

# University of Saskatchewan Students' Union Annual General Meeting

November 26, 2015

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

President Saddleback proposed to change the order and grouping of the proposed amendments under section 7. This is to ensure that the amendments are relative to their current location within the Bylaw.

Move to relocate amendment to section 4 first; section 7 second; section 6, 7 third; section 11 fourth; section 23, 23 fifth; section 24 sixth; section 34 seventh; section 37, 39 eighth; section 20, 31 ninth; section 38 tenth; section 39 eleventh; section 40 twelfth; section 42 thirteenth; section 48 fourteenth; section 61 fifteenth; section 64, 4 sixteenth; section 68 seventeenth; section 86 eighteenth.

**AGMMotion001:** President Saddleback/VP Senecal **Carried**

Move to adopt the agenda.

**AGMMotion002:** Councilor Arcand/Councilor Daniels **Carried**

## 4. Adoption of AGM minutes

Move to accept the AGM minutes.

**AGMMotion003:** Councilor Arcand/Councilor Daniels **Carried**

## 5. President's Report

President Saddleback thanked members for attending the USSU Annual General Meeting (AGM). He reported that coming into the year, the USSU Executive acknowledged one large concern they heard time and time again and that is the lack of a sexual assault policy and set of clear procedures here at the University of Saskatchewan. With sexual assault reports at the U of S being one of the highest in Canada, the USSU got to work right away to lobby the administration to write and implement a sexual assault policy. The work was multi-faceted and included much collaboration across the campus with partners such as the USSU Women's Centre, the USSU Pride Centre, Peer Health Mentors, CASA, and many more U of S community members. The policy itself has gone through an extensive consultation process and will be heading to the Board of Governors

this December, where shortly after the campus community will see an accompanying procedures document.

With 1,203 International undergraduate students here at the U of S and with the recent announcement by the Province of Saskatchewan moving forward with internationalization as a priority in the coming years, the USSU has now its very first International Student Affairs Committee to give the USSU insight and direction from International Students in order to address their unique needs. Over these past few months, the Executive heard concerns ranging from language requirements, residence issues, lack of data, and much more. The International Student Affairs Committee has been working hard to create a plan to identify on a campus wide scale, with recommendations to address these issues.

The USSU also has been hard at work with Indigenous students, the Indigenous Students' Council, and the University administration in address the unique needs that Indigenous students face. With 2,236 self-declared Aboriginal students here at the U of S, the USSU must and have taken a lead in ensuring these needs are met and surpassed. Some ways the USSU Executive has been doing so, most recently, through the University Students' Council where, on November 19<sup>th</sup>, a motion was unanimously passed to have the USSU support Indigenous content at the University of Saskatchewan. As well, the University Students' Council also passed a unanimous decision to support a National Public Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. I congratulated all of those involved, the Executive, the Indigenous Students Council and their President Feather Pewapsconias-Mckee, many other student groups and, especially all members of Students' Council, for their passionate work.

The USSU has done much in streamlining the services to student groups, such as having a student group's dedicated events page on the USSU website, a portable table for student groups to use across campus, and funding for student groups on a refund basis. That was implemented by VP Merat in order to be fiscally responsible.

VP Merat also brought forward an idea in his platform while running for the USSU; the idea being to meet students where they are at with an initiative called "Question Period", this biweekly event takes the USSU Executive out to Upper Place Riel to hear students concerns and ideas; the USSU Executive has been working hard on student engagement and this is but one initiative the Executive has put forward. There is also the #US4U hashtag that the USSU utilizes to showcase on social media their activities, student group activities, and much more. President Saddleback added that he is pleased to let members know that this model has been working quite well and he looks forward to attending many more student events in the coming months.

Student engagement has been on one of the platforms of the Executive, along with voter engagement. The USSU had worked with a number of student groups to bring forth the #USaskVotes campaign for the federal election and as one looks to the upcoming provincial election, the USSU will once again be engaging the larger campus community to hear their concerns and to encourage everyone hit the polls. President Saddleback

invited all members to come and speak with any one of the Executives if they would like to be involved or have any concerns that they would like to put on our radar.

Speaking of concerns, the USSU would like hear members' concerns regarding the price of textbooks with the upcoming #textbookbroke campaign put on by VP Senecal.

Another concerns the Executive will be addressing is the need to see when buses are coming into the Place Riel terminal. Many people in this very room can attest to how cold the Saskatchewan climate can get and to have to stand outside to see when buses are coming, is horrid to think about. VP Merat has been working with the city and Transit to erect a plasma screen in Upper Place Riel to show when buses are arriving and leaving at the terminal.

