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Respected members of the University Council, November was the month for advocacy for the University of Saskatchewan's Student Union. First and foremost, the USSU exists to represent students and advocate for students. While the USSU has the power to change things within our organization that affects our students. We are committed to advocating on and off our campus, and to all levels of government, on behalf of our ever-changing student body.

The USSU will put an emphasis on improving the capacity for issue identification and research related to student concerns. This will allow us to become more effective and efficient in our long-term advocacy efforts.

For updated information, videos and pictures, I encourage everyone to visit the USSU on Instagram @ussuexec and the USSU website.

Undergraduates of Canadian Research-Intensive Universities

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 for 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 26 to December 2 in Ottawa. During the UCRU advocacy week 2022, 15 delegates from other U-15 universities, including USask met with 40+ Members of Parliament s and other stakeholders during our visit to Ottawa.

Student Financial Aid

- Invest in the Canada Student Grants such that the maximum receivable is permanently increased from \$3,000 to \$6,000.
- Increase the Repayment Assistance Plan threshold from \$40,000 to \$50,000.

Student Employment

- Develop specialized skill categories for international students within the framework of the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy, the Student Work Placement Program, and the Canada Summer Jobs program.
- Amend the Canadian Experience Class (Express Entry) program such that international students are able to count part-time employment experience (while they are full-time students) towards fast-tracked permanent residency.
- Permanently lift the cap on working hours for international students.

Mental Health

- Make targeted investments into digital mental health resources for students and young people by providing the provinces with matched investments.
- Invest in Canada's federal mental health transfer.

Indigenous Student Education

- Increase the federal budgeted amount for Indigenous student education to 512 million a year.

Annual General Meeting

This year USSU had its first in-person annual general meeting after 2 years on November 24. Executives brought forward some recommendations to the USSU Bylaw including, but not limited to changes in committee structure and other organizational structures. The meeting was well attended by the student body including our college presidents, councillors, and our USC Chair. President Goswami also updated the student members about the progress made by the USSU throughout the year and some of the upcoming plans for the Winter Term. The meeting ended with hearing from students regarding their concerns and suggestions to improve student governance on campus.

Convocation Day

President Goswami was honoured to attend the Class of 2022 Convocation and congratulate graduates and was inspired by all the stories of hard work, creativity, and accomplishments. The USSU congratulates the class of 2022 and is looking forward to their graduation in the future.

Remembrance Day

President Goswami attended the University of Saskatchewan Remembrance Day ceremony at the historic Memorial Gates to honour all those who have served and continue to serve our country in the Canadian Armed Forces.

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.

Sincere thank you 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