corporation Address
- Year in Review Address
- YPM 93 Budget
- SOBLOC93 Report
- Standing Orders
- Bylaws
- Code of Conduct

1. Call Meeting to Order

(The date, time and location for this meeting were given to all members, who would normally be permitted to attend, on February 20th, 2015 and it is therefore a regular meeting. There is no specified quorum for meetings of the membership.)

Kamal Dhillon called the meeting to order at 13:09 CST.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOTION to approve the agenda of the meeting of 22 March 2015 [Meeting AGM, 94th Parliament] (Mitch/Maddie): carried.

3. Approval of Minutes from AGM

MOTION to approve the minutes of the meeting of 22 March 2014 [Meeting AGM, 93rd Parliament] (Daniel/Maddie): carried

4. Approval of the Minutes from Election Meeting

MOTION to approve the agenda of the meeting of 30 December 2014 [Election Meeting, 93rd Parliament] (Deborah/Dave): carried

5. Presentations

5.1 Budget (Director of Finance)

Ariel Melamedoff, Director of Finance and Deputy Speaker, presented the budget for the 2015 fiscal year (FY15), which runs from 01 February 2015 to 31 January 2016. He explained YPM's goals in budgeting and gave a basic overview of the approach of the Board when it comes to spending money.

The budget is available as an attachment.

Motion to approve (Mitch/Julia): carried

Ariel briefly described the budget from the previous year. The waiving of the registration fee for cabinet and executive members was a success and will be continued, except for a \$5 contribution to the YPM endowment fund, which will be charged to cabinet and executive as well as taken off the registration fee for members. The year went slightly less well financially than expected due to fewer sponsorships and lower attendance at Speaker's Night.

The budget for the coming year assumes slightly higher registration numbers for session and ideally higher numbers at Speaker's Night. Most of the financing will continue to come from direct mail sponsorships from corporations, and should be at about the same level as last year. Expenditures will stay roughly the same, including costs of session, Speaker's Night, and general expenditures. We expect a slight surplus at the end of the year.

5.2 Year in Review (Past Chairperson)

Brent Hardy, Past Chairperson and Speaker, provided a review of the past year for YPM. His comments are available as an attachment.

Brent went over the goals laid out last year – which were successful and which needed to be improved. The goals set out were to continue to have recruitment efforts as a special focus, give a focus to backbencher/cabinet relations to promote inclusivity, promote social activities throughout the year, and fully utilize funding for rural, inner city, and northern youth. While not all of these have been fully achieved, significant strides were made in all.

Successes: The focus on recruitment paid off well, with numbers stabilizing, although additional effort is still required. Speaker's Night was a success, mostly in coming up with a successful formula (location, system stabilized). Revamping cabinet applications was a success and will be continued. We continued to take advantage of funding opportunities and had a significant number of members supported by funding – we should be able to have a presence of indigenous members from Nelson House this coming year. We have established successful partnerships with AYO and PJFM that will be continued. Committees at session were better described with a guide. The inaugural alumni debate was a major success. We had a large number of very engaged backbenchers who improved session. Improved opportunities for downtime activities at session were very helpful in building community. Implementation of free attendance for cabinet and exec was a major plus. Legislation writing was well organized and ahead of schedule. We should be in good shape as long as our finances are maintained successfully.

Areas of Improvement: Some of our sponsorship commitments were not successful this year – we should continue to look for long term, stable sponsorships. We should continue to improve relationships between backbenchers and cabinet members. Our legislation could have used more diversity, which is something Brent will work on for the coming year. Communication on information on session could have been improved. Our alumni database system could use improvement. The roles of some positions in the finance ministries could use reassessment. We will continue to look for ideas for storage space.

Ultimately, this year was successful and brought a lot of important improvements. We would like a solid basis with which to launch WCYP in 2018 and YPM100 in 2022 and be prepared for strategic planning. We will continue to strengthen and improve partnerships as well as developing new partnerships, and continually develop more activities for building community involvement both inside and outside of session. We will also continue to build on the diversity of our members at session.

5.3 State of the Corporation Address (Chairperson)

Kamal Dhillon, Chairperson and Premier, provided an outline for the upcoming year of YPM. The comments have been provided as an attachment.

Kamal gave a brief overview echoing many of Brent's comments. YPM's organizational strengths include: a strong sense of community (internally and externally), bolstered by our social media presence; newly established partnerships and continuing partnerships (AYO, PJFM, YPMAA); stable recruitment numbers (although this number could be improved); financial

support for members, promoting diversity of outreach efforts; and increased financial stability, particularly with Speaker's Night.

Kamal gave a notice about Speaker's Night (May 7th, 2015) and encouraged all members to attend.

YPM's areas of improvement include: more information to communicate to potential members (rural, Francophone, Aboriginal communities); more school presentations; better visibility on university/college campuses; specificity in promo materials (clearing up misconceptions, specifically about staying overnight at Kelvin); streamlining registration; diversity in legislation/ideology (specifically too leftist); better explanation of committees; and involving backbenchers throughout the year.

