



Policy Name:	USSU Excellence Awards Policy		
Category:	Academic Relations	Policy #	ARC-2

1. Preamble

The University of Saskatchewan Students' Union is committed to celebrating the best that the University of Saskatchewan has to offer in terms of teaching, student involvement, leadership, and bettering the student experience. The Union dedicates itself to continual recognition of excellence, and this commitment is best realized with the annual USSU Excellence Awards.

2. Mission

The University of Saskatchewan Students' Union Excellence Awards are actualised through recognising leadership qualities in an individual that better both the academic and non-academic environment for the undergraduate students of the University of Saskatchewan.

3. Vision

The University of Saskatchewan Students' Union Excellence Awards are a result of students celebrating leadership through outstanding involvement and achievement at the University of Saskatchewan. These awards symbolize the USSU's commitment to excellence in teaching, student involvement, leadership, and bettering the student experience.

4. Teaching Excellence Awards

4.1 Each year the Union shall grant ten (10) awards for excellence in teaching called the Teaching Excellence Awards.

4.2 For a period of two weeks each regular term, the Vice President Academic Affairs shall publicly advertise that nominations for Teaching Excellence Awards are open for all current undergraduate classes.

4.2.1 There will be no Teaching Excellence Awards given for teaching done over the Spring and Summer terms.

- 4.3 The Union shall organize that all classes for which the instructor has been nominated shall, with the consent of the instructor, have the students of the class surveyed to help ascertain who the winners shall be.
- 4.4 Classes will not be surveyed if: the class is a graduate class, the form was not properly filled out, the instructor has won in the past five (5) years, or the class is not currently being offered.
- 4.5 All surveyed classes will have the results tabulated in order to ascertain the winners of the awards.
- 4.6 The normal allocation of awards is five (5) per regular academic term.
- 4.7 The five (5) per term standard may be changed to better reflect the number and quality of nominations received so long as the total is still ten (10).
- 4.8 A formal letter shall be sent on behalf of the Vice President Academic Affairs to each instructor that they have been nominated for an award (even if they have won in the past five (5) years) or that they have won an award.
- 4.9 This letter shall also be copied to the instructor's Department Head (if applicable) and the Dean of the College or Executive Director of the School.
- 4.10 The Executive will ratify the results of the surveys and the allocation of the awards.

5. Teaching Excellence – Instructional Support Awards

- 5.1 Each year the Union shall grant one (1) award for excellence in instructional support called the Teaching Excellence Award – Instructional Support.
- 5.1.1 Individuals eligible for this award are Teaching Assistants, Laboratory Coordinators, or other individuals involved in the academic aspect of class delivery that are not professors or lecturers.
- 5.2 For a period of two weeks each regular term the Vice President Academic Affairs shall publicly advertise that nominations for the Teaching Excellence Award – Instructional Support are open for all current undergraduate classes.
- 5.2.1 There will be no Teaching Excellence Awards - Instructional Support given for teaching done over the Spring and Summer terms.

5.3 The Union shall organize that all laboratories/tutorials/seminars for which the instructional staff member has been nominated shall, with the consent of the instructional staff member, have the students of the laboratories/tutorials/seminars surveyed to help ascertain who the winner shall be.

5.3.1 Laboratories/tutorials/seminars will not be surveyed if: the class is a graduate class, the form was not properly filled out, the instructional staff member has won in the past five (5) years, or the class is not currently being offered.

5.4 All surveyed laboratories/tutorials/seminars will have the results tabulated in order to ascertain the winners of the award.

5.5 A formal letter shall be sent on behalf of the Vice President Academic Affairs to each instructional staff member that they have been nominated for the award (even if they have won in the past five (5) years) or that they have won the award.

5.5.1 If applicable, this letter shall also be copied to the instructional staff member's supervisor or superior.

5.6 The Executive will ratify the results of the surveys and the granting of the award.

6. Open Resources Initiative Award

6.1 Each year the Union shall grant one (1) award for excellence in transition to open book resources called the Open Resources Initiative Award.

6.2 This award is granted on the basis of commitment and dedication to the move away from paid educational resources (Homework systems, textbooks etc.) to open resources which fulfill the students educational needs.

