

# University of Saskatchewan Students' Union Annual General Meeting

November 21, 2013

Arts 146

## 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

## 2. Call for Quorum

Quorum was present.

## 3. Adoption of the Agenda

Move to adopt the agenda.

**AGMMotion001:** President FineDay/VP Moellenbeck **Carried**

## 4. Adoption of AGM minutes

**AGMMotion002:** President FineDay/VP Moellenbeck **Carried**

## 5. President's Report

President FineDay stated that the vision for this union is bigger than everyone including the executive. This vision is about moving forward together. It's about helping to build a strong student movement that stands up for what they know. It's about improving the accessibility, affordability, and quality of the education at the university. This is all done against the climate of austerity on campus, the challenge of an executive staying only one term, and with a voter turnout of only 22% at the last USSU elections. There is much to be hopeful for and this vision can be articulated while taking the challenges that lie ahead for the union and their members. The union's role is to support their members as best they can and to advocate for the change that would be in the best interest for students. The executive has taken this role seriously. Their doors, inboxes, and phones are always open to hear about the concerns of students. They've been in discussion with the Saskatchewan Student Medical Society, medical students, and the USC councilor for medicine about the restructuring that's going on in their college, their concerns, and how they can be best supported. That is just one example of the crucial role that the USSU has. He looks forward to speaking more with students. He challenges students to connect more with student council and the executive to voice opinion on the many projects the USSU is working on or the direction they see the university going in.

President FineDay noted that he ran on a platform of saving students money and moving the way knowledge is distributed out of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Adopting an open textbook program at the University of Saskatchewan would achieve both of those goals. Open textbooks would allow students and faculty to access professionally written and peer-reviewed textbooks online for no cost at all. The university is long overdue for change with the textbook model being used currently. Students spend approximately \$1200 annually on textbooks. If trends continue it's likely the cost could increase even more. This would create more financial pressure on already financially overburdened students. Students want to be part of finding a path forward. Don't Gouge Us, a week focused on lobbying and student engagement on this issue, was held. Petition signatures were collected from over 1,300 staff, students, and faculty calling on the government and administration to work together on creating an open textbook program in partnership with the USSU. There have been conversations with students, administration, and the government. Tonight it's being announced that the government, in partnership with the university and the USSU, will be forming a working group to examine this issue and how it will affect all stakeholders in the process. This is a significant step forward in achieving the goal of a cheaper textbook model. The work is far from over. For the rest of the time he is president, President FineDay will be working on and pushing partners to make sure implementing a cheaper textbook model is at the forefront and done quickly without reducing quality.

One of the main priorities for the executive is addressing the increasingly worrying issue of student mental health on campus. The executive is committed to working towards a university experience that doesn't leave students overworked. Being overworked can cause depression, anxiety, and other mental health issues for students. One way that this stress can be relieved is by introducing a first term reading week. This is done all across the country. 11 of the 20 publically funded universities in Ontario have implemented a first term reading week of some kind. It's possible that as this becomes more popular in Ontario and BC that it will become the norm across Canada. The U of S should be one of the first adopters in the prairies. The problems are there but the benefits are clear. In the coming week the USSU, in partnership with the university, will be rolling out a survey to all students. The survey will be emailed to students and only takes five minutes to complete. It's asked on the survey if it's okay to write exams on Sundays or about having one or two days taken away from the final exam period. Students have said this is a small price to pay for having a week off to relax, reassess their academic standing, and to catch up on classes if needed. This is a chance to show that students care about their mental health and for the university to act.

Focusing on finance, VP Moellenbeck has been running smart money sessions on financial literacy. These sessions give tips on saving, budgeting, credit cards, and how to navigate sometimes complicated financial institutions so students can maximize their dollars. Liaising with campus clubs is a large part of her portfolio. She organized Campus Club Week. This is where a high percent of ratified groups

were introduced to new and returning students. It ended with a successful meet-and-greet at Louis' Loft. She sat on a search committee for the Director of Consumer Services. This involved reviewing resumes of applicants, interviews, and choosing a successful candidate. \$17,000 has been given out to ratified clubs this year and the executive attended many of their events. The amount given out was in the form of cash, USSU credit at their businesses, and in Pepsi product. She also organized the transit forum that opened dialogue between transit managers and students to find out city transit can best serve students needs.

