Room 110, 1 Campus Drive University of Saskatchewan Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7N 5A3



Telephone: (306) 966-6960 Email: contactus@ussu.ca Website: www.ussu.ca

#### Agenda University Students' Council January 30, 2025 – 6:00 PM Roy Romanow Student Council Chamber

- 1. Call to Order
- 2. Land Acknowledgement
- 3. Roll Call & Quorum
- 4. Adoption of an Agenda
- 5. Minutes and Reports for Information
  - 5.1. USC Minutes January 23, 2025
  - 5.2. Executive Committee Minutes & Report January 28, 2025
  - 5.3. Advocacy Committee Minutes & Report January 27, 2025
  - 5.4. Campus Group Committee Minutes & Report January 27, 2025
  - 5.5. Governance Committee Minutes & Report January 22, 2025

#### 6. College/Constituency Report

- 6.1. Agriculture and Bioresources
- 6.2. Arts and Science
- 6.3. Dentistry
- 6.4. Education
- 6.5. Edwards School of Business
- 6.6. Engineering
- 6.7. Indigenous Students
- 6.8. International Students
- 6.9. Kinesiology
- 6.10. Law
- 6.11. Medicine
- 6.12. Nursing
- 6.13. Pharmacy and Nutrition
- 6.14. St. Thomas More
- 6.15. Western College of Veterinary Medicine
- 7. Business
  - 7.1. 2025-2026 USSU Student Fees
    - 7.1.1. USSU Infrastructure Fee
    - 7.1.2. USSU Saskatoon Transit Fee
    - 7.1.3. USSU Undergraduate Student Fee
  - 7.2. USSU Health and Dental Plan Fees Studentcare
- 8. New Business
- 9. Questions, Comments, and Announcements
- 10. Adjournment

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#### University Students' Council Minutes January 23, 2025 – 6:00 PM Roy Romanow Student Council Chamber

Present:

- Elisabeth Bauman (she/her), VP Academic Affairs
- Upkar Singh (he/him), VP Student Affairs
- Chang Ge (he/him), Dentistry
- Ritu Patel (she/her), Edwards
- Melissa Fielding (she/her), Education
- Zachary Cey (he/him), Agriculture and Bioresources
- Jordie Finnie (he/him), Arts and Science
- Paras Sidhu (he/him), Law
- Selim Bytyqi (he/him), Arts and Science
- Norah Jacob (she/her), St. Thomas More
- Karlin Frykas (he/him), Agriculture and Bioresources
- Krunal Chavda (he/him), President
- Nahian Mashrafi (he/him), International Students
- Guillermo Tellez-Hernandez (he/him), Arts and Science

#### Also Present:

- Zoher Rafid-Hamed (he/him), USC Chairperson
- Jason Ventnor (he/him), Communications & Marketing Manager

#### Absent:

- Shayan Ahmed (he/him), Kinesiology
- Taihre Lafond (he/him), Indigenous Students
- Kyungsoo Ryu (she/her), Edwards
- Moses Ahiabu (he/him), VP Operations and Finance
- Eileen Lennie-Koshman (she/her), Indigenous Students
- Eliaking Cabrera (he/him), Nursing
- Joel Bilyk (he/him), WCVM
- Nisarg Chaudhary (he/him), International Students
- Meet Patel (he/him), Medicine
- Yusup Guldadov (he/him), Engineering

#### Guests:

• Ali Versi (he/him), Studentcare

#### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 PM.

#### 2. Land Acknowledgement

Chairperson Rafid-Hamed 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 amendments were made to the agenda.

Motion to adopt the agenda as presented.

USCMOTION077
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#### 5. Council Address

#### 5.1. Ali Versi – Studentcare

Mr. Versi presented a preliminary renewal & financial analysis of the USSU's health & dental plan.

For the 2023-2024 academic year, total health & dental premiums were \$2,751,321, and total claims were \$2,863,048, for a utilization rate of 104%. The target utilization rate is 85-90% for a no change renewal.

