

**University of Saskatchewan Students' Union**  
**Annual General Meeting**

Minutes for November 24, 2022 - 6:00 p.m.

Arts 146

Chairperson Cortes Vargas stated the land acknowledgment:

The USSU acknowledges that we gather on Treaty 6 territory, the homeland of the Cree, Saulteaux, Blackfoot, Métis, Dene, and Dakota people. We recognize the harm colonial institutions, such as the University of Saskatchewan, have done. We remember that there were centuries of governance and education on this land before the settlers arrived and that these forms of education and governance are continuing today. We honour and reaffirm our relationships with one another and the land that we are on as we work to dismantle the systematic barriers to education that First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and other marginalized people face.

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm.

**2. Call for Quorum**

Quorum was present.

**3. Adoption of the Agenda**

Move to adopt the agenda as presented.

**AGMMotion001: Member 22 / Member 34**

**CARRIED**

**4. Adoption of the AGM Minutes**

Move to accept the AGM minutes of November 25, 2021 into the official record.

**AGMMotion002: Member 7 / Member 24**

**CARRIED**

**5. Auditor's Report**

**5.1. Presentation of Audited Financial Statements by KPMG**

Ian Braaten from KPMG thanked the Members for having them attend as part of the USSU AGM. They noted that the auditor's opinion is a clean audit opinion.

Ian noted the total assets are 26.7 million dollars, up slightly from 26.4 last year due to cash investments.

The property and equipment line is just shy of 17 million dollars, down from 17.9 million last year. The main difference is due to amortization.

Ian noted that the document shows a historical cost basis, not what the true market value of the assets are today.

Within liabilities and deficit, the current total liabilities are at 1.8 million. Long-term debt due to Place Riel renovation. Slowly being paid off throughout the years.

A small surplus of about \$50,000 within the 2022 fiscal year.

Ian thanked Amanda and the USSU team for their assistance through the audit.

**5.2. Financial Statement Resolution**

Be it resolved that the audited financial statements of the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union be accepted for the year ended April 30, 2022, as presented.

**AGMMotion003: VP Storey-Gamble / Member 34** **CARRIED**

**5.3. Auditing Firm Resolution**

Be it resolved that the auditing firm of KPMG Chartered Accountants be appointed for the 2022/2023 financial audit

**AGMMotion004: VP Storey-Gamble / Member 54** **CARRIED**

**6. Proposed Amendments**

**6.1. Proposed Amendment to Wording (by USSU Executive)**

President Goswami shared that the wording change within the USSU Bylaw that the Executive is proposing to change is from "General Manager" to "Senior Manager" to capture the change of operations since the previous GM retired in 2020. The Executive have been working with the Senior Managers, and the model with four Senior Managers is working smoothly.

Move to approve the proposed amendment to wording.

**AGMMotion005: President Goswami / Member 13** **CARRIED**

**6.2. Proposed Amendment to Section 29 (by USSU Executive)**

VP Jacob shared that the amendment being proposed is to Section 29 of the Bylaw. The amendment is to add a Senior Manager to the Academic Relations Committee as a non-voting member, similar to that of all the other committees.

Move to approve the proposed amendment to Section 29.

**AGMMotion006: VP Jacob / Member 44**

**CARRIED**

**6.3. Proposed Amendment to Section 37 (by USSU Executive)**

VP Miglani shared that a few years ago, there was a committee formed called the International Student Advisory Committee. The committee has had challenges meeting, and he and the Executive are proposing a structural change to the committee.

VP Miglani noted that the changes outline that more international students should sit on the committee and that more international student groups should be involved.

VP Miglani read the proposed amendment out to the members.

Member 36 noted that he appreciated the sentiment of the proposed change and hoped that it would engage students further. He worried about the waypoint (1) (d) read and noted that it makes it sound like there is no cap on the number of students that could be a part of the committee, which could be logistically challenging.

VP Miglani noted that there is only a limited number of student organizations from different demographics. He said they can't put a number in the bylaw as the campus groups change. He said there are about 8-10 groups, and one member from each group would be the cap.

Member 36 noted that the wording as presented isn't clear on the one person per group.

Member 36 proposed an amendment to change (1) (d) of the amendment to section 37 from "representatives from International student bodies on campus as conditional voting members:..." to "one representative from each International student body on campus as a conditional voting member:..."

**AGMMotion007: Member 36 / VP Miglani**

**CARRIED**

Member 22 wondered if there was clarification within the USSU Bylaw or Campus Group policies to clarify what constitutes an "International Student Body."

President Goswami said that the USSU follows the university's International student guidelines. He noted that it is any student who is on a study permit on USask Campus.

Chairperson Cortes-Vargas clarified that their understanding of not defining the group was to allow flexibility from year to year depending on which student groups get ratified.

Member 10 shared some insight on how the International Students Association connects with the different international student bodies.

Member 22 noted that from their understanding, the Campus Groups Policy doesn't define International Student Groups, and it makes them feel uncomfortable about how it is being defined. They noted that they would like to hear from the VP Operations and Finance to clarify the definition of an International Student Body.

Member 21 agreed with the amendment.

VP Storey-Gamble shared that the University of Saskatchewan is blessed to have a huge global community. She noted that there are new diverse student groups being ratified on a regular basis. She also added that having one from each group also limits gender diversity from each group. She encouraged members to vote against the amendment.

Member 7 noted that the gender diversity point raised is extremely valid to consider. She added that her understanding of the intention of the amendment was so that the International Student Advisory Committee has students from all cultures and backgrounds. She proposed having two students from each group.

