

2023 | September

# UNIVERSITY COUNCIL



UPDATES  
RECOMMENDATIONS



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 01** Introduction
- 02** Return to Campus
- 03** Welcome Week 2023
- 04** Student Leadership
- 05** Period Equity
- 06** Key Networks
- 07** Usask Community
- 08** USSU Centres
- 09** Upcoming Events

# INTRODUCTION

Honourable members of the University Council,

The USSU is pleased to welcome everyone back to campus after the spring and summer break. Our current report highlights the projects, initiatives, and partnerships from the recent months and sets out our primary goals for the year ahead.

To dive deeper into our activities and see firsthand the vibrant campus life over the past months, we invite you to peruse our Instagram @ussuexec and visit the USSU website.

The pulse of the university is its students. Recognizing their diverse needs and aspirations, we've meticulously curated our priorities, grounded in direct feedback and extensive consultations. Our refocused trajectory revolves around three cardinal pillars:

1. **Empowerment:** Beyond mere recognition, our vision is to foster an environment where students are inspired to fully realize their potential, leading their academic and co-curricular activities with assurance and enthusiasm.
2. **Wellness:** Recognizing the multifaceted pressures of modern academic life, our allegiance goes beyond just scholastic achievement. We are dedicated to promoting holistic well-being, inclusive of extensive mental health support, resources for physical health, and avenues for emotional well-being.
3. **Accessibility:** With a commitment to inclusivity at the forefront, we are amplifying our initiatives to ascertain that all students, irrespective of their unique backgrounds, abilities, or situations, can effortlessly access the comprehensive range of resources, opportunities, and experiences we proudly offer.



# RETURN TO CAMPUS



As the University ushered in the fall semester, the USSU leadership launched a comprehensive social media outreach initiative aimed at elevating the campus experience for incoming, returning, and newly enrolled students. Recognizing a surge in enrollments at USask, the USSU team bolstered their support resources for the student body. We made our presence felt at several orientations across colleges, such as the Indigenous Students' Achievement Program, the Arts and Science Orientation, the Nursing Students Orientation, the Campus Expo, and numerous other events.

***It is imperative that students feel the tangible presence and impact of the USSU executives, ensuring they are valued and empowered in their academic and personal journeys.***

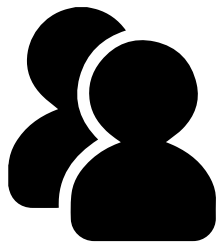


# WELCOME WEEK 2023



This year, the USSU orchestrated a four-day Welcome Week on the Saskatoon campus, marking the start of the academic year in collaboration with our esteemed community partners including SaskTel, Discover Saskatoon, Studentcare, Affinity Credit Union, Grip It Climbing, TD Bank, RBC on campus, Stoked Centre, and CIBC. Throughout these days, our executives disseminated a plethora of resources to the campus community, encompassing both academic and non-academic aids, opportunities for volunteering, applications for student-at-large positions, and an assortment of giveaways such as survival calendars, lanyards, pens, tote bags, among others. We further engaged students this year by TikTok challenges, scavenger hunts, bingo-games, and other unique modalities.

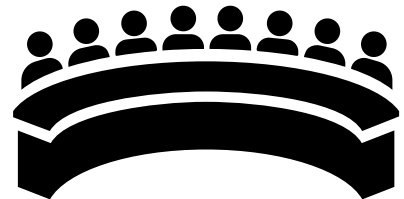
# STUDENT LEADERSHIP



## Association of Presidency of Constituency (AOCPC)

AOCPC members are the bridge between USSU and the student community, and collaboratively, they advocate for student support and services. We are in the midst of setting up our first meeting. In the introductory meeting, we will aim to focus on sharing our strategies and priorities for the year, achievements, and resources for the presidents. Additionally, we will encourage the association presidents to share their priorities for the year and how USSU can help them achieve their goals.

## University Students Council (USC)



University Students' Council Meetings are every Thursday at 6:00 PM in the Roy Romanow Student Council Chamber, with the exception of May, June, July, and August. On September 14, we began council meetings and welcomed several new councillors who are just starting their advocacy journeys. We would like to thank everyone in the uSask community who will be coming to the council and using the opportunity to engage with young leaders.



