
University Students' Council Agenda
February 15, 2024
Roy Romanow Student Council Chamber – 6:00 PM CST

1. Call to Order
2. Land Acknowledgement
3. Roll Call/Quorum
4. Adoption of an Agenda
5. Council Address
6. Minutes and Reports for Information
 - 6.1. USC Minutes – 02.08.2024
 - 6.2. Executive Committee Minutes and Report – 02.13.2024
 - 6.3. Academic Relations Committee Report
 - 6.4. Advocacy Committee Report
 - 6.5. Campus Group Committee Report
 - 6.6. Code of Ethics and Disciplinary Committee Report
 - 6.7. Elections Committee Report
 - 6.8. Finance Committee Report
 - 6.9. Governance Committee Report
 - 6.10. Student Life and Sustainability Committee Report
 - 6.11. Student and City of Saskatoon Connection Committee Report
7. Motions Arising from the Minutes and Reports
8. College/Constituency Report
 - 8.1. Agriculture and Bioresources
 - 8.2. Arts and Science
 - 8.3. Dentistry
 - 8.4. Education
 - 8.5. Edwards School of Business
 - 8.6. Engineering
 - 8.7. Indigenous Students
 - 8.8. International Students
 - 8.9. Kinesiology
 - 8.10. Law
 - 8.11. Medicine
 - 8.12. Nursing
 - 8.13. Pharmacy and Nutrition
 - 8.14. St. Thomas More
 - 8.15. Western College of Veterinary Medicine
9. Business
 - 9.1. Election Season
 - 9.1.1. USSU Executive
 - 9.1.2. USSU MSC
 - 9.1.3. USSU Senate
 - 9.2. USSU Symposium

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- 9.3. Howler Hunt
10. New Business
11. Questions, comments, and announcements
12. Adjournment

**University Students' Council Minutes
February 8, 2024
Roy Romanow Council Chamber – 6:00 PM CST**

Present:

Nishtha Mehta, VP Operations and Finances (she/her)
Gurbaz Singh, VP Student Affairs (he/him)
Harkaranveer Pooni, Nursing (he/him)
Eileen Knox, Nursing (she/her)
Simran Sahota, International Students (she/her)
Molly Severtson, Agriculture and Bioresources (she/her)
Cole Willmann, Agriculture and Bioresources (he/him)
Shahmeer Ahmed, Kinesiology (he/him)
Holden Chester, Edwards (he/him)
Kyungsoo Ryu, Edwards (she/her)
Kaitlin Proudfoot, Education (she/her)
Alexis Salsbury, Arts and Science (she/her)
Dhairya Mehta, Arts and Science (he/him)
Ajak Madit Deng, Engineering (he/him)
Ishita Mann, President (she/her)
Elisabeth Bauman, VP Academic Affairs (she/her)
Kevin Lee, Medicine (he/him)
Angi Patel, Arts and Science (she/her)
Meghal, International Students (she/her)

Also present:

Inshal Anees, USC Chairperson (she/her)
Amanda Mitchell, USSU Accounting Controller (she/her)
Brock Neufeldt, USSU Academic & Governance Assistant (he/him)

Absent:

Hayley Jenkins, WCVN (she/her)
Norah Jacob, St. Thomas More (she/her)
Maria Hirsi, Indigenous Students (she/they)
Tianna Sangwais, Indigenous Students (she/her)
Samina Valji, Dentistry (she/her)
Lamisha Rahman, Pharmacy & Nutrition (she/her)

Guests:

Dr. Patti McDougall, Deputy Provost (she/her)
Dr. Jerome Cranston, Vice-Provost, Students & Learning (he/him)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Chairperson Anees stated the land acknowledgment: As a Council of Indigenous and Non-Indigenous students, we acknowledge that we gather on Treaty 6 territory, the homeland of the Cree, Saulteaux, Blackfoot, Métis, Dene, and Dakota people. We acknowledge the harm that 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.

3. Roll Call/Quorum

Roll call was completed, and the list of attendees is listed on the first page of these minutes. Quorum was present.

4. Adoption of an Agenda

No corrections were made to the agenda.

Move to adopt the agenda.

USCMotion072: President Mann / Councillor Knox

CARRIED

5. Council Address

Move to enter into informality.

USCMotion073: VP Singh / Councillor Pooni

CARRIED

5.1. Introductions

Chairperson Anees introduced Deputy Provost McDougall and Vice-Provost Cranston.

5.2. Guest

5.2.1. Dr. Patti McDougall - Deputy Provost

Deputy Provost McDougall gave a presentation on USask tuition and finances:

- The purpose of tuition consultation is to ensure a common understanding of tuition-related matters and to seek feedback on the quality of education offered at USask.

- Rate setting timeline for 2024-25:
 - May - October: tuition comparator analysis; info modules for students
 - November - December: student survey; conversations with student leaders; preliminary discussions with the Board of Governors
 - January - February: conversations with students and Deans, town halls; discuss with governing bodies
 - February: final tuition recommendation from Colleges & Schools
 - March: tuition rates approved by the Provost
 - April: communication to the public.

- The top three sources of revenue for USask:
 1. Government of Saskatchewan Operating Grant (Provincial Operating Grant), 35% of total revenue
 2. Student Tuition and Fees, 27% of total revenue
 3. Government of Saskatchewan Other Grants and Contracts, 24% of total revenue.

- The top three sources of expenditure for USask:
 1. Salaries and benefits, 70% of total expenses
 2. Operational supplies and expenses, 22% of total expenses
 3. Utilities, 2.8% of total expenses.

- Tuition and operating grants are used to fund:
 - academic programs and courses
 - student services
 - improvements in teaching and learning methodologies
 - scholarships and bursaries
 - recruitment and retention of faculty, scholars and researchers
 - and more.

- USask is moving into the final year of its Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Saskatchewan. According to the MoU, the Government of Saskatchewan will not cut USask's operating grant and USask will not raise tuition by more than 4% on programs that are at or above the U15 median cost. USask and the Government of

Saskatchewan have begun discussions on a second MoU because tuition predictability is valuable for students.

- This fall, there was a tuition survey for students. The survey asked students what areas they would like to see the University invest and disinvest in. While all 26 items were identified as important for investment, 13 items were identified as the most important; the top three were 1. offer more scholarships and bursaries; 2. increase open access; and 3. improve parking options. Deputy Provost McDougall is dedicated to (1) and (2) and is working with planners to see what can be done about (3). Priorities for disinvestment are harder to determine because responses were more split.
- In 2023-24 USask invested \$73.5M in capital projects and \$18M on maintaining capital assets. Renovation projects include upgrades to various classrooms, electrical infrastructure renewal, elevator renewal program, fire system upgrades, and sustainability initiatives.
- USask has also been investing in student financial aid. In 2022-23 financial aid totalled \$58M. Newer investments include the International Students at Risk Fund and bursaries for international undergraduate and masters students. These new investments are on top of increased and sustained operating funding to student services such as the Student Wellness Centre, Student Affairs and Outreach, Access and Equity Services, and more.

Councillor Salsbury shared her experience of attending last year's Arts & Science town hall. She believes that Deans do not always put much effort into getting students to attend town halls.

- Deputy Provost McDougall noted the Councillor's concern and the importance of giving advance notice.

Councillor Willmann asked about the inefficiency of classroom assignment.

- Deputy Provost McDougall shared that Deans have been encouraged to implement broader use rules. These rules include scheduling classes in a wider range of buildings

and time slots, as well as optimizing non-standard use of rooms.

Councillor Willmann shared that he has a class this term in Convocation Hall, which has no tables.

- Deputy Provost McDougall explained that there were discussions about this arrangement as soon as it was known. The arrangement could likely have been avoided if the class had been moved to a different time slot. USask will work to increase flexibility of time slots so this issue can be limited as much as possible.
- Vice-Provost Cranston explained that his team locks down the schedule in May. But after the schedule has been created, professors and department heads often request changes, and accommodations must be made.

5.2.2. Dr. Jerome Cranston - Vice Provost, Students & Learning

Vice-Provost Cranston shared that his approach is guided by the principles of equity and justice. Included within his portfolio is the Student Wellness Centre, Gwenna Moss Centre, Student Affairs and Outreach, International Students, Study Abroad Centre, Career Services, and more.

