

University of Saskatchewan Students' Union
Annual General Meeting
November 24, 2016

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:12 pm.

2. Quorum

Quorum was present.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

Move to adopt the agenda.

AGMMotion001: VP Barker/VP Malinoski **Carried**

4. Adoption of AGM Minutes

Move to adopt the minutes of last year's AGM.

Move to accept the AGM minutes.

AGM002: VP Barker/VP Malinoski **Carried**

5. Presidents Report.

VP Barker stated that he was speaking on behalf of President Fu.

The following will highlight some of the achievements of each of the Executive members.

In the Operations and Finance Portfolio, VP Emmanuel Barker worked alongside the University to ensure the successful launch of the USafe App. As the chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, VP Baker has coordinated ratification, funding, and event support to over 120 student groups, and hosted a campus club welcome event to ensure students are in receipt of accurate information. Moreover, he regularly attends the meetings of a variety of campus clubs to liaise with them on behalf of the USSU. In addition he continues to collaborate with Risk Management, the Office of the Vice-Provost Teaching and Learning, and other campus departments to ensure campus safety procedures and guidelines are properly communicated to student groups. He is a member of the university's Planning and Priorities Committee and he continues to be a strong advocate for student needs as Transit negotiations with the City of Saskatoon move forward.

VP Academic Affairs Brooke Malinoski continues her work as an undergraduate advocate and resource for student academic grievances and appeals. With the collaboration of the Academic Affairs Committee VP Malinoski advocates for student

needs on a variety of University Council Committees: Academic Programs Committee, Academic Support Committee, Teaching and Learning Committee, Scholarships and Awards; and Research, Scholarly and Artistic Works. In particular, VP Malinoski has been a staunch advocate for Open Educational Resources and Open Textbooks, for the University's commitment to Indigenize its curriculum, and for the university to create an Ombudsperson/Advocacy position dedicated to supporting students with academic and non-academic issues. Moreover, as part of the USSU's commitment to promoting student leadership, VP Malinoski co-organized the Fall Leadership Event held on October 1st in conjunction with the Student Leadership Community of Practice (SLCoP).

Through the VP Student Affairs portfolio, Renata Huyghebaert completed the official signing of the Sustainability Memorandum of Understanding with Peter Stoicheff, President of the University, on October 11th. This memorandum strengthens the commitment of the USSU and the President's Office to greater advocacy, resources allocation, and campus engagement on issues of social, economic, and environmental sustainability. Additionally, this year's Campus Sustainability Week coincides with the inaugural year of the USSU Sustainability Fund. VP Huyghebaert has also expanded the USSU's involvement in Sexual Assault Awareness with her extensive involvement in the #UsaskReact campaign - part of this year's Sexual Assault Awareness Week (SAAW) and she initiated an Ad-Hoc Committee examining the needs of student housing, especially as it pertains to the National Housing Strategy.

In the Presidential Portfolio, Kehan Fu, USSU President, has strived to improve the Union's outreach and communication with the Face-to-Face cross-campus information/question booths and President's Video Address. President Fu has participated in key student engagement events including Huskies games, Fall Orientation events, and the U of S Student Open House. As the Union's primary spokesperson, President Fu has maintained communication with key university, student, and government bodies, including sitting as a member of the Board of Governors. President Fu continued the #USaskVotes campaign started during the 2015 Federal election, hosting a Mayoral Debate for the 2016 Municipal election by supporting the Political Studies Student Association. As well, President Fu has engaged the External Affairs Committee in developing a lobbying strategy with the Provincial Government in anticipation of the upcoming budget. At the federal level, President Fu has just returned from a week-long Federal advocacy campaign aimed to improve undergraduate research opportunities as well as access to postsecondary opportunities for Indigenous students (the PSSSP in particular) as part of ADVOCAN, a Coalition composed of 7 of the 15 U15 School's Student Unions.

The USSU Executive remains committed to working with University Students' Council, College and Constituency societies, and all USSU members to serve and support undergraduate students at the University of Saskatchewan.

