

# University of Saskatchewan Students' Union

## Annual General Meeting

November 21, 2019

Arts 241

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 pm.

Chairperson Chadha acknowledged that the meeting is taking place on Territory 6 and the Traditional Homeland of the Métis and that learning has taken place on this land before this institution was created.

Chairperson Chadha reviewed house rules with the attendees.

### 2. Call for Quorum

Quorum was present.

### 3. Adoption of the Agenda

Move to adopt the agenda as presented.

**AGMMotion001:** President Ratt-Misponas / Councillor Goswami **Carried**

### 4. Adoption of AGM Minutes

Move to accept the AGM minutes from the previous year's meeting into the official record.

**AGMMotion002:** VP Muñoz Pimentel / Member Bellefleur **Carried**

### 5. President's Report

President Ratt-Misponas presented an overview of what the Executive Committee has worked on over the summer and beginning of the term. He noted that the beginning of their transition focused on getting to know one another, getting to know their positions, and building relationships with staff, faculty, and most importantly, students. He also noted that the Executive team also reached out to build relationships with the Government of Saskatchewan, the official opposition, as well as the City of Saskatoon.

President Ratt-Misponas highlighted that the USSU is a member of the Saskatchewan Students' Coalition as well as the Undergraduate Students of Canadian Research-intensive Universities.

President Ratt-Misponas shared information about the Path Forward, which is the USSU's 2019-2020 strategic vision plan that guides the Executives goals for the year. He acknowledged the importance of indigenization and that this vision plan is

a step in recognizing the role the USSU must play to honor the Indigenous ties to the land. The strategic goals of the Path Forward include: promote education, revitalize community, decolonize systems, and facilitate leadership.

He thanked Joseph Naytowhow for offering his time to be the Indigenous knowledge keeper and for allowing the USSU to use his family's colours in ceremony.

Throughout the Executive's term in office, they will use this vision to guide policy and bylaws that they propose to committees and councils.

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

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

Ian Braaten from KPMG thanked Amanda Mitchell and team for their work in providing documentation and answering questions.

This year the auditor report looks a bit different due to the change in auditing standards. But the important thing to take away is that the auditors report is an unqualified opinion, which means that it is a clean opinion.

Ian highlighted the total assets of \$27.5 million, \$7.75 million is current assets, and property and equipment is \$19.7 million which is primarily Place Riel.

This year there was a modest surplus of about \$62,000.

Ian further explained elements of the audit report and that pages within the report go into detailed explanation. He asked if anyone had any questions.

Voter number 71 asked where the \$1 million less in assets of property and equipment between 2018 and 2019. Ian explained how that when money is expended it is amortized over a period of time.

### **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, 2019, as presented.

**AGMMotion003:** VP Bell / Member Bellefleur

**Carried**

### **6.3. Auditing Firm Resolution**

Be it resolved that the auditing firm of KPMG Chartered Accountants be appointed for the 2019/2020 audit.

**AGMMotion004:** VP Bell / Councillor Illing

**Carried**

## **7. Proposed Amendments**

### **7.1. Proposed Amendment to Section 15 (Celeste Nunez and Akinwande Akingbehin)**

VP LaRose Smith read the proposed amendment. She noted that if this amendment were to move forward, a two tier system would be created between international and domestic students. She highlighted concerns regarding the Saskatchewan Non-Profit Corporations Act and that there may be legality issues. One example would be that at least one resident Canadian must sit on the Executive Council as per current Non-Profit Corporations Act legislation. VP LaRose-Smith noted that she does not support this amendment as it has been presented at this time.

Member 43 thanked VP LaRose-Smith for her points. She noted that she is one of the individuals who put forward the section 15 amendment and stated that she has done research and that from what she has found there should be no concerns with the amendment. Member 43 noted that international students need to take a minimum of 3 classes and that it would never be 0. She recognized concerns of balancing classes and holding the position but based on her research there were no bylaws from other student unions' that have this bylaw. She based this amendment on the University of Ottawa Students' Union. She read out parts of the USSU bylaw. She noted that she doesn't believe the USSU is facilitating leadership with the current bylaw in place. She shared what the Graduate Students Association (GSA) has put in place to comply with the Saskatchewan Non Profit Corporations Act.

VP LaRose-Smith recognized that this bylaw may be a barrier for students, including international students and full time student loan holders. She thanked member 43 for her research, but noted that the USSU is not similar to other post-secondary institution structures as the USSU follows the Saskatchewan Non-for-Profit Corporations Act, whereas other student organizations do not. She said that there are definitely ways that the USSU can work to facilitate leadership within a legal manner.