Lastly, the USSU has been working hard with students, student groups, and the University administration to continue the important work on a mental health strategy. In the next few months, a working committee will be struck to look at best practises across Canada, address the gaps here at the U of S, and to give direction regarding mental health initiatives at our campus for all students, staff, and faculty.

Over these past 209 days, much work has been done and now with the next 155 days, President Saddleback said that he is excited to see the amount of work that is still yet to be done. The passion that USSU members have for the betterment of their own education and the education of future generations to come is heart warming. He is glad to say that they are leaders in enhancing the student experience.

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

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

The auditor reported that it has been a good year for the USSU, with a \$4.6 Million in current assets versus \$1.4 Million in current liabilities. He added that there was a \$273,000 deficit this year. However, a big part of that is a non-cash amortization given the Place Riel addition.

The auditor thanked GM Cottrell, Amanda Mitchell, and the USSU staff for their help.

### **6.2 Financial Statement Resolution**

Move to be it resolved that the audited financial statements of the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union be accepted for the year ended April 30, 2015, as presented.

**AGMMotion004:** President Saddleback/VP Merat

**Carried**

### **6.3 Auditing Firm Resolution**

Move to be it resolved that the auditing firm of KPMG Chartered Accountants be appointed for the 2015/2016 audit.

**AGMMotion005:** President Saddleback/VP Merat

**Carried**

**7. Proposed Bylaw Amendments**

**7.1 Proposed Amendment to Section 4 (by USSU Executive)**

President Saddleback explained that this amendment proposes to add the definition of Student-At-Large.

Move to accept the proposed amendment.

**AGMMotion006:** President Saddleback/VP Merat

**Carried**

**7.2 Proposed Amendment to Section 7 (by USSU Executive)**

Move to accept the proposed amendment.

**AGMMotion007:** President Saddleback/VP Merat

**Carried**

**7.3 Proposed Amendment to Sections 6, 7 (by Jordan Robertson)**

Councilor Robertson explained that the proposed amendment is to move sections 21 and 22 to section 6 and 7, respectively.

Move to accept the proposed amendment. Move to debate.

**AGMMotion008:** Councilor Robertson/Councilor Arcand

**Defeated**

President Saddleback said that there is no compelling reason to move these sections.

Member Steele asked what are the compelling reasons not to move the sections as Councilor Robertson proposes.

President Saddleback said that moving these sections under the affairs of the USSU will make understanding of Borrowing Powers and the Execution of Contracts and Negotiable Instruments more complicated.

Councilor Robertson explained that moving these sections has to do with the subsequent businesses and affairs of the Union. Further, moving these sections does not interfere with the understanding of the bylaw.

**7.4 Proposed Amendment to Section 11 (by Jeff Toppings)**

Move to change section 11 (4) of the bylaw to “a quorum for a meeting of members is two (2) percent, of which at least 15 must be members of Council.” Move to debate.

**AGMMotion009:** Member Toppings/Councilor Robertson

**Defeated**

Member Toppings mentioned that the number of members necessary for quorum at the USSU AGM is not large enough and not representative of the whole student body. He proposed an amendment to section 11 to make quorum two (2) percent of the student body with 15 USC Councilors.

VP Senecal agreed with the spirit of the motion. However, he mentioned that it is not feasible to get two (2) percent of the student body to an AGM.

Councilor Arcand agreed with VP Senecal. She added that by having the 15 USC Councilors there are representatives of each constituency.

Move to change two (2) percent to one (1) percent on the proposed amendment to section 11 (4). Move to debate.

**AGMMotion010:** Member Toppings/Councilor Hearn **Defeated**

VP Senecal said that reaching one (1) percent of the student population to attend the AGM is still a tough task.

VP Fu pointed out that having a high quorum requirement might create an inability to hold an AGM. He asked if members have suggestions for different ways to advertise the AGM.

Councilor Koob mentioned that it might not be entirely possible to have one (1) percent of the student body attend the AGM.

Councilor Huckabay pointed out that the low attendance rate might have to do with the time of year when the AGM is hosted.

Councilor Robertson agreed with Councilor Huckabay that having the AGM at the end of November is not the best time for students.

VP Senecal asked the reason why the AGM is hosted in November.

Chairperson Sherbino replied that the bylaw dictates it does.

Member Toppings said that in his college he barely saw promotional material for the AGM. He asked if the Executive has tried to engage on different methods to promote the AGM, such as the AOC meetings.

**7.5 Proposed Amendment to Section 23, 23 (by Jordan Robertson, USSU Executive)**

President Saddleback mentioned that the Executive will withdraw their proposed amendment and let Councilor Robertson discuss his proposed amendment to section 23.