There has been a 38% increase in prescription drug claims since 2021-2022.

Mr. Versi presented preliminary statistics for the 2024-2025 academic year. The following statistics are from September to November 2024:

- Health premiums were \$492,615, and health claims were \$596,657, for a utilization rate of 121%.
- Dental premiums were \$270,015, dental claims were \$292,884, for a utilization rate of 108%.
- Total premiums were \$762,631, total were claims \$889,542, for a utilization rate of 117%.

The 2024-2025 plan cost is \$328.46 and the plan fee is \$317.88. The USSU subsidized the plan at \$10.58 per student.

The projected 2025-2026 plan cost is \$479.99. To prevent a deficit from growing, the USC will have to consider either increasing the plan fee or reducing the plan cost by reducing benefits.

Councillor Frykas asked if Mr. Versi knows the use rate of previous years and what decisions the USC has made in the past.

 Mr. Versi answered yes; the utilization rate is 117% so far this year and was 104% last year. Last year the USC approved a 5% increase to the plan fee. It was possible for the USSU to subsidize the plan last year due to its reserve funds, but that is no longer an option.

Councillor Finnie asked if benefits could be expanded to cover massages and physiotherapy.

• Mr. Versi answered yes, the USC steers the plan. However, the USSU's plan is at par with others in terms of coverage.

Councillor Bytyqi asked for clarification on plan fee increases and what benefits reduction might look like.

 Mr. Versi explained that the plan fee is currently set at \$317.88. The projected plan cost for next year is \$479.99, leaving a deficit of \$162.11. The USSU will either have to raise the plan fee or reduce benefits to eliminate this deficit. That could mean dental and prescription drugs cuts up to 30%.

Councillor Jacob asked how much the USSU subsidized the plan last year and how much they can do so this year.

- Mr. Versi answered that the USSU subsidized the plan by \$10.58 per student last year.
- SM Ventnor added that USSU reserves in this account are currently around \$200,000.

Councillor Cey asked if subsidizing the plan by \$36.23 is possible for next year.

- SM Ventnor answered that it is not possible to do so while eliminating the deficit.
- Mr. Versi added that if the USSU subsidized at \$36.23 per student, it would result in a \$400,000 deficit.

Councillor Tellez-Hernandez asked how the USSU's rates compare to other universities and how this might change if rates are raised.

• Mr. Versi answered that the USSU's rates are currently the third lowest in the U15. If increased to a level that would eliminate the deficit, the rates would be on the higher end.

Councillor Frykas asked what the cost difference might be between the USSU's plan and individual private insurance.

• Mr. Versi answered that it is significantly more expensive to get individual insurance.

Councillor Sidhu asked if Studentcare has looked at different insurance companies.

 Mr. Versi explained that they are looking to do so soon but need to wait until at least six months into the fiscal year so that claims trends stabilize. It is mainly claims that drive the plan cost, so it is unlikely that changing insurance companies will significantly impact premiums.

Councillor Bytyqi asked if it is possible that large increases in claims will continue year after year.

- SM Ventnor answered that he has never seen this high of an increase.
- Mr. Versi added that it is impossible to know what will happen in the future, but he is hopeful that the increases will flatten.

Chairperson Rafid-Hamed asked what happens if students have access to another insurance plan, which plan is assessed first?

• If the student is single and employed, their employer's plan is primary and their student plan is secondary. If the student is a dependent, then the student plan is primary, and their parent's plan is secondary.

Councillor Finnie asked what the order is if someone has three insurance plans-their parents' plan, their student plan, and their employer's plan.

• Mr. Versi is not sure but thinks the order would be employer, student, parent.

#### 6. Minutes and Reports for Information

#### 6.1. USC Minutes – January 16, 2025

Councillor proposed an amendment to item 7.4 to make a spelling correction in her constituency report.

Motion to amend item 7.4.

USCMOTION078	Councillor Fielding / Councillor Frykas	Carried
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Move to enter the USC minutes from January 16, 2025, into the official record as amended.

