

## **Youth Parliament of Manitoba**

### **Annual General Meeting 2024 Minutes**

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

The meeting was called to order at 13:15 CT.

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

Emily Mann declared that they hold proxies for Emily Alibin.

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

The motion was moved by Rowan Hildebrand and seconded by Adam Katz. **Motion passed.**

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

The motion was moved by Rowan Hildebrand and seconded by Adam Katz. **Motion passed.**

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

The motion was moved by Rowan Hildebrand and seconded by Adam Katz. **Motion passed.**

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

The motion was moved by Rowan Hildebrand and seconded by Adam Katz. **Motion passed.**

#### **7. Guest Speaker (El-Shaddai)**

- a. El-Shaddai is a YPM alum from the 97th-99th Sessions who will speak about her experience in YPM and youth leadership. El-Shaddai was a founding member and co-chair of The Black Student Empowerment Society, a student club that aims to uplift the Black student population in their academic, networking, and career endeavours. She also served as an undergraduate research assistant, an 1834 fellow with Operation Black Vote Canada, and a RISE ambassador with Apathy is Boring. Currently, El-Shaddai works with the NDP government through the Manitoba Legislative Internship Program.
- b. Education Concealment Act
  - i. Tackled credentialism: to increase employment opportunities by concealing credential requirements from postings for jobs that do not necessarily require them for their performance.
- c. Where has YPM led me?
  - i. Public speaking from YPM helped to get scholarships.
  - ii. Debate team, placed second in Province.

iii. Apathy is Boring

1. Connects young people with democracy and civil engagement initiatives. Free, two cohorts per year, 5 month commitment, special Canada Service Corps opportunities.

iv. 1834 Fellowship

1. Opportunity for black youth interested in public policy, where 20 youth from around the country are exposed to a variety of civil leadership roles and public policy areas.

v. The Black Student Empowerment Society

1. Founded a student-led group that provided Black students with professional resources. Mission to increase knowledge of opportunity and level the playing field.

vi. Manitoba Legislature Internship

1. Program provides graduates with a chance to experience the legislative process within the Manitoba legislature. Interns participate in seminars designed to enhance knowledge on government operations, public service, etc.

d. Q&A Period:

i. **Q:** *How do you make yourself stand out when applying for scholarships?*

1. **A:** *I've been lucky to have quite a bit of experience in interviewing. I would suggest getting feedback on your Cabinet interview and working towards nailing down your ability to interview and prepare for common questions. Learn to build on your experiences and show how your previous experiences can contribute to what you're applying for.*

ii. **Q:** *What other programs are at Apathy is Boring?*

1. **A:** *There is a Build program which can be done after the Rise program where you build on your experience to become more involved in community political activism. As well as monthly fire-side chats, similar to a seminar. DoorDash credits are provided too.*

iii. **Q:** *Where do you see your future in politics?*

1. **A:** *Open to different experiences, I've done a few different things and enjoy diversified opportunities. I'm not entirely sure what those next steps are, but I'm hoping to get offered a job at the legislature after my internship. The advice that I get from MLAs and Ministers is to be open to everything.*

iv. **Q:** Which university did you go to and how was your experience?

1. **A:** University of Manitoba, experience was good. Went because I wasn't sure about my field of study, so I chose University One. My experience was good, part of what made it so good was being able to find clubs and connect with professors and other students was very valuable and provided me with a lot of opportunities. Build rapport with your professors.

v. **Q:** Is Apathy is Boring just for students in Manitoba?

1. **A:** Don't have to be a student, just aged 18-30, is also a national program, but not entirely sure.

vi. **Q:** Where can we contact you if we have more questions?

1. **A:** Check your personal inbox post AGM.

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

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

i. Jourmae Abengoza, Director of Procedures, presented the SOBLOC report.

ii. Jourmae Abengoza 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. None.

## **9. Presentations**

a. Year-In-Review

i. Presented by Josephine Zhao, Past-Chairperson

### **1. By-election**

a. Late august by-election due to resignation of previous Chairperson. Emily Gray was elected Director of Finance and Josephine Zhao was elected Chairperson.

b. Members need to show up so quorum can be met and democracy.

### **2. Speaker Night**

- a. Every year we hold a fundraising event where we invite an influential speaker to bring together the community and the alumni to raise money for our organization.
- b. Speakers Night 2023 turnout was less. Thus we are aiming to rebrand speakers night for this year.

### 3. **Year-round Events**

- a. Rural Recruitment: Initiative to do rural presentations every Spring during April to June, Executives take on recruitment opportunities. If you know any schools that would like a presentation we would love to present there. Rural representation is important.
- b. Cabinet: Cabinet retreat, potluck, biweekly meetings, cabinet brunch.
  - i. Politics & Mental Health Panel 2023: Held by the Ministry of External Affairs shout out to Sarah for being a great host.
  - ii. Please join us for our community engagement events as they're open to the public.
  - iii. Social Media Engagement 2023: Engagement in media and social media are very important to creating awareness for our organization. Through things like our press conference.

