**Science Student’s Association Meeting Attendance**

**January Wednesday 20th, 2021**

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| **Position** | **Name** | **Present** |

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| President | Eric Vasas | Yes |
| Vice President | Jaime McNicholl | Yes |
| Chairperson | Anika Khan | Yes |
| Secretary | Jasmine Tingey | Yes |
| Senator | Dustin Erickson | No (regrets; proxy Stuti) |
| Senator | Emily Kalo | Yes |
| Senator | Serena Philips | Yes |
| UMSU Representative | Bryan Kwak | Yes |
| UMSU Representative | Chloe McElheron | Yes |
| UMSU Representative | Katelyn Casalla | Yes |
| UMSU Representative | Riley Shannon | No (regrets; proxy: Tooba) |
| Accessibility Representative | Tristan Rohatynsky | No (regrets; proxy Dana) |
| Indigenous Students’ Representative | Zoe Quill | Yes |
| International Students’ Representative | Juanita Garcia | Yes |
| LGBTTQ\* Representative | N/A |  |
| Women’s Representative | Kyra Cebula | Yes |

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| Treasurer | Justin Cruz | No |
| Director of Academics | Tooba Razi | Yes |
| Director of Communications | Zachary Hiebert | Yes |
| Director of Special Events | Rashawna Blair | Yes |
| Director of Student Services | Natalie Ngu | Yes |
| Executive Assistant | Stuti Gupta | Yes |
| Academic Programmer | Ethan Lin | Yes |
| Academic Programmer | Fares Hossain | No |
| Communications programmer | Sem Perez | No |
| Lounge Programmer | Aishat Bello | Yes |
| Special Events Programmer | Andrea Warzel | No |
| Special Events Programmer | Demi Andromidas | No |
| Special Events Programmer | Sion Yi | No |
| Special Events Programmer | Tiffany Tantakoun | Yes |
| Student Services Programmer | Dana Segal | Yes |
| Student Services Programmer | Kanso Alaka | No |
| Student Services Programmer | Selina Audino | No |

**Science Student’s Association Meeting Minutes**

**November Monday 16th, 2020**

**Called to Order: 7:09 PM**

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| 1. Acknowledgement to use of Treaty Land |
| Zoe Quill acknowledges that we are meeting on treaty land. |

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| 1. Approval of Agenda |
| Eric Vasas motions to approve the amended agenda, Katelyn Casalla: Motion passed. |

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| 1. Approval of Minutes |
| Serena Philips motions to approve the previous meeting minutes from the meeting held on December 4th, 2020 seconds; Eric Vasas Motion passed. |