6.3 For a period of two weeks each regular term the Vice President Academic Affairs shall publicly advertise that nominations for the Open Resources Initiative Award– Open Resources Initiative Award are open for all current undergraduate classes.

6.3.1 In addition to open nominations; students who complete surveys for instructors who were nominated for a Teaching Excellence Award will also be able to identify if their professor should be considered for the Open Resources Initiative Award as part of the survey.

6.3.2 There will be no Open Resources Initiative Award given for teaching done over the Spring and Summer terms.

6.4 The Executive shall review all nominations that come forward and shall, in confidential deliberations, determine the winner of the award based on the nominations.

6.5 If no nominations are received for the award(s), the Executive, in confidential deliberations, may choose a winner for the award(s) or not grant an award.

7. Academic Advising Awards

7.1 Each year the Union shall grant one (1) award for excellence in academic advising called the Academic Advising Award.

7.2 On an annual basis, the Vice President, Academic Affairs shall ensure that the Union properly advertises the call for nominations for this award and that the Advising Council is aware that this award will be granted.

7.3 The award shall be granted determined on the criteria set out on the nomination form.

7.4 The Executive shall review all nominations that come forward and shall, in confidential deliberations, determine the winner of the award based on the nominations.

7.5 If no nominations are received for the award(s), the Executive, in confidential deliberations, may choose a winner for the award(s) or not grant an award.

8. Staff Spirit Awards

8.1 Each year the Union shall grant one (1) or two (2) awards to staff member(s) of the University of Saskatchewan called the Doug Favell USask Staff Spirit Award and one (1) or two (2) awards to staff members of the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union called the Freda Salikin USSU Staff Spirit Award.

8.2 Each year the Vice President, Academic Affairs shall put out a call to all USSU staff members to nominate individuals for these awards and to provide a justification for the nomination.

8.3 Staff members are not eligible to receive the award if they have won it in the past five (5) years.

8.4 These awards shall be granted on the basis of mutual respect, a positive attitude, the additions the individual brings to the organization for which they work, and a strong commitment to students.

8.5 The Executive shall review all nominations that come forward and shall, in confidential deliberations, determine the winner of the awards based on the nominations.

8.6 If no nominations are received for the award(s), the Executive, in confidential deliberations, may choose a winner for the award(s) or not grant an award.

9. USSU Centre Awards

9.1 Each year the Union shall grant three (3) awards to volunteers for the Women's, Pride, and Help Centres of the Union. Respectively, the awards are called the Women's Centre Award, the Pride Centre Doug Wilson Award, and the Help Centre Award.

9.2 The Centre Awards are granted on the basis of commitment and dedication to the mandate of the Centre, initiative to help where needed, and an ability to help and support those who use the services of the Centre.

9.3 The Centre Coordinators for the Women's, Pride, and Help Centres shall put forward names for each of the awards and a justification for the nominations.

9.4 The Executive shall review all names that come forward and shall, in confidential deliberations, determine the winners of these awards.

9.5 If no nominations are received for the award(s), the Executive, in confidential deliberations, may choose a winner for the award(s) or not grant an award.

10. Walter Murray Leadership Award

10.1 Each year the Union shall grant one (1) award to an undergraduate student who excels in leadership called the Walter Murray Leadership Award.

10.2 On an annual basis, the Vice President, Academic Affairs shall ensure that the Union properly advertises the call for nominations for this award using the Union's usual methods.

10.3 The award shall be granted on the basis of such qualifications as leadership effectiveness, actions that benefit current and future students of the University, and effectiveness in working together.

10.4 The Executive shall review all nominations that come forward and shall, in confidential deliberations, determine the winner of the award based on the nominations.

- 10.5 If no nominations are received for the award(s), the Executive, in confidential deliberations, may choose a winner for the award(s) or not grant an award.

11. Vera Pezer Awards for Student Enhancement

- 11.1 Each year the Union shall grant one (1) award to a Member of Student Council called the Vera Pezer Award for Student Enhancement – Member of Student Council.

11.1.1 The Vice President, Academic Affairs shall ensure that a call for nominations goes out each year and that all Members of Student Council are made aware of this.

11.1.2 This award is granted on the basis of informed involvement in University Student Council meetings, engagement in the work of committees, quality of liaising with constituents, and a dedication to the work of student government.