6. Auditor's Report

6.1 Presentation of Audited Financial Statements by KPMG

The auditor reported that KPMG has completed an audit of the USSU's financial records, and that they meet their standards. The total current assets are \$5.2 million as compared to \$4.6 million last year. The increase in assets came from an increase in the USSU's funds from their investment accounts. Property and equipment assets decreased from \$22.8 million to \$21.8 million in the year. This reduction is a result of annual charges that are taken across the property as the values depreciate over time as the infrastructure ages. There were no notable changes to current liabilities. Current liabilities reflect the obligations of the USSU that exist as of April 2016 that will be paid within the next fiscal year. Total long-term liabilities totalled \$28.6 million, and were reduced from \$28.7 million. This is a result from the total debt balance being reduced. She pointed out that the USSU has a combined cash and investments total of over \$5 million, which is in excess of its obligations of \$1.4 million. This is indication that the organization is in a good position to continue functioning. Total revenues for the year were \$6.1 million compared to \$6.2 million from last year. This reduction came from the sales revenue, which includes revenue from Louis' and Louis' loft. Some examples of causes are a reduction of beer sales at Huskie games, as well as less weddings and events being held at Louis'. Total expenses for the year were \$6.4 million as compared to \$6.5 million in the past year. There were no notable changes in the expenses. She stated that the USSU maintains a healthy cash and investments portfolio.

Councillor Prokopchuk asked if the auditor could elaborate on the student governance line?

Amanda Mitchell responded that student governance covers all sponsorship that is given out to campus groups. Funding for elections and Student Council are all included under this line. She encouraged people to email her if they have any other questions.

6.2 Financial Statement Resolution

Move that the audited financial statements of the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union be accepted for the year ending April 30, 2016.

AGMMotion003: VP Barker/VP Malinoski

Carried

6.3 Auditing Firm Resolution

Move to be it resolved that the auditing firm of KPMG Chartered Accountants be appointed for the 2016/20167audit.

AGMMotion004: VP Barker/VP Huyghebaert

Carried

7. Proposed Bylaw Amendments

7.1 Proposed Amendment to Section 4, 4, 8, 10.2, 11.2, 23.1, 24, 25, 26/27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 33, 34, 36, 37, 40, 41, 42, 54, 56, 77, 79, 82, 87.6, 88

VP Barker noted that most of the changes presented are house keeping items, and that they have been released to members ahead of time.

Move that the Bylaw amendments proposed by the Executive and presented to the membership of the Union, be adopted.

AGMMotion005: VP Barker/VP Malinoski

VP Malinoski stated the reason that they are presenting the amendments as an omnibus motion is because they believe all the proposed amendments are non-controversial. Some changes include the capitalization of the words “Councillor” and “Bylaw”.

Councillor Ratt-Misponas asked for clarification around the amendment regarding slates?

VP Malinoski stated that they are not making any changes to the USSU’s stance on slating. They are moving the section that addresses slating so that it is under the Elections section. They made some changes to the definition of slating, as it made it difficult to enforce. The amendment last year was prescriptive as opposed to descriptive.

Member Labreque asked if there is another motion that gives the Elections Committee the ability to penalize candidates form a slate when campaigning?

VP Malinoski responded that as slates are not permitted by our Bylaw, thus it would be penalized. She noted that there are no specific penalties against slates, but that would take place in the policy if they wanted there to be a specific procedure. She read Section 39 which stipulates what a substantial violation is.

A member asked a question away from the microphone.

Carried

8. Questions and Comments for the Executive

Member Thompson asked what the Executive has done in regard to the University’s Indigenization process?

VP Malinoski responded that she sits on a lot of university committees, and on a number of these committees there have been discussions about Indigenization. TLARC looks at teaching and learning on campus and this committee is revamping the Learning Charter so that it aligns with Indigenization. Recently, it was brought to her attention that there was a group of Indigenous faculty working on a definition for Indigenization. At this meeting, she encouraged them to consult with Indigenous student leaders, as they had not been doing this. She stated that at this time, Indigenization is at preliminary stages. Further, she stated that the USSU has refurbished the Louis Riel plaque in Place Riel, so that it includes a Metis sash. The Executive has also looked into having Michif on the outside of Place Riel. She also noted that President Fu had advocated for Indigenization through AdvoCan, which is a federal lobbying group.

Councillor Eze asked how the Executive’s trip the UK will benefit International students?

VP Huyghebaert stated that the entire Executive found extreme value in the trip. She stated that International Students are organized in different ways in the UK. She stated that the trip would benefit students through the International Student Affairs Committee, where a variety of national student groups are recognized. There will also be a report that will be delivered through Council, which will be particularly directed towards International Students. It will outline how to better amplify the voices of International Students and make sure that they are represented. Working with International Students is the first step to internationalizing the University.

VP Malinoski stated that it was beneficial to see Universities that are ahead of us in terms of Internationalization. This will help the Executive to advocate for better integration of International students. Some Universities had a “buddy system” where an International student is paired up with a domestic student upon arrival. This is something that the University is considering. She stated that she has talked to Patti McDougall, the Vice-Provost Teaching and Learning, and she is interested in holding a Town Hall Discussion session to discuss the topic of Internationalization.

