



June 2024 University Council Report

The University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU) onboarded newly elected executives for the year 2024-2025 on May 1, 2024. We had a very detailed orientation that covered USSU operations, accounting and finances, communications and marketing, facilities management, IT support, Studentcare, the Empower Me program, USSU Centres, USSU Childcare Centre, and transit for an easy transition into our roles. Our Senior managers also led several meetings on bylaw overviews, communications, risk assessment and management, event and project planning, student governance, and directors' roles and duties during this time. Our onboarding process was smooth with the help and direction of our senior managers, Amanda Mitchell, Jason Ventnor, Jason Kovitch, and Stefanie Ewen. We are truly grateful to have them on our team.

GOALS

Advocacy

Our upcoming advocacy efforts will focus on key areas at different levels. At the university level, we will prioritize academics, misconduct policies, career services, campus spaces, queer housing, and safe/prayer spaces. In the city, we will address affordable housing and transit. Provincially, we will advocate for more Indigenous student scholarships and the removal of interest on student loans. Federally, we will push for affordable housing and the inclusion of international students in the Canada Summer Jobs program.

Awareness

Through our awareness campaigns this year, we aim to increase students' knowledge of entrepreneurship, student rights, academic supports and rights, health and dental care services, and the variety of resources offered on campus and by the federal and provincial governments. Through these awareness campaigns, we will also address food insecurity, financial needs, and academic and nonacademic support. Resources for mental health and physical well-being are also included in our emphasis. With our campaigns, we hope to raise awareness of resources for holistic development of students while utilizing our centres to provide even more support.

Alliance

Building alliances with important stakeholders, such as the university administration, faculty, staff, campus groups, the City of Saskatoon, and the federal and provincial governments, is a primary focus for this year. We aim to work together on various projects to improve coordination and cooperation between various groups and organizations on and off campus. We hope to collaborate on a wide range of projects to enhance students' experiences by cultivating these connections. We commit to providing comprehensive and innovative solutions for student needs via collaborative efforts and shared resources. Our ultimate goal is to create a nurturing and fulfilling atmosphere that enables each student to succeed academically, socially, and personally.

EVENTS AND INITIATIVES



Pride Flag Raising Ceremony May 31st

USSU executives and our senior managers and centre coordinators attended the Pride flag-raising ceremony at USask. We also partnered with USask to create the banner “What does Pride mean to you?” that will be posted in the Arts tunnel.

USSU Scholarships Winners 2023-2024

USSU executives with our first-ever USSU scholarship winners, Aysha and Rabie. They are both dedicated community leaders who volunteer with various campus clubs and have excellent academics.



Uniting the Prairies (UP) Conference

Our VP Operations & Finance, Moses Ahiabu and VP Academic Affairs, Elisabeth Bauman attended the UP 2024 conference and networked with various entrepreneurs and investors. This was part of our awareness and alliance campaign to help translate some of these networks to campus and promote entrepreneurship among students.



Photo Courtesy - Opus

Annual Stakeholder Meeting Studentcare

President Krunal Chavda and VP Student Affairs Upkar Singh, were in Montreal, where they met student union executives from various provinces at the Annual Stakeholder Meeting organized by Studentcare (our insurance provider), where they discussed some of the challenges faced by students across the country and how we can work to solve them.



USSU Execs with Councillor Donauer

USSU executives met Councillor Randy Donauer from Ward 5 and discussed some of the advocacy efforts we wanted to do this year with the city, especially regarding the College Drive and Wiggins Avenue intersection, College Drive and Cumberland Avenue intersection, and BRT. We also discussed the Housing Accelerator Fund, to advocate for affordable housing for students near University.



USSU Execs with Councillor Block

USSU executives met Councillor Cynthia Block from Ward 6 and talked about housing initiatives and the impact housing has on USask students and community engagement. It was a valuable opportunity to discuss how we can work together to address pressing issues on city matters. We will continue meeting with city councillors throughout the year to ensure our students' voices are heard.



Red Dress Day May 5th

Red Dress Day honours the lives of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit People in Canada. The executive joined the Vice-Provost, Indigenous Engagement in the Bowl, to show our support in ending the violence against Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People.



Spring Convocation

President Chavda, VP Bauman, and VP Ahiabu attended convocation ceremonies from June 4th to June 7th. Congratulations to the class of 2024! We are so proud of you and can't wait to see what you do next.