Vice-Provost Cranston believes that student attendance and engagement are important to developing an interactive relationship in learning. His work focuses on enhancing student learning. He is considering whether it would be helpful to have a policy navigator for students. Also, wellness is an important component of quality learning.

President Mann asked Vice-Provost Cranston what his main focus is and how he plans to incorporate student consultation.

- Vice-Provost Cranston explained that TLSE is going through a reorganization that he believes will increase student success, especially for marginalized groups. To incorporate student consultation into this goal, Vice-Provost Cranston will continue meeting with student leaders directly.
- Deputy Provost McDougall added that all the discussions from town halls are collected in a summary document. Also, the University has a student forum, which provides an opportunity for students who are not elected representatives to share their perspectives.

Councillor Knox explained that it is usually student leaders who are the ones helping other students to navigate University policies.

- Deputy Provost McDougall agreed that it is people like the USSU Vice-President Academic Affairs and Academic & Governance Assistant who play a key role in policy navigation. Also important are the Associate-Dean Academics and department heads of each college.
- Councillor Knox suggested that informal interactions with students can provide faculty with genuine insight into student life.

Move to enter back into formality.

USCMotion074: President Mann / VP Mehta

CARRIED

6. Minutes and Reports for Information

6.1. USC Minutes – 02.01.2024

6.2. Executive Committee Minutes and Report – 02.06.2024

6.3. Academic Relations Committee Report – 01.17.2024 & 01.31.2024

6.4. Advocacy Committee Report

6.5. Campus Group Committee Report - 02.05.2024

6.6. Code of Ethics and Disciplinary Committee Report

6.7. Elections Committee Report

6.8. Finance Committee Report

6.9. Governance Committee Report

6.10. Student Life and Sustainability Committee

6.11. Student and City of Saskatoon Connection Committee Report

7. Motions Arising from the Minutes and Reports

No corrections were made to the minutes or reports.

Move to adopt the USC Minutes of February 1, 2024, into the official record.

USCMotion075: Councillor Ryu / Councillor Knox

CARRIED

Move to adopt the Executive Committee Minutes and Report from February 6, 2024, into the official record.

USCMotion076: President Mann / Councillor Salsbury **CARRIED**

Move to adopt the Academic Relations Committee Reports from January 17, 2024, and January 31, 2024, into the official record.

USCMotion077: Councillor Salsbury / Councillor Knox **CARRIED**

Move to adopt the Campus Group Committee Report from February 5, 2024, into the official record.

USCMotion078: Councillor Mehta / Councillor Pooni **CARRIED**

8. College/Constituency Report

8.1. Agriculture and Bioresources

Councillor Severtson shared that their fundraiser for Telemiracle has raised over \$15,000.

8.2. Arts and Science

No updates.

8.3. Dentistry

No updates.

8.4. Education

Councillor Proudfoot shared that their AGM will be held on March 11.

8.5. Edwards

Councillor Chester shared the following:

- they elected a new President and VP team.
- they are planning an International Women's Day Gala for March 1.

President Mann requested that MSCs for the coming year be elected by March 31. This will allow for a smooth and timely transition.

8.6. Engineering

No updates.

8.7. Indigenous Students

No Councillor present.

8.8. International Students

No updates.

8.9. Kinesiology

No updates.

8.10. Law

No Councillor present.

8.11. Medicine

No updates.

8.12. Nursing

Councillor Knox shared that she and VP Bauman met with some of the Nursing leadership. Most core courses for Nursing have returned to in person with the exception of 430. They received information on the Program Review Committee and are working to incorporate a student voice in it. The College leadership acknowledged that there is a need for a better orientation for clinical structures. Councillor Knox and VP Bauman will follow up with the College of Nursing leadership.

8.13. Pharmacy and Nutrition

No Councillor present.

8.14. St. Thomas More

No Councillor present.

8.15. Western College of Veterinary Medicine

No Councillor present.

9. Business

9.1. USSU Committee Elections

9.1.1. Finance and Assessment Committee

VP Mehta stated that most of this committee's work will be to review the budget in March. Members of this committee must be available on March 9 to review the budget.

Councillor Ryu nominated herself.

Move to approve Councillor Ryu as a member of the Finance and Assessment Committee.

USCMotion079: President Mann / VP Singh

CARRIED

9.2. 2024-2025 USSU Fees Presentation & Executive Recommendations

VP Mehta gave a presentation on the 2024-2025 fee proposal:

- The USSU is a non-profit organization that collects most of its revenue from fees paid by undergraduate students. All revenue is put back into the Union to support students.
- Approval process:
 - January 20 – fee request.
 - January 25 – USSU analysis.
 - February 8 – USC approval.
 - February 9 – fee submission.
 - March 4 – fee review.
 - TBD – final approval.
- Fees have four main purposes:
 1. Governance and advocacy. Includes advocacy in academic cases, as well as the municipal, provincial and federal levels of government.
 2. Projects and initiatives. Includes anti-racism initiatives and social events.
 3. USSU infrastructure. Maintaining student buildings (Place Riel and the Memorial Union Building).
 4. Grants. Support for student groups and help with facilitating events on campus.
- The USSU collects two types of fees:
 1. On behalf of a service provider
 - a. U-Pass fee, paid to City of Saskatoon
 - b. Health & dental plan, paid to Studentcare
 2. Fees that support the USSU
 - a. USSU student fee
 - b. Student infrastructure fee.
- The USSU health & dental provides a comprehensive package of health, dental, vision, travel benefits to fill the gaps left by medicare and a parent or spouse's plan. In 2023-2024 the plan fee was \$302.74 per student. A proposed 5% increase will raise the fee to \$317.88 per student; an additional \$5.72 per student will be paid out of USSU reserve funds.
- Council has previously discussed the possibility of a new gender affirmation care service being added to the health & dental plan.

The cost would be an additional \$9.20 per student added to the \$317.88 proposed for next year. In this case, the USSU would use more of its reserve funds to cover the cost.

- USSU Executive's recommendation: "While we understand that offering GAC [gender affirmation care] is very important as part of our social and ethical accountabilities, it is possibly not the best financial decision for the student body. As such, we recommend waiting 1 year, consulting with Studentcare on data collected from other universities, engaging with more stakeholders and students on campus, and then re-visiting the inclusion of this service."
- There are two options:
 1. Move to increase the health & dental plan fees by 5% to be \$317.88 for the 2024-2025 year
 2. Move to increase the health & dental plan fees by 5% and add gender affirmation care to the plan.

Councillor Ahmed asked what the gender affirmation care covers that is not already covered by the healthcare system.

- President Mann explained that it covers hormone therapy and rehabilitative services.

Councillor Ryu asked if it is possible to opt out of the gender affirmation care cost.

- VP Singh explained that, no, a student cannot opt out of this cost because it is simply an addition to the general cost of the health & dental plan, not a separate fee.

Councillor Knox asked for clarification about what is covered by the gender affirmation care service.

- President Mann shared that it covers up to \$5000 per procedure to a lifetime maximum of \$10,000. Eligible procedures include chest contouring / chest masculinization, tracheal shaving, laser / electrolysis hair removal, vaginal dilators, and vocal surgery. The limitations to the service include a required diagnosis of gender dysphoria, Pay-Direct service is currently unavailable, and the service may not be available to students for the full duration of their gender transition journey.

Councillor Salsbury asked if the gender affirmation care service has been requested by students.

-
- President Mann answered that many students who visit the Pride Centre would be happy to have the service. The overall number of students who use the service will be small but it will have a big impact on those who do use it.

A vote was held on whether to adopt the first or second option presented by VP Mehta; the first option is to increase the health & dental plan fees by 5% to be \$317.88 for the 2024-2025 year, and the second option is to increase the health & dental plan fees by 5% and add gender affirmation care to the plan. By a vote of eight to five, the first option won.

Move to increase the health & dental plan fees by 5% to be \$317.88 for the 2024-2025 year.