Potential concerns include: maintaining the cabinet/exec fee rebate (should be fine assuming finances remain stable); price of registration fee (still a barrier for attendance, need to continue to focus on funding opportunities); need for storage/office space; and more out of province exec.

Goals for the year: ensure YPM is representative of demographics (most important goal); continue to foster community; maintain inclusivity; year-round social events; and maximize funding potential.

New initiatives: partnerships (PJFM/AYO); alumni scholarship (pooled resources from three alumni to sponsor a member); alumni debate (important to continue and make it more accessible); possibility of bilingual debate opportunities; adoption of gender neutrality and clarification of harassment policy in governing documents; review of committee manual; evolving role of returning backbenchers (making sure backbenchers have a role to play and don't feel left out); better defining the role of Honorary President and Lieutenant Governor; securing new sponsorship funds; and Instagram!

YPM has made great strides – important to keep things going and have a strong base for Western Canadian Youth Parliament (hosted by Manitoba in 2018) and YPM 100 hosted in 2022.

6. Membership Feedback

PJFM Partnership: Mitchell van Ineveld elaborated on a partnership with Parlement Jeunesse Franco-Manitoban (PJFM), the French youth parliament in Manitoba. Registration fee discounts and cross promotion through social media are the main efforts that have taken place thus far. In the future, we are looking to improve recruitment through PJFM and increase recruitment through French organizations (specifically CGP, through which we want to promote a workshop in September/October on youth parliaments to promote and interest in both organizations). PJFM is hoping to sign an official contract to fully clarify our connection and come up with new ideas to improve our partnership. YPM executive were in favour of the idea of a written contract. The bilingual debate was thought to be a good idea. French immersion schools may be a good target for recruitment efforts.

AYO Partnership: YPM would like to be more involved with AYO events and build a closer relationship with indigenous youth. Chris from AYO was in attendance and promoted the idea of

YPM members attending Meet Me at the Belltower events (Friday at 6 pm at the Selkirk Belltower) and Politix Brainstorm (Saturday at noon at Neechi Commons). The idea of having a cabinet position devoted specifically to community involvement (PJFM, AYO, youth organizations) was brought up by Mitch to promote outreach. This was the idea behind cabinet members like Francophone Affairs and Rural Development, but these kind of ideas are also mostly focused within the executive. Kamal talked about having External Affairs take on some of those responsibilities, since they have a smaller role. Julia floated the idea of combining the ministries of Francophone Affairs and Rural Development to create a more defined role. Deborah also noted that PR could take on more of a role in that area. Kamal emphasized that these roles should also be taken on by everyone on cabinet as a joint effort and that everyone should work within the communities that they are involved with.

Inclusivity: Julia brought up the idea of members giving their preferred pronouns at the start of session to promote inclusivity and gender equality, an idea that came up from Ontario Youth Parliament. This was widely seen as an excellent idea.

Session Events: The banner was seen as an excellent idea and definitely something to be continued. Johise brought up the idea of more team development opportunities. Mitch noted that the discussion circles were somewhat male dominated, but also partially because many male backbenchers were at session.

Critic: Deborah brought up the idea, discussed at Cabinet Autopsy, to have an official critic (possibly a returning backbencher) for each bill, to work with the BPM for each bill and write a speech opposing the bill. This encourages more diversity of opinions as well as solidifying a role for returning backbenchers. This was widely seen as an excellent idea (coming from French youth parliaments). Mitch elaborated on some of the benefits. Taylor mentioned that returning backbenchers also supported this idea. Daniel noted that cabinet members need to take on the role of mediating debate (this should be enforced and not just talked about). Ariel also noted the usefulness of having a plain language interpretation of each bill. Widespread support for this idea.

Rural/Northern Communication: Maddie asked if we've ever had Skype presentations for rural/northern communities (or 1 on 1 conversations with teachers). This also gives a role for out of town members to assist with recruitment. Mitch brought up the idea of a recruitment video to send out to communities. We can use the Governance video filmed by United Way to send along with a package of information or along with another video. Members gave a lot of support to the idea of a recruitment video.

Social Events: Kamal asked if people had any ideas for other YP social events. Chris (from AYO) brought up the idea of having more events and social activities in the north end and other places. Kamal brought up having more community volunteer events as well.

Recruitment: Nihal mentioned the importance of having personal communication with schools, as well as with cadets. Kamal mentioned more university fairs in a variety of places. Taylor talked about looking into becoming an affiliated organization with a university and doing student recruitment and tabling. Julia mentioned the YMCA as another potential organization. Mitch brought up working with debate societies and politics societies at universities to have informal debate events.

7. Reports and Motions of Standing and Ad Hoc Committees

7.1 SOBLOC – Amendments to Governing Documents

Ryan Sherbo, Director of Procedures and House Leader, explained the composition and goals of SOBLOC for this year. The committee consisted of Ryan (Chair), Brent Hardy, Michael Kvern, Mitchell van Ineveld, Nolan Smith, and Cristina Mace. Please see the SOBLOC Report (included as an appendix) for further details.

