



## Office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic Newsletter

### Message from the PVPA

Dear All,

As we begin a new calendar year and a new academic term, I would like to take a moment to extend my warmest wishes to you and to thank you for the dedication and care you bring to our University community.

I am deeply appreciative of the many ways faculty and staff across our campus contribute every day to student success, to research and teaching excellence, scholarly and creative work, and to the wellbeing of our community. Your commitment—particularly during times of change—continues to be a defining strength of our institution.

I look forward to sharing more updates with you in the weeks ahead as we continue our work together in 2026.

In respect and relationship,  
Pavlina Radia  
Provost and Vice-President, Academic

### Updates on Strategic Initiatives

## Pillar 1 Supporting Plan

Following the launch of *Meeting the Moment: Strategic Plan 2025-2030* in October, the University will embark on developing pillar plans to support each of the Strategic Plan's five pillars. The PVPA Office is responsible for the **Pillar 1 Supporting Plan: Fostering a Thriving Academic Community of Excellence**.

On December 8, a **Supporting Plans Consultation Session** brought together faculty and staff from across the University for a thoughtful and constructive discussion about what we are currently doing well and what we could improve under each Pillar theme. Participants also discussed recommended actions for achieving the objectives under each Pillar and how the impact of these actions could be measured.

We thank everyone who participated and contributed their perspectives. The feedback gathered will be reviewed by the Steering Committees for each Pillar and play an important role in shaping the next phase of engagement.

## BIPOC and 2SLGBTQ+ Mentorship Networks

Over the past term, the BIPOC Mentorship Network and 2SLGBTQ+ Mentorship Network have continued to grow as important spaces for connection, learning, and support for faculty across the University. The networks have hosted a wide range of activities—from informative sessions on university governance and anti-racist pedagogies, to community gatherings at The Forks—and continue to build momentum for expanded programming this term.

Looking ahead, we invite BIPOC faculty and staff to save the date for an upcoming leadership professional development event:

### **Fire and Silence: BIPOC Leadership Workshop with Annahid Dashtgard**

**Thursday, April 23, 2026 | 12:00–3:00 pm**

**Hosted by Dr. Sharanpal Ruprai**

**Lunch included**

This workshop is intended for all BIPOC faculty and staff and may open to a broader audience if space allows. Further details and registration information will be shared in the coming months. All registered participants will receive a **free copy** of Annahid Dashtgard's new book *Fire and Silence: A Roadmap for BIPOC Leaders*.

**Join us:** If you would like to join or invite others to join either network, please email

Alice Ding at [a.ding@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:a.ding@uwinnipeg.ca).

## Teaching and Learning and Work-Integrated Learning Working Groups

Over the past several months, the **Teaching and Learning Working Group** and the **Work-Integrated Learning Working Group** have continued to advance important foundational work in support of UWinnipeg's academic priorities and the *Meeting the Moment: Strategic Plan 2025-2030*.

On **January 14**, the two working groups met together for a joint session to share progress, exchange ideas, and explore how their respective efforts can be best coordinated. The session highlighted the strong complementarity between teaching innovation and experiential learning and how coordinated planning can help maximize impact across programs and disciplines.

Both groups will continue their work in the coming months, with a shared focus on ensuring that teaching, learning, and work-integrated learning initiatives are aligned with the Strategic Plan and responsive to the evolving needs of students and faculty.

## Strategic Enrolment Management

Over the spring and summer, the SEM initiative engaged a wide cross-section of the UWinnipeg community through surveys and dialogue:

- An **SEM Information Session** was held in Convocation Hall on May 13, followed by two **SEM Engagement Sessions** on May 20 (in person) and May 27 (online). These events drew participation from over 155 faculty, staff, and students.
- On June 13, five distinct **SEM surveys** were distributed to the UWinnipeg community:
  - Faculty
  - Undergraduate students
  - Student advising staff
  - Student recruitment staff
  - All other staff

These surveys gathered feedback from over 1,000 individuals on priorities related to **recruitment, retention, academic programming, and teaching and learning**.