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| 1. Council Reports |
| 1. President & (Vice) President |
| * Nothing to report, but if anyone has questions or concerns to let Jaime and Eric know! |
| 1. Senate |
| **Emily Kalo, Serena Philips and Dustin Erickson reports**:  Senate Meeting January 6th, 2021   1. **Modification of Instruction Evaluation, Faculty of Science** a. Pivot from​ F grade credit count model​ to a ​GPA value model​ to evaluate student performance b. Students will be assessed at the end of each term  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | Credits Completed | GPA | Action | | 12 | Under 2.0 | Warning | | 24 | Under 2.0 | Probation |   c. Students on probation that do not achieve a GPA of at least a 2.0 will be placed on a 1 year suspension during which they cannot take a course within the Faculty of Science  d. All students on a suspension would be required to meet with an academic advisor  e. Following the 1 year suspension, the student would remain on probation. f. If they are unable to reach the minimum GPA requirement of 2.0, the student will be placed on a​​ *5-year suspension ​* from the Faculty of science  I. Discussion over whether 5 years was too punitive, but the faculty strongly felt it was the appropriate response. ii. Clarification - suspension from the Faculty of Science specifically, not other faculties. (important to note that despite this, these students would likely be considered inadmissible by other faculties or programs) ●Initiated: September 2021 ●Approved   * Eric asked if someone were on probation would they be able to take a course that has a combo course code – Emily said most likely no * Stuti asked if other faculties functioned like this as well – Emily said they were very dead set on this proposal – and they asked them to compare it to other faculties, they never gave a clear cut answer, when this proposal was brought up they faculty was very dead set on making this happen   **Serena Phillips Reports:** Senate meeting December 2nd   1. SCCCC (committee on curriculum and course changes) proposed a bunch of changes to the courses recommended for written English requirement, mathematics requirement, and introductory course list        * + Motion * Passed * SCCCC put forth recommendations from the faculty of science related to course changes/modifications and degree modifications in response to upcoming changes in the chemistry department   + Modifying the Bachelor of science (General). Specifically, introductory science requirements will be amended to reflect changes to chemistry courses   + Modifying all the degree options in biochemistry to eliminate courses with embedded labs and create stand alone lab courses. Specifically making CHEM 3760 (Advanced methods for the biochemistry lab), STATS 1000 (Basic statistical analysis) or STATS 1150 (Intro to stats computing) required courses. Removal of PHYS 1070 (Physics 2: Waves and modern physics), MATH 1700 (Calc 2), and BIOL 2520 (Cell bio) as course requirements   + The introduction of 3 courses and the modification of 17 courses in the department of biological sciences      * + The evolution and biodiversity theme in the biological sciences department will be modified to add a stats requirement   + The themes in Biological sciences will be modified to increase flexibility in course choices   + The Introduction of one course and the deletion of one course in the department of chemistry      * + The modification of two courses in the department of computer science   + The modifying of all computer science degree options   + The closure of the following area specializations in computer science: Theoretical computer science, Networks and Security, Artificial Intelligence, Human Computer Interaction and Computer Graphics, Databases, Software Engineering, Computer Systems, Web-Based Systems   + The modification of all degree options in Genetics   + The modification of nine courses in the department of mathematics      * + The deletion of three courses, the introduction of four courses, and the modification of nineteen courses in the department of microbiology      * + Modifying all degree options in microbiology as well as the minor option. (number of elective courses in the major programs will be reduced to accommodate changes.   + The deletion of one course, introduction of three courses, and modification of six courses in the department of statistics      * + Modifying all degree options in statistics   + Motion   Passed   * Interest free federal student loans are extended for a year * President talked a little about UMFA bargaining and how he is committed to increasing faculty salaries and how the provincial government was not letting them offer any raises * The student senate caucus proposed a compassionate grading approach for the fall 2020 and winter 2021 terms. The proposal is as follows   + Students may choose to exclude from their UM GPA either:   + up to one (1) grade received in Fall term, and up to one (1) grade received in Winter term, *or*   + up to one (1) grade received in a spanned course which runs through both Fall and Winter terms.   + Students will have up until the winter 2021 term to make their exclusion decisions     - Lots of discussion lol members of senate exec were a little pressed that the motion didn't go through them first   + Motion was amended to say that grades as a result of disciplinary actions cannot have action taken   + Motion   Passed  - To pick for compassionate grading that is released on Jan 25th next week – Kristin Smith told Zach who passed along the message here  - Will be released on UMLearn  - Emily posted on the zoom chat 🡪 "There is time to make decisions about Fall 2020 and winter 2021 course grades. You will have until the end of the day on Monday, May 17" – from the umanitoba.ca website under the *Academic supports for compassionate grading* |
| 1. UMSU |
| **December 10th, 2020 board meeting report, Bryan Kwak**   1. **Presentation**    1. A resolution acknowledging, defining, and condemning Anti-Semitism.    2. Motion 0498 – Condemnation of Anti-Semitism    3. UMSU to unreservedly condemn all acts of racism, discrimination, bigotry, and violence against the Jewish community.    4. UMSU to adopt the IHRA working definition of antisemitism and include this definition into “position #7: Equitable Campus” of the official UMSU position Statement Booklet under “UMSU supports”    5. **Status:** motion passed 2. **Updates:**    1. **Advocacy**       1. Academic integrity campaign: UMSU developed an academic integrity campaign to provide students with understandings of the rules and help them realize the severity of breaking the rules.       2. Routes to the University of Manitoba Campuses: The COVID-19 Recovery Steering Committee (CRSC) approved a proposal from the Health & Safety team on advocacy efforts towards increasing routes to the University of Manitoba campuses. This is to ensure students and staffs who must attend to academic obligations in person are able to do so while safely distanced. The plan is unclear yet.       3. - Compassionate grading options for fall 2020 and winter 2021 terms: the grading scheme that gives students the choice to exclude their UM GPA up to one grade received in fall term and up to one grade received in winter term. This framework was approved by senate. The grade is kept on the transcript with an asterisks\* to ensure the students to be able to take the courses that require excluded class as a prerequisite but it is not included to UM GPA calculation. This measure DOES NOT impact the GPA used for admission to other programs. Every program has different special formulas for their admission process.       4. - Internet aid: UMSU has secured the funding through the Board of Trustees for the data subsidy. This program will be set to launch for the winter term.   **UMSU Report – January 14, 2021, Chloe McElheron**  **MOTION 0499**  BE IT RESOLVED that the UMSU Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Working Group (EDIWG) be struck for the Winter 2021 academic term   * Purpose: The purpose of this working group will be to serve as a safe space for members of designated University of Manitoba Students’ Union (UMSU) communities\* to discuss the subject of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion – as well as compile recommendations for both the University and UMSU. * The motion was amended to include a broader rage with its composition including individuals with disabilities and EDI officers from different councils who don’t necessarily have to be a part of the communities are able to join the working group     PASSED – unanimously  *President – Jelynn Dela Cruz*   * Strategic Planning 2020/21   + Exec team has met to identify their key focuses for their remining four months and which projects would be most realistic to prioritize and complete   + Jelynn will be focusing on:     - Amendments to the governing documents     - Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion     - Streamlining internal human resource practices     - Boosting engagement in student leadership elections     - Solidifying the outreach of the Manitoba Alliance of Post-Secondary students     - Exploring remaining opportunities to invest more of UMSU’s money directly into the student population     - Coming to a firm decision on the U-Pass program, with the advice of the student body * Election Engagement   + Throughout the term she has been in contact with various organizations and individuals who specialize in inclusive elections and recruitment   + Meeting with student leaders who feel roadblocked in their pursuits of higher roles – offering advice   + “If the Board is aware of anyone who may need assistance or guidance, please feel welcome to connect us. I’m happy to offer any advice or information, to make the rise to leadership as accessible as possible for those passionate about helping their fellow students.” * EDI Working Group * UC Renovations   + Damage has been assessed from the fire in March 2020, they have been looking into the most effective way to renovate the facilities to