



COUNCIL REPORT

JANUARY 2025

PLACE RIEL
STUDENT CENTRE

1 Campus Drive

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

President

Since returning to campus in early January, the USSU has been working to welcome students back and support welcome week festivities for those attending university for the first time. January has been a busy month for student engagement, with initiatives ranging from winter movies and skate nights to a bustling Campus Groups Week. Through these events, the USSU has worked to highlight the many ways students can get involved and connect with campus life. This is just the beginning.

University Students' Council and its committees continue to meet regularly, addressing key priorities such as student health and dental plans, upcoming budgets, and strengthening connections with essential university units. As the term continues, the USSU looks forward to new opportunities to advocate for and uplift student initiatives across campus.

This year has already brought exciting changes to the university community. The USSU looks forward to working alongside President Bruni-Bossio as we enter the final months of our term and begin transitioning new student leaders into executive positions this spring. Strong relationships between student leaders and senior administration are integral to creating a cohesive university community, and fostering open communication and encouraging collaboration grounded in shared values.

To support this work, the USSU will welcome President Bruni-Bossio to University Students' Council in February to meet with student leaders from both the Saskatoon and Prince Albert campuses. The USSU is grateful for continued opportunities to work alongside the President and senior leaders as the University of Saskatchewan enters a new era of leadership.

Additionally, following the recent announcement of Dr. Angela Jaime's departure from the University of Saskatchewan to the University of Victoria, the USSU wishes to acknowledge her incredible dedication to student success. I have personally deeply cherished the opportunity to work alongside Dr. Jaime in her role as Vice-Provost Indigenous Engagement, and I am deeply grateful for her mentorship, kindness, and unwavering commitment to Indigenous students and communities. The USSU thanks Dr. Jaime for her deep collaboration, fierce advocacy, and passion, and wishes her the very best in the next stage of her career.

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Prevention

In collaboration with students and the Saskatoon Sexual Assault and Information Centre (SSAIC), the USSU is working to increase the visibility of how the university community responds to sexual and gender-based violence. After a term focused on community outreach with SSAIC, a cohort of students is now working with the USSU to develop an advocacy document grounded in student perspectives to share with the university.

The USSU hopes to collaborate with the Vice-Provost Students and Learning and Strategic Communications on campus-wide communications to raise awareness of sexual and gender-based violence prevention and response. Students have expressed interest in a contemporary iteration of the *React Campaign* as a visible demonstration of institutional support for survivors and a clear stance against sexual and gender-based violence. Broader university involvement would also help the USSU Women's Centre, which is currently the primary organizer of awareness and campaigning in this area.

The USSU is also committed to working with the Office of the Vice-Provost Students and Learning to advance discussions around updates to the University Sexual Violence Response Policy and associated procedures. The USSU continues to call for a formal commitment from the university and Board of Governors to review this policy every three to five years, in alignment with practices at other U15 universities. Students have noted the increasingly outdated nature of existing initiatives, underscoring the need for greater institutional investment in prevention, response, and student support.

Bidet Initiative, Accessibility, and Sustainability

Students across undergraduate, graduate, faculty, and staff populations have been raising awareness of the need for bidets in campus washrooms as a matter of cultural inclusion, accessibility, and sustainability. Bidets serve a wide range of community members and are a relatively simple and affordable addition to washroom facilities. The USSU supports students who are championing this conversation, noting that institutions such as the University of Toronto have already begun installing bidets in high-traffic student buildings.

The USSU encourages the university to consider a small-scale pilot project that would install bidets in select washrooms, with the goal of expanding access over time. This initiative would be a meaningful step toward supporting the diverse hygienic, cultural, and accessibility needs of students.

Gender-Inclusive Washrooms Initiative

The USSU Pride Centre, in collaboration with the USSU, is working to update washroom signage in Place Riel and the Memorial Union Building as part of a pilot project with the University of Saskatchewan. This intended initiative reflects our commitment to fostering an inclusive, respectful, and welcoming environment for all community members, including transgender, non-binary, and gender-diverse individuals.

It is important to note that only signage will change. All washrooms will remain clean, safe, and fully functional, and everyone is welcome to use the washroom that best aligns with their comfort and needs. Signage for single-use washrooms will also be improved to ensure individuals seeking greater privacy can easily locate these facilities.