Councillor Thomson stated that there is \$50,000 allocated for student groups. He asked what percentage of this has been given out, and how can students ensure that more of this funding is given to students?

VP Barker responded that about 20% of the funding has been given out at that moment, including Pepsi funding. He encouraged students who are a part of a ratified student group to reach out to him about receiving funding.

Member Sackey-Parson asked what the African Students’ Association can do for the USSU, and what can the USSU do for them?

VP Barker stated that he has a meeting set up with the ASA, and that he is excited to walk them through all of the processes. By being a ratified student group, they are contributing to the campus culture. He stated that there is up to \$1,000 in funding available to the ASA.

VP Malinoski stated that the ASA can bring forward the concerns of their constituency. For example, if their constituents have academic issues, or issues facing tuition, the ASA can let the USSU Executive know. If they bring these issues to VP Malinoski, she can advocate for them on the University committees that she sits on.

Member Carey asked where the money came from for the UK trip?

VP Malinoski responded that there was a scholarship available this summer. It was a Saskatchewan Opportunity and Innovation Scholarship. They were contacted in the summer by ISAAC, saying that there was funding available for this trip. She stated that this was not funded by students.

Member Carey asked if other students would have been able to use these funds for studying abroad?

VP Malinoski responded that no other students would have been able to use this scholarship due to time constraints. ISAAC saw it as beneficial for the USSU to use the scholarship, due to the University prioritizing Internationalization.

Councillor Prokopchuk asked if ISAAC came to the USSU with this scholarship because no one else applied?

VP Malinoski stated that the deadline to apply to study abroad had already passed when they contacted the Executive. She stated that if students have further questions, the best person to contact is Derek Tannis.

Councillor Prokopchuk asked if ISAAC was the group that people applied to for this grant?

Move to grant speaking rights to GM Cottrell.

AGMMotion006: VP Malinoski/Councillor Prokopchuk

Carried

GM Cottrell reported that Derek Tannis had called her in May and told her that he had grant money given by the government, and that the money would lapse within the next 24 hours. They wanted to give the grant money to the Executive, in order for them to do some work regarding Internationalization, and to explore best practice among other Student Unions. They looked at going to the UK since they have a similar Student Union structure. They also looked at California and Australia. Ultimately they decided they would go to the UK. The Executive was approached to do this.

Councillor Prokopchuk stated that if they found out in May about the trip, what day did they present this to Council?

GM Cottrell responded that they do not need Council's permission on this, as no student funds were involved.

Member Labreque asked if the UK Reports would be available to the public, and if they could speak about their experiences now?

VP Malinoski responded that there are four different reports that they need to file about this trip. The first report is to ISAAC, to discuss things that pertain to their organization. The second report is for the USSU, which will be about how the Students' Union can improve in regard to Internationalization. The third report will be for the University about recruitment and studying abroad opportunities. The fourth report will be done by Leslie Bouditch, the ISAAC employee who came on the trip. They will present a report to Council. She stated that she cannot confirm whether the reports will be made public. At present, the recommendations are forthcoming.

Councillor Ratt-Misponas asked about the USSU's relationship with AdvoCan?

VP Malinoski responded that AdvoCan is a lobbying group that represents Universities from the U15. We became a member of this group last year under President Saddleback. She stated that they would need to speak to President Fu in more detail to learn more information about the relationship at the moment.

Councillor Ratt-Misponas asked if President Fu would be making a report at the next council meeting about AdvoCan?

VP Malinoski responded that she cannot confirm this; however that she will recommend it.

Councillor Eze asked if the Executive would have been able to extend the due date so other students could use the scholarship?

VP Huyghebaert stated that this was not possible. This money was provided by the Provincial Government, and there was no way for the University to extend the deadline.

Councillor Prokopchuk again asked if there was any attempt to reach out to other student groups who were qualified for the fund?

VP Huyghebaert responded that he would need to ask this question to Derek Tannis.

Councillor Thomson asked if the Executive could shed some light on the transit issues, and if they have communicated with Mayor Clark?

VP Barker stated that he has not had recent communication with the Mayor; however, they met with him during the election, where he said it was a top priority for him to close negotiations with the Transit Union. There has been no strike or lock outs at this point.

Councillor Thomson asked if VP Barker could speak about the financial exposure versus a job action by the employees and how it would affect students?

VP Barker responded that students make up about 20% of their ridership and revenue. In the occurrence of a strike, there is nothing that he can do. If there is a lock out, he can withhold payments to the City.

9. Any Other Business

10. Adjournment.