Move to accept the proposed amendment to section 23 to change the word “would” to “shall”. Move to debate.

**AGMMotion011:** Councilor Robertson/President Saddleback **Carried**

**7.6 Proposed Amendment to Section 24 (by USSU Executive)**

Move to accept the proposed amendment to section 24. Move to debate.

**AGMotion012:** VP Fu/VP Merat

**Carried**

The proposed amendment proposes to change the month of February to November on section 24 of the bylaw.

VP Fu said that having by-elections involves a lot of costs. Further, the timeline for a by-election is long. The Executive decided to change February to November because in the event of a new election, new members will have more time to participate in Council in comparison if the election is called in February.

Councilor Koob asked if an election could be held in December if a vacancy occurs in November.

President Saddleback replied that it is possible. He added that the reason for this amendment is to shorten the amount of by-elections.

Councilor Arcand noted that after November, there is a two (2) month period where students could drop out and leave a constituency with no representation on Council.

Councilor Robertson pointed out that the wording of the motion is confusing in case that after the by-election is held the vacancy has not been filled yet.

Member Steele asked if there are other mechanisms for filling up vacancies on Council.

VP Senecal replied that it is not the best way to have different mechanisms to elect or appoint Councilors.

VP Fu agreed with Councilor Arcand's point. However, he said that the costs involved with by-elections are high. He asked if changing the month to January would be a better idea.

Councilor Koob proposed an amendment to the amendment to change the wording to "the last day of January."

Move to change the wording to the proposed amendment to "the last day of January."  
Move to debate.

**AGMMotion013:** Councilor Koob/Councilor Ratt-Misponas

**Carried**

### **7.7 Proposed Amendment to Section 34 (by USSU Executive)**

Move to accept the proposed amendment. Move to debate.

**AGMMotion014:** President Saddleback/VP Merat

**Carried**

The proposed amendment proposes to have the Appointments Committee as an ongoing committee throughout the academic year rather than having the President alone having the powers of the Appointments Committee from October 14 until April 30.

### **7.8 Proposed Amendment to Section 37, 39 (by Jordan Robertson)**

Move to accept the proposed amendment. Move to debate.

**AGMMotion015:** Councilor Robertson/Councilor Gill

**Defeated**

The proposed amendment to sections 37 and 39 proposes to make the Budget and Finance Committee (BFC) develop the annual budget in cooperation with the Vice-President Operations and Finance and the General Manager; and have financial oversight of the Unions finances and report to Council on a quarterly basis. The amendment also proposes to create the Campus Group Committee which will be responsible for developing policies and strategies around student groups and funding; and be responsible for all issues and communications arising from or to student groups, including funding, ratification, insurance and event coordination.

VP Merat noted that BFC mainly looks at ratification and funding for campus groups. On Term 2, BFC looks at the budget of the USSU. He added that this amendment proposes to move any ratification and funding for campus groups away from BFC. He expressed that it is a better option to just have one (1) committee with regards to the knowledge and time commitment of its members. He invited members to vote against the motion.

Councilor Robertson said that as a former member of BFC, members do not actually know much about the budgeting process. Further, through the budgeting season members are given a run-through of the budget. He proposed this amendment so there is actual budgeting work for the committee.

VP Fu noted that there is no timeline on the proposed amendment so the earliest that the committee can be created is January 2016. He warned members that having such a drastic change for the committee might affect campus groups.

Councilor Arcand asked for clarification on how the new committee would affect campus groups.

VP Fu replied that the USSU would have to look at the selection of members to be part of BFC and the Campus Groups Committee. In terms of the logistics, there would be two (2) different standards of procedures, one of campus groups that applied for funding prior to the amendment and those groups applying for funding after the changes.

Councilor Robertson noted that each Councilor could choose on which committee they would like to sit so there is a balanced approach. He also said that a friendly amendment could be proposed so this amendment does not take effect until next year.

Chairperson Sherbino declared that such an amendment is in order.

Councilor Robertson proposed an amendment to have the changes to sections 37 and 39 to take effect on May 1, 2016.

Move to add to the amendment that the changes take place on May 1, 2016.

**AGMMotion016:** Councilor Robertson/Councilor Arcand

**Carried**

VP Merat said that he thinks there is no need to change these sections. He reiterated that the lack of knowledge on USSU budgeting will affect the way these committees will work.

Councilor Arcand pointed out that rather than creating a Campus Group Committee for funding and ratification, the committee should look at engaging and expanding campus groups' events in order to engage more students.

