

## **Youth Parliament of Manitoba**

### **Annual General Meeting 2023 Minutes**

#### **1. Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 13:00 CT.

#### **2. Declaration of Proxies**

Pearson Singbeil Montgomery declared that they hold proxies for Emily Gray and Rowan Hildebrand.

Matthew Sévigny declared that they hold proxies for Prabhnoor Singh and Harshnoor Mann.

Hawanatu Bangura declared that they hold proxies for Rayid Abdullah and Jourmae Abengoza.

Aiden Peters declared that they hold a proxy for Ayanna Maxcyn Gualdrapa.

#### **3. Approval of the Agenda**

The motion was moved by Matthew Sévigny and seconded by Lien Huynh. **Motion passed.**

#### **4. Approval of the Minutes from AGM 2022**

The motion was moved by Pearson Singbeil Montgomery and seconded by Uday Bhardwaj. **Motion passed.**

#### **5. Approval of the Minutes from Election Meeting 2022**

The motion was moved by Aiden Peters and seconded by Hawanatu Bangura. **Motion passed.**

#### **6. Suspension of By-Laws to Allow Non-Members to Speak**

The motion was moved by Pearson Singbeil Montgomery and seconded by Sarah Fontaine-Sinclair. **Motion passed.**

#### **7. Guest Speaker (Karla Atanacio)**

- a. Karla Atanacio is a 1.5 generation Filipino immigrant who spent much of her childhood in the Philippines and lots of her adulthood in Canada. She is currently studying at the University of Winnipeg and working for the government.
- b. Importance of Community work
  - i. Karla is really involved in the community, serving as chair of Pinoys on Parliament and several other roles.
  - ii. She stresses the importance of community work, especially listening to other peoples' perspectives and recognizing our privileges.

c. Mindset for Approaching School

- i. It's ok to not know what you're doing. The important aspect is to learn skills and meet people.

d. Benefits of YPM

- i. Learned about political acumen - working with people who have different opinions.
- ii. Improved communication (public speaking). Lots of practice helped build confidence.
- iii. Broadening horizon of skills and roles through YPM. Karla was able to speak on a radio show at the University of Winnipeg about involvement in politics.

e. Q&A Period:

- i. **Q:** *What was your cybersecurity bill as a BPM, was it controversial?*

1. **A:** *Wanted the bill to pass, but also to make it spicy. It was controversial by adding "naming and shaming" for data leaks. Lack of punishments also stimulated lots of amendments during committees.*

- ii. **Q:** *How to balance working and studying?*

1. **A:** *Work hours for students are usually flexible. Was able to take 3–4 courses while working for 14–20 hours per week. Experience outside of school is important, otherwise you won't have the breadth of opportunity if you went through university directly.*

- iii. **Q:** *How did you end up working at Parliament Hill?*

1. **A:** *Got the job at Parliament Hill through connections. There was someone from Pinoy on Parliament who worked there and introduced her after seeing her involvement with the community and youth advocacy.*

- iv. **Q:** *Do you have any advice on advocating to public servants?*

1. **A:** *Youth don't vote enough, so politicians don't prioritize youth. University students should get involved with student politics or organizations such as the Canadian Federation of Students.*

## **8. Reports and Motions of Standing and Ad Hoc Committees**

a. Standing Orders and By-Laws Oversight Committee (SOBLOC) – Amendments to Governing Documents

- i. Charlize Medina, Director of Procedures, presented the SOBLOC report.

- ii. Hawanatu Bangura moved, seconded by Julian McArthur, that the amendments to our governing documents proposed in the report be passed.
- iii. Report passed as amended.
- b. Membership feedback:
  - i. ***Q:** Want to clarify how indemnification works and how we will ensure no one is punished for fulfilling their duty in good faith?*
    - 1. ***A:** Indemnification is a legal issue. The corporation accepts responsibility for actions performed in good faith, in line with the corporation's mission.*
  - ii. ***Q:** If a Q&A period was included for a nominee during elections, will there be a way to reject a nominee? If so, how will the vacant spot be filled?*
    - 1. ***A:** There will be a vote of confidence (yes/no) for positions with one nominee. A by-election will be held in the spring for the vacant position.*
  - iii. ***Q:** How will the corporation handle liabilities incurred through the indemnification process?*
    - 1. ***A:** That would be a logistical issue and would not need to be addressed in the by-laws. It will be decided according to the specific situation.*

## 9. Presentations

### a. Year-In-Review

- i. Presented by Jacob Harvey, Chairperson

#### 1. **100th Anniversary Gala**

- a. This event was a huge success celebrating the Capital Campaign and YPM's 100 year anniversary.
- b. We had 100 attendees, with a healthy mix of alumni, members, and current politicians. It was a great fundraising opportunity.

#### 2. **Return to In-Person Activities**

- a. It was a challenge returning to in-person activities after the past 2 online Sessions, especially since YPM has such a high turnover rate.
- b. Activities include:
  - i. Regular Cabinet meetings at the University of Manitoba

- ii. Cabinet Retreat at Rock Lake Summer Camp
- iii. Session at the Legislature and Kelvin High School
- c. Our goal is to have an experience that faithfully upholds what we've had in the past. We need to sort out logistics and regain the experience needed for hosting in-person activities.

