
University Students' Council Agenda
March 21, 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 – 03.14.2024
 - 6.2. Executive Committee Minutes and Report
 - 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
 - 6.12. Indigenous Advisory Committee – 03.14.2024
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. Budget Presentation
 - 9.2. Advocacy Update
 - 9.2.1. Jerome Cranston X USSU Executives (Interactions + Monthly Meetings)

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10. **New Business**
11. **Questions, Comments, and Announcements**
 - 11.1. **Last Day to Submit Funding Requests - April 1st**
 - 11.2. **Last Day to Submit Receipts - April 15th**
 - 11.3. **CCR due April 15th**
12. **Adjournment**

University Students' Council Minutes
March 14, 2024
Roy Romanow Student 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)
Dhairya Mehta, Arts and Science (he/him)
Alexis Salsbury, Arts and Science (she/her)
Angi Patel, Arts and Science (she/her)
Cole Willmann, Agriculture and Bioresources (he/him)
Tianna Sangwais, Indigenous Students (she/her)
Maria Hirsi, Indigenous Students (she/they)
Simran Sahota, International Students (she/her)
Meghal, International Students (she/her)
Kaitlin Proudfoot, Education (she/her)
Ishita Mann, President (she/her)
Elisabeth Bauman, VP Academic Affairs (she/her)
Kevin Lee, Medicine (he/him)
Shahmeer Ahmed, Kinesiology (he/him)
Norah Jacob, St. Thomas More (she/her)

Also present:

Inshal Anees, USC Chairperson (she/her)
Jason Ventnor, USSU Communications & Marketing Manager (he/him)

Absent:

Holden Chester, Edwards (he/him)
Ajak Madit Deng, Engineering (he/him)
Lamisha Rahman, Pharmacy & Nutrition (she/her)
Samina Valji, Dentistry (she/her)
Hayley Jenkins, WCVM (she/her)
Eileen Knox, Nursing (she/her)
Molly Severtson, Agriculture and Bioresources (she/her)
Kyungsoo Ryu, Edwards (she/her)

Guests:

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 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

President Mann proposed the following amendments to the agenda:

- Removing the Indigenous Student Advisory Committee Smudging Invitation from section 11 because the event had already occurred
- Adding the Campus Group Committee Report from March 12, 2024.

Move to adopt the agenda as amended.

USCMotion098: VP Singh / Councillor Pooni

CARRIED

5. Council Address

There was no guest speaker at this meeting.

6. Minutes and Reports for Information

6.1. USC Minutes – 03.07.2024

6.2. Executive Committee Minutes and Report – 03.05.2024 & 03.12.2024

6.3. Academic Relations Committee Report

6.4. Advocacy Committee Report – 03.12.2024

Councillor Pooni presented the following report:

- The Committee approved an anti-racism grant for the Desi Mock Wedding.

- The Committee reviewed the USSU Executive Scholarship policy. Applications for the scholarship will require a personal statement of 500 words in which applicants will comment on their affiliation with diversity and community and their commitment to community and leadership. The application will include questions about what advocacy means to the applicant and what their experiences and efforts are in regard to EDI. The Committee began writing criteria for a rubric to evaluate applications, which include supporting claims with numbers, names, details; a sense of passion, sincerity, work ethic; recognition of the future impact of their actions; and self awareness.

President Mann shared that the Committee approved these two questions for the application:

1. "Please describe what advocacy means to you. How have your actions impacted the communities you serve?"
2. "Please describe your experiences relating to equity, diversity, and inclusion. This can include your lived experiences or any efforts you have made to advance EDI."

Councillor Willmann asked how different forms of advocacy will be compared and how a winner will be selected.

- President Mann explained that the Advocacy Committee is working on a rubric. The winner will be selected on the basis of how well they communicate the breadth, depth, and impact of their experiences. A list of experiences will not suffice.

Councillor Mehta suggested adding to the policy a line that the decision is made at the discretion of the Advocacy Committee.

- President Mann said she will include this recommendation.