In university advancement and community engagement, VP Abouhamra has been working closely to establish an emergency fund for all students. This emergency fund was created to provide financial support for students who face an unexpected financial hardship. Money from this program will be paid to eligible students in the form of a grant. Recipients will not be required to repay the grant but they will be encouraged to aid other students with a future gift to this fund when they are financially able to do so. Sustainability is another large part of VP Abouhamra's portfolio. During her term, she's been in constant dialogue with the university about how to make the campus more sustainable and environmentally responsible. She has engaged students through running events related to waste, bottled water, and fair trade products. Childcare is still on the front burner of the USSU and she has been working hard to reduce the barriers of childcare that many parents face.

Working with the governance and administration of the university is something VP Sherbino has been doing heavily. This involves working with university council, several of its committees, and its sub-committees. This current term it involves sitting on the search committee for a Chief Information Officer and Associate Vice President Information Communications Technology. Next term it will involve sitting on a review committee for the Vice President of Research and a new policy committee looking for responsible storage of research data. He will also be working to improve the value of student evaluations at the university. He recently submitted his detailed report that contained an analysis and recommendations to the appropriate people within the university. He also totally revamped the academic part of the USSU website and will be distributing a new academic handbook at the next meeting of the constituency presidents.

There are still challenges that lie ahead. The TransformUS committee reports will be released to the campus community on December 9<sup>th</sup>. The content of those reports have been at the heart of much concern felt on campus over the past year. People don't have to wait until December 9<sup>th</sup> to act. Students do have something to offer and they will offer it. The USSU is working towards the best outcomes for students. They need students to participate in the coming town halls or requests for feedback from the university. Administration can't be given the opportunity to say they tried to solicit feedback from students and were unsuccessful. The U of S has never seen this amount of layoffs in its history. Students have been feeling the effects of these cuts whether it is in the Department of Religion and Culture or in disability student services. As program

prioritization and workforce planning become a constant model that the university uses for cost savings, the USSU needs to prepare and to discuss how to best set up future executives for this new challenge.

This union is strong. There's more participation of Aboriginal peoples at all levels of the USSU. There's representation on committees, on council, and at the executive level. The USSU is a leader in aboriginal engagement among Canadian student unions and that's something everyone can be proud of. The USSU will continue its partnership with the office of the Treaty Commissioner to support all students in understanding what it means to be a treaty person. There's a strong history with international students. The union is fortunate to have international students represented on the student council. USSU will continue to listen to their unique experiences to further understand how they can best serve them. The USSU will also be working to introduce a support program for times of crisis that may affect international students. Forging partnerships with students groups and the International Students and Study Abroad Centre will do this.

There are over one hundred ratified student groups, which is rare for this time of year. This goes to show that students are accessing the services and benefits that ratifications offer. It's hoped this is part of an upward trend that reduces student apathy and educates union members on what is offered.

The Women's Centre, Pride Centre, Food Centre, Help Centre, and Safewalk continue to be well accessed by members and the community as a whole. They provide educational awareness and campaigns related to their specific areas.

President FineDay has met with the Association of Constituency Presidents representing all colleges as well as international and indigenous students. The constituency societies are in capable hands with each president having taken a leadership role and having spoken out on issues concerning their members. He looks forward to building an AOC that is well established and meets frequently to bridge the divides seen between colleges.

The executive has done many more things. There's been monthly breakfast meetings held with President Busch-Vishniac and her executive. The Saskatoon Gay Pride Parade was attended proudly with the USSU Pride Centre. Every USSU policy was reviewed. The executive met with municipal and provincial politicians. They visited regional colleges in Yorkton, North Battleford, La Ronge, and Prince Albert to forge new and hopefully lasting connections. There's been monthly reports presented to University Council. Events held by centres were attended like Take Back the Night and the USSU Pride Centre's Drag Show. The executive has made connections with students across the country and worked with them on issues that matter or exchanged best practices. They've attended various college events and fundraisers. They enjoy a strong relationship with the Graduates Students' Association and partner with them on issues that affect both of their members.

In the second semester the executive will be talking about the value of fair trade in their businesses, engaging more heavily in TransformUS, advocating for a tuition waiver for youth in the foster care system, starting the budget process for the new year, and working to engage with the USSU centers and with the students who visit them.

