

April 2023

April was the month that marked the transition of the USSU executive team for the fiscal year 2023-2024. We are pleased to inform you that the transition was smooth and successful, thanks to the new executive transition and compensation policy introduced this year. The policy aims to ensure organizational consistency during the transition process, and we are already seeing positive results.

In addition to the executive transition, USSU hosted the USSU Excellence Awards to recognize the outstanding contributions of staff, faculty, and students across the campus. This event was a huge success, and we were able to honour the individuals who have made a significant impact on the USSU community.

During the last fiscal month of 2022-2023, USSU executives focused on three annual priority engagements, innovation, and wellness. Throughout the year we reviewed various policies and drafted new ones to enhance accountability and support USSU's vision, mission, and values. We also organized the Dean's Fair, which provided an excellent opportunity for students to interact with their college academic staff and ask questions.

To enhance the student experience, we organized various de-stress events that brought different demographic students together. These events were a huge success and provided an opportunity for students to relax and socialize with their peers.

USSU also advocated for more provincial and financial support, and we were able to secure some significant wins.

Federal budget:

1. Canada Student Loan limits increased to \$300/week from \$210
2. Eligible students can now receive up to \$4,200 from their Canada Student Grant
3. \$197.7M investment in Student Work Placement Program for more work-integrated opportunities
4. Student grants increased by 40%
5. Mature students (22+) no longer need credit screening for federal grants/loans
6. Permanent removal of student loan interest from the Federal Government
7. Expansion of repayment Assistance Plan. Students do not have to pay loans if they make \$40,000/year.
8. Temporary removal of limits to off-campus working hours for international students

Provincial Budget:

1. This budget includes \$764.8 million for the post-secondary education sector this year, an increase of \$24.5 million or 3.3 percent. It includes \$47 million for student support, a 24 percent increase from last year due to the growing use of the Student Aid Fund and the Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship. Students.
2. \$518 million into mental health and addictions programs and services

We hosted the first in-person Annual General Meeting for UCRU (Undergraduates of Canadian Research-Intensive Universities) and brought together ten schools across Canada. We organized tours across campus, including the Canadian Light Source, VIDO, Gordon Oakes Red Bear Centre, and other places.

USSU's student advocacy can be found on the USSU website- <https://ussu.ca/advocacy/>

The year ended with wonderful conversations with the USASK President's executive team and a university senate meeting, where we highlighted various projects that took place and some of the achievements. We want to welcome the new executive team for the fiscal year 2023-2024 and wish them a successful year President - Ishita Mann, VP Operations and Finance - Nishtha Mehta, VP Academic Affairs - Elisabeth Bauman, VP Student Affairs- Gurbaz Singh.

Although there is a turnover every year, the core mission of USSU remains the same, that is to support the students and enhance their experience on the USSU campus.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Abhineet Goswami
Sharon Jacob
Punya Miglani
Lia Storey Gambel