benefit the student body, a full report will be presented to BOD by Projects and Operations team in the coming months * Question was asked about the potential of a snap federal election and what kind of “Get out the Vote” campaign UMSU would have in such short notice   + They are discussing this as an executive team very soon and will present more info to the board   + It sounds like they will be using the last campaign GOTV as a template but more details to come soon   *VP Advocacy – Kristin Smith*   * Recreation fees:   + Some students calling for a further reduced fee (currently at 70% which the gym was operating with bookings)   + Part of the recreation fee is used to fund bison scholarships – the current price does not impact this   + There is a significant amount of virtual programming occurring right now – this could be better advertised so students know what their options are and where their money is going * Provincial Cabinet Shuffle   + On January 5th, 202, Pallister made several changes to his provincial cabinet   + Minister Ralph Eichler was shafted from Economic Development and Training to Economic Development and Jobs   + Minister Eichler will no longer be responsible for most items pertaining to post-secondary education   + MAPSS spent many months building a crucial relationship with Minister Eichler and are disappointed to see him moved, however they are confident they will be able to build a productive relationship with Minister Wayne Ewasko * Student Senate Caucus: Quality of Online Learning   + I will speak on this – let me know if you would like me to send you the whole document! * Manitoba Alliance of Post-Secondary Students (MAPSS)   + Continuing updates * Bill 33   + Initially on the agenda to discuss with Minister Eichler in January   + No new updates at the moment * UCRU Updates   + UCRU Advocacy Committee will begin construction of our official policy bank this term, meant to help future boards in priority development and provide resources/official stances on lesser-advocated on issues * Internet Aid/Data Subsidy   + Re-analysis of the initiative demonstrated that it is in the best interest of both UMSU and its members to see it abandoned   + Internet connections remain compromised; however, a data subsidy is not the answer to this problem, focus will be put on:     - Ensuring that university policies do not disadvantage students with poor connections     - That the university tech fund is well supported     - Advocating to all levels of government for rural broadband expansion * Safe change rooms at the ALC   *VP Community Engagement - Tino Dogo*   * Sustainability Working Group   + Completed and submitted review to the university with suggestions to the U of M sustainability policy   + Planning sustainability week in March   + Reviewing the practices of UMSU businesses in terms of ethical purchasing policies * Student Leisure Guide   + Huge success!   + Expanding program in 2021   *VP Finance and Operations – Brendan Scott*   * U-Pass   + Met with RRC Students Association to discuss both U-Pass contracts   + Attended City of Winnipeg’s Executive Policy Committee to voice displeasure in the reduced transit services and lack of transit funding   + Met with Transit to discuss the current contract   + Next steps are to administer a campus wide survey to have student opinion on if the U-pass should continue to be an UMSU service with the new price * Student club spaces are in the early phases of renovation * Transit subsidies are back for the winter semester – applications close Feb. 4th   *VP Student Life – Savannah Szocs*   * Healthy Sexuality Campaign   + Launching Jan. 19th   + Schedules Zoom sessions – open to all students, led by participants   + List of participants:     - REES     - Student Counselling Centre     - UMSU Womyn’s Representative     - Sexual Violence Resource Centre     - Justice for Women Manitoba     - Human Rights and Conflict Management * Community Assemblies   + Kicked off in November, not well attended   + Cancelled 3 of 5 due to no attendance   + Next one has been pushed back into February, reaching out community reps to set dates   + It would really help them out if members of faculty councils would attend the assemblies – we will keep you posted on the date!   + “For those who aren’t aware, these assemblies are for the specific communities with elected UMSU representation on campus, those being Womyn’s, Accessibility, Mature (no elected rep), Indigenous, 2SLGBTTQ+, and International. These assemblies are a setting where motions can be brought forward, and uses for Community Initiative Funding can be discussed. So, if you are a member of one of the above communities, please attend the assemblies, even if it is just to listen in and see what’s being discussed.”   + Savannah highly recommends that as many people attend as many meetings as possible!! * BOSS/ACE Meetings   + Pushed to the beginning of February   + Hoping for better attendance this time – open to all Senior Sticks and Club Executives |
| 1. Communications |
| * Nothing to Report |