**GET INVOLVED!**

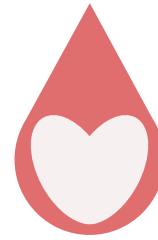
BECOME A STUDENT AT LARGE MEMBER ON OUR COMMITTEES

**Apply Today** Deadline to Apply: September 14, 2023

- Academic Relations
- Advocacy
- Campus Groups
- Elections
- Finance
- Governance
- Student Life & Sustainability
- Student and City of Saskatoon Connection



# PERIOD EQUITY



In reflecting on the achievements of the community, one initiative stands out prominently - the Period Equity Project. This project transitioned from being a mere vision to a tangible reality, and for this transformative journey, a great deal of credit is owed. We would like to particularly commend Tasnim Jaisee, our former USSU president. Tasnim's relentless dedication, paired with her collaborative efforts with the University administration, played a pivotal role in the success of this initiative. Her leadership in this regard serves as an exemplary model of commitment, collaboration, and drive to bring about positive change for our student community.

The very essence of this project underscores a crucial issue that affects many in our community, ensuring that all students have access to necessary menstrual products without financial or social barriers. Such an initiative not only addresses a basic need but also challenges long-standing societal norms and stigmas associated with menstruation.



# KEY NETWORKS

The USSU had the privilege of attending the Student Union Development Summit, where we engaged and collaborated with fellow union leaders. These interactions proved fruitful, setting the stage for potential collaborations as the USSU gears up for our Federal and Provincial lobbying endeavours. President Mann and VP Mehta are slated to represent us alongside representatives from other **U-15 Universities** in Ottawa from November 19 to 25, furthering our lobbying efforts. Additionally, our provincial lobbying activities are scheduled to take place in Regina this fall. We are optimistic about the strides we can make through these combined efforts and collaborations.

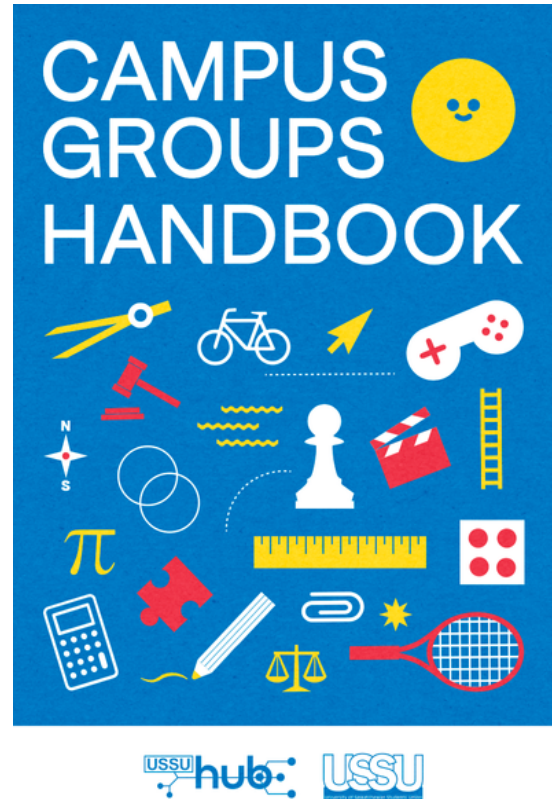


The USSU executives have been proactive in engaging with the community, key stakeholders, and the university administration. Our collaborations span a range of entities, from USask Rec and Huskies to College Deans and the Office of Sustainability. Moreover, we have marked our presence at the City of Saskatoon Council meetings. In the coming days, we're planning a focused 1-on-1 discussion with the city authorities. The agenda includes pressing concerns such as bus routes, BRT, corridor infill, e-scooters, and broader city planning initiatives.

Additionally, our outreach extends to the political realm. We are forging ties with political figures like Tajinder Grewal, Carla Beck, and Betty Nippi-Albright. Our objective is clear: to champion the causes of diverse student groups, from Indigenous and international students to those with disabilities. We aim to advocate for increased financial support, opportunities for career development, and resources that promote mental well-being. Through these efforts, the USSU remains committed to enriching the student experience and ensuring a robust support system.