- 11.2 Each year the Union shall grant one (1) award to a USSU Centre Volunteer called the Vera Pezer Award for Student Enhancement – USSU Centre Volunteer.

11.2.1 The Vice President, Academic Affairs, shall ask all Centre Coordinators to put forward a name for this award.

11.2.2 This award is granted on the basis of commitment and dedication to the mandate of the Centres, initiative to help where needed, and an ability to help and support those who use the services of the Centres.

11.2.2.1 The ideal candidate has volunteered at multiple Centres and has been integrally involved in many campaigns, events, and initiatives.

11.2.3 The Executive shall review all names that come forward and shall, in confidential deliberations, determine the winner of this award based on the nominations.

11.2.4 If no nominations are received for the award(s), the Executive, in confidential deliberations, may choose a winner for the award(s) or not grant an award.

- 11.3 Each year the Union shall grant one (1) award to a volunteer called the Vera Pezer Award for Student Enhancement – Volunteerism.

11.3.1 On an annual basis, the Vice President, Academic Affairs shall ensure that the Union properly advertises the call for nominations for this award using the Union's usual methods.

- 11.3.2 This award is granted on the basis of a commitment to volunteerism on and beyond the confines of this campus that actively seeks to better the lives and well-being of others.
- 11.3.3 The Executive shall review all names that come forward and shall, in confidential deliberations, determine the winner of this award based on the nominations.
- 11.3.4 If no nominations are received for the award(s), the Executive, in confidential deliberations, may choose a winner for the award(s) or not grant an award.
- 11.4 Each year the Union shall grant one (1) award to a Campus Group called the Vera Pezer Award for Student Enhancement – Campus Group.
 - 11.4.1 The Vice President, Operations and Finance, shall put forward the several campus groups for consideration of this award.
 - 11.4.2 This award is granted on the basis of the involvement of the group, the group's commitment to enhancing the undergraduate student experience, and the advocacy for a just cause.
 - 11.4.3 The Executive shall review all campus groups that come forward and shall, in confidential deliberations, determine the winner of this award based on the nominations.
 - 11.4.4 If no nominations are received for the award(s), the Executive, in confidential deliberations, may choose a winner for the award(s) or not grant an award.
- 11.5 All of the award recipients should be following the general vision of improving the undergraduate student experience at the University of Saskatchewan.

12. Student Excellence Award for Equity Enhancement

- 12.1 Each year the Union shall grant one (1) award for excellence in equity enhancement called the Student Excellence Award for Equity Enhancement.
- 12.2 This award is granted on the basis of a commitment to increase equitable opportunities for students on campus and remove barriers to education for marginalized students. The student actively seeks to better the lives of marginalized students coming from low socioeconomic households.

12.3 The Executive shall review all nominations that come forward and shall, in confidential deliberations, determine the winner of the award only based on the nominations.

12.4 If no nominations are received for the award(s), the Executive, in confidential deliberations, may choose a winner for the award(s) or not grant an award.

13. Barb Yanko Outstanding Citizenship Award

13.1 Each year the Union shall grant one (1) award for excellence in Leadership and Academics called the The Barb Yanko Outstanding Citizenship Award.

13.2 This award is granted on the basis of Leadership within the USask Community, Diligence within their studies, Community Involvement (volunteering within the USask and/or Saskatoon Community), Active contribution to the campus community and displaying Strong moral character, Integrity, Professionalism, Kindness, Gratitude.

13.3 The Executive shall review all nominations that come forward and shall, in confidential deliberations, determine the winner of the award based on the nominations.

13.4 If no nominations are received for the award(s), the Executive, in confidential deliberations, may choose a winner for the award(s) or not grant an award.

14. USSU Excellence in Awards Ceremony

14.1 The USSU shall organize an annual awards celebration called the USSU Excellence Awards.

14.2 All of the Awards articulated in clauses 4 through 11 shall be presented at the USSU Excellence Awards.

14.3 The USSU Excellence Awards shall be a closed event with a limited number of attendees for each award recipient.

Contact Information:	Vice President Academic Affairs: (306) 966-6968		
Policy Authority:	Academic Relations Committee		
Approvals	Board/Committee	Date	Motion
Created/Adopted	Executive Committee	04/29/2014	EXEC41
Amended	Academic Relations Committee	03/11/2022	ARC008
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