

2023 | October

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL



UPDATES
RECOMMENDATIONS



INTRODUCTION

Honourable members of the University Council,

The USSU is pleased to be the primary support mechanism for students on campus. 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.



NATIONAL TRUTH & RECONCILIATION



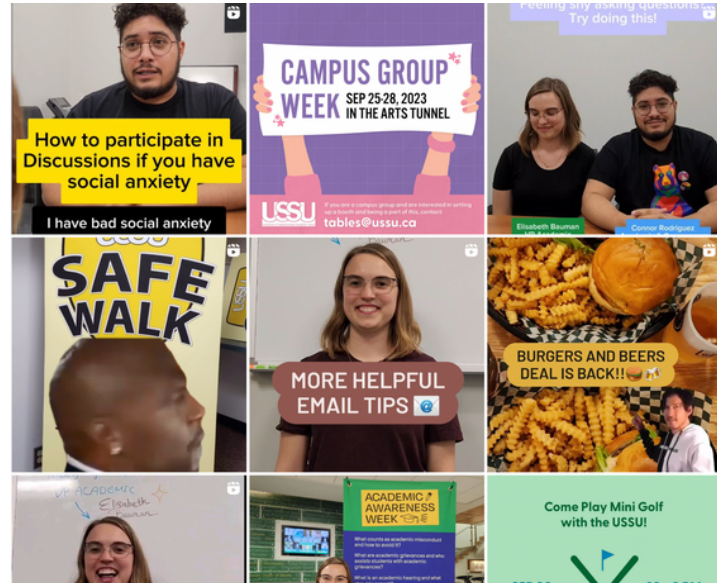
USSU ardently backs the USask's *ohpahotân | oohpaahotaan let's fly up together* Indigenous Strategy and always anticipates our joint efforts. In the Truth and Reconciliation week, USSU joined forces with the President's office to offer more than **50 free orange t-shirts** to students. Alongside, we distributed more than **2000 moose-hide campaign pins** to honour victims of domestic violence. We further distributed key resources to make our advocacy as inclusive as possible. President Ishita Mann organized the week's activities to essentially provide key advocacy tools to students and encourage conversations on tough topics. In the week itself, USSU president Ishita Mann actively engaged in numerous activities spread across the campus and encouraged more students to take part as well.

"Remembering and honouring residential school survivors and their families."

ACADEMIC AWARENESS WEEK



The USSU additionally spearheaded the Academic Awareness Week. VP Elisabeth Bauman not only disseminated valuable resources but also orchestrated a plethora of de-stressing activities. She undertook the task of gathering data from students to better understand their needs and resources and kickstarted a vibrant social media campaign that zeroed in on engaging students with the principles of professional ethics. Topics of discussion ranged from "how to address a professor?" and "what steps to take if XYZ situation arises?" to "best practices for drafting a coherent email." These are indispensable skills that students need to seamlessly transition into the job market and to excel in their professional or academic pursuits. Moreover, we rolled out an optional quiz, which many students participated in, giving us insights into their specific needs.



“Students need to know their rights and understand their options!”

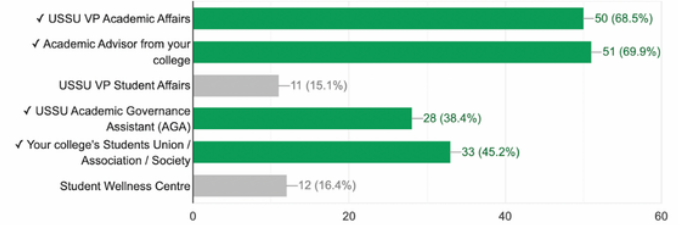
QUIZ RESPONSES (AAW)

Frequently missed questions ?

Question	Correct responses
I have an academic concern; who can help me?	9 / 73
I am accused of cheating. Where can I get help?	11 / 73

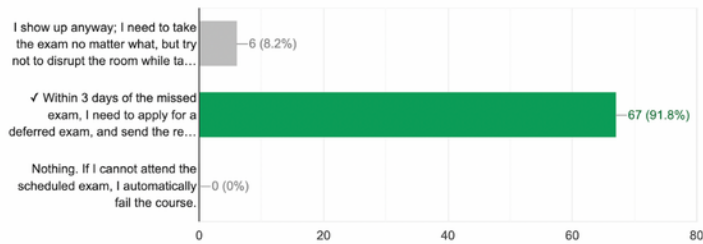
I have an academic concern; who can help me?

9 / 73 correct responses



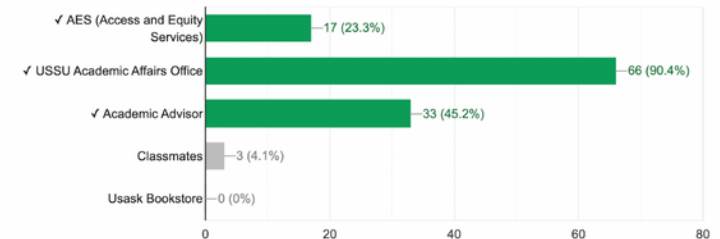
I am sick the day of an exam. What can I do?