The Strategic Enrolment Management (SEM) initiative advanced into its final stages this fall:

- September 8: We held a final SEM consultation session with faculty and staff

(online and in person) to share survey findings, discuss the latest SEM Plan draft, and gather questions and feedback. Thank you to everyone who participated.

- September 16: The SEM Plan was approved by the Senate Academic Planning Committee.
- October 30: The SEM Plan was presented to Senate. We thank Senators for their thoughtful feedback and discussion.
- December 12: The SEM Steering Committee and Sub-Committees met to review and discuss feedback received from Senators and to identify areas for further refinement.
- January 14: The SEM Steering Committee and Sub-Committees met to review and approve a revised version of the SEM Plan.

### **Next Steps:**

The updated SEM Plan will be submitted to the Senate Academic Planning Committee in January and then to Senate.

Many thanks to the SEM Steering Committee, Sub-Committees, and the faculty, staff, and students whose input shaped a strategic path for enrolment, retention, academic programming, and student success at UWinnipeg.

### **Canada Impact+ Research Chairs (Impact+)**

The University of Winnipeg will soon be posting a call for the **Canada Impact+ Research Chairs (Impact+)**, a one-time national initiative designed to attract world-leading researchers whose work addresses critical national and global challenges.

The Impact+ program emphasizes both research excellence and real-world impact, providing long-term funding and institutional support for ambitious, transformative research in priority areas such as advanced digital technologies (including AI), health and biotechnology, clean technology, climate resilience, food and water security, democratic and community resilience, and defence and dual-use technologies.

Impact+ Chairholders are expected to build strong research teams, collaborate across sectors and borders, translate discoveries into social and economic benefits, and support the development of highly qualified personnel. The program is open to **internationally based researchers** (working and residing outside Canada at the time of application).

More information and the official posting will be available soon. Questions may be directed to Dylan Jones ([d.jones@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:d.jones@uwinnipeg.ca)), Program Officer, Research Awards, Chairs, and Special Initiatives.



### **Introducing CICs: Conversations on Interdisciplinary Collaboration**

The Office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic, is pleased to introduce a new series of panel discussions entitled *CICs: Conversations on Interdisciplinary Collaboration*. These discussions are intended to generative productive and provocative exchanges across disciplines on the most challenging issues facing us today. External and internal participants will be invited to share their perspectives and knowledge on a variety of topics both inside and outside the walls of the university.

The first three conversations in this series will be:

- Dialogue and Debate in the Age of Polarization
- Generative AI and Its Discontents
- Collegial Governance and Decolonial Practice

Faculty are invited to submit their ideas to [provost@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:provost@uwinnipeg.ca). More details on panelists to follow.

### **Calls for Participation**

#### **Foundations Program Working Group and AI Working Group**

Thank you to the faculty and staff who have expressed interest in joining our

Foundations Program Working Group and Artificial Intelligence (AI) Working Group. We appreciate your enthusiasm and will be following up soon with next steps.

The **Foundations Program Working Group** will guide the development of a first-year Foundations Program focused on student transition, academic readiness, and interdisciplinary pathways into degree programs.

The **AI Working Group** will explore the role of Generative AI in teaching, learning, research, services, and operations. This group will support the development of an institutional roadmap for AI literacy, effective practice, and ethical use.

If you have not yet expressed interest and would like to participate, please email [provost@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:provost@uwinnipeg.ca).

## Recent Events

THE BLACK SCIENTISTS NETWORK  
AT UWINNIPEG PRESENTS

### Misconceptions and Data on Equity, Merit, and Inclusive Practices in Academia

**Wednesday,  
January 21**  
2M70, 2nd floor  
of Manitoba Hall



### Misconceptions and Data on Equity, Merit, and Inclusive Practices in Academia

*Jan. 21 | 2:30–4:00 p.m.*  
*2M70 (in-person and online)*

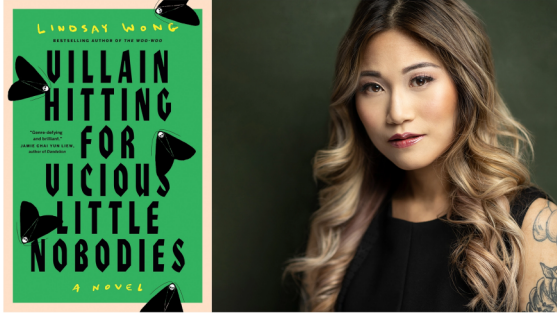
Dr. Maydianne Andrade, co-founder and past president of the Canadian Black Scientists Network, presented on unconscious bias, equity, merit, and inclusive practices in academia. A video recording will be available later this month.



