

Dear Provost's Office,

On behalf of the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU), I am writing to express our gratitude for the recent changes in assessment practices and exam strategies adopted by the faculty to support students.

We would like to specifically appreciate the work put in by Nancy Turner and the team in the Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching and Learning to implement changes such as the timeline for final marks posting and deferred exams, availability of professors in final exams, adopting different assessment practices for exams, posting class syllabus ahead of time, and changing student content in the syllabus. These changes have made academics more accessible for students by supporting their wellness.

As a student organization, we believe that additional measures could be taken to enhance student learning on campus. We would like to recommend the following measures:

1. Professors providing feedback for final exams: Students often do not receive feedback on their performance in final exams, which could be detrimental to their academic growth. We recommend that professors provide feedback on the final exam to help students learn and improve.
2. Adopting different spaces for exams that are academically friendly rather than a gym: Students often find it difficult to concentrate in exam halls like a gym. We recommend adopting different spaces for exams that are academically friendly.
3. Adopting different measures for student assessment (usually -60% final & 40% midterm): Some students may not perform well in final exams, which could impact their overall grades. We recommend exploring different measures for student assessment, to provide a fair assessment of a student's academic performance.
4. Exams should not be on a religious holiday: Students should not be forced to choose between their religious obligations and academic responsibilities. We recommend that exams should not be scheduled on religious holidays.

5. Use of open learning material in classes: Students often have to pay for expensive textbooks, which could burden their finances. We recommend that professors use open learning material in class to reduce the cost of course materials.

6. Making the cost of course material more transparent: Students often face hidden costs when purchasing course materials. We recommend that the cost of course materials be made transparent so that students can plan their finances accordingly.

We believe that these measures would help enhance student learning on campus and improve academic outcomes. Thank you for your time and consideration.

The letter was written in support of the VP Academic Affairs, Sharon Jacob.

Sincerely,

Abhineet Goswami
President,
University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU)