

University of Saskatchewan Students' Union
Annual General Meeting

Minutes for November 19, 2020 - 6:00 p.m.

Zoom

Chairperson Burnett stated that the meeting is taking place on zoom, but traditionally takes place in the Roy Romanow Student Chambers, which is located on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. He recognized that learning took place on this land prior to the establishment of this institution.

Chairperson Burnett provided some background information about how Zoom works and shared some housekeeping rules for the AGM.

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 as presented.

AGMMotion001: Councillor Goswami / Councillor Keller

CARRIED

4. Adoption of the AGM Minutes

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

AGMMotion002: Councillor O'Connell / Councillor Millar

CARRIED

5. Auditor's Report

5.1. Presentation of Audited Financial Statements by KPMG

Alecia Nagy from KPMG thanked the membership for continuing the relationship between the USSU and KPMG. Alecia provided some keynotes from the audited financial statements. First, she noted the independent audited report, which states that KPMG has conducted an audit of the USSU's financial statements in accordance with professional auditing standards in Canada. The statement includes an opinion and a description of the opinion; the document presents a clean audit opinion for the USSU.

Alecia noted that the Statement of Financial Position is a snapshot of the USSU's assets and liabilities as of April 30, 2020. She shared some of the figures within the Statement of Financial Position and provided a brief description and background of each figure. Some specific figures that she pointed out included: the total assets and total liabilities of the USSU, which both equalled approximately 27.4 million; the current assets which equalled approximately 8.6 million dollars; the current liabilities which equalled approximately 1.9 million dollars; she described that the property and equipment balance is mainly related to Place Riel Student Centre. The decrease in the property and equipment balance is related to amortization.

Alecia proceeded to provide a brief overview of the Statement of Operations. She noted that his statement is essentially a summary of all revenues that have been received and all expenses that have been paid out from May 1, 2019 to April 30, 2020. Alecia shared that there are 6 weeks of COVID-19 related impacts reflected in the financial statements.

5.2. 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, 2020, as presented.

AGM Motion003: VP Bell / Councillor Cross

CARRIED

5.3. Auditing Firm Resolution

Be it resolved that the auditing firm of KPMG Chartered Accountants be appointed for the 2020/2021 audit.

AGM Motion004: VP Bell / Councillor Illing

CARRIED

6. Proposed Amendments

6.1. Proposed Amendment to Wording (by USSU Executive)

President LaRose-Smith noted that this amendment addresses gender inclusive language.

Move to approve the proposed amendment to change wording throughout the Bylaw as presented.

AGM Motion005: President LaRose-Smith / Councillor Soota

CARRIED

6.2. Proposed Amendment to Section 21 (by USSU Executive)

President LaRose-Smith noted that this amendment is to add a Councillor position for the Prince Albert Campus.

Move to approve the proposed amendment to Section 21 of the USSU Bylaw as presented.

AGM Motion006: President LaRose-Smith / Councillor Reaser CARRIED

6.3. Proposed Amendment to Section 29 (by USSU Executive)

VP Roberts noted that this amendment is to change the Academic Affairs Committee to the Academic Relations Committee; he also read the description change that was proposed.

Move to approve the proposed amendment to Section 29 of the USSU Bylaw as presented.

AGM Motion007: VP Roberts / Councillor Soota CARRIED

6.4. Proposed Amendment to Section 32 (by USSU Executive)

President LaRose-Smith noted that this amendment is to change the External Affairs Committee to the External Relations Committee; she also read the proposed description change.

Move to approve the proposed amendment to Section 32 of the USSU Bylaw as presented.

AGM Motion008: President LaRose-Smith / Councillor Illing CARRIED

6.5. Proposed Amendment to Section 33 (by USSU Executive)

VP Bell noted that this proposed amendment would change the Budget and Finance Committee into two separate committees: The Finance and Assessment Committee and the Campus Groups Committee. VP Bell shared who would comprise the membership of the two new committees and what the roles and responsibilities of each committee would be.

Move to approve the proposed amendment to Section 33 of the USSU Bylaw as presented.