Member 71 asked for clarification around the legal concerns as this amendment has gone through the lawyers and has been okayed.

GM Cottrell noted the hierarchy structure of the USSU bylaw and the Non for Profit Corporations Act. The USSU lawyers only review the spirit and intent of the Bylaw; but note that the issue with this amendment is that it could cause concerns regarding the Act. The lawyers are not asked to speak to the provincial legislature.

Member 71 followed up and asked what the implications would be if this amendment were to be passed.

GM Cottrell noted that she was cautioned by the legal team that if four international students were elected into the Executive team the governance of the USSU would cease to exist.

Member 43 repeated the process that the GSA undergoes. She believes this amendment is to promote inclusion and facilitate leadership.

Member 83 disagreed with VP LaRose-Smith's point on work load and academic balance.

Member 29 noted that she does not believe that the USSU is providing opportunities to all students and that she supports this proposed amendment.

Member 7 noted that many good points have been brought forward and the current bylaw discriminates against students. He believes that this is an amendment to be considered.

Member 30 wondered if increasing the number of allowable credit hours would be an alternative option.

Chairperson Chadha noted that this discussion is either for or against the proposed amendment and amendments can not be made to this proposed amendment as the bylaw amendments have to be reviewed by the lawyers prior to the AGM.

Member 17 asked if there was anything within the USSU bylaw that prevents international students from running in the USSU election for an executive position.

VP LaRose-Smith noted that there is nothing in the Bylaw but it is mandatory by the IRCC that international students take a full time course load.

Member 60 believes that for now the USSU should look at approving the proposed amendment and worrying about any implications later.

GM Cottrell highlighted that she has serious concerns by creating a two tier system. She said that as per Council, there will be an SGM in February. She proposed that the membership defeat this proposed amendment and work to create a new amendment that will work within the various legislature to be approved at the SGM.

Member 45 believes we should make the change today and then we can propose any new changes at the SGM.

VP LaRose-Smith further explained how USSU business could be affected. She noted that the amendment concerns is around the wording of the USSU bylaw. She noted the serious concern that if all four Executive positions were international students, and that this could not be addressed at that time.

VP Muñoz Pimentel shared that if the motion were defeated today, we could look into changing the bylaw amendment to be more inclusive and propose it at the SGM without violating law.

Member 29 suggested to approve it now and fix it before the SGM.

President Ratt-Misponas shared that this aspect of the bylaw is something that the USSU wants to address, but this specific amendment wording is not going to fix the problem. He recommended that the membership vote down this amendment and work to create an amendment that can solve the route of the problem and be approved at the SGM.

Move to call the question of the proposed amendment to Section 15.

**AGMMotion005:** VP Muñoz Pimentel / Councillor Malko  
**Carried**

Move to accept the proposed amendment to Section 15.

**AGMMotion006:** Celeste Nunez / Akinwande Akingbehin **Failed**

President Ratt-Misponas and VP LaRose-Smith thanked everyone for the discussion on this motion; and noted that the Executive are looking forward to working with the International Students Advisory Committee to develop an amendment that adheres to all legal requirements.

## **7.2. Proposed Amendment to Section 22 (USSU Executive)**

VP Bell noted that this proposed amendment is to put the election of MSC's back into the college's hands.

Member 10 asked that if a college doesn't hold an election through PAWS, how does the USSU fill the seat?

VP Bell noted that he is meeting with IT at the University of Saskatchewan to discuss ways in which colleges can host this election.

Member 10 reasked his question, noting that he's wondering what happens if the colleges just don't do their part. President Ratt-Misponas noted that

through the Association of Constituency Presidents, the college presidents agreed that having this amendment would be beneficial to them.

Member 10 noted that he agrees, but he still wonders if there is any way that the USSU can hold Council elections. President Ratt-Misponas stated no.

Member 28 asked about the history of this section of the bylaw.

GM Cottrell noted that the previous bylaw amendment was put in place while Scott Hitchings was president. She noted that the University Act specifies that students that sit on University Council must be duly elected. The USSU took over the election because it could be done over PAWS this way; but now the USSU would like to give this responsibility back to the colleges as they have the ability to host the elections now.

Member 44 asked how much more pressure it would put on college associations to take on this responsibility.

Member 10 noted that he has been the ACRO for the past 3 years. He also hosted the Law Students Society election this year through PAWS and it was much easier than before. President Ratt-Misponas also noted that the USSU is open to helping constituencies through the process.

