

# University of Saskatchewan Students' Union

## Annual General Meeting

November 12, 2009

Arts 146

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm.

**2. Call for Quorum**

Quorum was present.

**3. Adoption of the Agenda**

Motion to adopt the agenda.

**AGMMotion01:** Member Luhning/Member Wong

Carried

**4. Auditor's Report**

**4.1 Presentation of Audited Financial Statements**

President Kirkland invited the auditor to come forward and give his presentation. He also introduced Amanda Mitchell, the USSU Controller.

Amanda Mitchell, USSU Controller, introduced Scott Verity, the auditor from KPMG.

Mr. Verity expressed his appreciation for the applause and stated that he always looks forward to coming to this annual general meeting. The auditor commented on the Auditor's report and financial statements on page 20 of the Annual Report. The Auditor's report addresses the summarized financial statements, and a full copy of which is available in the USSU office. The Auditor's Report on those statements indicates that they are fairly presented. The audit was completed in full cooperation with Mrs. Mitchell and her team, and the financial affairs of the USSU are in good shape. We had no problems conducting our audit.

As of the end of April 2009, some highlights are as follows:

- \$5.4 Million in cash and short term investments, and this highly liquid position was used for a number of things: paying off \$1.9 Million in payables which included \$1M of accrued costs for the new Place Riel Centre
- \$2.5 Million in capital contributions, and this was money that was received and is available, earmarked, and sitting in GICs for upcoming capital projects and initiatives
- \$1.1 Million net cash available for the use for the general operations going forward in the USSU
- The statements indicate a good financial position for the USSU

- In the Statement of Operations, the USSU ended the year with a slight surplus of revenue over expenses of approximately \$12,607
- Revenue was down slightly from the previous year at \$4.3 Million, compared to the previous \$4.4 Million
- Sales and student fees were fairly consistent
- Facilities were down slightly (net) due to decreased percentage of rent, but other rent and cost recoveries had increased
- Marketing and media revenue was \$139,000 this year, compared to \$185,000 last year, due to a decline in sponsorship revenue
- Interest income increased and that is reflected in the cash balance
- There were decreases in both the Housing Registry and Student Crew revenues
- There was also a decrease in insurance revenue
- Overall, there was a modest decrease in revenues and expenses held the line

Mr. Verity welcomed any questions. There were none.

**4.2 Financial Statement Resolution – Be it resolved that the audited financial statements of the University of Saskatchewan Students’ Union be accepted for the year ended April 30, 2009, as presented.**

Motion that the audit be accepted.

**AGMMotion02:** President Kirkland/VP Hitchings Carried

**4.3 Auditing Firm Resolution – Be it resolved that the auditing firm of KPMG Chartered Accountants be appointed for the 2009/2010 audit.**

**AGMMotion03:** President Kirkland/VP Hitchings Carried

**5. Proposed Amendment**

**5.1 Proposed Amendment (by USSU Executive)**

Motion for a two-minute recess.

**AGMMotion04:** President Kirkland/Member Tomcala Carried

President Kirkland stated that the Constitution and Bylaws currently hold no force and effect under the law, and are trumped by the Non-Profit Corporation Act, which does not allow the Constitution to exist. Therefore there is very little governing the USSU. The effort here was made in consultation with our lawyers to condense the Bylaws and Constitution into a single document and remove any clashes between those and the Non-Profit Corporation Act. He stated that there are a number of changes that he would like to talk to everyone about, but drew attention to Part 13, which was seen as an important change. Part 13 sub-section 3 notes that if there is a referendum to implement or raise a fee, voters must be given more information. The current fee will be listed, in addition to the increase and the ending fee. Under Part 14, sub-section 5, the word solicitor is changed to lawyer. Also, under Part 16 – Executive Portfolios, there was a removal of an

item to the VP External Affairs from the President, and under Part 17, childcare was added to the VP Student Affairs portfolio, and WUSC was removed and placed under Campus Clubs. Under Part 18, there was a change from “Issues” to “Affairs”, and there were additions in line with the President’s portfolio.

Part 29 sub-section 2, denotes Council. Should Indigenous Students’ Council not form, we would still like Indigenous student representation on Council. This is being encouraged by allowing the Aboriginal Student Centre, in the event ISC does not form, to have a free, fair, and open election, and therefore provide representation to Council. Part 42 subsection 3 talks about the Board of College Presidents and the need for ratification. Also, under subsection 1, the elimination of the Open Studies group is proposed. This does not mean that we do not want this group to form; it just means that as they have not formed for so many years, it does not make sense for them to be there.

Member Shultz asked for clarification on how it was determined that this was not a binding legal document.

President Kirkland stated that ten years ago, the Executive was informed by the lawyers that the Constitution held no force and effect under the law, but the then Executive decided not to make any changes. The USSU was considering changes to the Elections bylaw to make it more iron clad under the law and the lawyer we hired to align that process had to go through the elections policies and bylaws with the rest of the documents. They came to the realization quite quickly that we were in violation of the Non-profit Corporation Act and approached the Executive about sweeping changes. Through a process of recommendations and consultation, we arrived at the current document.

Member Salmers asked if we would still be able to edit the document as we have done with the Constitution for many years. Will there be changes to the structure or function of AGMs or SGMs?

President Kirkland stated that AGMs are required annually under the Non-Profit Corporation Act. The Bylaw still provides for an AGM every November. The document will still be largely the same, but there will be a change in practice. Members will still be able to make changes and there will still be AGMs.

Motion to remove the Constitution and Bylaws as they currently exist and replace them with the proposed Bylaw.

**AGM Motion 05:** President Kirkland/VP Hitchings

Carried

**6. Questions and Comments for the Executive (30 Minutes)**

Member Farthing asked if there would be education for the other student societies that fall under the Non-Profit Corporation Act on what happened here and how to protect themselves.

President Kirkland replied that the current plans were to make sure that we were safe, but certainly in moving forward, VP Hitchings and himself will be discussing how to get together with all of the student societies, likely through the Board of College Presidents and disseminate the information that way.

Member (SNSS, 31) asked if the rest of the societies should make this change.

President Kirkland stated that a standing on the campus community is made through ratification with the USSU, but to have a legal standing on campus, it would be important to evaluate the non-profit corporation standing. It is a truly a case-by-case basis.

**7. Any Other Business**

**8. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn.

**AGM Motion:** Councilor Loo/Member Farthing

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 pm.