

**Staff Association Area Reps Meeting
Minutes of May 14, 2015**

Present:

Christina Truesch
Darlene Ryan
Lawrence Folland
Dianne Foreman
Christine Gillis Bilton
Michael Herz
Robyn Landers
Stephen Markan

Gwen Bender
Katherine Maclean
Luanne McGinley
Rose Vogt
Robyn landers
Theresa Bauer
Gail Spencer
Kathleen St. Laurent

Maria Ivanova
Ena Devedzija
Murray Zink
Terry Labach
Barb Yantha
Melissa Zapletal

1. Approval of Agenda

Accepted.

2. Approval of Minutes of April 9, 2015 Area Reps Meeting

Approved.

3. Business arising from minutes

None.

4. Staff Enhancement Grant, Student Scholarships (Gail Spencer)

At his retirement in 2005, Bruce Lumsden set up a fund to help staff with personal and professional development. Until about 2011 this was administered jointly by the Associate Provost HR and UWSA. But then it was realized that this was a taxable benefit so it became administered solely by UWSA for its members. There's now an approval committee. Terms of reference have been made more clear. E.g. it does not cover things that a staff member's department should be covering. Some examples of awarded grants: travel expenses for international aid, research, and development programs; costs of textbooks for courses. There is no shortage of applicants.

Two undergrad student awards per term are available, one of which sponsored by the Education Credit Union. Must be a member of the UWSA or be the spouse, child, grandchild or dependent of a UWSA member to be eligible.

Johnson Insurance gives a \$1500 scholarship once a year for graduating high school students applying to post-secondary education in Canada.

See details about these grants on the UWSA web site.

5. Volunteer opportunities (Stephen Markan)

The board of directors election is coming up in September. Need a president-elect as well (more on this in item 7.) These positions give good experience in governance, operation of a corporation. There are various UWSA committees, e.g. fundraising, social. Various UW committees eg PACSC, SRC automatically have UWSA directors as members. Many others like P&B, traffic, etc. also need staff members. Various projects need volunteers from time to time.

Michael Herz added that he has found such involvement to be energizing both at work and

externally. And if you aren't able to do it yourself, think about people you know who might be good at it and just need a nudge to agree to serve.

Lawrence Folland mentioned a new working group that will be looking into establishing the supervision of co-ops as recognized supervisory/management experience with HR.

It was suggested that the UWSA web site have a list of volunteer opportunities.

6. Day of Caring (Melissa Zapletal)

On Friday June 5 UW participates in Day of Caring. Looking for more participants. This year's event is spring cleaning at the office of the Volunteer Action Centre from 9:00 to noon. Registrations due tomorrow. Contact Theresa Bauer. (This is the same day as Keystone Campaign event, where UWSA will have a booth.)

7. Elections (Stephen Markan)

Board of directors election is coming up in September. Need a president-elect as well (leading to paid position as president the following year). President-elect position is a learning/training year, with 3 days per month release time from your regular position and excellent leadership training resources. President position is one year with full time release, at your current salary. Your home department gets reimbursed for your salary so they can hire temporary coverage. Past-president is one year with 3 days per month release time.

8. Photo contest (Kathleen St Laurent)

As a publicity endeavour, there's a spring photography contest on the UWSA Facebook page. Prize is dinner for two at the University Club.

9. Appreciation Lunch

June 18 at Fed Hall. Details to follow.

10. Other business

Q: Any news on the membership issue?

A: UWSA will be holding a series of town hall meetings for all staff members for information sharing and discussion. Two in May, two in June. UWSA area reps are encouraged to bring this up directly in their areas as well.

11. Open House

UWSA's 45th birthday Open House will be held June 22 from 3-6 pm. More details to follow.

Chair: Christine Gillis Bilton

Minutes: RBL