### Laird Lecture: Dr. Gordon Pennycook

*Jan. 21 | 12:30–1:20 p.m.*  
*EG Hall*

The Department of Psychology hosted Dr. Pennycook for his Laird Lecture, "**Dialogues with AI demonstrate the persuasiveness of facts and evidence.**"



## Launch for *Villain Hitting for Vicious Little Nobodies*

Jan. 27 | 6:00–8:30 p.m.

McNally Robinson, Grant Park

Celebrate the **Winnipeg** launch of Associate Professor Lindsay Wong's wickedly hilarious new novel, *Villain Hitting for Vicious Little Nobodies* at McNally Robinson Booksellers.

## Upcoming Events

AFRO-CARIBBEAN MENTORSHIP PROGRAM  
(ACMP)  
PRESENTS  
**4TH ANNUAL ANTI-BLACK RACISM AS A  
MENTAL HEALTH CONCERN**  
**Transforming Narratives to Center the  
Humanity, Dignity, and Lived Realities of  
Black Communities**  
LOCATION:  
MTS CLASSROOMS ABC  
Canadian Museum for Human Rights  
85 Israel Asper Way  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0L5

## 4th Annual Anti-Black Racism as a Mental Health Concern

Jan. 30 | 6:00–8:30 p.m.

Canadian Museum for Human Rights

The evening will focus on how systemic racism contributes to mental health disparities and why addressing these harms is essential for individual and community well-being. [Register.](#)



# PVPA Spotlight

## Anishinaabemowin Program Feast

On January 5, 2026, the Anishinaabemowin Guidance Council and community held a feast to welcome new Anishinaabemowin Immersion students to UWinnipeg. The gathering brought together students, Elders, faculty, staff, and community members in a meaningful celebration of language, culture, and relationship.

The event included a pipe and water ceremony led by Elders, as well as an opportunity to hear directly from members of the new program cohort. We extend our sincere thanks to the Anishinaabemowin Guiding Council, community members, staff, and faculty who organized this important gathering, which reflects the University's ongoing commitment to Indigenous language revitalization and community-led education.



## Wesmen Updates

On December 30, the UWinnipeg Wesmen women's volleyball team won the **58th Wesmen Classic** title, finishing the tournament with a perfect 5-0 record. It marked a significant achievement for UWinnipeg Athletics and the broader campus community. The tournament victory reflects the team's dedication, teamwork, and competitive excellence, and continues a proud tradition of athletic achievement at UWinnipeg.

We congratulate the student-athletes, coaching staff, and support teams whose commitment and leadership contributed to this outstanding result. Their success exemplifies the spirit of excellence, resilience, and community that defines Wesmen Athletics. [Learn more.](#)



## Faculty, Staff, and Student Supports

We wanted to remind faculty, staff, and students to take time to care for their mental health and well-being. Please know that resources and supports are available for those who may need them.

Faculty and staff can access:

- Klinik Crisis Line: 204-786-8686
- Mobile Crisis Service: 204-940-1781
- [Employee & Family Assistance Program](#)

Students can access:

- Klinik Crisis Line: 204-786-8686
- Counsellors at the [Wellness Centre](#)
- [Indigenous Student Services](#) staff
- [International Student Services](#) staff

## Feedback and contact information

If you have any questions or comments about the contents of this newsletter, feel free to contact the Office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic, at [provost@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:provost@uwinnipeg.ca).

[Contact page](#)



You are receiving this email because you are faculty member or a staff member in a unit that is part of the Office of the Provost portfolio.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email [communications@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:communications@uwinnipeg.ca).

[Learn more.](#)

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Sent by

**envoke**