

# University of Saskatchewan Students' Union Annual General Meeting

November 18, 2010

Arts 146

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:14 pm.

**2. Call for Quorum**

Quorum was present.

**3. Adoption of the Agenda**

Move to adopt the agenda.

**AGMMotion01:** Councilor Nagy/Member 18

Carried

**4. President's Report**

President Stoicheff stated that University of Saskatchewan students have a proud tradition of speaking up about the issues that they passionately believe in and those that they believe will help improve the accessibility and quality of their educational experience. He added that students are taking a leadership role on some very important issues this year:

- *Childcare on Campus* – The USSU and the USSU Childcare Centre held a rally for this initiative on campus on September 22 in the Bowl. Over 100 students, staff, faculty, parents, and their children showed up for this event. It was held to raise awareness for the need for more childcare spaces on our campus. The event included a barbecue fundraiser for the USSU Childcare Centre. The lack of childcare spaces on campus is a significant barrier for students and student parents who want to attend university. The waitlist for a space at the USSU Childcare Centre recently exceeded 390 children. This translates into a 2 – 3 year waiting list for parents and students alike. As a result, the USSU asked the University of Saskatchewan to establish a Taskforce on Childcare on Campus. The University has established this committee. He reported that the recommendations are being made to President MacKinnon by March of this year. He has sat in on some of those committee meetings and noted that he is impressed with how things are progressing. He speculated on 90 – 180 childcare spaces created with the success of this report.
- *Inclusion and Success of Aboriginal Students* – A willingness to respect, include, and accommodate people on this campus and in this province will in many ways define the 21<sup>st</sup> century in Saskatchewan. In this regard, we need to play a leadership role as students, youth, and responsible citizens. We have more Aboriginal students on our

campus than any other post-secondary institution in Canada. For the first time in the USSU's 101-year history, we have an Aboriginal student as an Executive and Vice-President, Leon Thompson. To this day, it is understood that we have too many students that naïvely assume that all First Nations students get their education completely paid for. That assumption couldn't be further from the truth. It is wrong. We are working with the Indigenous Students' Council to create a more culturally inclusive and respectful campus by tacking issues such as this. When the ISC held a cultural event by the Arts Building, two men approached the group and yelled racial threats and spit on one of the Aboriginal women involved in the event. I believe the deplorable actions of these two men do not reflect the tolerant and respectful nature of our campus community at large. However, it does tell us that racism still exists on our campus and that the USSU has a responsibility to do something about it. This is exactly why the USSU has and will actively continue to pursue a more culturally inclusive campus for Aboriginal students. On September 8, the USSU signed a strategic alliance agreement with the Office of the Treaty Commissioner wherein we agreed to promote treaty rights and responsibilities on campus. Just last month, we held a We are All Treaty People week with various presenters, including Hon. Bill McKnight, the Treaty Commissioner, who presented to students about the relevance of the treaties in today's society. We are all treaty people and this is an important concept for all students to understand.

How have our efforts this year on housing, childcare, and Aboriginal issues had an impact that will benefit students? The Government of Saskatchewan throne speech recently stated that it will be investing in more childcare spaces in the upcoming budget, and the University will be raising parking rates for faculty and staff from \$18 per month to \$55 per month, with the additional revenue earmarked for student related projects, such as the Gordon Oakes-Redbear Student Centre, the creation of more childcare spaces, and more student residences. The total new parking revenue results in \$30 million in new funding earmarked specifically for student related projects. This money could have gone elsewhere, but it went to students because many people stood up and their voices were heard. The Board of Governors has announced that the University will be borrowing nearly \$31.5 million and will also be using some of the new parking revenue to complete a new 400 bed student residence project by the fall of 2012. This is a lot of debt to take on, but it is good news for students. Saskatoon has one of the lowest vacancy rates in Canada and for years we have only been able to accommodate around 6% of our student body in residences. UBC can accommodate close to 30% of its student body. In four short years, due to the efforts of students, housing on campus has doubled.

What else has your Executive done this year?

- Met with every dean in every college
- Complete review of residence accommodations on campus
- Reviewed every USSU policy
- Met with municipal, provincial, and federal officials
- Started discussions with Student Health and Counseling on expanding services for students with learning disabilities
- For the first time in years, we funded the Rape and Aggression Defense class for women to be put on in partnership with Campus Safety and Campus Recreation
- Partnered with the Saskatchewan Association for Community Living to create the Campus for All program which will make our University community more inclusive and accessible to all members of our community
- Held monthly breakfast meetings with President Peter MacKinnon and his Executive
- Proudly attended the Saskatoon Gay Pride Parade with the USSU Pride Centre Volunteers
- Helped build a house for Habitat for Humanity
- Partnered with a non-profit organization called Books for Africa, in Browsers
- Criticized the Government for no longer making the Census mandatory
- Held Green Yourself Week and Academic Integrity Awareness Week (in which students were encouraged to know more about their academic rights)
- Active involvement in College Quarter development and have specifically advocated for more residence spaces, a world class fine arts and performing arts centre (Clarion Project), and more childcare spaces
- Mandated by USC to write a letter to City Council in support of the Hydro Power and Whitewater Park Project
- Support for an exclusive agreement with a cold beverage provider and advocate for a bottled water free campus
- Lobbying to replace safety phones on campus by following the recent Campus Safety report

What is forthcoming?

Starting in January, Louis' will partner with one college society each month to promote a specific fundraiser for the college society's charity of choice. The charity will be promoted on Louis' menus and this will help to support those charities and help students connect with their restaurant and bar. We have also asked the Board of College Presidents to take part in, and organize at least one charity fundraiser per term. For instance, when ESB holds Five

Days for the Homeless event in March, it will be something that will be promoted at Louis'.