### 4. **102nd Session**

#### **a. 85 members in attendance, a record number.**

- i. More than 70% backbenchers

#### **b. Financial Aid:**

- i. 3 GMSF recipients
- ii. 15 General Financial Aid recipients
- iii. 4 Newcomer Scholarships

#### **c. Luncheons**

- i. This year our lunches were different. Normally we invite the Liberal, Conservative, and New Democratic Parties of Manitoba, however this year we had the clerk's office.

d. Legislation

- i. The amount of Bills decreased for YPM102 to three and more time was allocated in the YPM102 schedule to allow for members to rest, relax, and participate in other activities.

- e. Feedback is welcome from any member of the organization regardless of length in the organization.

ii. Membership Feedback:

- 1. None.

b. State of the Corporation

- i. This was presented by Xiao Zhang, Chairperson

1. **Strengths of the Organization**

a. Endowment Fund

- i. Stable source of income annually, flat 5% interest every year from WPG Foundation, allows for continuity of YPM.
- ii. Capital campaign has expanded community contacts

b. Strong membership numbers – We physically could not fit any more people in the Chamber.

- i. YPM101: 39 backbenchers
- ii. YPM102: 56 backbenchers

c. Rural Recruitment

- i. Went to Warren collegiate, Gimli highschool, Steinbach regional secondary school. More to come.

2. **Changes for YPM103**

a. Re-branding of Speakers Night

- i. Annual fundraising and networking event with a focus on community and YPM members
- ii. Date: Early August
- iii. Keynote Speaker: TBD

- b. Re-launch of Extended Cabinet
  - i. Helps maintain an active YPM community throughout the year. A chance to stay on cabinet until the next Cabinet is selected.
  - ii. Work on fun, long-term projects: Creating merchandise, social media stuff, recruitment videos.

### 3. **Plans for YPM103**

- a. Merchandise overhaul
  - i. Increase variety of items sold
  - ii. Expand price range of items sold
- b. Expand recruitment efforts to include:
  - i. More intercity schools
  - ii. More rural schools
- c. Solidify relationship with community organizations
  - i. School divisions for accommodations
  - ii. Corporations and schools sponsorships: Garden City, LRSD, hoping to get more.

### 4. **Priorities**

- a. Increasing community engagement
- b. Increasing sponsorships
- c. Solidifying relationships with school divisions

### 5. **Member Feedback:**

- a. Q: Explain more about extended cabinet?
  - i. A: It is the continuation of Cabinet beyond the normal end date in January. It's an opportunity to maintain an active cabinet community during the YPM off-season. Doing extra projects that we normally do not have time for, not mandatory, totally volunteer.
- b. Q: Will it be a priority to do Rural Presentations in person?
  - i. A: Yes, within a reasonable distance.

- c. Q: Will there be a limit moving forward as to how many backbenchers can apply?
  - i. A: Yes we do have a physical constraint, the outreach is mainly to diversify our membership such that everyone in Manitoba has an opportunity to apply to attend YPM.
- d. Q: Would that mean first come first serve?
  - i. A: Yes, until tickets sell out.
- e. Q: Who presents at schools?
  - i. We send whoever is available during the scheduled time. Not limited to whoever attends or attended that school

## **10. Budget**

- a. Presented by Charlize Medina, Director of Finance.
- b. Charlize Medina moved, seconded by Sarah Fontaine-Sinclair, that the proposed budget for the 2024 year be passed as presented.
  - i. Understanding our finances**
    - 1. Our organization tracks our spending and budgeting in spreadsheets. Past budgets can be found on our website in the governance section.
  - ii. 2023 Finances**
    - 1. We ended with a \$4,293.80 surplus.
    - 2. Accommodations were less costly as the Winnipeg School Division lowered their rates.
  - iii. 2024 Finances**
    - 1. Conservative estimates based on actuals from last year.
    - 2. Projecting \$1,502.66 surplus.
  - iv. The future**
    - 1. Hoping to create a more long-term formal arrangement with the Winnipeg School Division to maintain affordable accommodations.
    - 2. Reworking Speakers Night and hosting other events as part of fundraising efforts.
    - 3. Merchandise overhaul in progress to sell more merchandise.

- 4. Increasing corporate sponsorships and grant applications.
- v. Budget passed as proposed.
- c. Membership Feedback:
  - i. **Q:** *What happened to merchandise revenue? It is about half of what was projected in the budget.*
    - 1. **A:** We created the estimate based on the expectation of selling our entire inventory.
  - ii. **Q:** *How extensive is our record-keeping for budgets? How far back does it go?*
    - 1. **A:** *Can be found on our website.*
  - iii. **Q:** *Does gaining a new member result in a net loss or net income?*
    - 1. **A:** *There are a lot of costs that can vary independent of the number of members in our organization, so this is difficult to quantify.*

#### **11. General Membership Feedback:**

- a. **Q:** Is backbencher autopsy reviewed by the Executive?
  - i. **A:** Yes.
- b. **Q:** It would be really helpful to have access to more nutritional snacks in the canteen at session. Can there be more access to better snacks at session?
  - i. **A:** Yes, and you can always reach out to Labour during Session too for food.
- c. **Q:** Is there any news about Youth Parliament Canada
  - i. **A:** We have not received any news. It's not our hosting year so we're not sure, but we will reach out.

#### **12. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn is moved by Rowan Hildebrand and seconded by Adam Katz. **Motion passed.**

The above minutes were taken by Madison Jones.

April 7, 2024