USCMOTION079 C	uncillor Finnie / Councillor Fielding	Carried
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# 6.2. Executive Committee Minutes & Report – January 21, 2025

President Chavda reported the key items included in the January 21 Executive Committee minutes.

Councillor Jacob asked VP Ahiabu to elaborate on a meeting he had about the potential impact of the Trump administration.

• President Chavda mentioned that it is likely that the US will impose tariffs on Canada.

Move to enter the Executive Committee minutes from January 21, 2025, into the official record.

USCMOTION080	President Chavda / VP Bauman	Carried	

# **6.3.** Advocacy Committee Minutes & Report – January 20, 2025 President Chavda reported the highlights from the January 20, 2025,

Advocacy Committee minutes, including a plan to create a new provincial lobbying document.

Councillor Bytyqi asked if the recommendations in the lobbying document will be presented to the USC before it is delivered to the government.

• President Chavda answered yes.

Move to enter the Advocacy Committee minutes from January 20, 2025, into the official record.

USCMOTION081	Councillor Bytyqi / Councillor Sidhu	Carried	

**6.4.** Campus Group Committee Minutes & Report – January 20, 2025 Councillor Cey reported the highlights from the January 20, 2025, Campus Groups Committee meeting.

Move to enter the Campus Group Committee minutes from January 13, 2025, into the official record.

USCMOTION082	Councillor Cey / Councillor Tellez-Hernandez	Carried
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6.5. Finance and Assessment Committee Minutes & Report – January 20, 2025

President Chavda reported the highlights from the January 20, 2025, Finance and Assessment Committee meeting.

Move to enter the Finance and Assessment Committee minutes from January 20, 2025, into the official record.

USCMOTION083 Councillor Tellez-Hernandez / President Carried Chavda	USCMOTION083	
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# 7. College/Constituency Report

# 7.1. Agriculture and Bioresources

Councillor Frykas reported the following:

- Met with President Chavda to discuss the USSU 2030 Plan.
- ASA is planning to send a letter to university administration regarding the stone barn.
- Their annual winter hockey mixer event is on February 1.

# 7.2. Arts and Science

Councillor Bytyqi reported the following:

 The Arts and Science Gala was a success and raised approximately \$3000.

#### 7.3. Dentistry

Councillor Ge reported the following:

• There is a new program in the college.

#### 7.4. Education

Councillor Fielding reported the following:

- They are partnering with Kinesiology on a community event on January 29.
- They are hosting a trivia & board game night on February 13 from 6-10 PM.
- The Next Steps conference is from 8:30 AM to 5 PM, and the entry fee is \$25.

#### 7.5. Edwards

Councillor R. Patel reported the following:

- The EBSS presidential election is underway and the new president will be announced tomorrow.
- They are hosting a coffeehouse event tomorrow.

#### 7.6. Engineering

No Councillor present.

7.7. Indigenous Students No Councillor present.

# 7.8. International Students

Councillor Mashrafi reported the following:

- They met with President Chavda recently.
- They are planning to hold their AGM in February.

#### 7.9. Kinesiology

No Councillor present.

#### 7.10. Law

Councillor Sidhu reported the following:

- They are working on improving sexual assault awareness initiatives.
- They are hosting a carnival next months.

#### 7.11. Medicine

No Councillor present.

#### 7.12. Nursing

No Councillor present.

7.13. Pharmacy and Nutrition No Councillor present.

#### 7.14. St. Thomas More

Councillor Jacob reported the following:

- They are planning some events including trivia nights and a dance.
- They are amending their constitution.

# 7.15. Western College of Veterinary Medicine No Councillor present.

#### 8. Business

#### 8.1. Executive Scholarship Policy

President Chavda shared that the Executive Committee is making some changes to the Executive Scholarship Policy, including creating an ad hoc committee to review applications and reducing the number of reference letters required from three to two. Also, there will be four \$1000 scholarships this year instead of two \$2000 scholarships.

