

## **USSU Report to University Council**

September 2022

Respected members of the University Council, the USSU would like to welcome everyone on campus after spring and summer. This month's Council report includes projects, initiatives, and collaborations done by the USSU during the spring and summer, including our priorities for the year.

For updated information, videos and pictures, I encourage everyone to visit the USSU Instagram [ussuexec](#) and [USSU website](#).

As we are shifting back to in-person classes, the USSU executive came up with priorities aligning with the changes in education, the needs of our students, and, most importantly, our future. Through consultation and guidance, we identified key priorities that can help our students.

- 1. Engagement**
- 2. Innovation**
- 3. Wellbeing**

### **Return to Campus**

As the University opened in the fall, USSU executives focused on doing a student community outreach campaign to enhance the experience of incoming, returning, and new students on campus. Acknowledging the spike in enrolment at USask, the USSU executives also strengthen their resources for the students. We attended various college-wide orientations, including the Indigenous Students' Achievement Program, USask Library Jumpstart, Arts and Science Orientation, College of Education Orientation, Campus Expo, and many other events.

The USSU organized Welcome Week for four days this year at the Saskatoon campus to kick off the year on campus with the support of our community partners SaskTel, CIBC, 22Fresh, Discover Saskatoon, Affinity Credit Union, City of Saskatoon, President's Office, and Studentcare. Executives shared various resources with the campus community during these four days, including our campus groups resources, academic and non-academic resources, volunteer and student-at-large applications, and various giveaways, including survival calendars, lanyards, highlighters, tote bags, and more. This year we tried unique ways to engage students by reaching out to students and doing various TikTok challenges.

We visited the Prince Albert Campus and LA Ronge Northlands College in mid-September to meet students and do an in-person orientation. We met many students and shared resources like menstrual hygiene products, campus group resources, academic and non-academic resources, and giveaways.

As we returned to in-person learning, the USSU continues to provide services and information to students at the USSU office with enhanced staff to support and address our student's questions and concerns. The USSU welcomes our new tenant, "RBC on campus," to lower Place Riel. The space is under construction and will be open in the upcoming months. We hope to collaborate with RBC on campus to enhance students' financial literacy amongst students.

### **University Students Council (USC) & Association of Presidency of Constituency (AOCP)**

USC and AOCP members are the bridge between USSU and the student community, and collaboratively, they advocate for student support and services. University Students' Council Meetings are every Thursday at 6:00 pm in the Roy Romanow Student Council Chamber, with the exception of May, June, July, and August. The USSU held its first meeting in August to focus on sharing our strategies and priorities for the year, achievements, and resources for the presidents. Additionally, we asked our presidents to share their priorities for the year and how USSU can help them achieve their goals. USSU started its first USC meeting by welcoming Joseph Naytowhow, the USSU's Indigenous knowledge keeper. Joseph provided guidance and blessings to start the year. We also took our elders' help to create our land acknowledgment.

### **Community & Outreach Engagement**

USSU executives regularly met with the community, stakeholders, and university administration to collaborate on projects, including USask Rec, Huskies, College Deans, Office of Sustainability, and the City of Saskatoon. Our meetings with the City of

Saskatoon addressed several topics concerning students, like bus routes, BRT, corridor infill, e-scooters, and a survey released during Welcome Week.

Executives attended the Back to Batoche event and met with Elders and our Indigenous community leaders. We also engaged in various activities throughout the day. Additionally, USSU witnessed the historic signing of the land.

The USSU met with the Minister of Advance Education, Gordon Wyant, MLA Jennifer Bowes, MLA Alena Young, and Opposition Leader for NDP Carla Beck. This year the USSU is collaborating with other student unions and associations across Saskatchewan and Canada for our Federal and Provincial lobbying. The USSU and other U-15 Universities will be in Ottawa from November 25 to December 2 as part of our lobbying efforts. The provincial lobbying will be taking in Regina during starting of November.

The USSU advocates for financial support for Indigenous, international, and students with disability, career development, and mental wellbeing, and how these three priorities can help support our student's futures.

## **Campus Groups**

Campus groups are an integral part of the services that USSU provides. During the summer, the USSU provided campus groups with ratification discounts to support our groups' financial sustainability. Our USSUhub portal allows campus groups to apply for ratification, funding, and space bookings. This year we have seen a spike in groups requesting to ratify with USSU, with 170 groups.

## **USSU Centres**

One of the vital services that USSU offers are our centres - a safe and inclusive space with essential resources for the campus community. Over the summer, our centres worked to organize programming and support for the upcoming year

Our centre volunteers undergo training before they start volunteering, including USSU training, sexual violence and assault training, anti-racism and anti-oppression, LGBTQ2SA+, and peer health. Each USSU centre volunteer receives CCR credit and an honorarium for their contribution.

USSU centres are operating from 9 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday.

- a. [Help Centre](#)
- b. [Pride Centre](#)
- c. [Women Centre](#)
- d. [Food Centre](#)
- e. [Student Safewalk and Student Crew](#)

USSU offers its centre support to everyone, including undergraduate and graduate students. More information on the USSU centres can be found at [www.ussu.ca](http://www.ussu.ca)

Sincere thank you from the USSU team. Kindly reach out to Abhineet Goswami at [president@ussu.ca](mailto:president@ussu.ca) or 306-966-6965 for any questions or suggestions.

With respect,

Abhineet Goswami, President  
Sharon Jacob, VP Academic Affairs  
Lia Storey-Gamble, VP Operations and Finance  
Punya Miglani, VP Student Affairs