Indigenous Students' Advisory Committee

The Indigenous Students' Advisory Committee has been very active this year, working to build connections and community among Indigenous and non-Indigenous students through engagement, discussion, and collaborative initiatives. The Office of the Vice-Provost Indigenous Engagement and the Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre have been invaluable partners in supporting this work.

In collaboration with OVPIE, the USSU will host a small symposium or conversation circle to engage students with USask's Indigenous Strategy. Students are invited to participate in the ohpahotân | oohpaahotaan Student Symposium, a space to learn, engage, and support the mobilization of commitments, calls to action, and guiding principles.

In early March, the committee will also host a student-focused event bringing together Indigenous, non-Indigenous, and international students for team-building activities and creative challenges. This event will provide opportunities for cultural learning, collaboration, and community-building.

Prince Albert Campus Connections

The USSU has made significant progress this year in strengthening relationships with students at the Prince Albert campus. From welcoming the first PA representative to Students' Council to regular campus visits and expanded access to USSU supports, these efforts reflect a commitment to improving the student experience in Prince Albert.

As conversations continue with Dr. Jay Wilson and engaged PA students, it is clear that further work is needed to enhance transparency, connection, and equity between the Saskatoon and Prince Albert campuses. The USSU encourages the university to continue prioritizing student engagement and support at PA. One specific area of improvement has been identified by students in the realm of parking services. PA students have requested the option to pay for parking passes in two installments to make the cost more affordable. The USSU has started these conversations with senior leaders and parking services and hopes to see progress on this front to provide increased access for all students.

What's Coming Up

At the end of January, the USSU Women's Centre will host Pro-Choice Awareness Week, emphasizing the importance of reproductive health education and access to information, support, and services related to abortion and pregnancy care.

In February, the USSU Pride Centre will host Sex Week, featuring a range of events, including sex-positive bingo and a drag show, as well as workshops focused on safer sex and stigma

reduction. These initiatives aim to provide students with engaging, educational, and inclusive programming.

Across all areas, the USSU remains committed to supporting students academically and beyond, serving as advocates, navigators, and resources within the campus community.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emma Wintemute', with a stylized, cursive script.

Emma Wintemute

President

University of Saskatchewan Students' Union

Vice-President (Operations & Finance)

Summary:

With finals and essays, December was a quiet month. Nonetheless, I remained engaged with the many aspects of my portfolio, most notably my responsibilities over campus groups and finances.

Campus Groups:

As of the time of writing, the USSU has fully ratified 170 campus groups. From college societies to major-based clubs to activist groups, and everything in between, we are immensely proud of the diversity these groups represent. For a list of groups, visit [USSUhub](#) and select 'Browse Campus Groups' from the left-hand side of the screen. Many groups continue to work on their applications, so we expect to see an even higher number in the closing months of the winter term.

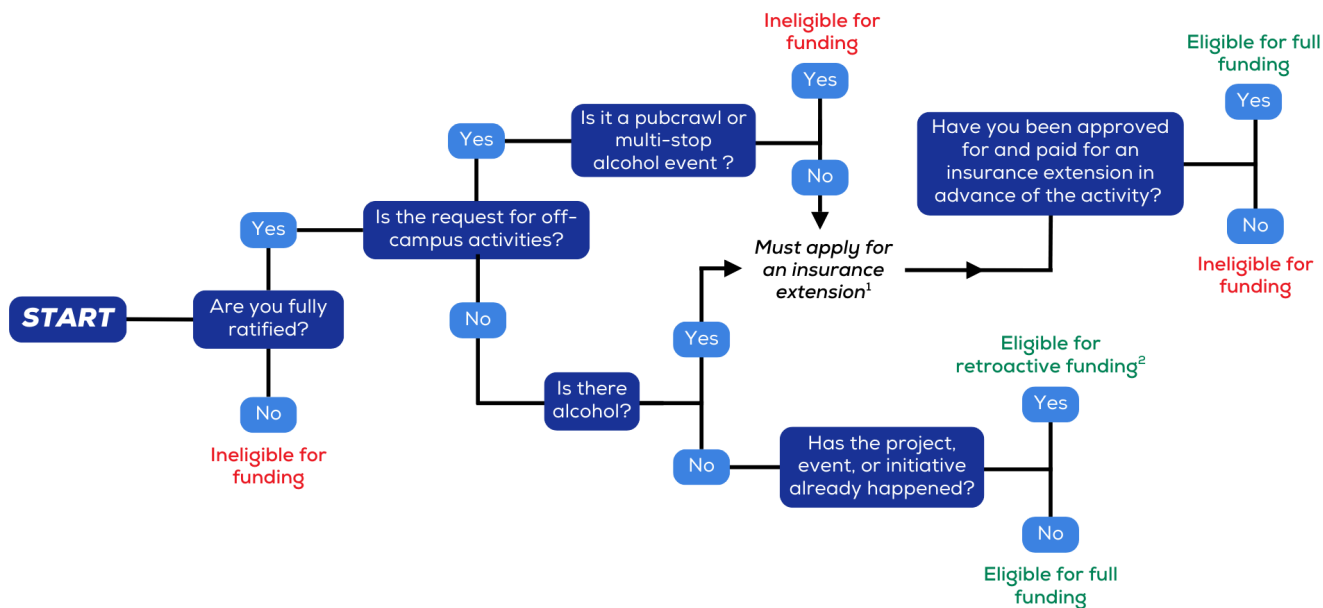
December was a relatively slow month as students completed their final projects and exams. As a result, the total amount of funding we approved is significantly lower than in previous months. Despite this, I want to draw attention to the following:

- \$1,625.25 was approved in Projects & Initiatives funding, supporting operations and events for groups
- \$1,000 was approved in Executive Sponsorship for projects and initiatives that align closely with the goals of the USSU Executive Committee
- Despite low approval amounts for December, over \$4,000 remains in approved, but unclaimed funds. This funding was either for events that occurred after this report's cutoff or before a group's reimbursement request deadline

December also saw minor policy changes to better reflect the needs of campus groups. The most important of these was providing Constituency Groups (i.e., a group which represents all students enrolled in their college, all international students or all Indigenous students) with one additional room booking per week. This was sparked by concerns from our medical students, who face a lack of available space in their building and must compete with dozens of subject-adjacent groups for rooms. Constituency Groups are still bound by the eight-hour total booking limit per week to ensure relative fairness amongst all groups.

I have also been hard at work developing a cheat sheet for groups to ensure funding eligibility is as clear as possible. See below:

USSU Funding Eligibility Chart



This chart is **not comprehensive**. Being eligible for funding does not guarantee approval. The USSU reserves the right to deny requests that do not meet the full eligibility criteria set out in the respective funding and insurance policies available at ussu.co/bylaw.

1. Events at Louis' or Louis' Loft are eligible for funding without an insurance application
2. Retroactive funding covers up to 50% of receipted expenses, if approved

USSU Operations

I am working closely with my colleagues to prepare the USSU's 2026-27 student fees and budget. No additional fees will be introduced, and the fees are to be reviewed by University Students' Council in the coming week. Should students have concerns about the USSU's fees, please share with them that they are welcome to attend the Students' Council meeting, where they will be reviewed and approved. The meeting will be held on Thursday, January 29 at 6:00 PM in the Roy Romanow Students' Council Chamber.

As we continue planning for our annual operating budget, we will be sure to share similar opportunities for students to understand where their money is going.

Meetings and Advocacy

The USSU has largely completed its Advanced Education Lobbying Document. To be shared with the Minister of Advanced Education, this document outlines some of the USSU's highest priorities for supporting advanced education in Saskatchewan. The document will be shared once it is fully completed and edited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Owen Deis', written in a cursive style.

Owen Deis

Vice-President (Operations & Finance)

University of Saskatchewan Students' Union

Vice-President Academic Affairs

This month has focused on supporting institution-wide academic initiatives through a student-centred implementation lens. As assessment policy, teaching effectiveness, accessibility planning, and undergraduate research continue to advance at the university level, the work of this portfolio has concentrated on how these initiatives are introduced, communicated, and experienced by students in practice. Ensuring that institutional frameworks translate into clear, navigable academic experiences remains a central priority.

Assessment Policy Implementation, Planning, and Teaching Transparency

Work related to assessment policy during this period has focused exclusively on implementation planning. With revisions and conceptual development complete, current efforts are directed toward determining how assessment policy changes will be rolled out across the institution in a clear, consistent, and student-understandable way. This includes planning communication strategies, identifying appropriate timelines, and considering how students will be supported in understanding revised assessment practices as they come into effect.