67 / 73 correct responses



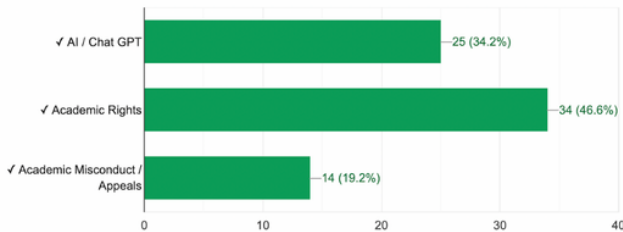
I am accused of cheating. Where can I get help?

11 / 73 correct responses



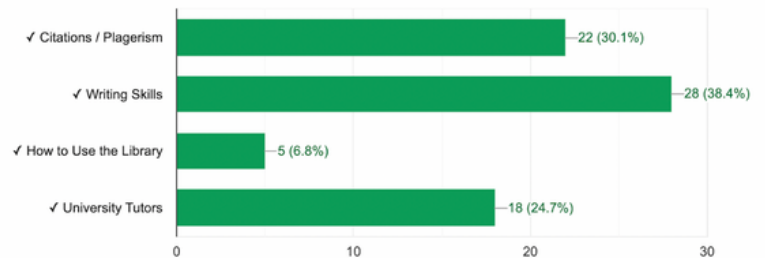
Of these 3 topics, what would you most like to see the USSU Academic Office cover?

73 / 73 correct responses



Of these 4 topics, what would you most like to see the USSU Academic Office cover?

73 / 73 correct responses



Select all the resources the USSU provides for students

40 / 73 correct responses



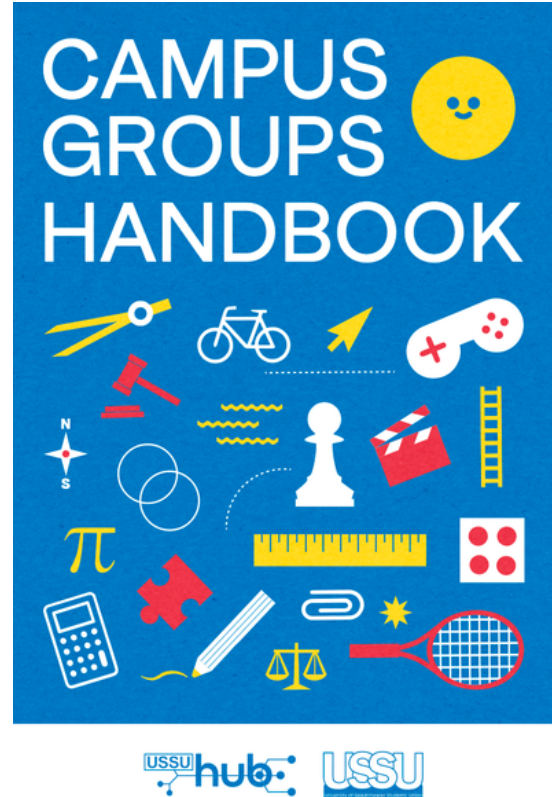
HARRY POTTER TRIVIA NIGHT



September often sees students grappling with a slew of new changes, making it a particularly stressful period. Recognizing this, the USSU decided to initiate monthly trivia nights, with the inaugural event being Harry Potter-themed. A heartfelt thanks goes out to Louis' for offering their venue, an act made even more commendable given the impressive turnout of **180 attendees** on the debut night. The atmosphere was electrifying with many students donning costumes, diving into spirited discussions, and greatly contributing to the evening's ambiance. Amid the backdrop of prevailing political events, VP Gurbaz Singh and President Ishita Mann took the opportunity to distribute resources curated by the USSU Centres. They also opened up conversations on the profound influence of hate on society.

"It's leviosa not leviosaaaa!"

CAMPUS CLUB WEEK



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 **13,000** students choosing to partake in clubs ratified with the USSU.

Keeping this in mind, VP Nishtha Mehta hosted a campus club week to draw up ratifications further, share resources with students, and encourage leadership across the student body. We had an amazing turnout - especially at the executive social we also hosted at Louis'.

KEY NETWORKS

The USSU had the privilege of attending the Student Union Development Summit in UBC, 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.



UCRU is an informal coalition of student associations whose mandate is to advocate the Canadian Federal Government for an affordable, inclusive and high-calibre undergraduate university education with opportunities for increased access to undergraduate research.

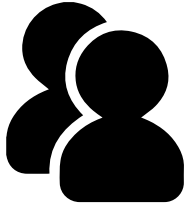
We collectively represent over 300,000 university students across Canada.

