
University Council Report – December 2024

USSU Executives in Ottawa

President Krunal Chavda and VP Moses Ahiabu represented the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU) at Advocacy Week, organized by the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), representing over 400,000 students across Canada. During their time in Ottawa, President Chavda, VP Ahiabu, and student leaders from various post-secondary institutions met with ministers, Members of Parliament, senators, and the CASA board of Directors even met with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to address key student issues. A town hall led by Minister Marc Miller provided critical discussions on immigration and student experiences in Canada. We advocated for substantial investments, including \$250 million annually to expand the Student-Work Placement Program, measures to increase Canada's skilled trades workforce through mandatory apprenticeship hours in federal projects, and adjustments to Tri-Council Agency funding to reflect inflation and ensure graduate program competitiveness. We also called for enhancements to immigration policies, such as doubling Express Entry points for Canadian post-secondary graduates, and the permanent renewal of financial aid limits to ensure education remains accessible. Additionally, the USSU emphasized the need for a \$1.14 billion annual increase in Indigenous post-secondary support programs, providing all qualified Indigenous students can pursue higher education.

Through these efforts, the USSU continues to advocate for policies that create equitable opportunities and long-term success for all students.

CASA Advocacy Document - [Access and Excellence](#) - Powering Productivity and Innovation in Canada's Future Workforce

USSU AGM

The USSU Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place on November 28, reviewing the organization's performance over the past year. The key highlights were our financial statements, the appointment of our auditors, reports from the executive, and updates on strategic goals and achievements. USSU members engage by voting on proposed amendments to the USSU Bylaw and allowing attendees to ask questions and raise concerns directly with the executive members. This year's AGM was well attended, and many amendments and motions were proposed by students.

Exam Goodie Bags

To support student wellness during the stressful exam season, VP Upkar Singh led the initiative to prepare and distribute exam goodie bags for students. This thoughtful gesture, filled with snacks and essential items, aimed to provide a small boost of encouragement and care during finals. By prioritizing student well-being, the USSU continues to foster a supportive campus environment where students feel valued and cared for during challenging times.

Christmas Lounge Decoration Contest

The festive spirit came alive this season as five college societies competed in the **Christmas Lounge Decoration Contest**, transforming their spaces into magical winter wonderlands. From twinkling lights and sparkling ornaments to creative themes and cozy vibes, each society showcased incredible teamwork and holiday cheer, spreading joy throughout campus. This friendly competition not only brought out the creativity of our student community but also added warmth and festive energy to the season. The USSU applauds the efforts of all participants for making the holidays on campus truly special and vibrant!

USSU Symposium

The University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU) is excited to host its annual Undergraduate Symposium on **February 26, 2025**. This event recognizes and celebrates the scholarly and artistic works of undergraduate students at the University of Saskatchewan. Beyond providing the opportunity to showcase undergraduate research, the USSU symposium offers a place for students, faculty, and staff to make valuable and long-lasting connections while building community together. Student registration is now open for the symposium, and registration for faculty and staff judges will be circulated shortly. Please get involved!

USSU Winter Welcome Week

The USSU is excited to kick off the new semester with an incredible **Winter Welcome Week** designed to bring students together and beat the winter blues! From an entertaining **Movie Night** and a fun-filled **Karaoke Night** to the elegant **Winter Whiteout Ball**, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Students can also join an engaging **indoor scavenger hunt**, lace up for some **ice skating**, and grab swag and snacks in the Arts Tunnel throughout the week. This vibrant lineup of events offers a perfect mix of fun, community, and connection as students return to campus. By creating moments to relax, celebrate, and make memories, the USSU continues to prioritize student engagement and well-being.

Conclusion

As the year comes to a close, the USSU remains committed to fostering a vibrant, supportive, and inclusive campus community. Whether through advocacy, wellness initiatives, or engaging events, we continue to prioritize the needs and experiences of our students. On behalf of the entire USSU team, we wish you all a joyful holiday season filled with warmth, peace, and connection. **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!** We look forward to welcoming everyone back for an exciting and successful year ahead.

Yours sincerely,
Krunal Chavda

President - University of Saskatchewan Students' Union