The Province of Saskatchewan is one of the few provinces that does not have a Provincial Scholarship Fund. When you take into account the loss of the Millennium Scholarship Fund last year and the millions of dollars that came with it to Saskatchewan students, there is a need for a new scholarship fund in this province. In this year's provincial budget, there will be a significant scholarship fund, and we look forward to having those discussions with the government to determine whether it will be a matching grant scholarship, and will it be directed to low income students, academic achievement, community involvement, or all three? These are questions that we can respond to, and we must respond to in the coming months.

There is work being done to reduce student apathy. There is no good reason why the position of USSU President and some other Executive positions have gone uncontested for two years in a row. I hope we can work together on this issue. It is time we took it on. Apathy is boring and we can launch a campaign against the apathy that exists on our campus today. Most importantly, our actions need to show students that their student government is relevant to them and can improve their academic and social experience on campus.

The creation of a new Aboriginal student centre is also an important initiative. In partnership with the Indigenous Students' Council we would like to hold a rally in support of this project that will send a message to Administration that this new centre will benefit all students for generations to come.

The completion of the new Place Riel expansion will modernize the front doors of our university, create new accessible campus space for clubs and groups, and will include new Student Council chambers. In addition, there will be a new pharmacy, more food choices for students, LEED certification, and there is more space for the International Student and Study Abroad Centre and the Campus Computer Store. There is arguably nothing more important than the mental health of students on campus and the new Student Health and Counseling Centre will be housed on the top two floors of the new addition. The move of this Centre also opens up 46 new residence beds on campus. The increased revenue from Place Riel tenants will increase the USSU's bottom line. We expect nearly one million dollars in new revenues each year as a result of the Place Riel renovations. For all these reasons, students will substantially benefit from the completion of this project.

This union has the potential to be the most influential student union in the city, province, and in Canada because that we are not just the leaders of today's USSU, we are the leaders of today's student movement. By being

open to new ideas and taking on difficult issues, our voice will have a greater influence on this campus, in this city, and throughout this province. In the process, we will achieve our collective goal of being a much more engaged and less apathetic campus.

Chair Leisle noted that the normally the USSU Annual Report is handed out at the AGM. For sustainability reasons, a copy of the Annual Report is available from VP Hitchings.

## 5. Auditor's Report

### 5.1 Presentation of Audited Financial Statements

Ms. Bailey introduced herself. She is an Engagement Manager at KPMG Saskatoon. She worked on this audit over the past year and expressed her appreciation for being here at the AGM on behalf of KPMG.

She stated that the audit opinion, in according to various auditing standards, is clean. In KPMG's auditing opinion, the financial statements present fairly the results of the fiscal year end of April 30, 2010. Some highlights of the financial statements are:

- Net assets for the year were \$17,911,963, which is an increase from the 2009 balance of \$11,696,576. These increases were driven by capital costs for the Place Riel construction project. The increase in liabilities and net assets were both driven by the construction project and increase in accounts payable.
- Net asset position of \$1,650,196, which represents accumulated surpluses. The fiscal responsibility of the organization is managing the temporary reduction in revenues.
- A loss of \$278, 736 was incurred this year. A reduction in revenues, especially rental revenues have decreased due to construction.
- In terms of cash flows, the organization is in a strong cash position of over \$1.5 million. Despite this year's loss, the organization is in a healthy position going forward.

### 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, 2010, as presented.

**AGMMotion02:** VP Hitchings/President Stoicheff

Carried

### 5.3 Auditing Firm Resolution

Be it resolved that the auditing firm of KPMG Chartered Accountants be appointed for the 2010/2011 audit.

**AGMMotion03:** VP Hitchings/VP Shumlich

Carried

## **6. Proposed Amendments**

### **6.1 Section 11**

Move to amend USSU Bylaw Section 11(3) from fifteen days notice to thirty days notice. Councilor Waldbillig/Member 28

President Stoicheff stated that the Executive supported the motion, but it is preferable to exclude Special General Meetings

#### **AGMMotion04:**

### **6.2 Section 13**

Move to amend USSU Bylaw Section 13(2) from ten dollars above the consumer price index to fifteen dollars above the consumer price index.

#### **AGMMotion06:**

### **6.3 Section 23**

Move to amend USSU Bylaw Section 23 to read as follows: "Any member of the Executive may be *removed from office following the steps outlined in the Executive Protocol Policy* and if a quorum of two thirds of members of Council is present at a Council meeting, and a special resolution of non-confidence is passed."

#### **AGMMotion07:**

### **6.4 Section 29**

Move to amend USSU Bylaw Section 29 with the addition of 29(3) to read as follows: "(c) three councilors where enrolment of the student society is 5000 or more according to the last student census conducted by the University."

#### **AGMMotion08:**

### **6.5 Section 36**

Move to amend USSU Bylaw Section 36(1) to provide exception for the months of May, June, July, and August.

#### **AGMMotion09**

### **6.6 Section 50**

Move to amend USSU Bylaw Section 50 with the addition of 50(f) to include the USSU Space and Events Coordinator as a non-voting member.

#### **AGMMotion10:**

### **6.7 Section 79**

Move to amend USSU Bylaw Section 79(3) to read subsection 53(2) instead of 54(2).

**AGMMotion11:**

**6.8 Section 90**

Move to strike USSU Bylaw Section 90(3) and language in 90(2) referring to 90(3).

**AGMMotion12:**

7. **Questions and Comments for the Executive**
8. **Any Other Business**
9. **Adjournment**

**AGMMotion13:**

The meeting was adjourned at pm.