President FineDay hopes that what he's reported on has given a good idea on some of the issues and campaigns that the USSU has been working on for the past six months. They're certainly facing challenges now and will continue to. Regardless, he can't help but be excited for this moment with the power and vision of all members and students to bring about a just, equitable, and visionary student movement. For this to be done there needs to be dialogue. Those in attendance are likely interested and engaged in student politics and the USSU needs to here from those people. The student voice is what makes the union strong. The USSU will continue to support and challenge students to be great and they hope students will do the same for the USSU.

## **6. Auditor's Report**

### **6.1 Presentation of Audited Financial Statements by KPMG**

Move to give Claude Hounjet from KPMG speaking rights  
**AGMMotion003: VP Moellenbeck/President FineDay**  
**Carried**

Claude Hounjet noted that the report was a clean audit report. This year was a transition year where the USSU adopted new accounting standards for non-profit organizations.

Claude Hounjet started with the Statements of Financial Position. The cash dropped decreased significantly from last year by around \$1,000,000 due to the deficiency of revenue over expenses in the year. Due from University of Saskatchewan went up just due to timing and it involves amounts that fluctuate from student fees, benefits, and others. Short-term investments went up due to change in fair value. Accounts payable went up due to timing of payments. Long-term debt went down and there's no new debt this year. Deferred capital contributions went up due to recognizing amounts that were given to the USSU in the past based on the usage of assets those grants relate to.

In the Statement of Operations, overall revenues are consistent with the prior year. Overall expenses increased by around \$140,000, which resulted in a deficit of \$889,326. This was mainly due to expenses going up. Amortization went up due to depreciation of the new Place Riel. Administrative costs, utility costs, and building maintenance costs also went up.

On the Statement of Net Assets it's noted that the end of year balance has gone to a negative of \$451,816, which is largely due to the higher expenses this year.

## **6.2 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, 2013, as presented.

**AGMMotion004:** President FineDay/VP Moellenbeck **Carried**

## **6.3 Auditing Firm Resolution**

Be it resolved that the auditing firm of KPMG Chartered Accountants be appointed for the 2013/2014 audit.

**AGMMotion005:** President FineDay/VP Moellenbeck **Carried**

# **7. Proposed Bylaw Amendments**

## **7.1 Proposed Amendment to Code of Ethics Disciplinary Committee**

VP Sherbino commented that the first series of amendments are all grouped together out of necessity. All of them revolve around the Code of Ethics Disciplinary Committee of the University Students Council. The CEDC is responsible for the disciplinary measures if any office holder of the USSU breaks what is articulated in this part or if an executive breaks an aspect that is articulated in the Executive Protocol Policy. The changes are substantial but are positive. It was not just the executive that was involved in the consultations surrounding these. The executive talked to former members of the CEDC, to current CEDC members, and other students' unions around the country to see what their practices were. This proved to be a very beneficial practice as the executive realized some things that would've otherwise been missed.

The problems were divided into five categories. The first one is regarding orientation. The members of the committee felt that they weren't knowledgeable enough in what they were doing in order to make the proper decisions. The second category involves them feeling like they weren't being properly supported in the decision making structure. The third being the fact that as a committee it has to report back to council, which can be problematic. The fourth is that the powers of the CEDC were never well delineated by the bylaw. Lastly, the information that the CEDC had in making it's decisions was never as robust as it could've been. This led to people making a decision that didn't necessarily matter, where they didn't know what they were doing, and with information that they didn't know how to get. There was a series of problems but these changes should solve them. As such, what is being proposed is the abolition of the CEDC and for it to be reconstituted to the CEDT or the Code of Ethics Disciplinary Tribunal.

The first change will be to get rid of the CEDC as a committee of council and to reconstitute it under part 4 of the bylaw. A staff person will be added to it who

will be the general manager or designate to provide guidance when called upon. Also, in this part, it will be listed to ensure that members would be receiving an orientation to part 4 of the bylaw and their duties.

The main change will be to change it from a committee of council to a separate entity that is connected to council but does not inherently report back to it as part of its structure. The CEDC needed power of its own. It needs this power because there has to be a process when dealing with these situations. It can't just be council and it has to go through a process so that there can be appeals, due process, and that collegiality can be followed. The executive feels strongly in the merits of having a separate body to do this. Ultimately, the power for impeachment still resides in council, as it's the supreme governing body of the USSU. Subsequent changes after this deal with ensuring that there is a proper appeal process in place. Things can be appealed to council when necessary. Prior to anything getting taken to the CEDT certain precautionary steps would be taken prior. The documentation would be kept of this process so the CEDT has more information to go by when making their decisions. If necessary, such in the case of criminal activity, these steps can be bypassed and taken to the proper authorities.

Move to accept the proposed amendment

**AGMMotion006:** VP Sherbino/President FineDay

**Carried**

Member Heinz commented on a concern in regards to 79(1c) of the proposed amendment. He expressed concern with putting a general manager or designate as a standing member of the CEDT. He agrees with 79(2b) and 79 (2d), which would have the general manager or designate as institutional legacy and as a resource for the CEDT. He was unsure whether they should be a permanent member due to wanting the CEDT to have independence. His second concern was with 79(3) and that it should be "shall not participate or be present" instead of just "shall not participate" as it's current wording might not be strong enough to have the member leave when it's an issue they are involved with. The third issue is with 79(4) and that it should be listed under 79(3) due to it being related to only that point. The last issue he brought up was with 87(8) and that it's second part should be moved to 87(10) as it relates to both 87(8) and 87(9).

The first change would be to amend or strike out s. 79(1c).

Move to debate the proposed amendment.

**AGMMotion007:** Member 13/ Member 2

**Defeated**

VP Sherbino said that the Executive would be speaking against this particular amendment but the Executive will be welcoming subsequent amendments to modify the CEDT.

Chairperson Hitchings asked if the amendment also included the 79(1ci).

Member Heinz replied that it was only to 79(1c) including further amendments.

Member 2 spoke in favor of this motion. He pointed out that the person holding the position of General Manager should not be sitting in this committee because the GM deals as a mediator. He made reference to s. 84 and the ability to bring witnesses to the CEDT. As a result, he claimed that s.79(1c) may place more power in the hands of specific individuals. Finally, he argued that rather than the GM or a designate, there could be somebody else that could seat on this committee.

Member 3 requested to amend s.79 (1c) to the GM or designate as a non-voting member upon a quorate decision of the voting members of the tribunal and only one name called upon.

Chairperson Hitchings explained that the amendment proposed by Member 3 contradicts the amendment being debated.

VP Sherbino talked about some points brought up by Member 2. He mentioned that the committee has the ability to call witnesses and their discretion is kept confident. He pointed out that the point about having a staff member, as an impermanent position does not provide continuity. Moreover, he also did not agree with the point of being able to bring staff members to provide testimonies with the respecting cases brought forward the tribunal. As a result, he concluded that this practice would be inappropriate.

Member 2 agreed with the concern about continuity. However, he raised a concern about utilizing members of the USSU to sit on this committee as a neutral party. He proposed that instead of the GM, the USSU's lawyer, who could look at the issues brought forward the tribunal and provide advice in a neutral manner.

VP Moellenbeck pointed out that by adding the USSU's lawyer, the expenses would be higher.

Member 2 said that if an issue is brought up forward the tribunal, by not having a neutral member the image of the USSU could be affected. As a result, he argued that the expenses of paying the USSU's lawyer would not be as high given the benefits of having a neutral mediator. He also pointed out that during the last couple of years there have not been cases in the CEDT.

Member 3 asked when the Bylaw states the designate, if could the GM designate her power to the USSU lawyer.

Member Heinz mentioned that the concern brought up is not specified in the amendment proposed, therefore it should be clarified.



Member 35 pointed out that the issues brought up to the committee can be dealt internally and there is no need to pay the expenses of the lawyer.

Member \_\_\_\_ pointed out that the points brought up by VP Sherbino are important because they are arguments from former members of CEDT.

Member 34 mentioned that he was a former member of the committee. *The rest of the comment is inaudible from the recording.*

Member 20 asked if the amendment could be voted down and if another member could propose a new amendment.

Motion to amend s.79(1c) “the General Manager or designated as a non-voting member” defeated.

Member 34 referred to s.87 (3), which talks about that defendants can called upon an advocate. He proposed to amend this section to be on discretion of Council.

Move to amend s.87 (3) to defendants can called upon an advocate in discretion with Council. Move to debate.

**AGMMotion008:** Member 34/Member 13

**Carried**

VP Sherbino gave an explanation on the rational behind this amendment. *Reasons given are inaudible from the recording.*

President FineDay made a remark on Member Heinz argument about the CEDT. He put emphasis on the community that conforms the University, where there are language barriers. He pointed out that there is still validity to have an advocate in the CEDT if one so wishes.

Member 28 recognized the language barrier that exists with international students.

Member 54 expressed the outcome of the CEDT. He argued that the idea of letting people being accused defend themselves is legitimate.

Member 34 clarified that the amendment does not refer that a defendant cannot bring an advocate but rather that he/she would need the permission from the CEDT.

VP Sherbino brought up the argument that the decisions made by the CEDT are not final, therefore they can be appealed to Council afterwards.

Member 8 talked about s.87(c), which refers to if Council allows the appeal. He also referred to 87(8) and 87(9), both referred to different types of appeal. He

proposed a motion to amend to move s.87 (8) and s.87 (9) to s.87 (10); and the renumber s.87(10) to the proper number.

*Debate about this amendment is inaudible from the recording.*

Move to accept the proposed amendment.

**AGMMotion009:** Member 8/ *Member's number is inaudible from the recording*  
**Carried**

Member \_\_\_ made a friendly amendment to s.79 (4).

Move to amend s.79 (4).

**AGMMotion010:** *Member's number is inaudible from the recording/VP*  
Sherbino **Carried**

### **7.2 Proposed Amendment to Section 33**

VP Sherbino mentioned that s.34 was amended during the academic year 2012-13 in Council, USCMotion100. This motion was made to make an amendment to s.34 (1) the assistant chief returning officer. He explained that now the assistant chief returning officer can be a student but he or she is a non-voting member.

Move to accept the proposed amendment. Move to debate.

**AGMMotion011:** VP Sherbino/President FineDay **Carried**

### **7.3 Proposed Amendment to Section 34**

VP Moellenbeck proposed an amendment to s.34. *Amendment proposed in inaudible from the recoding.*

Move to accept the proposed amendment. Move to debate.

**AGMMotion012:** VP Moellenbeck/President FineDay **Carried**

### **7.4 Proposed Amendment to Section 37**

President FineDay mentioned that there is a change on the position title, from Communications and Services to Communications and Marketing.

Move to accept the proposed amendment. Move to debate.

**AGMMotion013:** President FineDay/VP Moellenbeck **Carried**

### **7.5 Proposed Amendment to Section 39**

VP Abouhamra mentioned that the Student Affairs Committee does not have a senior management member to maintain continuity, therefore the Executive added the Business and Services Manager as a non-voting member.

Move to accept the proposed amendment. Move to debate.  
**AGMMotion014:** VP Abouhamra/President FineDay **Carried**

#### **7.6 Proposed Amendment to Section 40**

VP Abouhamra pointed out the change made to the Space and Events Coordinator to Facilities Manager.

Move to accept the proposed amendment. Move to debate.  
**AGMMotion015:** VP Abouhamra/President FineDay **Carried**

#### **7.7 Proposed Amendment to Section 47**

VP Moellenbeck pointed out the changes made to the ACRO and his/her power in the Procedures Meeting. Also, the ability to vote by the ACRO changed.

Move to accept the proposed amendment. Move to debate.  
**AGMMotion016:** VP Moellenbeck/President FineDay **Carried**

#### **7.8 Proposed Amendment to Section 53**

President FineDay mentioned the change made from college to constituency in the last AGM. This change in name recognizes International Students and Indigenous Students.

Move to accept the proposed amendment. Move to debate.  
**AGMMotion017:** President FineDay/VP Moellenbeck **Carried**

#### **7.9 Proposed Amendment to Section 53-2**

President FineDay proposed to add an alternative information session for students that cannot attend the general information session to run in the elections.

Move to accept the proposed amendment. Move to debate.  
**AGMMotion018:** President FineDay/VP Moellenbeck **Carried**

#### **7.10 Proposed Amendment to Section 55**

VP Abouhamra pointed out that the University changed the name from University Food Services to University Culinary Services.