Member 32 asked who will be managing the Indigenous and International Students election. President Ratt-Misponas noted that the USSU hopes that the Indigenous Students' Council and International Students' Association will take the lead.

Member 32 asked what would happen if there is no representative group, would they be able to have representation?

Member 10 said that there is an option within PAWS to target specific representative groups; so there would be the ability on PAWS to elect representatives.

A member asked if By-elections would follow the same process. VP Bell said yes.

Member 3 said that this process seems like it would alleviate a lot of stress and thanked the Executive for the amendment.

Move to accept the proposed amendment to Section 22.

**AGMMotion007:** President Ratt-Misponas / VP Bell

**Carried**

**7.3. Proposed Amendment to Section 28 (USSU Executive)**

VP LaRose-Smith presented the proposed amendment. The amendment is about the word change of Affairs to Advisory within the Indigenous Student Affairs Committee and the International Student Affairs Committee.

Move to accept the proposed amendment to Section 28.

**AGMMotion008:** President Ratt-Misponas / VP LaRose-Smith **Carried**

**7.4. Proposed Amendment to Section 30 (USSU Executive)**

VP LaRose-Smith presented the proposed amendment. The amendment is to remove the President and Vice President Student Affairs from the Academic Affairs Committee.

Move to accept the proposed amendment to Section 30.

**AGMMotion009:** President Ratt-Misponas / VP LaRose-Smith **Carried**

**7.5. Proposed Amendment to Section 33 (USSU Executive)**

President Ratt-Misponas presented the proposed amendment. The amendment is to remove the Vice President Student Affairs from the External Affairs Committee.

Move to accept the proposed amendment to Section 33.

**AGMMotion010:** President Ratt-Misponas / VP LaRose-Smith **Carried**

**7.6. Proposed Amendment to Section 34 (USSU Executive)**

VP Bell presented the proposed amendment. The amendment is to remove the President and Vice President Student Affairs from the Budget and Finance Committee.

Member 7 asked if we could move the remaining amendments that are of similar intent as omnibus.

Move to accept the proposed amendments of Sections 34, 35, 37, and 38.

**AGMMotion011:** President Ratt-Misponas / Member 71 **Carried**

**7.7. Proposed Amendment to Section 36 (USSU Executive)**

VP LaRose-Smith presented the proposed amendment. The amendment is to change the word affairs to advisory and to have the International Students Association President as a co-chair of the International Student Advisory Committee.

Move to accept the proposed amendment to Section 36.

**AGMMotion012:** President Ratt-Misponas / VP LaRose-Smith **Carried**

**7.8. Proposed Amendment to Section 47 (USSU Executive)**

President Ratt-Misponas presented the amendment. The amendment removes the deposit for becoming an Executive candidate.

Move to accept the proposed amendment to Section 47.

**AGMMotion013:** President Ratt-Misponas / VP Bell **Carried**

**7.9. Proposed Amendment to Section 49 (USSU Executive)**

President Ratt-Misponas presented the amendment. The amendment removes the mandatory orientation meeting for Council.

Member 34 asked if there would be a contradiction within the bylaw, as another section states mandatory orientation but has not been proposed.

GM Cottrell said that this was an oversight, and can be proposed at the SGM. But also noted that there are options to address the other part of the bylaw if need be.

Move to accept the proposed amendment to Section 49.

**AGMMotion014:** President Ratt-Misponas / VP LaRose-Smith **Carried**

**7.10. Proposed Amendment to Section 51 and 52 (USSU Executive)**

VP Bell noted that both section 51 and 52 amendments involved the election process, which now that it has been approved to be given to the colleges, items in these sections.

Move to accept the proposed amendments of Section 51 and 52.

**AGMMotion015:** VP Bell / Member 8 **Carried**



**7.11. Proposed Amendment to Section 54 (USSU Executive)**

VP Bell presented the proposed amendment. He noted that the amendment assists in accessibility for those wanting to run for Executive positions.

Move to accept the proposed amendment to Section 54.

**AGMMotion016:** VP Bell / President Ratt-Misponas

**Carried**

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

Member 45 brought forward additional concerns regarding the proposed amendment to section 15.

President Ratt-Misponas noted that concerns regarding the proposed amendment to section 15 will be continually addressed prior to the SGM and thanked voter 45 for their concerns.

Member 18 commented that they'd like to see 25% of the Executive as Indigenous within section 15 when it is proposed at the SGM.

President Ratt-Misponas thanked member 18 for their comment and suggested they set up a meeting to discuss.

**9. Any Other Business**

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned.