

**Annual General Meeting**  
Minutes for November 23, 2017  
Location: Arts 146

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

**1. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

**2. Quorum**

Quorum was present.

**3. Adoption of the Agenda**

Move to adopt the agenda.

**AGM001:** VP Quan/President D'Eon **Carried**

**4. Adoption of the AGM Minutes**

Move to accept the AGM Minutes of 2016 into the record.

**AGM002:** President D'Eon/VP Quan **Carried**

**5. Presidents Report**

President D'Eon stated that there was a lot of negativity in the campus community when this Executive took office. He stated that the Executive is working hard to make it a more positive space.

**5.1 VP Student Affairs Report**

VP Lau stated that she has been planning many events. Some projects include the Menstrual Pilot Projects, which provides free menstrual products in bathrooms around the University, and the Rink in the Bowl. She stated that she has five campaigns that she runs, including the Did You Know Campaign, Sexual Assault Awareness Week, Mental Health Awareness Week, and We Are International Campaign. She also helped organize events such as Hike, Bike, and Roll, Sustainability Week, Bystander Training. She stated that she sits on many different committees, such as the President's Sustainability Committee.

## **5.2 VP Academic Affairs Report**

Over the course of my term, I've implemented co-curricular records (CCR) within the USSU and am working with student societies to get CCR in their respective colleges. I've been working closely with Campus Legal Services to provide structural support as well as strengthening advocacy services for students through this body. I worked on the tuition consultation piece alongside President D'Eon, and this policy is currently being presented to different University committees and will be presented to the Board of Governors shortly. I've been working with the Gwenna Moss Centre of Teaching and Learning on promotional campaigns for open educational resources and open courseware, and I lobbied the provincial government successfully to secure another \$83,000 towards these initiatives. I hosted two educational panel discussions around Welcome Week for incoming and new Indigenous and international students. Currently underway is the sixth-annual Undergraduate Project Symposium happening Feb. 5th, 2018, which aims to celebrate and recognize the research, scholarly and artistic work of undergraduate U of S students. Alongside Councillor Kobes and Councillor Simons, I've been hosting the USSU On Air, a weekly CFCR radio show which focuses on student-related topics and issues. I've been working with VPTL Patti McDougall and the University Registrar, Russ Isinger to have student wellness services integrated into the syllabus template.

On the daily, I provide assistance to students for academic grievances which range from students who have general academic questions such as syllabus, examination, or registration-related questions, students who have issues with their courses or instructors, students who want to make grade appeals, and students who are accused of academic misconduct. I was recently a panelist for the Conference of Western Canadian University Board Secretaries hosted here at the U of S to speak about my advocacy efforts. I sit on a range of University-level academic-related committees such as Teaching Learning and Academic Resources where I'm in the working group for the learning charter review, student wellness, and the new teaching evaluation tool. I sit on the following University committees: Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work, Academic Programs, Scholarships and Awards, Advisory Council, Advising Council, Planning Advisory Group, University Transformation, Classroom Transformation, Copyright Advisory, Timetabling and Room Scheduling, and the Co-Curricular Record Steering Council.

## **5.3 VP Operations and Finance**

I've had the pleasure of representing students and their interests in a variety of ways during my term. Vocalizing student concerns and opinions on Planning and Priorities, Natural Sciences Museum Renewal, The Ice Facility Steering Committee, The TNC's (Rideshares) Stakeholder Committee, Rapid Access Transit Stakeholders Group, The University Alcohol Policy, and many other initiatives. I've focused a lot of my attention on generating greater awareness for Campus Groups in terms of insurance, risk management and personal liability,

it's been a real pleasure working with over 150 student groups this year so far. I've also had the opportunity to voice concerns to the provincial and federal government surrounding the rights of young workers, women and gender minorities in leadership on campuses, affordable and efficient transportation options for students and financial literacy. My newest project and one I'm incredibly passionate about it, is increasing the funding and resources for professional development for student groups and societies, VP Quan and I have a multi-pronged plan to address the resource deficits students are facing.

I'm incredibly excited to be involved in the renovations to the Memorial Union Building and Place Riel, these renovations will significantly improve our spaces and foster a more collaborative work environment for students in both buildings. The Louis' renovations over the summer went incredibly well and have given our team the ability to better serve students and student organizations in much warmer and welcoming space. Finally, I took it upon myself with the help of our business manager to create a better connection between the USSU and Huskie Athletics, I'm hoping this partnership will improve the student experience and the pride in our University and our student-athletes.

#### **5.4 President**

This summer, VP Kapacila and I spearheaded the reformation of the Saskatchewan Student Coalition. Member unions in this coalition represent well over 60,000 post-secondary students across the province, including both university and trade school unions. Our efforts for this year have been to mobilize the student body in support of the increased funding of post-secondary institutions. This project has garnered positive media attention, along with other articles interviewing myself, other student leaders, and students across the province. We see this as an encouraging step towards greater public support of Saskatchewan students. Throughout the rest of my term, I will be overseeing the operations of the coalition, with the objective being a reversal in the trend of cuts to PSE, and implementation of policies which encourage attendance of lower-income and marginalized youth.

I have worked with an organization called UCRU to advocate on a federal level for a lifting of the 2% funding cap for Indigenous education, shifting the current tuition tax credit into up-front grants for students, and fast-tracking permanent residency for International students.

VP Quan and I have drafted a tuition consultation policy, which has been reviewed and is supported by multiple people within senior administration, with the objectives being (1) to provide an outline of the expected standard of tuition consultation in the coming year; and (2) to have the policy incorporated into the university's existing tuition policy. Any person who would like to view a copy may contact me via [president@ussu.ca](mailto:president@ussu.ca).

Parallel to these efforts, I have worked on improving our governance structure, engaging constituency groups, and increasing the public profile of the USSU through meetings with

municipal, provincial, and federal-level politicians, community leaders, community groups, unions, university employees, and administrators. Our team has continued the USSU's work on engaging the Indigenous student body on topics of Indigenization and Reconciliation, and defining the direction that the USSU must take to remain an ally. Finally, I have worked with Innovation Enterprise on an initiative to encourage entrepreneurship on campus.

As a team, we attended the Student Union Development Summit in Vancouver and met with 129 other student leaders to discuss our ideas, projects, and concerns. We took the opportunity to do a SECC career and teamwork strengths workshop. Finally, we attended a November conference in Winnipeg on the topic of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

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

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

The auditor introduced himself as a manager at KPMG. He introduced the auditor's report, and stated that it is a clean report and that it fairly represents the financials of the USSU for the last financial year. He presented that assets of the USSU. The USSU's assets are up from last year.

The auditor moved on to the next section, which is the liabilities. This is what the USSU owes. The auditor reported that the USSU is currently up to \$1.8 million in current liabilities as opposed to \$1.4 million last year. The long term liabilities at the the end of the year is down almost . At present the current assets outweigh the current liabilities.

The auditor stated that the statement of operations is what happened 12 months before April 30, 2017. The USSU is currently up approximately \$200,000 from last year to \$6.3 million. The current expenses are the same as last year, at around \$6.4 million.

The auditor noted that there is a loss or around 91,422 which is largely due amortization.

### **6.2 Financial Resolution**

Be it resolved that the audited financial statements of the USSU be accepted for the year ending April 30, 2017 as presented.

**AGM003:** President D'Eon/VP Quan

**Carried**

### **6.3 Auditing Firm Resolution**

Be it resolved that the auditing firm of KPMG Chartered Accountants be appointed for the 2017/2018 audit.

**AGM004:** President D'Eon/VP Quan

**Carried**

## **7. Proposed Bylaw Amendments**

### **7.1 Proposed Amendment to Section 7 (by USSU Executive)**

VP Kapacila noted that this proposed amendment is the deletion of the word “30” and the addition of the word “20”. The Executive wants to make submitting amendments more accessible for students, so they are extending the deadline of when students have to submit their suggestions.

Move to adopt this amendment.

**AGM005:** VP Kapacila/VP Quan

**Carried**

### **7.2 Proposed Amendment to Section 15 (by USSU Executive)**

President D'Eon stated that this amendment is to remove the requirement of the Executive to take classes. He explained that their roles are very taxing, which has an effect on their mental and academic well being. The Executive members would be classified as Co-op students, in order to maintain their classification as students.

Move to adopt this amendment.

**AGM006:** President D'Eon/ VP Quan

Member Homarerich noted that the University's definition of a student involves the individual taking at least one class. He asked what would stop someone who is not a student running for the Executive?

President D'Eon stated that to be allowed to run for an Executive position, one must be a current member of the Union. This would exclude non-students.

Member Homarerich asked if someone could join a class, run in the election, then drop the class?

President D'Eon stated that this would not be possible, as that person would lose their status as a member of the union.

Member Baldhead asked why they would propose this, because as the President of the Indian Teacher Education Program (ITEP), he has to take a full course load while dealing with issues such as reconciliation.

President D'Eon stated that this is a fair response and that there are many people who have many responsibilities in addition to a full course load. He stated that he hopes that this amendment sets a precedent for other student leaders on campus.

Member Carey stated that he is concerned about this proposed amendment. He stated that the USSU is supposed to be run by students and that this amendment seems like a creative way to make a job for someone. He stated that Executive members in the past have been able to fulfill this standard. He stated that he believed that students were not fully made aware of this amendment.

VP Kapacila stated that they had discussed this amendment very in depth. She suggested framing the amendment in a different way, as making the Executive positions more accessible for more students. She gave an example that students with learning disabilities may not feel like they would be able to handle the job and a class. Removing the requirement of taking a class may make this job more manageable to students who struggle with learning, yet would be able to succeed at the job alone.

Member Baldhead stated that students should have been made more aware of this proposed amendment. He stated that he believes everyone faces challenges in the workforce. President D'Eon stated that this proposed amendment has been readily available to students, as it has been communicated to Council multiple times and to the Sheaf. He stated that he has talked to previous Executive members, and they unanimously agreed that this proposed amendment would be beneficial. He stated that the Executive needs to be fully committed to their position.

VP Lau noted that Executive members would still be able to take classes, they just would not be required to.

Councillor Simons asked what other schools have this?

President D'Eon stated that the student unions at the University of Toronto and the University of Calgary are not required to take classes.

A member stated that the people he had talked to had heard that people were opposed to this.

President D'Eon stated that it would be great if the Executive could devote their entire work week to their job.

Councillor Simons stated he understands that the Executive members are very busy, and he asked if it would loosen their workload if they added another Executive member to the team?

President D'Eon stated that he does not want to loosen his workload.

Councillor Simons stated that the Edwards Co-op Program requires students to take one class that will work towards their degree. He asked if the Executive position would work towards the Executive members' degrees?

President D'Eon stated that this closest comparison is to a Co-op Program, but Executive members would not receive credit if they do not take a class. He stated that the relevancy of the position to their degree depends on who it is and what they are studying.

Member Ratt-Misponas stated that he represents 2,300 Indigenous students as the President of the Indigenous Students' Councils (ISC). He stated that he has noticed that the points that VP Kapacila raised about people with mental disabilities affects people on the ISC as well. He asked if the USSU would be able to advocate for this on behalf of the Indigenous Students Council as well as ITEP. He stated that they were provided information about the Co-Curricular Records, but that no one was willing to sit with them and help them do it.

VP Quan asked if he read the CCR Advocacy package. She stated that package states that she would sit with the Presidents and walk with them through the process.

President D'Eon emphasized that by no means is this supposed to be in opposition to other student leaders and the USSU is here to support student leaders in any way possible.

A member asked if the Executive would receive recognition for completing the Co-op program?

President D'Eon stated that they would not receive any academic recognition.

Councillor Heintz asked if the Executive would receive a credit for this?

VP Kapacila stated no.

A member asked if there was a maximum amount of classes that Executive members could take?

President D'Eon stated that the maximum number of credits is 12 credits.

Move to call to question.

**AGM007:** Councillor Murphy/President D'Eon

**Carried**

### **7.3 Proposed Amendment to Section 16**

President D'Eon stated that this amendment follows up to the previous amendment.

Move to approve this amendment.

**AGM008:** President D'Eon/VP Lau

Member Carey asked if this would increase the amount of money that Executive make.

President D'Eon stated no.

**Carried**

#### **7.4 Proposed Amendment to Section 17**

VP Kapacila reported that this amendment moves up the deadline to hold a by-election to replace empty Council positions. Currently the Bylaw requires the USSU to hold by-elections up until December 1. These byelections cost up to \$3000. She stated that this is not a responsible way to use student money.

Move to adopt this amendment.

**AGM008:** VP Kapacila/VP Lau

A member stated that this is giving more power to fewer people. He asked if they had considered providing more incentive for people to run for council?

VP Kapacila stated that she is interested in increasing the incentives for Councillors in the Bylaw.

A member stated that it seems early to split the duties among the Executive.

President D'Eon stated that there was a mistake and that this amendment is about Executive members.

Councillor Murphy stated that this will be paired with a future amendment for Councillors. He asked if these dates need to be congruent?