This year, UCRU is putting forward key priorities to develop a federal lobbying campaign that will be conducted between November 19 and 25 in Ottawa. All UCRU members are looking forward to meeting with Members of Parliament to support UCRU's advocacy goals.

Mental Health
International Students
Student Financial Aid
Housing

We will bring forward the recommendations to the council in upcoming reports.

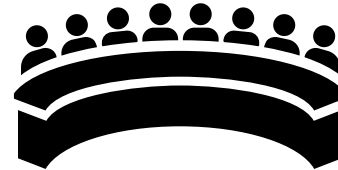
STUDENT LEADERSHIP



USSU Executive Networks

AACP 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. Furthermore, VP Singh, Bauman, and Mehta are additionally creating similar networks with students from such associations that serve a role similar to them. The purpose of these executive networks will be to offer 1-on-1 mentorship and advice to student leaders as governance can be a challenging endeavour.

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. The council is currently working on developing a recommendations document for the Provost's office to help present a student perspective on the upcoming annual budget.



President's Executive Committee (PEC)

USSU executives are very grateful to have the opportunity to engage with PEC members on a regular basis. We are currently discussing issues such as student wellness wait times, building wellness spaces, and working with President Stoicheff to understand how students can contribute to increasing our university's rankings on a national and global scale.

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL



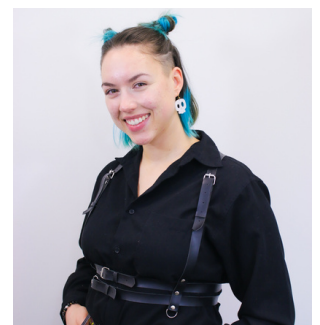
USSU CENTRES

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.

USSU FRESH MARKET

The USSU Food Centre offers a fresh food market in Place Riel, as a convenient option for students looking to grab healthy snacks or groceries. This program provides fresh fruit and vegetable options at extremely low prices to accommodate students' health needs.

You can find the Fresh Market set up on the main level of Place Riel, near the USSU, from Tuesday to Friday 10:30 am – 4:30 pm.

The Food Centre continues to run the uFood emergency hamper program for students. Students can order non-perishable goods online from our website for pick up at our office.



USSU CENTRES' EVENTS

USSU 

FREE DROP-IN NALOXONE TRAINING

BE PREPARED, SAVE LIVES!

Learn how to administer this life-saving medication. Together we can combat drug overdoses and make a difference in our community.

TRAINING SESSION DATES:

OCT 16 | NOV 17 | JAN 29 | FEB 26 | MAR 25

Time: 3-4PM  **Louis' Private Function Room**


Rock Your Stress!

ROCK PAINTING


OCT 6, 2023
4-5PM
Help Centre
(Located on the first floor of the Memorial Union Building)



USSU 

For more information, visit ussu.ca/events

USSU 

De-Stress WITH Doodles & Mocktails!

Thursday, September 28th, 4-5pm
 **Help Centre, 93 Campus Drive**

 helpcentre@ussu.ca  [ussuhelpcentre](https://www.instagram.com/ussuhelpcentre)

Mental Health Support Group

We are here for you!

4-5PM ON FOLLOWING WEDNESDAYS:
OCT11 OCT25 NOV22 DEC07

USSU  **USSUHELPCENTRE**
HELPCENTRE@USSU.CA
HELP CENTRE, MAIN FLOOR OF LOUIS' MEMORIAL UNION BUILDING

USSU 

SEXUAL VIOLENCE Awareness Week

SEPTEMBER 25-28, 2023

September is known as the RED ZONE, a time at which sexual violence is most likely to occur on college campuses.

In order to spread awareness and build resilience to stand up against sexual violence, the USSU Women's centre is hosting multiple events this year.

View upcoming events 

EVENTS
We will be tabling all week in Place Riel!

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 2023

Bystander Training
What to do when something happens in front of you.
2pm in the Women's Centre, Memorial Union Building Room 103

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 27, 2023

Self-Defense Class
In the Bowl at 7 pm (If weather permits)

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 28, 2023

First campus-wide TAKE BACK THE NIGHT MARCH
Starts at 7:00 pm in front of the Women's Centre (Memorial Union Building)

 **USSU**

weekly

QUEERS OF COLOUR

5 PM ON WEDNESDAYS IN THE PRIDE CENTRE ROOM 104 MEMORIAL UNION BUILDING

GAYMER NIGHT

BOARD GAMES! CARD GAMES!

WEEKLY on Mondays

PRIDE CENTRE at 5 PM




 **ROOM 104 - MEMORIAL UNION BUILDING** **USSU**

LET'S BE PERFECTLY QUEER

BOOK CLUB

Book: Livingsky
Author: Anthony Bidulka
When: Wednesday, October 11th at 5PM
Where: Education and Music Library (Education Building, 28 Campus Dr, Rm 2003)

First 10 people to register get a **FREE** copy of the book!

USSU 

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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 or call 306-966-6965. We're here to listen and assist.

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

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