Member 7 proposed an amendment to the amendment of (1) (d) from “one representative from each International student group on campus as a conditional voting member:...” to “up to two representatives from each International student group on campus as conditional voting members:...”

**AGMMotion008: Member 7 / Member 21**

**CARRIED**

Member 10 raised concerns about the size of the committee and obtaining quorum.

Chairperson Cortes-Vargas clarified that the second part to point (1) (d) speaks to quorum and that the members would have to attend two meetings before being considered a voting member. Only voting members are considered in obtaining a quorum.

President Goswami noted that this Committee hasn't been working for a number of years and that VP Miglani has come up with a new structure for the committee for the USSU to try. He noted that it is an experiment and that if it doesn't work, then the Executive or members can propose changes to this committee next year.

Member 6 believed that the President of the International Students' Association should have the option to be a co-chair and that that aspect of the proposed amendment should not be passed.

Move to have point (1) (b) of section 37 remain as "the International Students' Association President as co-chair;"

**AGMMotion009: Member 6 / Member 20**

**CARRIED**

Clarification took place regarding if co-chairs have voting rights.

Member 25 moved a friendly amendment to change "International Student body" to "International Student Group".

**AGMMotion010: Member 25 / Member 13**

**CARRIED**

#### **6.4. Proposed Amendment to Section 55 (by USSU Executive)**

VP Storey-Gamble shared that the amendment is to raise the XL Print and Design credit amount for USSU Executive candidates from \$250 to \$300 and the overall campaign cost value from \$500 to \$600.

Move to approve the proposed amendment to Section 55 of the USSU Bylaw.

**AGMMotion011: VP Storey-Gamble / Member 34**

**CARRIED**

### **7. President's Report**

President Goswami presented a report from the USSU. Within his report, he highlighted USSU successes through the spring, summer, and fall terms. He noted that the USSU identified three priorities for the year: Engagement, Innovation, and Wellbeing of students. President Goswami noted that throughout the Executives summer, they worked on building relationships with students, administration, and other stakeholders. The

USSU Executive attended more than 25 events, attended more than 600 meetings, met and engaged with numerous students, and took anti-racism and anti-oppression training.

President Goswami highlighted some Events:

- Bike to Work
- USSU Summer Games
- USSU Welcome Week
- Campus Groups Week
- Academic Awareness Week
- Sexual Awareness Week
- Accessibility Week
- De-stress Scavenger Hunt
- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- Walk against domestic violence

President Goswami welcomed the new tenant of Lower Place Riel: “RBC on Campus”.

President Goswami spoke on the topic of Advocacy:

- USSU works with Undergraduates of Canadian Research-intensive Universities (UCRU) for National lobbying initiatives.
- Working on advocacy work and institutional lobbying with USC and AOCF
- Working on Provincial Lobbying with First Nations University and Saskpolytech Students’ Associations.

President Goswami highlighted the funding that the USSU puts towards Campus Groups.

President Goswami highlighted the Health and Dental Care Plan and noted that the USSU improved the plan available to students.

President Goswami noted the different USSU Centres that the USSU has:

- Food Centre
- Help Centre
- Pride Centre
- Women Centre

President Goswami encouraged students in the room to run for Executive in the next year.

## **8. Questions and Comments for Executive (30 minutes)**

Member 60 asked if student groups could use the RBC that will be on campus instead of the one that will be on College Drive. President Goswami noted that the RBC that is going in Place Riel is going to focus on financial literacy.

President Goswami noted that there would be individuals from RBC in the Arts Tunnel that students can ask directly regarding their services that will be coming to campus.

Member 22 commended the Executive for their amendments and work this year. They then asked what initiative the Executives are each proud of from term 1 and what they are looking forward to in term 2.

President Goswami said that there is nothing specific that he has but rather that the Executive have worked great together as a team. He is really looking forward to seeing the Provosts Budget Recommendations document completed and also looking forward to provincial lobbying with other student associations in Saskatchewan.

VP Storey-Gamble noted that she is proud of some advocacy points and also noted that the relationship between the USSU and the City of Saskatoon is stronger than ever. She is proud of the Indigenous Education funding advocacy that has been created through UCRU with the assistance of USSU and SSMU research.

VP Jacob noted that she has been proud about the engagement with students that has been taking place. She noted that the Academic Awareness Week has seen a good turnout. She noted that the Undergraduate Symposium is coming up next term, which she is looking forward to.

VP Miglani shared that de-stress is something that he has been excited about, and he's looking forward to continuing de-stress events.

Member 34 wondered if President Goswami and VP Storey-Gamble could echo potential pay for nursing students in their fourth-year preceptorships to MP's at lobby week as well as the increase of loan forgiveness for nursing students in the province.

President Goswami noted that the Executive will work with AOCF and USC to discuss provincial advocacy points and thanked Member 34 for their comment.

Member 44 noticed an increase in collaborative projects between different student groups, and they wondered if two or more groups could apply for funding the same collaborative project or if greater funding could go towards collaborative projects.

VP Storey-Gamble noted that currently, there is not a collaborative project internal system that exists. She provided an example of how the USSU Executive sponsored a recent collaborative project spearheaded by the Terry Fox Club.

A member asked about first-year oriented events or how the USSU promotes first-year events.

President Goswami shared that the USSU hired a Social Media and Events Coordinator this year who will be working on engagement with the student body.

VP Miglani added that from his perspective, Welcome Week was the largest event that targeted first years. He said that they are trying their best to host different events that entice different groups of people.

**9. Any Other Business**

**10. Adjournment**

Member 7 moved to adjourn the meeting, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.