USCMotion080: President Mann / VP Mehta

CARRIED

VP Mehta explained that U-Pass offers students huge savings because of the USSU's contract with Saskatoon Transit. Without the U-Pass, a bus pass costs \$83 per month; with U-Pass, the monthly cost is only \$25. As part of the contract, the cost of U-Pass is increased each year in accordance with CPI. The cost of U-Pass per student in 2023-2024 was \$190.24. With CPI at 2.30%, the cost for 2024-2025 will be \$194.62.

Councillor Salsbury shared that students who live in college quarters can opt out of U-Pass but students who live in Voyageur cannot, even if they prove they are paying for a parking spot. She thinks students who prove they are paying for a yearly parking pass should be able to opt out of U-Pass.

- VP Mehta explained that there are very strict opt in and opt out rules for U-Pass. Any perceived complaints could be interpreted by Saskatoon Transit as grounds for opening up the contract, which could raise costs for everyone.

Move to increase the U-Pass fee by 2.30% (CPI) to be \$194.62 for the 2024-2025 year.

USCMotion081: VP Mehta / President Mann

CARRIED

VP Mehta explained that the USSU student fee covers the cost of advocacy and governance, Centres, services, and other administration costs. Because of inflation, VP Mehta recommended increasing the USSU student fee by 5%, from \$111.28 to \$116.84

Councillor Ahmed asked if students have access to the USSU budget.

- President Mann said that transparency is important to the Union and students are able to access its financial statements.

Move to approve increase the USSU student fees by 5% to be \$116.84 for the 2024-2025 year.

USCMotion082: VP Mehta / President Mann

CARRIED

VP Mehta explained that the infrastructure fee covers the cost of maintenance, planning and design, capital purchases, renovations, and building construction of USSU facilities (Place Riel and Memorial Union Building). The infrastructure fee will remain at \$129.92 for 2024-2025.

Move to maintain the USSU infrastructure fee of \$129.92 for the 2024-2025 year.

USCMotion083: VP Mehta / Councillor Ahmed

CARRIED

10. **New Business**

11. **Questions, Comments, and Announcements**

11.1. **Election Season**

11.1.1. **USSU Executive**

President Mann shared that the executive elections will be more spaced out this year to allow students with heavy course loads to participate. The call for nominations will go out next week. President Mann is willing to answer any questions that potential candidates might have.

11.1.2. **USSU MSC**

Mann encouraged Councillors to create transition documents. This will help create continuity for new Councillors. President Mann is willing to support Councillors in this process.

11.1.3. **USSU Senate**

President Mann shared that the USSU will elect four students to the University Senate this year.

11.2. **Finance and Assessment Committee**

VP Mehta asked members of the Finance and Assessment Committee to confirm their availability for the budget review on Saturday, March 9.

12. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 PM.



Executive Meeting Minutes for February 13, 2024

Present:

- Ishita Mann – President/Chair
- Nishtha Mehta – VP Operations and Finance
- Elisabeth Bauman – VP Academic Affairs
- Brock Neufeldt – AGA
- Stefanie Ewen – SM Facilities

Regrets:

- Gurbaz Singh – VP Student Affairs
- Jason Ventnor – SM Communications & Marketing

Absent: N/A

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 PM.

2. Quorum

Quorum was present.

3. Approval of last meeting minutes

EXEC 2024.02.06.

Mover: President Mann

Seconder: VP Mehta

4. Roundtables

a. President Mann

i. Meetings

1. ACRO Position, Inshal A.
2. Financial Review, Amanda M. + Jason K. + Jason V. + VP Singh + VP Mehta + Morgan B. + Councillor S.
3. USask Student Services Audit Delloite, Priya A.
4. UCRU Work Session, Katie T.
5. AI Task Force, Vince B. + Nancy T.
6. Academy Integrity, Susan B. + VP Bauman
7. Scholarship, Bursary and Loan Committee Meeting
8. Executive/SM Meeting, VP Mehta + VP Bauman + VP Singh + Jason V. + Jason K. + Amanda M. + Stefanie E.