# USASK COMMUNITY



Campus groups stand as a cornerstone of the diverse services offered by the USSU. In a bid to fortify their financial foundation, we implemented ratification discounts, advice, and resources over the summer months. Our user-friendly USSUhub portal has been designed to simplify processes for these groups, enabling seamless applications for ratification, easy access to funding, and hassle-free space reservations. Notably, this academic year has seen an unprecedented surge in interest, with as many as **12805** students choosing to partake in clubs ratified with the USSU.

**- VP Nishtha Mehta**

# USSU CENTRES

The USSU takes pride in its centres, which serve as inclusive sanctuaries equipped with pivotal resources for the campus community. Throughout the summer, these centres were abuzz with preparations, organizing a range of programming and support initiatives for the forthcoming academic year.

Before stepping into their roles, our centre volunteers undergo comprehensive training. This covers several crucial areas, such as USSU-specific training, protocols related to sexual violence and assault, anti-racism and anti-oppression measures, LGBTQ2SA+ inclusivity, and peer health education.

In recognition of their invaluable contributions, every USSU centre volunteer is awarded CCR credit along with an honorarium.

Currently, the USSU centres are open and ready to assist from 9 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday.



The USSU extends its centre support to the entire academic community, embracing both undergraduate and graduate students. For a deeper dive into what our centres offer, please visit our website at [www.ussu.ca](http://www.ussu.ca).

A heartfelt thank you from all of us at the USSU team. Should you have any inquiries or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact Ishita Mann, S.V.M., at [president@ussu.ca](mailto:president@ussu.ca) or call 306-966-6965. We're here to listen and assist.


# UPCOMING EVENTS




## ACADEMIC AWARENESS WEEK!

**SEP 18-22, 2023**


Table in the North Concourse (Place Riel)



Free Academic handbooks and syllabus guides



Ask questions, learn about your academic rights and resources



Come and tie-dye a t-shirt, do a quiz to enter a draw, and win prizes!

**THURSDAY & FRIDAY** | "Ask Me Anything" with VP Academic Elisabeth Bauman  
@ussuexec

**Questions?**

**Elisabeth Bauman**  
Vice-President Academic Affairs  
vpacademic@ussu.ca (306) 966-6968

**Connor Rodriguez**  
Academic & Governance Assistant  
aga@ussu.ca (306) 966-6989



## CAMPUS GROUP WEEK

SEP 25-28, 2023  
IN THE ARTS TUNNEL



If you are a campus group and are interested in setting up a booth and being a part of this, contact:  
[tables@ussu.ca](mailto:tables@ussu.ca)



USSU PRESENTS  
**Harry Potter**  
TRIVIA NIGHT

Win Prizes 🎁

**LOUIS'** | **7PM** MONDAY  
MEMORIAL UNION BUILDING | DOORS OPEN 6:30PM  
SEP 25, 2023



Sign up through this QR code!

For more information visit:  
[ussu.ca/events](http://ussu.ca/events)



# NATIONAL TRUTH & RECONCILIATION WEEK

The University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU) deeply acknowledges the profound impacts of residential schools on Indigenous communities, the historical wrongs committed, and the ongoing challenges Indigenous peoples face. We recognize the importance of honouring and remembering the victims of residential schools, educating the university community, and actively participating in reconciliation efforts. As an organization, our mission resonates with advocating for the rights of Indigenous students, fostering a culture of respect, inclusivity, and education, and promoting a forward-looking vision of reconciliation.

## Goals:

- Educational empowerment to raise awareness about the impacts of residential schools.
- Foster community unity among students, faculty, staff, and the broader community.
- Amplify Indigenous voices and stories.
- Encourage active participation in reconciliation efforts.
- Strengthen partnerships with Indigenous student groups, local communities, and other stakeholders.



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are very grateful to our USSU senior managers, Amanda Mitchell (Controller), Jason Ventnor (Communications and Marketing Manager), Jason Kovitch (Business and Services Manager), and Stefanie Ewen (Facilities Manager), for answering our questions and guiding us in the right direction.

*We thank the university administration for your continued support in our efforts to empower more resilient student leaders.*



## President

Ishita Mann, S.V.M.

1 Campus Dr, Saskatoon, SK S7N 5A3

306-966-6965

[www.ussu.ca](http://www.ussu.ca)

[president@ussu.ca](mailto:president@ussu.ca)

Instagram | [@ishitamann\\_](https://www.instagram.com/ishitamann_)