VP Fu noted Councilor Arcand's point is good and that it should be taken into account. He said, however, that before having this change made there should be more consultation with former members of BFC.

Councilor Robertson mentioned that he has been working on this since last year and that there was not enough time to look into budgeting but mostly on ratification and funding for groups.

### **7.9 Proposed Amendment to Section 20, 31 (by Jordan Robertson)**

Move to accept the proposed amendment. Move to debate.

**AGMMotion017:** Councilor Robertson/Councilor Gill

**Defeated**

The proposed amendment to sections 20 and 31 proposes to move the Executive Committee under the Standing Committees section.

President Saddleback spoke against the proposed amendment. He said that moving the Executive Committee under the Standing Committees will not make sense for the understanding of the bylaw.

Councilor Robertson said that the Executive Committee is accountable to Council. The amendment he proposed looks at expanding its accountability to Council by making it a committee of Council.

Councilor Andrahennadi asked if this would affect the Executive Committee during the summer time since there is no Council.

Councilor Robertson mentioned that the Executive has the power over the Committee while Council is not in session.



Councilor Arcand pointed out that section 31 (1) (d) should be removed from the amendment since the last amendment was not passed.

Chairperson Sherbino agreed and ruled out of order that part of the amendment referring to section 31 (1) (d).

President Saddleback said that he is hesitant about moving the Executive Committee under the Standing Committees due to the decision-making that will have to be done on a day-to-day basis.

### **7.10 Proposed Amendment to Section 38 (by USSU Executive)**

VP Fu noted that the proposed amendment looks at adding the word “student” to the Indigenous Affairs Committee in order to reflect the intent of the committee. The amendment also adds section 38 (1) (f) where the General Manager (GM) or designate is added as a non-voting member. He explained that adding the GM is for institutional memory and support.

Move to accept the proposed amendment. Move to debate.

**AGMMotion018:** VP FU/President Saddleback

**Carried**

Councilor Arcand asked why there is not an elder added to the committee for consultation purposes.

VP Senecal proposed an amendment to the motion to change section 38 (1) (d) to read University Student Council representative elected to represent Indigenous Students.

Chairperson Sherbino ruled the motion out of order.

Councilor Ratt-Misponas asked what would be the role of the GM in this committee.

President Saddleback said that it has to do with the spirit of all the other Standing Committees since they have a senior manager or staff member being part of it. This is to ensure institutional knowledge is present in each committee.

Councilor Ratt-Misponas proposed an amendment to the motion to add an elder to the committee selected by the committee.

Chairperson Sherbino ruled the motion out of order.

President Saddleback noted that there will be a Special General Meeting where members can bring these amendments forward.

VP Fu pointed out that the membership of the committee is not restricted to just the people listed in the bylaw. Thus, an elder could be invited to the committee.

### 7.11 Proposed Amendment to Section 39 (by USSU Executive)

VP Fu noted that the amendment proposes to remove from section 39 (1) (c) “Presidents of USSU ratified International Student Associations” because there is no definition of such anywhere to be found and creates confusion. Further, the amendment proposes to add section 39 (1) (f) by adding the Communications and Marketing Manager as a non-voting member for institutional memory. Changes to section 39 (2) are mostly on wording deletions that affect the understanding of the section.

Move to accept the proposed amendment. Move to debate.

**AGMMotion019:** VP Fu/President Saddleback

**Carried**

Councilor Arcand noted that she feels that by removing Presidents of USSU ratified International Student Associations from section 39, there will be votes taken away from this committee.

VP Fu pointed out that he has been discussing this already with different members of the committee. He provided examples on how this wording creates confusion in terms of practicality.

President Saddleback mentioned that the different presidents of International Students Groups are still invited to attend the meetings of this committee.

VP Senecal noted a grammatical error on section 39 (2) (b) where it should say analyse rather than analyze.

Chairperson ruled the amendment out of order.

President Saddleback challenged the rule of Chairperson Sherbino.

Members agreed with President Saddleback.

Move to change the spelling of the word “analyze” on section 39 (2) (b) so it is spelled “analyse”.

**AGMMotion020:** VP Senecal/President Saddleback

**Carried**

Councilor Pinel pointed out that under section 39 (1) (f) the wording “or designate” should be added.

Move to add “or designate” in section 39 (1) (f).

**AGMMotion021:** Councilor Pinel/Councilor Koob

**Carried**

### 7.12 Proposed Amendment to Section 40 (by Jordan Robertson)

The proposed amendment was withdrawn.

### **7.13 Proposed Amendment to Section 42 (by USSU Executive)**

President Saddleback explained that the proposed amendment looks at adding the definition of Fair Market Value to the bylaw under section 42.