9. Executive Meeting, VP Mehta + VP Bauman + VP Singh
 10. Debrief, Jason V.
 11. ACRO Position Offer, Inshal A. + Jason V.
 - a. Inshal A. accepted the position.
 12. IRCC Council, VP Singh
 13. UCRU BOD Meeting, VP Mehta
 14. ISU Budget, VP Mehta + Councillor Hirsi + Councillor Sangwais + Kal L. + President Justice N.
 15. Pre-council Meeting, Inshal A.
 16. University Student Council, VP Mehta + VP Bauman + VP Singh + Chairperson Anees + Amanda M.
 17. USSU X Dentistry Research Collaboration, Dr. Amrinderbir Singh + Chairperson Anees
 18. UCRU Plenary Meeting, Katie T.
 19. Entrepreneurship Circle, Speed Jaime
 20. G20-Y20 YDC Introduction Meeting, Jasmine G.
- ii. **Projects/Initiatives**
 1. USC Agenda
 2. Report Deloitte
 - iii. **Events**
 1. USC Social
 - iv. **Other**
 1. ISU Budget Approval → move this to email
- b. **VP Mehta**
- i. **Meetings**
 1. Meeting with Anteia
 2. Campus Group Committee
 3. Exec/SM Meeting
 4. Weekly Exec Meeting
 5. UCRU Monthly Board Meeting
 6. Budget Meeting with Indigenous Students' Union
 7. Pre-council
 8. University Student Council, VP Mehta + VP Bauman + VP Singh + Chairperson Anees + Amanda M.
 9. Bus Rapid Transit Public Art Engagement
 - ii. **Projects/Initiatives**
 1. Budget Prep
 2. Cheq reqs
 3. CCR
 4. Submit Fee Proposal Forms
 5. Survey about the Hub
 - iii. **Events**



1. N/A
- iv. Other**
1. Policy Change:
 - a. To include in insurance policy that groups deemed non-insurable by our insurers, they cannot be ratified. Unless they have insurance by their college/department.
 - b. Shooting club?
 2. Application Form for Campus Group Award
 - a. <https://forms.gle/EttFi8FP2zuY7MqSA>
 - b. Send out through email + social media
 - c. When do nominations open?
 - d. What other award types are there?
 3. Feedback Survey for USSU + Execs
 - a. <https://forms.gle/y6Kcz67qT2LVVusL9>
 4. Submit your phone bills, health and dental, the wellness receipts
 - a. Only 3 ish months left
 5. Motion USDS
 - a. Exec Sponsorship-\$500
 - b. The University of Saskatchewan Debate Society is holding an international debate tournament on campus. The tournament will span two days (Saturday and Sunday). No alcohol will be served.
- c. VP Bauman**
- i. Meetings**
 1. Exec/SM
 2. Beau + Student
 3. Symposium workshop
 4. Academic Relations Committee
 5. USSU X Nursing
 - a. In person vs online delivery
 - i. Most core-classes are in-person now
 - ii. Students are still needing better community.
 - iii. Will improve as time goes on
 - b. Assessment in clinical
 - i. Subjective grading (where similar assignments can receive two very different marks due to two different clinical instructors).
 - ii. Tensions between students and clinical instructors.
 - iii. Acknowledged that increasing orientation and training needs for instructors
 - iv. Need to continue to follow up to see if they are on the right track



- c. Program sequencing
 - i. Diane Campbell is the new chair of the program revision committee
 - ii. Reach out to her, see if we can get a student rep on the committee
 - iii. Early April is the committees deadline
- d. We also talked about assignment feedback, and the potential of incorporating AI into class content.
- e. Finally, we look forward to scheduling a meeting at the end of March or in April to introduce the incoming USSU VP Academic and incoming USSU representatives from SNSA.

- 6. Student Consultation Academic Integrity
- 7. RSAW
- 8. USC
- 9. Brock
- 10. Brock + Mandy Fehr

ii. Projects/Initiatives

- 1. Symposium:
 - a. So much planning
 - b. So many emails
 - c. 30 people registered
 - d. I am very proud of my Canvas course
 - e. Brock has been a great help! :)
- 2. Excellence Awards:
 - a. Nominations out
 - b. Getting forms for the other awards

iii. Events

- 1. COVID and a nasty cough

iv. Other

- 1. Cancelled a bazillion meetings

5. New business

- a. Schedules

6. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 1:44 PM.