President D'Eon stated that they can be different dates, and that the Executive are trying to make it the same date.

Councillor Murphy stated that he would be speaking against this motion as Executive positions are crucial and easier to fill than Council positions.

Member Ratt-Misponas asked if this was just a change in date?

VP Kapacila stated yes.

Member Ratt-Misponas asked what was the difference between having the deadline at the end of October or December?



President D'Eon stated that they would be required to hold more elections after it.

Member Ratt-Misponas stated that he believes that it is important to have 4 Executive members, so that he is against this motion.

Councillor Phillips stated that she believes that the student body should have faith in the Councillors to decide whether they should hold another by-election.

A member stated that he cannot agree with this, as you cannot put a price on democracy.

**Carried**

### **7.5 Proposed Amendment to Section 21**

VP Quan stated that this would be a housekeeping motion.

**AGM009:** VP Quan/VP Lau

**Carried**

### **7.6 Proposed Amendment to Section 22**

VP Kapacila stated that the comments she made before about Councillor by-elections were supposed to be for this section.

Move to adopt this amendment.

**AGM010:** VP Kapacila/Member 22

A member asked what would happen after October 31st?

President stated that the seats would remain vacant until the next election in March, unless otherwise decided by Council.

A member asked how much does the USSU make a year compared to \$3,000?

VP Kapacila stated that the USSU makes a lot more than \$3000. She stated that she does not like it when student money is spent on things that do not benefit students.

President D'Eon mentioned that they bring forward these changes to get input from students. He reported that they bring forward this forward because they had a councillor resign during a by-election and that they could not add this position to the by-election. He stated that they

did not think that it was appropriate to run another election after the by-election to fill this empty Council seat.

A member stated that perhaps they could have a loophole and appoint people to the empty seats.

VP Kapacila stated that this would contradict the Elections policy.

A member asked if there would be a way to set an appropriate amount of open seats?

President D'Eon stated that they could possibly do this; however that they would need to pass this through the USSU's lawyer. He stated he would bring this back.

VP Lau reminded students that there will be an election in March, so anyone interested in running should come and talk to the Executive

**Carried**

#### **7.7 Proposed Amendment to Section 38**

VP Lau stated that this amendment is the addition of the Community Engagement Coordinator of the Office of Sustainability as a non-voting member to the Sustainability committee. She stated that this has been happening for two years, but this amendment is just reflecting this in the bylaw.

Move to adopt this amendment.

**AGM011:** VP Lau/Member 2

A member asked if this would be a paid position?

VP Lau stated that this position is paid for by the University and not the USSU. There will be no changes from this amendment to the USSU

**Carried**

#### **7.8 Proposed Amendment to Section 57**

President D'Eon stated that this is a clean up amendment. There is not enough time to run a runoff by-election in March.

Move to adopt this amendment.

**AGM012:** President D'Eon/VP Kapacila

**Carried**

## **8. Questions and Comments (30 minutes)**

A member stated that they were looking into incentives for Councillors. He asked what kind of incentives?

VP Kapacila stated that she would be discussing this further with the Budget and Finance Committee. She stated that at the moment, Councillors only receive \$50.

VP Quan stated that she has introduced CCRs to the USSU, which is a University Sanctioned document that records the work that the Councillors and committee members do.

Councillor Phillips asked how many student funds have been released to students groups and how student groups can apply?

VP Kapacila stated that they have only given out less than 10% of the funding. She stated that she will send out more emails.

Monica Iron proposed that students make \$25 per meeting.

Member Ratt-Misponas stated that the ISC lacks funding. He stated that they need to do fundraising in order to do the community events that they want to do. He asked if the USSU will be doing anything to make sure that the funds are allocated in equitable ways.

VP Kapacila stated that she has discussed this with the Budget and Finance Committee. They have discussed increasing funds by \$1,000 for members of AOCP, or increasing funds on a per capita basis. Ratified groups would get a minimum of \$1000. She also encouraged Regan to use funding as they have not applied for any funding.

VP Quan stated that the university is switching towards initiatives with experiential learning. She stated that she is looking at how to encourage more experiential learning.

Member Ratt-Misponas stated that VP Operations and Finance has not visited the Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre. He encouraged the Executive to come and meet with Indigenous Students.

Chairperson Hitchings noted that Business is over and that quorum has been lost, so the meeting is adjourned.

## **5. Adjourned**

The meeting was adjourned.