Move to accept the proposed amendment. Move to debate.

**AGMMotion022:** President Saddleback/VP Fu **Carried**

President Saddleback made a friendly amendment to add “General Manager or GM Designate.”

Move to amend the original motion to read “Chief Returning Officer, or General Manager or GM Designate”.

**AGMMotion023:** President Saddleback/VP Merat **Carried**

### **7.14 Proposed Amendment to Section 48 (by USSU Executive)**

VP Senecal noted that this amendment is that in case of a tie in an election the Assistant Chief Returning Officer (ACRO) can cast a ballot to break a tie even for a constituency he/she is not part of.

Move to accept the proposed amendment. Move to debate.

**AGMMotion024:** VP Senecal/President Saddleback **Carried**

Councilor Koob asked if this is in another part of the bylaw.

### **7.15 Proposed Amendment to Section 61 (by USSU Executive)**

President Saddleback explained that the proposed amendment looks at grammatical corrections with section 61(4) where it changes “failure” with “complication”; and under 61 (1) where it changes “be two days” with “occur over two days.”

Move to accept the proposed amendment. Move to debate.

**AGMMotion025:** President Saddleback/Member Del Campo **Carried**

Councilor Huckabay asked what complication refers to.

President Saddleback replied that “complication” can refer to a different manners and this word may reflect a better relation with technological complications.

Councilor Pinel expressed concern with the change of “be two days” with “occur over two days” due to the confusion it might create with the amount of hours of the voting period.

President Saddleback noted that there will be schedule put up for each election in order to calculate the two (2) days period.

### **7.16 Proposed Amendment to Section 64, 4 (by Luke Brossard)**

Move to accept the proposed amendment. Move to debate.

**AGMMotion026:** VP Senecal/Councilor Daniels

**Carried**

VP Senecal explained that the proposed amendment looks at adding a section on slates and alliances for Executive candidates.

Councilor Andrahennadi said that the amendment could have a lot of adverse effects because it is very loosely worded. He added that this amendment discourages competition for candidates to run for Executive positions.

President Saddleback noted that this amendment vaguely talks about members running for USC positions. He proposed to strike out “for executive positions” under section 64; to take out “executive” and “regarding other Executive candidates” under 64 (1).

Chairperson Sherbino ruled the amendment to the motion out of order.

Move to change the wording to section 64 (5) to read shall be penalized, with the option of disqualification as candidates at the discretion of the Elections Committee, or in the case of slate activities without effect on election, fined.

**AGMMotion027:** VP Fu/VP Senecal

**Carried**

Move to change the word “required” to “expected” under section 64 (6).

**AGMMotion028:** President Saddleback/Councilor Dreaver

**Carried**

VP Senecal explained what slates are and how they work at other universities.

### **7.17 Proposed Amendment to Section 68 (by USSU Executive)**

VP Fu explained that this amendment proposes to change the word “may” with the word “must”.

Move to accept the proposed amendment. Move to debate.

**AGMMotion029:** VP Fu/President Saddleback

**Carried**

### **7.18 Proposed Amendment to Section 86 (by Jordan Robertson)**

Move to accept the proposed amendment. Move to debate.

**AGMMotion030:** Councilor Robertson/Councilor Daniels

**Defeated**

The proposed amendment to section 86 proposes to change the word “Councilors” to “Officeholders”.

President Saddleback spoke against this motion. He expressed concern that changing the word “Councilors” with “Officeholders” since Students-At-Large (SAL) are not Councilors and therefore they cannot adhere to the same standards underlined under section 86.

Councilor Robertson said that this change is to reflect officeholders throughout this section.

VP Senecal asked if there is a definition of officeholder in the bylaw.

Chairperson Sherbino replied that there is.

President Saddleback reiterated his concern with changing the wording of this section. He pointed out that SALs do not sit on Council, and thus, they are part of this section that refers to Council duties. He added that this should be looked in more detail to specify the duties of all officeholders.

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

Councilor Andreas asked why the auditor’s report was short and when would it be possible to see the financial statement of the account.

President Saddleback replied that the report is made public. He added that the Executive would be happy to meet with Councilors to discuss the report.

VP Senecal recognized that USC passed a motion to call on the University for the implementation of Indigenous content into the curriculum. He thanked all students who were part of this initiative, especially students from the Indigenous Students’ Council (ISC).

Councilor Huckabay said that the purpose of the motion should be explained better to the student body.

President Saddleback noted that the motion is in support of adding Indigenous content in the curriculum.

VP Senecal added that there will be more explanations from the USSU to the student body.

## **9. Any Other Business**

## **10. Adjournment**