

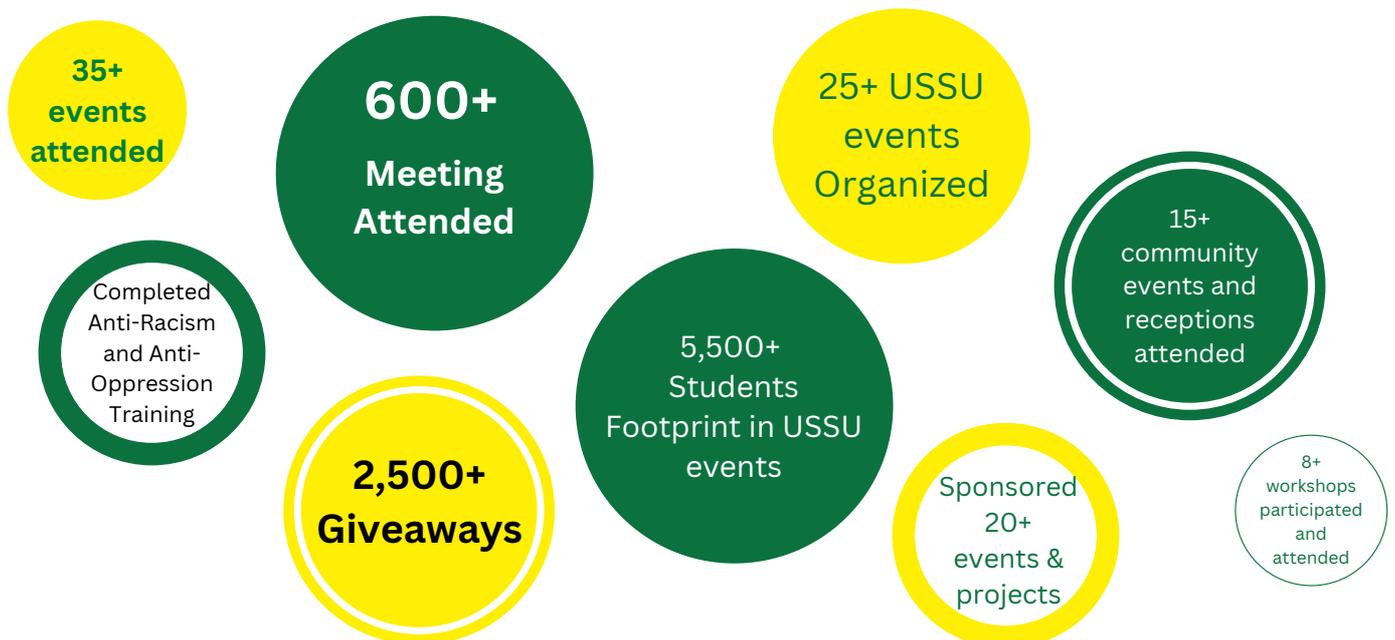
University of Saskatchewan Students' Union's Report at Annual General Meeting

This University of Saskatchewan Students' Union executive team developed annual priorities that align 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.

- **Engagement**
- **Innovation**
- **Wellbeing**

This report aims to inform the campus community about the progress made by USSU during spring & summer and early fall. You can check our website or reach out to our executives - they're always happy to speak with students and the community.

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.



Events

As the University opened broadly in the fall and welcomed new students coming to our campus for the first time. Including our first-year, second year and third years students, USSU executives had to come up with creative ways to engage with our students. The USSU organized many events throughout the campus to enhance the campus experience for students and increase student engagement.

We attended various college-wide orientations, including the Indigenous Students' Achievement Program (ISAP), USask Library Jumpstart, Arts and Science Orientation, College of Education Orientation, Campus Expo, and many other events.

Outcomes

Bike to Work Day: In May, the Office of Sustainability, the City of Saskatoon, and USSU collaborated on Bike to Work Day. Bike to work day was organized on May 19, 2022, to promote emission-free transportation and encourage the community to use bikes to work during summer. The initiative was a great success taking the rainy and windy weather into account. 143 participants stopped by the booth to support the initiative and get #YXEbike stickers, snacks, and resource guides.



USSU Welcome Week: 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. 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. We also hosted our Car-less Movie Drive “the Princes Bridge in the bowl with an attendance of 180+ students.

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



USSU Summer Games: USSU organized its first-ever summer games on May 30 and May 31. Keeping the games inclusive, accessible, and diverse, we organized spike ball, Soccer, Tug of war, Capture the flag, cricket, and various board games. Combining both days there were more than 150 active participants from students in multiple games. President Goswami extended the game invite to staff, faculty and students for more engagement on campus.

Campus Group Week: We held CGW from September 12th to 16th. USSU ratified Campus Groups tabled in the arts and science tunnel to showcase the diverse range of options available for students to engage with. There was also a campus group networking social in Louis' Loft, where we provided engagement and inter-group collaboration opportunities for our campus groups.

Academic Awareness Week: We held our AAW from September 19 to 23rd. AAW is organized annually to raise awareness about their rights and responsibilities and help them learn about various academic resources available on campus. During the week, we provide students with an academic handbook highlighting the roles and responsibilities of different academic appeal committees. We also conducted our first-ever Deans fair, where students and the associate dean, dean, and academic advisors had the opportunity to engage with one another and ask questions about the academics.



Sexual Violence Awareness Week: We held our SVA week from September 26th to September 29th. During the week the Women's Centre organized various events around sexual violence prevention. What is Sexual violence? With Morgan Price from Saskatoon Sexual Assault and Information Centre, Bystander training with Nicole White, Flight, Flight or Free: HowtoUnlock the Stress Cycle, Self Defence Class, and Movie night.



Accessibility Week: During the week of October 3rd to October 7th we held our Accessibility Week. We shared online resources regarding accessibility - Access and Equity Services, USSU Help Centre, USSU Women's Centre, USSU Pride Centre, and other support and services across campus. We also welcomed therapy dogs in the Place Riel Student Centre.

De-Stress Scavenger Hunt: Students are stressed throughout the year and the USSU will be offering destressing initiatives for students to help take a break from their hectic workload and relax. The USSU organized a scavenger hunt as an initiative for the De-Stress Events that will occur throughout our year.



National Day for Truth and Reconciliation: "Remembering and honouring residential school survivors and their families." USSU supports the USask's ohpahotân | oohpaahotaan let's fly up together Indigenous Strategy and always looks forward to the collaboration. During the week of Truth and Reconciliation, the USSU collaborated with the office of the Vice-Provost of Indigenous Engagement to screen Home from School: The Children of Carlisle (2021).

The USSU welcomes our new tenant, "**RBC on campus**," to lower Place Riel in November.

Walking with Domestic Violence Survivors: Stories, Prevention and Healing

President Goswami and VP Storey-Gamble worked with the office of Vice-Provost Indigenous Engagement, Kathy Walker, Elder Sharon O'Keewehow, Racheal Fidler, Susan, and Darylen to organize a forum for “Walking with Domestic Violence Survivors: Stories, Prevention and Healing.” The forum was hosted by President Goswami, VP Storey-Gamble, and Tasnim Jaisee. We had great panellists who shared their stories, wisdom, and effort to educate people about sexual violence. Some of our panellists were Kimlee Wong, Jerrilee Okemaysim, Dale Apesis, Kren Wood, Camay Coghlan, Mary Culbertson, Jo-Anne Dusel, and Conrad Burns. After the forum, we attended Dinner with featured speaker Michelle Good. The author of Five Little Indians chronicles the desperate quest of residential school survivors to come to terms with their past.

USSU executives have completed USask's sexual violence and prevention module, Nexolone training, and mental first aid training, and recently USSU staff and executives have also completed Anti-racism and Anti-Oppression Training.

Therapy Dogs: We welcomed therapy dogs at North Concourse. This initiative was a great way for students to de-stress before the exams. The event saw a footfall of close to 235 students with 3 dogs.

Advocacy

The University of Saskatchewan Students' Union mission to represent, serve and support the academic and non-academic needs of undergraduate students of the University of Saskatchewan through accountable, dynamic, and unified leadership. The USSU executives achieve this mission by doing continuous collaboration, conversations, and advocacy with different level of governance, student body and University Administration.

Undergraduates of Canadian Research-Intensive Universities (UCRU)

USSU is an active member of the Undergraduates of Canadian Research-Intensive Universities (UCRU). President Abhineet Goswami and VP Operation and Finance Lia Storey-Gamble are the members representing the USSU in UCRU. UCRU is an informal coalition of student associations whose mandate is to advocate the Canadian Federal Government for an affordable, inclusive and high-calibre undergraduate university education with opportunities for increased access to undergraduate research. We collectively represent over 225,000 university students across Canada.

This year UCRU is putting forward four priorities to develop a federal lobbying campaign that will be conducted between November 24 to December 2 in Ottawa. All UCRU members are looking forward to meeting with Members of Parliament to support UCRU's advocacy goals.

The USSU and other U-15 Universities will be in Ottawa from November 25 to December 2 as part of our lobbying efforts.

Priorities:

1. **Financial Aid,**
2. **Mental Health,**
3. **Indigenous Student Education,**
4. **and Employment**



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.

President Goswami welcomed USSU Knowledge Keeper Joseph Naytowhow and Elder Sharon O'Keewehow to University Students' Council during the first USC meeting of the year. They shared their knowledge and their stories with us. Joseph also helped the USC to understand the meaning of a land acknowledgment and its significance. With this guidance, the USSU wrote its land acknowledgment to reflect the truth and history of the land we are located.

University Student Council

USC continues to advocate for students and create recommendations for the USSU executives to implement. This month, USC is working on identifying the areas where the student needs additional support and services. We plan to send these recommendations to the Provost's Office and the Dean's Offices across the campus. President Goswami will share the report with the campus community in the upcoming months.

Additionally College president and University Student Council are working with me on creating Provost and Deans's Budget recommendations.



Support & Services

The USSU devotes significant resources each year to ensure that undergraduate students have the best possible experience on campus. We offer a wide range of services, programs, and funding, host events, provide student leadership development opportunities, and support student initiatives. For the full list of everything we do for students, visit our website.

Campus Groups

Campus Groups (CG) are an integral part of the services that USSU provides. We support our student-led activities on campus through our USSUHub portal. CG who ratifies with the USSU has free access to space, funding, and various other kinds of assistance throughout the year. Whether you are interested in sports, politics, improv, or painting, there is a CG for everyone!



Health & Dental Care Plan

USSU in partnership with Studentcare operates extended health and dental coverage that fills the gaps in provincial health care and other basic healthcare programs. Through negotiation, USSU executives were able to extend the plan support. The new plan covers:



Health \$1000

Prescription drugs
Vaccinations
Psychologists
Physiotherapists
Chiropractors
and more...



Dental Upto \$600

Checkups
Cleanings
Fillings
Root canals
and more...



Vision Upto \$350

Eye exam
Eyeglasses
and contact lenses
Laser eye surgery



Travel Upto 5,000,000

Travel care abroad (120 days per trip, upto \$5,000,000 per lifetime)
NEW: Increased Trip cancellation and trip interruption coverage in the event of a medical emergency
NEW: COVID-19 coverage

U-PASS

Through building relationships with the city and continuous negotiations, USSU and the City of Saskatoon Transit Services have developed a contract that not only supports students' needs but also creates a sustainable travel option for our students. Through U-PASS, USSU is supporting sustainability goals.

U-PASS costs one-fourth of the regular transit pass.

USSU Centres

FOOD Centre

- uFood is a customizable emergency food hamper created by the USSU with the goal of meeting the unique dietary needs of students at the UofS. Our pantry is stocked with food options and baby items that students can choose from to create an emergency hamper that suits their needs. Students can access uFood four times per term.
- Emergency Food Hampers are available to both undergraduate and graduate students. Each student is eligible to access the Food Bank either through the USSU or at the downtown depot twice every month.
- Fresh Food Market - The USSU Food Centre offers a fresh food market in Place Riel, as a convenient option for students looking to grab healthy snacks or groceries. This program provides fresh fruit and vegetable options at extremely low prices in order to accommodate students' health needs.