### 3. Year-Round Events

- a. May: AGM & 100th Anniversary Gala
- b. June: Cabinet interview
- c. July: Cabinet Retreat
- d. August: Cabinet Orientation & regular Cabinet meetings
- e. November: Panel hosted by External Affairs
- f. December: Session

### 4. Session

- a. We had 65 members in attendance and demographics are relatively similar to past in-person Sessions. We hope to improve rural recruitment in the upcoming years.
- b. The financial aid programs were very successful, with 13 General Financial Aid, 6 GMSF, and 2 Newcomer Scholarships being awarded.

### ii. Membership Feedback:

1. ***Q:** Have you considered expanding certain Cabinet positions that have lots of tasks (e.g. Publications) by adding more Parliamentary Secretaries?*
  - a. ***A:** Yes we have, but the decision was to not add more Parliamentary Secretaries throughout the year. However we plan to designate people with less tasks during Session to help ministries with lots of tasks.*
2. ***Q:** Have you considered expanding Cabinet as a whole? This way tasks are more distributed, thus reducing the amount of work for each Cabinet position.*

- a. *A: Yes we have, but our current team size is already a lot to handle for our 3 team leaders. We don't think increasing it will be beneficial.*

b. State of the Corporation

- i. This was presented by Alexa Mucyo Kayonga, Chairperson

1. **Strengths of the Organization**

- a. Strong membership numbers – We had a good recovery from the lower membership numbers during online Sessions.
- b. Consistent community sponsors – We are grateful for the support from the following organizations and companies:
  - i. City of Winnipeg
  - ii. Manitoba Legislature
  - iii. Perimeter Aviation
  - iv. Wawanesa Insurance

2. **Changes for YPM102**

- a. The plan is to reduce the number of bills from 5 to 3 in order to prioritize everyone's wellbeing. All activities will be present, but the numbers may be slightly reduced. This will give everyone more time to rest and relax.
- b. We will also better utilize our Honourary President, Alan Campbell, who is the president of the CSBA and MSBA. We will seek his advice for fundraising and recruitment.

3. **Plans for YPM102**

- a. We are currently planning a re-launch of Speaker's Night. This is an important fundraising event that was held annually before our transition to online Session.
- b. We also plan to offer the Cabinet-Alumni Mentorship Program. This was started in YPM99 by Deborah Tsao, who was our Premier at that time.

4. **Priorities**

- a. Supporting Cabinet as equal organizers of Session. Much of Cabinet didn't know what an in-person Session looked like and

felt very lost. Our goal is to be more transparent and give Cabinet all the information they need.

- b. Developing clear equity guidelines, determining the role of equity officers, and whether this role should be delegated to Cabinet.
- c. Creating a procedure for internal decision making, especially in problem solving and conflict resolution.
- d. Solidifying relationships with school divisions. We primarily recruit through class presentations, but our goal is to foster relationships with school councillors and superintendents to help advertise YPM Session.
- e. Increase corporate sponsorships and shift away from relying on individual donors. This reduces the risk of not getting enough funding, as individual donors vary from year to year.

## **10. Budget**

- a. Presented by Josephine Zhao, Director of Finance.

### **i. Understanding our finances**

- 1. The budget shows us how much we need to fundraise and what is realistic in terms of what we hope to accomplish. This is based on spendings in the past year.
- 2. Our Endowment Fund is like a “savings account” for YPM that guarantees 5% revenue each year, which we can reinvest or spend.
- 3. Cash position (as of April 8th, 2023)
  - a. Bank Account: \$9,221.09
  - b. Paypal: \$500

### **ii. 2022 Finances**

- 1. This year we ended with a \$6,578.37 deficit.
- 2. There were very high expenses due to the following:
  - a. Renting Kelvin High School nearly doubled in cost, from \$4,614.75 to \$9,514.89
  - b. Poor estimation of resource consumption leading to lots of food waste.

- c. Poor communication leading to paying for costs incurred in the past year.

### iii. 2023 Finances

1. For 2023, we are planning for a \$1,431.42 net income.
2. We expect to lower the expenses by setting a \$7,500.00 limit for Session accommodations and reaching out to our Honorary President (Alan Campbell) for advice.
3. In order to offset the deficit from previous years, we will not reinvest the interest from our endowment fund. Additionally, we will focus more on corporate sponsorships and grant applications.

### iv. The future

1. A new recruitment video is a big project for the future years.

#### b. Membership Feedback:

##### i. ***Q:** How is the budget determined down to the cents?*

1. ***A:** We use concrete values obtained from the past year to estimate our budget for the upcoming year. For example, the planned expenses and revenues for transportation are taken straight from the previous year.*

##### ii. ***Q:** Why is the revenue not a whole number?*

1. ***A:** We get taxed on many transactions such as merchandise sales, therefore the revenue might not always be a whole number.*

##### iii. ***Q:** How will the accommodation expense for Session be reduced?*

1. ***A:** We've already spoken with Alan Campbell (HP) about this issue. He has given us suggestions for which schools to contact and how to negotiate with them. He also explained how to use our connections to gain corporate sponsorships.*

## 11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn is moved by Inti Nemogá Stout and seconded by Aidenn Gargan. **Motion passed.**

The above minutes were taken by Xiao Zhang.

April 8th, 2023