

Room 110, 1 Campus Drive
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
S7N 5A3



Telephone: (306) 966-6960
Fax: (306) 966-6978
E-mail: contactus@ussu.ca
Website: www.ussu.ca

Dear, Greg Fowler, Vice-President Finance and Resources,
CC: Wade Epp Associate Vice-President, Services and Interim Associate
Vice-President Human Resources,
CC: George Foufas, Director Consumer Services, and
CC: Patti McDougall, Deputy Provost

I am writing this letter on behalf of the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU) to express our gratitude and appreciation for the great collaboration between USSU and Residence during the past year. We are proud of what we have accomplished together and look forward to continuing this great collaboration this year and beyond.

Through this collaboration, we have been able to address several issues that were affecting the students in residence. Significant areas we worked on together included accessibility challenges, mental health support staff, wifi issues, student residence service, building strong communication channels with USSU, adding EDI, and Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression training for residence assistance. Our joint efforts in these areas have considerably impacted the lives of the students in residence, and we are pleased with the results from what students have told us.

We are especially thrilled with the queer housing program that the residence offers, which brings inclusion and diversity to the university and supports the university's EDI strategy. This program is an excellent step towards making the residence a more welcoming and inclusive space for all students, regardless of their background.

While we acknowledge the great work that has been done so far, we also offer some recommendations for areas that could be improved in the upcoming year. These include introducing Indigenous housing, smudging spaces, wellness space for students, student engagement spaces, accessibility, and safety audit in residence, looking into residence assistance salary by doing a comparative analysis, and most importantly, building a culture and tradition in residence. We

believe these changes could significantly impact the lives of the students and create a more welcoming and supportive environment.

USSU looks forward to continuing this great collaboration this year, and we are confident that our continuous work can support the students and make the residence the place students choose as their first home. We hope to work together to positively impact the lives of the students in residence.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please let us know if there is any way that we can support you in the upcoming year.

Sincerely,

Abhineet Goswami
President

Recommendations:

I am writing this letter to recommend the upcoming year's plans for the residence wholeheartedly. As a concerned member of the community and a person who has seen the residence evolve over the years, the following strategies will genuinely benefit the students and create a positive and comfortable environment for them.

Firstly, I suggest the introduction of Indigenous housing within the residence, including a designated floor or wing that is specifically dedicated to Indigenous students. This initiative would promote inclusivity and cultural diversity within the residence.

Secondly, I recommend the creation of smudging spaces and wellness spaces for students. Smudging spaces allow students to practice their spiritual beliefs, while wellness spaces could be used for yoga, meditation, and other wellness practices. This initiative would create a peaceful, inclusive environment supporting students' mental health and well-being. In this fast-paced world, where stress and anxiety are prevalent, it is crucial to have such spaces to help students relax and rejuvenate.

Thirdly, introducing a community engagement space for students. This initiative would promote socialization and community engagement within the residence.

Fourthly, I recommend the residence leadership team conduct a comparative analysis of residence assistance salaries. This analysis would ensure that residence assistants are adequately compensated for their work and attract highly qualified candidates to apply for these roles.

The fifth recommendation is conducting regular accessibility and safety audits in residence. It is essential to ensure that our residence is safe and accessible for all students, including those with disabilities. This initiative will provide a more inclusive environment and promote equality. Additionally, we would like you to include the pathway from the residence to the university on Cumberland Ave.

Finally, I recommend building a culture and tradition in the residence through various activities throughout the year and merchandise specific to the residence. These activities could include residence-wide events, competitions, and initiatives promoting a sense of community and pride. It will foster a sense of belonging among students and create a positive and memorable experience.

In conclusion, these recommendations for the residence will go a long way in creating a comfortable, inclusive, and vibrant community for our students. The USSU is looking forward to this great collaboration this year, and we hope that our continuous work can support the students and make the residence the place that students choose as their first home and a home away from home.

Regards,
Abhineet