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| 1. Councillor Reports |
| 1. Special Events |
| **Rashawna Blair reports**:   * Motion for reimbursement of $180 for Special Events Holiday Giveaway * Gala- originally planned for April but will be covid vaccination site * August 27th, 2021 on hold or September 17th, 2021 option – both Fridays [Image of HBC gift cards removed for privacy concerns] * Rashawna asked what they should tell Nina – Jaime said keep the September date for now then push it back or cancel it as a last minute option * Jaime suggested if the best idea is to get Nina in contact with the new team – tell Nina that it’s the same money coming from the same place etc, and ask her if they can hold onto the money * Eric asked if you could get money back because of covid? * At this point we just don’t get the $5,000 back but ask if you can have the event next year |
| 1. Academics |
| **Tooba Razi Reports**:  **Nimbus Tutoring Partnership**   1. **Jan 13th Meeting**  * Nimbus is also reached out to FoS Departmental Student Groups for promotion of our program (BUGS, MISC, WICS etc) * Meeting was with WICS and Nimbus Rep * WICS will be promoting our Tutoring program to their group, and hoping to use Nimbus to foster industrial mentorships (need approval from us)  1. **Jan 15th Meeting**  * SSA Tutoring met the metrics that Nimbus had laid out for us in the Fall semester in terms of tutoring sign ups, new tutors, etc * Partnership with BUGS: they promote SSA X Nimbus tutoring program on their social media pages with the use of a social media contest   + BUGS and SSA will contribute to the prize   + Details are yet to be determined * Will continue to recruit new tutors for the Winter 2021 semester, as well as continue promoting the program via social media and email * Conflict that came up: Many UMSU tutors were switched over to SSA’s platform when we joined on as partner, and thus many SSA tutors are still charging for tutoring services. Three potential solutions to problem:   + SSA Tutors that are charging fees will be guided to apply to another faculty group so they may continue charging fees and still tutoring under Nimbus (ASBC, UMES, CSA, etc)   + SSA Tutors that are charging fees stop charging fees and offer their services free of charge   + SSA Tutors that are charging fees are let go as SSA tutors all together * Eric said with WICS to talk to nimbus about it first to see if they are okay with that and to see if they think it would it even work – Tooba said Nimbus is okay with this – Eric sees no problem with this but would just need to make sure the students goals are inline * Eric said we could have they stay as SSA tutors, would possibly have to change what the tutoring program is – will just have to change it so that if tutors charge but don’t get CCR credit and that they won’t be getting scholarships – they will still be a SSA tutor, but won’t get the normal benefits of an SSA tutor * But if they do it voluntarily – they will get CCR credit, scholarships etc * Emily said to avoid talking to Nimbus about this issue – Eric said to bring it up to Nimbus as a question and ask for their input on the issue * Jaime said it would be good to be transparent with the issue * Tooba said that Nimbus can remove the payment option from their end * Eric said to let the transferred UMSU tutors that’s were originally paid that we are a free tutoring service, show all of the that comes with the SSA tutors (CCR incentives, tracking of hours, etc) – tell them that this semester that we are enforcing that we are a free tutoring service, to tell them that if they want students to pay for their tutoring services that they would either need to transfer and tutor under another student group * Katelyn agreed with Tooba that the tutors should be given a leeway this semester and notify students in the summer of this change * Eric asked if we should email the tutors about informing tutors now * Not giving new people the option to charge, If old tutors are charging then they won’t be getting scholarships, CCR, etc. * Depending on what the email from Nimbus sent to the tutors, whether or not they specified it is a free service or not, but advertised CCR we need to uphold that on our end |
| 1. Lounge Programming |
| * Nothing to report |
| 1. Accessibility |
| **Eric Vasas and Dana Segal on behalf of Tristan Rohatynsky Report:**  **1. Meeting with Art for Impact**   * During the winter break, Eric and I met up with Amy Wong, a program director from Art With Impact * Art With Impact is a non-profit organization that is planning an online Movies for Mental Health workshop in mid-March   + Movies would be on different coping mechanisms for how to help with mental health issues * Workshop would include learning different breathing exercises, watching movies targeted towards our university’s main mental health concerns, students sharing their experiences and how they take care of their own well-being, as well as an open panel discussion * Panel will include campus counsellors, Student Accessibility Services (SAS) representative, etc. * UMSU, UMES, and other student councils on campus are also involved * If we participate Eric and I will work alongside the other councils to help put together a panel, as well as with outreach (i.e., advertising on social media) * Also would be sponsoring financially and contributing $500 towards the event if this is something we would like to do! * Looking to cover $1000 between us and another student group   **2. Health and Wellness Tips + Giveaways**   * Posts regarding health and wellness tips and the giveaways went very well last semester and responses were all positive * Posts will continue throughout the Winter semester * January’s Health and Wellness Tips + Giveaway will be up sometime at the end of this week/beginning of next week * Unfortunately, due to the pandemic and lockdown restrictions, e-gift cards will be our main giveaway prizes   **3. Bell Let’s Talk Day**   * Bell Let’s Talk Day is coming up this Thursday, January 28th * Will be putting together a post for our Instagram account regarding Bell Let’s Talk Day and the post will also include different resources on campus that students are able to access   **4. Community Scholarships**   * Community reps had a meeting over the break and have finalized all mailing information for each of the scholarship recipients and have forwarded this information to Justin * We will also be putting together Instagram stories for each of the winners that will include a post about them and the scholarship they won once we have all of the information together * Story will likely be put up sometime near the end of the month |
