

March 25, 2021

Dear President Stoicheff and Provost Airini,

We send this letter on behalf of the Association of Constituency Presidents to create active communication with the University of Saskatchewan administration and our student community.

This past year has been challenging for students in many ways, including the ongoing pandemic affecting students' education, financial stability, and mental health. Students make up the largest population in this university, and we ask that you continue to prioritise us in your decision-making. Our student communities value equity, diversity, inclusion, and decolonization as critical factors in our time at university. We are the future, and we want our university to lead the way towards the financial and social wellbeing of our student community.

We know that the University of Saskatchewan intends to raise tuition in the coming year. With this in mind, we've included a list of priorities that we want our university to implement. When we pay tuition, we expect to see that the money we spend returned to us in services and programs that help foster a vibrant campus community.

We ask for continued transparency regarding tuition and more significant budgetary decisions to include students' input. This year we were pleased to provide feedback to the first tuition survey released to students. We believe including students' perspectives are essential to these decision-making tables. While we recognize the importance of balancing the budget, we do not want a future where students' needs are secondary to these decisions. We want to see continued communication plans from each college dean towards respective college student societies. Students should be involved in the tuition consultation process before reaching the decision.

Financial aid, scholarships, bursaries, and grants have substantial positive impacts on students' education, and we need these types of resources to increase, especially following the growth in our student population. Added measures should be made to expand eligibility regarding these resources to consider Indigenous and International students' unique lived experiences. Additionally, many students remain concerned about how the 'comparator method' will cause negative impacts on their financial stability and their education. These are all critical issues to securing students' financial futures. Transparency from our administration is essential for students to understand where their money is spent.

We would like to see reallocated funding to our Student Wellness Centre (SWC), specifically increasing the number of practitioners and including specialised resources for Indigenous and International students to navigate their unique on-campus experiences. We recognize that mental

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health and counseling are essential to our well-being. Currently, we are often challenged by long wait times before seeing mental health professionals, especially for non-immediate needs. Long wait times are often discouraging to students seeking out those services and can worsen adverse mental health effects. The wait times need to be addressed.

Lastly, we want our campus to tackle period poverty by providing menstrual hygiene products in all washrooms across campus. Currently, the USSU operated restrooms on campus, a student-led initiative, are one of the only spaces that offer menstrual hygiene products. Menstrual hygiene products are critical, and the lack of these resources can serve as a substantial educational and financial barrier to students. Access to this service would also help benefit our students' health and address period stigma on campus.

To be the university the world needs, students believe these fundamental priorities are for the betterment of our campus. We hope to continue creating a positive dialogue with the University of Saskatchewan's administration as we move forward. Thank you for taking the time to read our letter, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Association of Constituency Presidents (2021/22)