



**University of Saskatchewan
Students' Union**

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

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ALLIANCES IN ACTION

USSU executives made it their mission to meet with their college counterparts this summer. President Chavda met with various college society presidents, shared the executive's vision for the year for USSU, and asked how the USSU can support the college societies better to achieve our shared goal of giving students the best campus life experience. He then met with the college deans and addressed some of the issues raised by college society presidents and students. President Chavda also discussed various initiatives the USSU and the college can do together to improve the student life experience academically and socially. He has also met with the university senior administration and voiced some concerns that students are actively facing on campus, including - accessibility of the scholarships portal, food insecurity on campus, campus safety, and financial issues students face.

Our 150 + campus groups are an integral part of student life and experiences on campus. Therefore, our VP of Operations and Finance, Moses Ahiabu, tirelessly worked to empower campus group leaders by creating educational videos. VP Ahiabu has also been actively involved in reforming campus group operations policies so that our campus groups have better operational efficiency. He has met with several potential campus group leaders and helped them start new campus groups.

Building campus culture and community is one of the main focus points of USSU executives this year. To strengthen our relationships with various non-academic units on campus, VP Student Affairs Upkar Singh met with Directors of various campus units like Protective Services, Parking Services, Consumer Services, and Usask Rec to make sure that when students return to campus, we can all work cohesively to give them the best year of campus life together. He also dedicated his time to planning welcome week and other events to foster a greater sense of community when students return to campus. VP Singh is also developing engaging campaigns for students to make them aware of the importance of voting in civic and provincial elections. He is collaborating with the Department of Political Science to host its mayoral debate.

Academia is the heart of the university, and sometimes, it can be challenging for students to navigate the university's various academic policies. VP of Academic Affairs Elisabeth Bauman is helping students navigate the usask policies and procedures at the university and college levels. This summer, she worked actively with various college and campus units to identify the gaps in policy-driven complaint structures at the university and determine how to address the growing conflict between students and faculty. VP Bauman has been working on a comprehensive academic report that will be presented to various stakeholders at the university.

DEVELOPING NATIONAL ALLIANCES

The USSU executives attended the Student Union Development Summit (SUDS) in August, where they met student union leaders from across the country and discussed some potential issues concerning students in Canadian post-secondary institutions. The conference is a unique opportunity to learn about the various strategies to help us become successful leaders and serve the students we represent in our respective colleges and universities. One of the main highlights of this year's conference was the problem that all student unions face with continuity. The executives have also recognized this challenge for the USSU and are actively working on developing an organizational strategy and plan for the next five years.



MEETING STUDENTS WHERE THEY ARE

The phrase, "We are all here because of the students," resonates strongly with educators and leaders, perfectly capturing the USSU's approach this year. The USSU executives are dedicated to building personal connections with students. In line with this, the USSU executives took the initiative to reach out to various colleges, Campus units like Gordan Oaks Red Bear Student Centre, ISSAC, and the student life team in residence to welcome new students directly. With multiple orientations occurring simultaneously, our President, Krunal Chavda, created a video message to ensure all students felt included and informed about the USSU's role in their university life. In the message, President Chavda stressed that the USSU is committed to supporting students in every part of their academic journey. This initiative reflects the USSU's broader mission to cultivate a sense of community and show their genuine investment in each student's success and well-being.



WELCOME WEEK

The USSU planned an unforgettable Welcome Week from September 4-6, filled with excitement and smiles for new and returning students. This year's events helped foster a strong sense of community on campus. One standout was the Carless Drive-In, where over 150 students gathered in the Bowl to enjoy a screening of *Monsters University* with free popcorn and warm blankets. The Welcome Week Neon Glow Party was another major hit, drawing over 250 students and cementing its place as a campus favourite.

Throughout the week, USSU hosted its biggest event of the year at the USSU booth in the Bowl, where execs had the chance to meet and connect with students. The atmosphere was energized, with different campus groups involved, fun activities, and tons of free swag, snacks, and SaskTel mini donuts!

A huge thank you to our partners, SaskTel interNET, BMO, Studentcare, Affinity Credit Union, RBC On Campus, Synergy Credit Union, and CIBC, for their support in making all of this possible and ensuring that students had an amazing start to their year!



EMPOWERING THROUGH AWARENESS



USC

USSU hosted its first University Council Meeting on September 12th, during which we welcomed elected council members from various college constituencies. President Krunal Chavda updated the council about USSU executives' vision for the year and also encouraged them to be engaged throughout the year through their participation in various committees.



Campus Groups Week

We celebrated campus groups week from September 16th to 20th, where more than 60 campus groups participated in creating more awareness about their clubs by tabling in the arts tunnel. It's because of these campus leaders that we have a thriving and vibrant campus life. To celebrate and educate them, we had a Campus Leaders Social, which was attended by more than 50 campus group leaders. The info session included presentations on insurance, event and project planning, and space booking timelines, among various other helpful topics.



Academic Awareness Week


From September 23rd to 27th, we will be having our Academic Awareness Week. This week, our amazing VP of Academic Affairs, Elisabeth Bauman, and Academic and Governance Assistant Brock Neufeldt work together to make students aware of their academic rights and responsibilities. The week is aimed at providing information to new and returning students about various university-level policies regarding academics and what is expected of them as university students. This year's special focus is going to be on how to use AI in their coursework and what some expectations around its usage are.

UPCOMING EVENTS



The graphic features a purple background with silhouettes of diverse people. At the top left is the USSU logo and a circular emblem. The main title 'Sexual Violence Awareness Week' is in large white font, with a blue banner below it stating 'Sept. 23-27'. To the right, a white sidebar lists five events with their dates, times, and locations. A QR code is provided for the Free Self-Defense Training event.

Date	Event	Time	Location
Sept. 23	Women's Centre Open House	5-7pm	Room 105, Memorial Union Building
Sept. 24	Free Self-Defense Training	7-8pm	Room 105, Memorial Union Building
Sept. 25	Sexual Violence Supports on Campus	4-5pm	Room 105, Memorial Union Building
Sept. 26	Take Back the Night March	7pm meeting	Voyageur Place



The graphic has an orange background with a feather icon. The title 'National Day for Truth and Reconciliation' is in large white font. Below it, a white box contains the date 'September 30' and a paragraph of text. To the right, another white box is titled 'Wear Orange' and contains a paragraph of text.

September 30

Remembering and honouring the children who never returned home and Survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities.

Wear Orange

Orange Shirt Day is an Indigenous-led grassroots commemorative day attended to raise awareness of the impacts of residential schools and to promote Every Child Matters. The orange shirt is a symbol of stripping away of culture, freedom and self-esteem experienced by Indigenous children over generations.

National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

The significant and continuing impact that residential schools have had on Indigenous communities is acknowledged by USSU. We have a profound understanding of the injustices committed in the past as well as the ongoing hardships that Indigenous peoples now encounter. As the student union, we believe that it is crucial to raise awareness of this troubling period in Canadian history within our campus community and to remember and pay tribute to individuals who were harmed by residential schools. We're determined to contribute to the process of reconciliation. This entails vigorously defending the rights of Indigenous students, fostering a more welcoming and courteous atmosphere on campus, and advancing a reconciliation vision that is centred on constructing a brighter future for everybody. Not only is it important to acknowledge the past, but it's also critical to take concrete action to bring about positive changes both now and in the future. We think it is our duty as a university community to develop, learn, and collaborate in the pursuit of reconciliation and understanding. We are all walking together in this journey, and the USSU is committed to actively assisting in our progress.

CENTRE COORDINATORS



The USSU centres (Help Centre, Women's Centre, Pride Centre, Food Centre Safe Walk and Student Crew Centre), serve as welcoming spaces packed with important resources for everyone on campus. Over the summer, the centres were busy gearing up for the new academic year, planning programs and support services to meet the community's needs. Our centre volunteers receive extensive training before they begin their roles. This includes USSU-specific training, as well as sessions on handling sexual violence and assault protocols, promoting anti-racism and anti-oppression, ensuring LGBTQ2SA+ inclusivity, and peer health education.

To recognize their hard work, every volunteer earns CCR credit and an honorarium. The centres are now open and available to help from 9 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday to Friday.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We sincerely appreciate the support of our USSU senior managers, including Amanda Mitchell (Controller), Jason Ventnor (Communications and Marketing Manager), Jason Kovitch (Business and Services Manager), Stefanie Ewen (Facilities Manager), and Brock Neufeldt (Academic and Governance Assistant). Their guidance and assistance have been invaluable in answering our questions and steering us in the right direction.



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