Bike to Work Day - May 16th

In May, the Office of Sustainability, the City of Saskatoon, and USSU collaborated on Bike to Work Day. The event was organized on May 16, 2024, with the mission to promote emission-free transportation and encourage the community to use bikes to work during summer. The initiative was a great success, as more than 100 participants stopped by the booth to support the initiative and get snacks and resource guides.





City of Saskatoon Volunteer Reception

On May 2nd, President Krunal Chavda attended the City of Saskatoon Volunteer Appreciation Reception, where he met his worship Mayor, Charlie Clark, and city councillors.

USSU executives also attended the following events

- 7th annual māmowī āsohtētān Internal Truth and Reconciliation Forum
- USask Budget Town Hall
- Asian Heritage Month
- Startup TNT
- Unlocking Trust: Navigating Ruptures, Repairs and Renewal in Diverse Relationships” with Michael Saini, hosted by Conflict Resolution Saskatchewan

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

USSU Summer Games June 13th - June 15th

June 13 1:00pm to 4:00pm 📍 Cumberland Field	Soccer
June 14 10:30am to 4:00pm 📍 The Bowl	• Spikeball • Tug of War • Ultimate Frisbee • Crossnet Volleyball • Cornhole
June 15 11:00am to 2:00pm 📍 Cumberland Field	Cricket

Keeping the tradition alive, USSU will host this year's Summer Games from June 13th to June 15th. We would like to extend the invitation to staff, faculty, and students. To register, please scan the QR code.



Scan Me!

- Pride Parade - June 22nd
- Welcome Week - September 4-6
- Campus Groups Week - September 16-20
- Academic Awareness Week - September 23-27

USSU CENTRES

USSU centres are one of the most important service that we offer. They provide a safe and inclusive space with essential resources for our campus community. Here are our wonderful centre coordinators



**Pride Centre
Coordinator
Danielle Powell
(she/they)**



**Women's Centre
Coordinator
Alandra Flynn-James
(she/they)**



**Help Centre Coordinator
Angel Onijagbe
(she/her)**



**Food Centre Coordinator
Amy Remeshylo
(she/her)**



**Safe Walk and Student Crew
Coordinator
Akanksha Ganguly
(she/her)**

OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY

Currently, the USSU executives are actively setting up crucial introductory meetings with a wide range of key stakeholders. These include college Deans, student society presidents, student affairs and outreach, student wellness, career services, AES, other student unions, representatives from the provincial government, the City of Saskatoon administration, and various other units on campus and off campus. These meetings are vital for fostering collaboration and ensuring the smooth operation of our initiatives.

President Krunal Chavda is taking a proactive approach in setting up introductory meetings with various college society presidents and Deans. His focus this year is on strengthening the relationship between various constituency presidents to foster enhanced collaboration. He is also working towards setting up a provincial advocacy group with the University of Regina Students' Union and Saskatchewan Polytechnic Students' Association for advocacy efforts related to the provincial government. Additionally, he is actively collaborating with undergraduates at Canada Research Intensive University (UCRU) for federal advocacy.

VP Operations Finance, Moses Ahiabu, diligently ensures that students' voices are heard at the city level by advocating on their behalf in the transit committee. He is currently in the process of improving some of the campus groups' policies and assisting campus groups with ratifications. Furthermore, he is actively involved in creating social media content for campus group leaders, equipping them with the necessary resources to effectively lead their groups.

VP Academic Affairs, Elisabeth Bauman, and Academic and Governance assistant Brock Neufeldt have already supported 30 students in academic grievance cases. These include academic misconduct, appeal cases, and various conflict resolution cases and inquiries. VP Bauman is also actively working in collaboration with various units across campus to identify gaps in student advocacy and complaint processes and to find ways to strengthen the student-faculty relationship.

VP Student Affairs, Upkar Singh, is currently working on building relationships with various units across the campus and making sure that we can host some amazing events by collaborating with them. He is also planning some fun events for summer, fall, and winter. This year, we have both the provincial and municipal elections, and he is actively developing campaigns to create awareness among students about using their right to vote. He also supports students with non-academic misconduct cases.

For any questions or suggestions, please contact Krunal Chavda at president@ussu.ca.

Yours sincerely,

Krunal Chavda, President

Moses Ahiabu, VP Operations and Finance

Elisabeth Bauman, VP Academic Affairs

Upkar Singh, VP Student Affairs