Chairperson Rafid-Hamed asked if the letters of recommendation can be from community members outside of USask.

- President Chavda answered yes.
- Chairperson Rafid-Hamed believes that the letters should be from USask personnel.
- Councillor Cey believes that the criteria of the scholarship do not require that the letters of recommendation be from USask personnel.

Motion to approve the proposed changes to the Executive Scholarship Policy.

USCMOTION084	Councillor Jacob / Councillor Bytyqi	Carried
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#### 8.2. Executive Office Hours and Class Schedules

President Chavda's office hours are from 8 AM to 5 PM, and he is enrolled in nine credit units because he is an international student.

VP Bauman's office hours are from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, and she is enrolled in nine credit units.

VP Singh's office hours are from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, and he is enrolled in nine credit units because he is an international student.

#### 9. New Business

There was no new business.

#### 10. Questions, Comments, and Announcements

- Councillor Bytyqi asked when the USC will decide what changes to make to the health & dental plan.
  - President Chavda answered that it will be next week.
- VP Bauman announced that the academic integrity workshop will be held on January 28 from 6:30 to 8:00 PM.

- President Chavda announced that the USSU's Winter Whiteout Ball is postponed until February 7.
- President Chavda announced that there will be a \$1600 tuition giveaway at the men's Huskies hockey game on Friday.

# 11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.



# Executive Meeting Minutes for January 28, 2025

#### Present:

President/Chair – Krunal Chavda VP Operations and Finance – Moses Ahiabu VP Academic Affairs – Elisabeth Bauman VP Student Affairs – Upkar Singh SM Communications & Marketing – Jason Ventnor Academic & Governance Assistant – Brock Neufeldt

#### **Regrets:**

None

# 1. Call to Order

President Chavda called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM and stated the land acknowledgment.

# 2. Quorum

Quorum was present.

# 3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

EXEC 2025.01.21 VP Ahiabu / VP Bauman Carried

#### 4. Roundtables

# a. President Chavda

# i. Meetings

- 1. Exec/SM
- 2. Exec Meeting
- 3. Governance Committee Meeting USask
  - a. WCVM bylaws were approved.
- 4. Election Video Planning
- 5. Krunal x Owen (ASSU President) meeting
  - a. Discussed USSU Plan 2030.
  - b. Municipal advocacy: bus rapid transit. Provincial advocacy: removing interest on student loans.



- c. Navigation for new students.
- 6. Governance Committee Meeting USSU
  - a. Elections policy, scholarship policy, recommendations for Elections Committee.
- 7. Ali USC Prep meeting
- 8. Pre-council Meeting
- 9. University Students' Council Meeting
- 10. CSSS Execs x Dean Dr. Brooke Milne x Associate Dean Dr. Jennifer Lang x Krunal meeting
  - a. Systemic issues in the Computer Science department.
- 11. Recreation and Athletics Advisory Committee meeting
  - a. Fee discussion.
  - b. Student salaries.
  - c. CUPE and ASPA. Some employees are classified as FAPA.
- 12. Librarian Search Committee meeting
- 13. Advocacy Committee Meeting
  - a. Provincial advocacy.
- 14. Moses x Krunal Check in

#### ii. Projects/Initiatives

#### iii. Events

- 1. Opus Innovation Expo
- 2. Ice Skating
- iv. Other

# b. VP Ahiabu

- i. Meetings
  - 1. Execs Meeting
  - 2. Execs & Senior Managers Meeting
  - 3. Meeting with a student (Potential CG Leader)
  - 4. Election Video Planning
  - 5. Meeting with Scott Henderson
  - 6. Campus Groups Committee Meeting
  - 7. Meeting with Krunal
  - 8. Filming: VP OP FIN Portfolio

#### ii. Projects/Initiatives

- 1. Ratification
- 2. Funding
- 3. Cheque Requests
- 4. Insurance
- 5. Funding Hub Changes with Scott
  - a. Track how much campus groups are spending in each subcategory.



- iii. Events
  - 1. Opus Innovation Expo
- iv. Other

# c. VP Bauman

# i. Meetings

- 1. Exec
- 2. Exec/SM
- 3. Dr. Susan Bens
  - a. Preparing for today's session
- 4. Student Cases (3)
- 5. Sask Al Co-op
  - a. Turnitin discussion.
- 6. Jordan Hartshorn + 3 students
- 7. Ventnor, elections video planning
- 8. Academic Misconduct Hearings (4)
- 9. What is a Symposium session, with Dr. Mandy Fehr
  - a. On Youtube new
- 10. Tabling with Raegan from the library
- 11. Advising Council
  - a. Maxient case management system would allow cases to be coordinated across offices.
- 12. Vanessa from A&S
- 13. Pre-Council
- 14. Council Meeting
- 15. Jordan Hartshorn + students

# ii. Projects/Initiatives

- 1. Academic Awareness Week
- 2. Symposium Planning
- 3. Academic Integrity Feedback
- 4. Excellence Awards

# iii. Events

- 1. Theology on Tap, Dr. Sarah Powrie
- 2. Literature Matters, Dr. Brent Nelson
  - a. Databases are being closed.

# iv. Other

d. VP Singh

# i. Meetings

- 1. Financial Review
- 2. Meeting: Morgan
- 3. Exec Committee Meeting
- 4. Exec/SM Meeting



- 5. Election Video Planning
- 6. USSU ChildCare Centre Governance Committee Meeting
- 7. USC Prep Meeting: Ali Versi
- 8. Pre-Council Meeting
- 9. University Students' Council
- 10. Meeting: Safewalk with Jason Kovitch

# ii. Projects/Initiatives

- 1. Winter Whiteout Ball Party
- iii. Events
  - 1. Ice Skating
- iv. Other

# 5. New Business

#### a. Letters

- i. To the provincial government regarding Bill 137.
- ii. To President Stoicheff regarding student wages.

# 6. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 1:37 PM.



# **Advocacy Committee Meeting**

# Minutes for January 27th, 2025

Members:

Present: Krunal Chavda, Selim Bytyqi, Paras Sidhu, Nahian Mashrafi Muqtasida Fatima,

Regrets:Ahuose Okojie, Jason V Absent:

# 1. Call to order

a. Time - 3:04 PM

# 2. Quorum

a. Quorum Present

# 3. Approval of Last Meeting Minutes

- a. 🗧 Advocacy Committee Meeting 2025.01.20
  - Councilor Paras Sidhu/ Councilor Selim Bytyqi motion carried

# 4. Provincial Lobby Document and Priorities

- a. 📃 Lobby Document: Investing in Students for a Stronger Saskatch...
  - The document aims to present strategic recommendations to the provincial government on behalf of the USSU (likely the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union) and students.
  - Restructuring recommendations for student wellbeing
  - Balancing financial aid (bursaries) with overall student wellness initiatives
  - Considering the impact of recommendations on students, the university, and the province
  - Addressing the needs of both domestic and international students
  - Discussion about how to frame the recommendations, particularly around bursaries and student wellness:
  - Some suggest separating financial aid from general wellness initiatives
  - Others propose including bursaries as part of a broader student wellness strategy



# 5. Lobby day planning

a. No discussion

# 6. Action Items

- a. Reword recommendation
- 7. Adjournment 4:08 PM
  - a. Councillor Sidhu / Councillor Mashrafi Carried

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# Campus Group Committee Meeting Minutes for January 27, 2025 – 12 PM Roy Romanow Student Council Chamber

Present: Moses Ahiabu, Zachary Cey, Angi Patel, Hamza Abdi

Also Present: Stefanie Ewen

**Regrets:** Guillermo Tellez-Hernandez

- Call to Order VP Ahiabu called the meeting to order at 12:19 PM.
- **2. Quorum** Quorum was present.