| 1. LGBTTQ\* |
| * Nothing to report |
| 1. Women’s |
| **Kyra Cebula Reports:**  **1. Collaboration with UMSU Womyn’s Representative and the Womyn’s Centre**   * Hosted a mediation night titled a Night of Mindfulness Meditation with the UMSU Womyn’s Representative. * Purpose of event was to foster a supportive environment for womyn to come together and empower/ inspire each other through the art of meditation.   + It was a great opportunity for womyn to relax and destress before exams as the meditation focused on mindfulness and stress relief. * Event took place on December 11th at 6pm over zoom. * Womyn’s Center took care of hiring the meditation instructor and my role was to develop the advertising for the event and provide the prizes. * Prizes were awarded to two people who attended the event.   + Prizes consisted of two $15.00 Starbucks Gift Cards coming out of my SSA Womyn’s Rep budget. * Event was very successful and received positive feedback from the participants.   **2. Fall 2020 Community Scholarships**   * 1. Had a meeting with the other community representatives to discuss the community scholarships   2. Decided on the recipient of fall 2020 Womxn's Community Scholarship and will be awarding the winner a total of $500.00 for their outstanding efforts within the Womxn’s community.   3. Will also be providing the winner with recognition for their achievement by congratulating them on the SSA’s Instagram page within the next couple of weeks. |
| 1. Indigenous |
| **Zoe Quill Reports:**  **1. Indigenous Initiative’s Committee**   * Opened Wawatay Program with an official page on UM Faculty of Science website with information on program (Wawatay scholars, community partnerships, research and workshops, etc.) * Aiming to welcome students (to be called Wawatay scholars) Summer 2021   **2. Community Scholarships**   * Selected recipients for Fall 2020 Community Scholarships with four of the five community scholarships accepted (Womxn’s, LGBTQ, Indigenous, and International) * Planning a social media recognition post for recipients through an Instagram story that shares a personal quote of what this scholarship means to them * Eric just mentioned for the Instagram post to thank everyone who applied as well so that way more students are more likely to apply for the scholarships etc   **3. Collaboration with UMISA and UMSU Indigenous Representative**   * A Night of Indigenous Laughs: Indigenous-themed trivia night on February 19th @ 6pm   + Welcome for all to join! This is an opportunity to learn more about Indigenous peoples through a fun, educational game! * Assist with other projects – currently drawing up plans and roles (Indigenous Youth Speaker Series, Celebrating Womxn’s Campaign, Miskofest, etc.)   Zoe asked – if there was any emergency funding for students, b/c students said other faculties have said it.  Eric brought it up to the Dean but they are still discussing it, etc. |
| 1. International |
| Juanita Garcia Reports:   1. International students’ scholarship  * Met with community reps and chose the scholarship recipient and will have the cheques mailed out once Justin has them ready. * Will do a post on Instagram next week as a recognition. * Scholarship recipients from last year (winter 2020) international and women’s recipient. * Eric asked to have Juanita send him all the names and who didn’t get the scholarships – will see if it gets tracked  1. International center  * Applications for Summer 2021, Fall 2021, Winter 2022 and Summer 2022 exchanges due January 31, 2021. * If anyone is planning of applying – they should aim for Winter 2022 or summer 2022 because it will be less likely that they will be cancelled |
| 1. Student Services |
| Student Services Report   * Exam cram giveaway   A screenshot of a cell phone  Description automatically generated with medium confidenceA screenshot of a computer  Description automatically generated with low confidence  Graphical user interface, text, application, email  Description automatically generated   * + Over 2000 students entered!   + 11 out 15 people responded to claim their prize |
| 1. Treasurer |
| * Nothing to Report |

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| 1. Committee Reports |
| 1. Executive |
| * Nothing to report |
| 1. By-Laws |
| * Nothing to report |

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| 1. Other Business |
| 1. Important Dates/Notes |
| * No new business |

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| 1. Dismissal |
| Jaime McNicholl motions for dismissal at 8: 23 PM, Eric Vasas seconds; Motion passed. |

**Motions**

**January Wednesday 20th, 2021**

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| **Motion Regarding: Gift Card Giveaway** | **Category: Reimbursement** |
| **Motion:** to be reimbursed $180 for the Special events holiday giveaway | |
| **Status: Passed**  **Moved By:** RashawnaBlair **Seconded By:** Katelyn Casalla | |

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| **Motion Regarding: Money approval** | **Category: Funding** |
| **Motion:** to approve $500 dollars to contribute to the financial support with Art With Impact’s event occurring in March | |
| **Status: Passed**  **Moved By:**  Eric Vasas **Seconded By:** Chloe McElheron | |