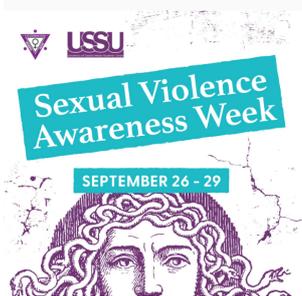
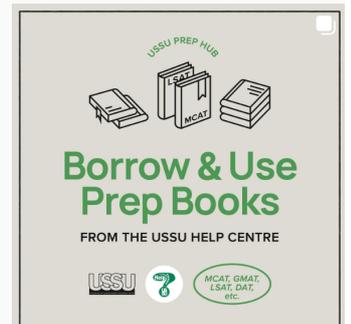
Pride Centre

- The Pride Centre seeks to work with people of all sexual orientations and gender identities in an open and progressive environment that advocates, celebrates and affirms sexual and gender diversity.
- Positive Space workshops are a beginner's overview of gender and sexual diversity. The workshop looks at different ways to create positive spaces for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, two-spirit, queer, and questioning people.
- Peer support, queer programming
- The USSU Pride Centre Library has an extensive collection of books and magazines focused on sexual orientation and gender identity content.
- Support and guidance for queer housing, Gender Coup d'etat-Discussing diversity and dismantling toxicity within the Queer community both locally and internationally. Pride Night - Thursdays 5:00 p.m. All Genders Welcome!



Help Centre

- USSU Help Centre Peer Support program offers support and referrals regarding sexual health, queer issues, academic issues, suicide, pregnancy and other student concerns.
- Eating Disorder Support Group
- The USSU Help Centre Exam File has over 1000 exams from a wide variety of courses. The Exam File requires student participation to remain up to date
- Mental Health Support Group- If you are struggling with your mental health and think you need support, come to the Mental Health Support Group.
- A.S.I.S.T. (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training).
- Resources - Academic resources, Adulting 101(Drivers License, Health card, tax), Mental health resources, drug and alcohol, harassment, Nutrition, Healthy relationships, Harm reduction, Indigenous resources, International students, mental health, parenting, physical health, practising wellness, pregnancy, self-love, sexual health, student wellness resources, other workbooks.



Safewalk

You can receive a Safewalk at ANYTIME. Safewalk volunteers walk people safely to their destination on or near campus from Sunday to Thursday, 8:30 pm to 11:30 pm. Outside of these hours.

Women Centre

- The USSU Women's Centre takes a vibrant and proactive approach to educating and informing the campus community about issues affecting women. We strive to provide a safe and positive environment to promote equality while recognizing and celebrating differences within our diverse and dynamic community.
- Community Outreach Program: The USSU Women's Centre is pleased to offer this new program in partnership with a variety of local community organizations.
- Sexual Assault Awareness Week, Take Back the Night, The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, I Need Feminism and International Women's Day.
- Library, peer support, discussion groups, informations and resouces
- Parent Emergency Contact Program: This program has received national recognition and is one of the integral services offered by the Women's Centre. PECP allows the childcare provider to contact parents while on campus or in class.
- Referrals and other resources

Bike workstations

Student well-being is one of the priorities for USSU. Bike workstations have been envisioned as a long-term project to enhance students' physical and mental well-being and serve as a new learning and de-stressing pathway. These workstations have been proven to enhance one's learning and adapting capabilities, increase the oxygen that reaches the brain as there is passive exercising involved and provide a medium to take a break from long sitting studying hours.

We have currently purchased three bike workstations located in Place Riel. They are a great investment for students and allow for a wholesome learning approach. VP Miglani is working with the University library to extend the project to the library to support diverse learning approaches.

The University of Saskatchewan Students' Union strives to be the recognized leader in enhancing the student experience.

USSU executives are always ready to learn from our community members that can help us grow and support our students. Please feel to reach out to us to give feedback.

Sincere regards, from the USSU team. Kindly reach out to Abhineet Goswami at 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