Amendment to the Bylaws

1)

- In Article 7:11, replace “Chairmanship” with “Chairpersonship”
- In Articles 7:12, 13:8:b, and 13:15:b, replace “he or she” with “they”
- In Articles 13:14:b, 13:16:a, 13:19, and 14:1, replace “his or her” with “their”
- In Article 13:15:c:i, replace “him or her” with “them”
- (Mitch/Maddie): Carried

2)

- Strike Article 5:1:d
- In Article 8:2, replace “Clauses (2a), (2b), and (2d)” with “Clauses (1a) and (1b)”
- (Julia/Taylor): Carried

3)

- Change Article 18:4 to read, “Notwithstanding impeachment as per Article 14 or revocation of membership as per Article 5, if a member of an Ad Hoc Committee ceases to be a member of YPM Inc., they shall remain a member of the committee.”
- (Daniel/Taylor): Carried

4)

- Move Article 13:9:c to become Article 13:5:a and change it to read, “The Chief Electoral Officer may not vote except as outlined in Article (13) Clause (15d).”
- (Mitch/Maddie): Carried

5)

- In Article 15, change all occurrences of “By-Election Meeting” and “By-Election Motion” to “By-election Meeting” and “By-election Motion”

- (Julia/Kamal): Carried

Amendments to the Standing Orders

1)

- In Clause 6:3, replace “he or she has” with “they have”
- In Clause 26:1, replace “he or she shall” with “they shall”
- In Clause 38:1, replace “he or she wishes” with “they wish”
- In Clause 42, replace “he or she believes” with “they believe” and “he or she shall” with “they shall”
- In Clause 45, replace “he or she deems” with “they deem”
- In Clause 49, replace “he or she may” with “they may”
- In Clause 70:3, replace “he or she must” with “they must”
- In Clause 26:1, 27, 27:2, 28, 29, 30, 33:1, 33:2, 34, 36, 39, 42, 70, and 70:3, replace “his or her” with “their”
- Change Clause 6 to read, “The Speaker and Mace are to be properly respected by all Members. Members shall stand when the Mace enters or leaves the House, address the Chair by the appropriate gender designation in accordance with the Speaker’s wishes, such as Mister (Deputy) Speaker or Madam (Deputy) Speaker, and obey the directions of the Chair.”
- Change Clause 83 to read, “The Chairperson shall be addressed by the appropriate gender designation in accordance with their wishes, such as Mr. Chairperson or Madam Chairperson.”
- (Ariel/Taylor): Carried

2)

- Change Clause 13 to read, “...the Member who moved the motion may speak for no longer than ten minutes...”
- Change Clause 15 to read, “...the Member who moved the motion may speak for no longer than ten minutes ... and the mover shall have a right of reply of no longer than five minutes.”
- (Maddy/Brent): Carried

3)

- Switch the places of Clause 22 and Clause 23
- Change the new Clause 23 to read, “Notwithstanding those specified in Standing Order 22, no non-member shall be permitted on the Floor of the House without the permission of the Speaker. Any individual admitted into any part of the House or gallery who misconducts themselves may be removed if they do not withdraw.”
- In Clause 25, replace “Members” with “Individuals”
- (Johise/Taylor): Carried

4)

- In Clause 4, remove “the traditions of”
- (Daniel/Kamal): Carried

Amendments to the Code of Conduct

1)

- Change Article 3 to read, “3. All members of YPM Inc. shall dress in a dignified and proper manner befitting a Member of Parliament and shall adhere to the following dress regulations while attending parliamentary sessions sponsored in part or in whole by YPM Inc.
 1. Members shall not wear denim, hats, open-toed shoes, sneakers, wallet chains, or low-cut tops.
 2. Members shall wear either business attire including a tie and shall wear a suit jacket, dress sweater or formal vest; or business attire including such things as a suit, blouse, slacks or skirt that ends no higher than the top of the knee. Midriffs and shoulders must be covered.”
- (Dave/Mitch): Carried

2)

- Add an Article 4, reading, “4. The following behaviours shall not be tolerated by members of, or at events hosted by, YPM Inc.:
 1. Acts of violence,
 2. Sexual harassment or sexual violence,
 3. Bullying, harassment, or discrimination, for reasons including but not limited to race, ethnicity, gender, sex, sexual orientation, ability status, financial status, religion, or ideological beliefs, and
 4. Slander and libel.”
- (Taylor/Nihal): Carried

8. Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn Meeting AGM at 14:54 (Daniel): Carried.

The above are considered to be a true and accurate recording of all items discussed. Please advise the recorder of any ambiguity, discrepancy, inconsistency, error or omission noted.

RYAN SHERBO
DIRECTOR OF PROCEDURES (HOUSE LEADER)
94TH PARLIAMENT
YOUTH PARLIAMENT OF MANITOBA INC.