# 3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

E CGC 2025.01.20 SAL Patel / Councilor Cey Carried

# 4. Introductions

a. Committee members shared their opinion about the fluctuating weather of Saskatoon weather

# 5. Business

- a. Ratification
  - i. N/A
- b. Funding

Motion to grant "**Usask Photography Association**" \$400 cash of projects & initiatives funding for their event, *"Meet and Greet/AGM"* on January 30, 2025.

CGMOTION045	SAL Patel / SAL Abdi	Carried
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Motion to grant "**FABS Club**" \$190 (\$160 cash and \$30 XL Credit) of projects & initiatives funding for their event, *"FABS club paint night"* on January 29, 2025.

CGMOTION046	VP Ahiabu / SAL Abdi	Carried
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Motion to grant "**Visual Arts Student Union (VASU)**" \$170 (\$150 cash and \$20 XL Credit) of projects & initiatives funding for their event, *"Paint Night Winter term"* on February 7, 2025.

CGMOTION047	SAL Patel / Councilor Cey	Carried
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Motion to grant "Usask Buddies and Exchange Students Program" \$500 cash of projects & initiatives funding for their event, "Laser Tag for Usask Buddies and Exchange Students" on January 24, 2025.

CGMOTION048	Councilor Cey / SAL Patel	Carried
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Motion to grant "**Pre-Law Student Society**" \$310 XL Credit of projects & initiatives funding for their event, "*New Banner*" from January 16 to January 20, 2025.

CGMOTION049	SAL Patel / VP Ahiabu	Carried
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Motion to deny "USASK Hip Hop" \$500 cash of EDI-Disabilities funding for their event, "Usask Hip Hop Family Session" February 5 to April 16, 2025

CGMOTION050	VP Ahiabu / Councilor Cey	Carried
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#### 6. New Business

a. N/A

# 7. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 12:53 PM.



# **Governance Committee Meeting**

# Minutes for January 22, 2025

Present: Krunal, Zachary, Melissa, Selim, Nidhi Regrets: Jason Ventnor Absent:

- 1. Call to order 4:09 PM
- 2. Quorum Present
- 3. Approval of last meeting minutes
  - a. December 4th, 2024 MSC Bytyqi/MSC Fielding
- 4. Introductions
  - a. Krunal Chavda (he/him) USSU President
  - b. Selim Bytyqi (he/him) MSC from Arts
  - c. Nidhi Prajapati (she/her) SAL
  - d. Zachery Cey (he/him) MSC from Agbio
  - e. Melissa Fielding (she/her) MSC from Education

# 5. Scholarships policy update

USSU Executive Scholarship Policy 2024-2025

Motion to recommend the changes to USC for USSU Executive Scholarships Policy

GCMOTION01	MSC Bytyqi/ MSC Cey	Carried

# 6. Elections Policy

a. <u>https://ussu.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/ELEC-2-Election-Pol</u> icy-20170301.pdf

The committee discussed the need for a separate policy governing USSU conduct during election periods. Key points included:

- Preventing the announcement of monetary incentives, scholarships, or awards during election periods
- Addressing concerns about unfair advantages for incumbent candidates



- Ensuring the policy covers all forms of financial incentives, including giveaways
- The existing elections policy to be named the USSU elections policy for candidates.

Three motions were made and carried unanimously to recommend to the Elections Committee:

Motion to recommend to the elections committee that libraries be added to the no campaigning zone.

GCMOTION02	MSC Cey/ MSC Fielding	Carried
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Motion to recommend to elections committee that campaigning materials should not be distributed or placed in any of the libraries

GCMOTION03	MSC Fielding/ SAL Prajapati	Carried
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Motion to recommend to the elections committee that the wording of clause 2.1.1 be changed to any washrooms across the university.

GCMOTION04	SAL Prajapati/ MSC Bytyqi	Carried
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# 7. Action items

- Draft a proposal for the USSU Governance Elections policy
- Research similar policies at other U15 schools and across Canada
- Review and potentially update executive policies, including language around second employment

# 8. Adjournment - 5:09 PM