AGM Motion009: VP Bell / Councillor Goswami CARRIED

6.6. Proposed Amendment to Section 36 (by USSU Executive)

VP McKay noted that this proposed amendment is to change the Student Affairs Committee to the Student Experience Committee; he also read the proposed description change.

Move to approve the proposed amendment to Section 36 of the USSU Bylaw as presented.

AGM Motion010: VP McKay / Councillor Keller

CARRIED

6.7. Proposed Amendment to Section 37 (by USSU Executive)

VP McKay noted that this proposed amendment is to change the responsibilities of the Sustainability Committee and to add a Councillor position to the committee; he noted that a subcommittee would be created to assess sustainability grant applications within this committee; and he read the proposed description changes.

Move to approve the proposed amendment to Section 37 of the USSU Bylaw as presented.

AGM Motion011: VP McKay / Councillor Lumerding

CARRIED

7. President's Report

President LaRose-Smith presented the president's report. She noted that a lot has changed over the past few months due to COVID-19. USSU shut down in March 2020, laying off close to 150 staff members. The Senior Managers have been working to ensure that the organizations continues to operate and provide students' with support. President LaRose-Smith provided a brief introduction to each Executive member.

- Jamie Bell is the Vice President of Operations and Finance. This is his second term in the VP Operations and Finance role. VP Bell was a Member of Students' Council prior to being the VP Operations and Finance. He is a student in Edwards School of Business.
- Kiefer Roberts is the Vice President of Academic Affairs. He is enrolled in the College of Arts and Science and is a Political Science Major. VP Roberts sat as a Member of Students' Council for two years prior to being elected as the VP Academic. He is a member of the Lac LaRonge Indian Band and is originally from Stanley Mission.
- Jory McKay is the Vice President of Student Affairs. He was the USSU Pride Centre Coordinator for two years prior to being elected the VP Student Affairs. VP McKay is majoring in Anthropology and is in his 4th year. He is originally from Swift Current.
- Autumn LaRose-Smith is the first Indigenous woman to be elected as the President of the USSU, and 6th Indigenous president. She was the VP Student Affairs prior to being elected as the President. President LaRose-Smith is enrolled in the College of Education, within the SUNTEP program.

President LaRose-Smith proceeded to share some of the highlights throughout the summer and beginning of the fall term. She noted some of the following items that the USSU Executive worked on:

- Record breaking academic grievances due to change to online learning.
- Suspended collection of the USSU infrastructure fee for spring/summer 2020.
- USSU called for a tuition freeze, which the Executive were happy to see the University do.
- Addressed various student concerns related to the quality of online classes.
- Continually advocating with the Undergraduates of Canadian Research Intensive Universities (UCRU) on a federal level.
- Formed University Students' Council and populated committees.
- Hosted mayor candidates forum with the assistance of Martin Gaal from the department of political studies.
- Worked with Future Majority to host a provincial party debate.
- Worked with the University for planning pride celebrations.
- Released a new Campus groups policy that allows for further funding for student groups.
- Strategic plan building off of the Plan Forward.
- Statement on Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression.
- Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression MOU with the University.
- Voted unanimously to provide EmpowerMe, a mental health service, for all students for the 2020-2021 term.
- Hired two new centre coordinators: Tasnim Jaisee - Women's Centre Coordinator; and Rene Clarke - Pride Centre Coordinator.
- Centres created the Centres Discord Server that has seen more than 1000 students join since the start of the term.
- Had meetings with AOCIP
- Created USSU Groups Office which is a virtual hub for USSU Groups
- Ensured the continuation of UPASS for students that needed to attend any in-person activities.
- Opening of Louis' Loft, which won Saskatoon's best place to eat on campus (Planet S magazine).

8. Questions and Comments for Executive (30 minutes)

No members had any questions.

VP Bell noted that USSU members are welcome to either email the Executive or attend the University Students' Council meetings if they think of any questions that they would like to ask.

President LaRose-Smith thanked all those in attendance for joining the USSU AGM this year.

9. Any Other Business

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.