Student experiences continue to demonstrate that clarity around assessment expectations, grading practices, and academic processes is essential to student confidence and fairness. As a result, implementation planning has emphasized the importance of aligning policy communication with student-facing resources, course-level guidance, and consistent messaging across colleges. This work is closely connected to broader efforts to strengthen transparency in teaching and learning, ensuring that academic expectations are clearly articulated and accessible to students.

Accessibility and Inclusive Pedagogical Design

Accessibility planning has continued with a focus on pedagogical settings, emphasizing inclusive course design and assessment structures that reduce barriers for students. Student feedback highlights that accessibility is often shaped by how courses are structured, how expectations are communicated, and how flexibility is incorporated into learning environments.

Current work integrates accessibility considerations into teaching effectiveness and assessment planning, reinforcing inclusive design as a foundational component of academic quality. This approach supports a wide range of learning needs while contributing to more consistent and equitable academic experiences across the university.

Undergraduate Research Strategy and Student Engagement

Undergraduate research remains a key area of focus, with current efforts centred on strategic planning and direct student engagement. Work in this area has emphasized improving the visibility of research opportunities, clarifying pathways for student participation, and supporting students who are exploring research involvement for the first time.

Planning for the upcoming USSU Undergraduate Research Symposium has underscored the role of research engagement in supporting student learning and academic development. The symposium provides an opportunity to showcase student research while also serving as an entry point for students interested in learning more about undergraduate research opportunities across disciplines.

Scholarships and Context-Aware Adjudication

Work related to scholarships and awards during this period has emphasized the importance of being mindful of students' circumstances during adjudication. Many students navigate complex personal, financial, and academic challenges that may not be fully reflected in traditional measures of achievement. A context-aware approach to adjudication supports fairness, equity, and student well-being, particularly for students experiencing crisis or significant barriers. This work reflects a broader commitment to ensuring that academic recognition and financial support processes are responsive to students' realities and aligned with the institution's values of access and equity.

Looking Ahead

Looking ahead, attention will turn to upcoming opportunities to highlight student achievement and academic engagement, including the USSU Undergraduate Research Symposium on February 25, 2026, and the Excellence Awards ceremony in March. These events provide meaningful opportunities to celebrate student scholarship, teaching excellence, and the collaborative academic community that supports learning and research across the university.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Norah Jacob". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Norah" and last name "Jacob" clearly distinguishable.

Norah Jacob

Vice-President (Academic Affairs)

University of Saskatchewan Students' Union

Vice-President Student Affairs

Events

The start of another term means another USSU Welcome Week! For the first week of January, the USSU hosted our annual Skate Night at Brunskill School Outdoor Rink, Ask-A-Tune Music Trivia, an Ice Age Movie Night, and a Speed Friending event in collaboration with the International Student and Study Abroad Centre. These events were well attended and had our team excited for student energy in the term to come. We are also hosting our second Style Swap of the year, an opportunity for students to donate and take clothing for free. Our final event for the month is a student talent show on January 31st. We have many fun events planned for the rest of the semester and look forward to further student engagement.

Prince Albert Supports

We continue to engage students from our Prince Albert campus, attending another Talk to Us Tuesday event on January 20th. As our USSU Centres are only at the Saskatoon campus, we use these events to transport and distribute some of our most-used resources, including pregnancy tests, condoms, and menstrual products. This month, we were also able to budget for a small expanse of our Help Centre's Prep Hub on the PA Campus. We ordered 4 NCLEX-RN prep books and 2 LSAT prep books, with plans to also provide MCAT prep books in the future. Students appreciated these resources, and we hope to continue meaningful engagement with our northern students.

University Students' Council

Both University Students' Council sub-committees chaired by the Vice-President Student Affairs, have met in January to continue planning events and initiatives for the upcoming year. The Student Life and Sustainability Committee is currently working on developing the USSU's involvement with the student body by collaborating on different events throughout February. The International Student Advisory Committee is in the process of planning a drop-in style event for students to have assistance with developing their resumes and cover letters.

USSU Centres

In January, the USSU Women's Centre hosts Pro-Choice Awareness Week, a week dedicated to raising awareness and supporting students on women's reproductive health. Throughout the week, there will be tabling and a variety of events yet to be announced. The Pride Centre hosted A Safe Space to Swim on January 24, offering students a queer-friendly, safe space to be active and meet peers. In the first week of February, the Help Centre will host another Mental Health Awareness Week, with details provided soon.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emily Hubick', written in a cursive style.

Emily Hubick

Vice-President (Student Affairs)

University of Saskatchewan Students' Union