Move to accept the proposed amendment. Move to debate.  
**AGMMotion019:** VP Abouhamra/President FineDay **Carried**

#### **7.11 Proposed Amendment to Section 82-6**

VP Sherbino mentioned that the process for election to University Council. Constituencies that have more than one (1) councillor would have to choose the candidate with more votes to sit on University Council. The individual chosen has the option to differ to the next candidate with the highest votes.

Move to accept the proposed amendment. Move to debate.

**AGMMotion020:** VP Sherbino/President FineDay

**Carried**

Member \_\_\_ pointed out that the College of Law chooses its own member to sit on University Council; therefore he proposed to amend the proposed amendment to add “designated official from the college”.

VP Sherbino spoke against this amendment. He noticed that the College of Law does elect its own member for University Council, however the University Secretariat would not accept this amendment and process unless it is run through the USSU.

Member \_\_\_ asked if for constituencies with only (1) USC member, there is an option to send a representative to University Council in case the USC member cannot attend.

President FineDay replied that anyone can attend University Council Meetings and that there are minutes available for each meeting.

VP Abouhamra pointed out that when students run for USC they should notice that part of the position is to attend University Council meetings.

Member \_\_\_ asked if candidates running for USC are notified that part of their responsibilities is to attend University Council meetings.

President FineDay answered that it is outlined in the package that candidates are given when they come for the information session.

*Member 27's question is inaudible from the recording.*

VP Sherbino replied that the USSU has considered running elections for USC and University Council but there is a concern that there might not be enough candidates in each constituency.

Member \_\_\_ made a comment related to VP Abouhamra's point. When Councillors are elected, they do not have their class schedule for the upcoming year, therefore they are unsure if they can attend University Council meetings.

VP Sherbino said that the USSU recognizes and supports that students meet academic needs.

### **7.12 Proposed Amendment to Section 82-7**

VP Moellenbeck pointed out that s.82 (7) changes that when a constituency has more than one (1) representative, there is no need for all Councillors from that constituency to report to USC. Also, members should be responsible for speaking in behalf of their constituency and to be prepared to report each USC meeting.

Move to accept the proposed amendment. Move to debate.

**AGMMotion021:** VP Moellenbeck/President FineDay

**Carried**

### **8. Questions and Comments for the Executive**

Member 15 thanked President FineDay for his leadership and democratic skills to command USC.

Member 54 congratulated President FineDay for all his achievements as president.

### **9. Any Other Business**

### **10. Adjournment**

**Annual General Meeting**  
Arts 241, 6 p.m., November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013  
Voter's List

1. Stacey Pritchard
2. Jared Brown
3. Jordan Robertson
4. Amanda Beslvater
5. Emily Lafreniere
6. Melissa Gran
7. Torin Taknla
8. Eric Peach
9. Ben Fahlman
10. Benjamin Schwab
11. Babriela Potosme
12. Sara Kruger
13. Shawn Heinz
14. Sultan Sadat
15. Morgan Jangula
16. ?
17. Scott Davidson
18. Travis Humenl
19. Anna-Lilja Dawson
20. Megan Vandendriessche
21. Chelsea Breher
22. Nour Abouhamra
23. Jenna Moellenbeck
24. Alex Keen
25. Jordan Sherbino
26. Aleina Haines
27. Max FineDay
28. David Ogumkunmi
29. Elias Nelson
30. Brooke Malinoski
31. Graeme Jobe
32. Maryssa Wilde
33. Jon Herriot
34. Jon Katzman
35. Steven Heidel
36. Evan Nelfeld
37. Taylor Andreas
38. Eli Tennent
39. Dylan Pollor
40. ?
41. Nicholas Marlatte
42. Josh Nash

43. Borden Miller
44. Adegoke Adeyemi Paul
45. Rainer Kocsis
46. Brandon Zielz
47. Chris Canponi
48. Chad Veltikold
49. Dustin Ness
50. Cole Grove
51. Samantha Perez
52. Venessa Liang
53. Kaylyn Bull
54. Dillan Radomske
55. ? Sakib
56. Shahriar Rahman
57. Adam Duke