6.5. Campus Group Committee Report – 03.12.2024

VP Mehta shared that the Committee denied a grant from a campus group. The Committee is in the process of reviewing a policy to make it easier for campus groups.

6.6. Code of Ethics and Disciplinary Committee Report

6.7. Elections Committee Report

6.8. Finance Committee Report – 03.09.2024

VP Mehta shared that only the motions from the Finance and Assessment Committee's budget review meeting on March 9, 2024, were included.

- 6.9. Governance Committee Report**
- 6.10. Student Life and Sustainability Committee**
- 6.11. Student and City of Saskatoon Connection Committee Report**
- 6.12. Indigenous Student Advisory Committee**
- 7. Motions Arising from the Minutes and Reports**
No corrections were made to the minutes or reports.
- Move to adopt the USC Minutes of March 7, 2024, into the official record.
USCMotion099: President Mann / Councillor Sahota CARRIED
- Move to adopt the Executive Minutes and Report from March 5, 2024, and March 12, 2024, into the official record.
USCMotion100: VP Mehta / Councillor Mehta CARRIED
- Move to adopt the Advocacy Committee Report from March 12, 2024, into the official record.
USCMotion101: President Mann / Councillor Pooni CARRIED
- Move to adopt the Finance and Assessment Committee Report from March 9, 2024, into the official record.
USCMotion102: VP Mehta / President Mann CARRIED
- Move to approve the two questions approved by the Advocacy Committee for the USSU Executive Scholarship application.
USCMotion103: President Mann / Councillor Mehta CARRIED
- Move to adopt the Campus Group Committee Report from March 12, 2024, into the official record.
USCMotion104: VP Mehta / Councillor Patel CARRIED
- 8. College/Constituency Report**
- 8.1. Agriculture and Bioresources**
Councillor Willmann shared the following:
- Their AGM will be held March 19. Incoming MSCs will be determined on March 23.
 - The AgBio challenge was held last weekend.
 - Their event “Unhinged” did not do as well as expected.

Councillor Willmann asked if there was an update for the forum.

- President Mann said that it will likely be in May and will therefore be taken up by the incoming MSCs.

8.2. Arts and Science

Councillor Patel shared the following:

- The deadline for ASSU scholarship applications is tomorrow, March 15, 2024.
- The ASSU candidates debate will be held on March 20 from 6:30-8:30 PM in Arts 146.

8.3. Dentistry

No Councillor present.

8.4. Education

Proudfoot shared the following:

- Their AGM was held on Monday. There was an issue regarding quorum, which is being handled by the Dean.
- Their elections will take place on March 25 and 26.

8.5. Edwards

No Councillor present.

8.6. Engineering

No Councillor present.

8.7. Indigenous Students

Councillor Hirsi shared that they are hosting a sexual health event for indigenous students on March 18 from 4:00 to 6:30 PM.

8.8. International Students

Councillor Sahota shared that international support week is next week.

Kinesiology

Councillor Ahmed shared that they have been working on nominations for their elections.

8.9. Law

No Councillor present.

8.10. Medicine

Councillor Lee shared that they have elected their President for the upcoming year. They will now move to round B and elect a VP Communication, VP Finance, and VP Advocacy.

8.11. Nursing

Councillor Pooni shared the following:

- Last Monday they held another drop-in session for their anti-racism committee.
- Next Monday they will be conducting STI testing in the Health Sciences Building.
- Next Tuesday harm reduction nurses will be providing naloxone training in Place Riel from 12:00 to 1:00 PM.

8.12. Pharmacy and Nutrition

No Councillor present.

8.13. St. Thomas More

Councillor Jacob shared their elections will be held on March 28 and they will be accepting nominations until Wednesday, March 20.

8.14. Western College of Veterinary Medicine

No Councillor present.

9. Business

9.1. Excellence Awards

VP Bauman shared that the Excellence Awards ceremony will be held on Sunday, March 24. Today is the last day to nominate people for leadership awards. All teaching surveys have been scheduled. Once all the surveys have been completed, we will calculate the results and congratulate the winners.

10. New Business

11. Questions, Comments, and Announcements

11.1. Budget Presentation

VP Mehta announced that the budget presentation will be held at the next meeting. A draft of the budget was attached in the email with the USC package for today's meeting. Councillors should be prepared with questions about the budget at the next meeting.

12. Adjournment

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The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 PM.



Indigenous Advisory Committee Meeting

Minutes for March 14, 2024

Present:

Justice Noon – ISU President/Co-Chair

Ishita Mann – USSU President/Co-Chair

Tianna Sangwais – USC Councillor & Committee Member

Maria Hirsi – USC Councillor & Committee Member

Kal Ledoux – Student At Large

Laila Valila – Student At Large

Leo Gamble – Student At Large

Jason Ventnor – Senior Manager (Communications)

Gurbaz Singh – VP Student Affairs

Brock Neufeldt – Academic & Governance Assistant

Absent:

Regrets:

Guest:

Tasnim Jaisee – USask Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Project Specialist


1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 4:31 p.m.

2. Review of last Meeting Minutes

- a. N/A

3. New business

- a. Smudge
- b. Introductions
- c. Review Provost Concerns (special attention to #'s 4,8,9,10)
 - i. Document:  Copy of Provost Concerns
 - ii. **Concern #4:** Indigenous students require additional scholarships, bursaries and grants with consideration for barriers and inequities that affect their performance in school. The requirements of high grade point average on many of these funding resources limit who can apply for these grants. The applicability of these funding resources often exclude Indigenous men.
 1. Noticed there is a certain GPA requirement that needs to be met for applying to such scholarships

- a. Indigenous students cannot often meet these requirements because of extenuating circumstances
 - b. Very low success rates for indigenous students → especially considering the donor funding standards
 - c. University does not communicate with Indigenous students specifically what scholarships open to them → possibly the University can do a better job at even advocating to donors specifically on what scholarships they need
 - d. Cheryl Hamelin (VP University Relations)
 - e. ISU would like to possibly make an alert system and organize workshops so students can practice writing scholarships as well
 - 2. Metis students also face barriers associated with broad criteria
 - a. Would benefit from an intersectionality based approach
 - 3. Proper mentorship avenues
 - a. Centralize processes at Gordon Oaks but lobby the university for resources as well
 - b. Exemplars, guidelines to understand criteria for success
- iii. **Concern #7: Post secondary band funding restrictions. Students have 48 months of post-secondary funding (Students only receive funding if they meet the requirements although this is not guaranteed). The length that most students take before they are done schooling is 60-72 months to pursue masters, graduate studies etc.**
 - 1. Band funding is federal
 - 2. Metis funding is sort of like a lottery draw
 - 3. Limits educational resources
 - 4. Easier process to accessing equity resources
 - a. Utilize AES more → having more of a consideration for intergenerational trauma
 - 5. Connections between ISU and IBSS
 - a. President Mann mentioned that she can reach out to the U15 leaders and compose a list of emails the ISU can reach out to for making a network
 - b. Tasnim Jaisee pointed out the importance of deeper networks and relying on ISU groups rather than UCRU as it often makes discussions difficult
 - c. Laila Valila pointed out that in the future, the USSU can advocate for Indigenous student presence in UCRU
 - i. President Mann pointed out that she can work on asking the incoming president to make an Indigenous person member A or B in UCRU

- ii. President Noon pointed out that student capacity is the biggest limiting factor
- iii. President Mann said the policy could be made so that ISU president or ISU USC councilors
- iv. **VP Gurbaz Singh: Noted a concern connected to people getting denied treaty card renewal despite having it for 21 years**
 - 1. VP Singh mentioned that ISU should intervene
 - 2. VP Singh mentioned that he will connect with
 - 3. ISU executives agreed and are willing to step in and help out
- d. "Brainstorming" action items (students at large)
- e. Vote on which action items we will prioritize for the remainder of the winter term
- f. USSU update on ISU Budgetary Supports
- g. Questions

4. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.