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

University of Saskatchewan Students' Union

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

University Students' Council Minutes
October 29, 2026 – 6:00 PM
Roy Romanow Student Council Chamber

Present:
- **Abtin Safaein:** President
- **Elmer Vincent:** VP Operations and Finance
- **Ashley Mendez Rosales**: VP Academic Affairs
- **Azul Gonzalez Avila**: VP Student Affairs
- **Raelynne Boutin**: Agriculture and Bioresources
- **Cody Wilson**: Agriculture and Bioresources
- **Arbe Chumala:** Arts and Science
- **Sam Wardell:** Arts and Science
- **Ilia Rezaei Paskiabi:** Arts and Science
- **Gracie Radke**: Education
- **Shubham Jiaswal:** International Students
- **Max Clark:** Kinesiology
- **Melissa Vogler:** Law
- **Mitia Robinson**: Prince Albert
- **Nate Desjarlais**: Indigenous Students
- **Jordie Finnie**: St. Thomas More
- **Laiba Masood**: St. Thomas More
- **Abby Fortier**: Nursing
- **Nyasha Alicia Munzara**: International Students
- **Isfar Chowdhury:** Medicine

Also Present:
- **Selim Bytyqi**: Chair
- **Jason Ventnor**: Business and service manager
- **Atharv Govardhan**: Academic and Governance Assistant

Absent:
- **Ayodele Daniel Omotoso:** Engineering
- **Sakina Abedi**: Edwards School of Business
- **Chinwe Udenze:** Pharmacy and Nutrition
- **Parthi Shah:** Edwards School of Business
- **Chang Ge:** Dentistry

Guests:
- **Robyn Paches:** Senior Manager Alumo

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM.

2. **Land Acknowledgement**
Chairperson Bytyqi stated the Land Acknowledgement

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**

Move to adopt the agenda as presented.

USC035	**Councillor Finnie/ Councillor Masood**	**Carried**

5. **Council Address:**

5.1 Robyn Paches Presents:

Robyn introduced himself as the Senior Director at ALUMO and explained that he previously served as a student leader at the University of Alberta, where he completed a Bachelor of Commerce degree and held the positions of Vice-President Operations and Finance and Business Councillor.

He acknowledged the responsibilities associated with student leadership and emphasized that his previous experience as an elected student representative helped him understand the challenges faced by Council members.

He explained that the USSU Health and Dental Plan provides extended healthcare coverage to students. Although Canada's public healthcare system covers essential services such as hospital visits and physician appointments, several important healthcare services remain outside provincial coverage.

These include:

- Prescription medications.
- Dental care.
- Vision care.
- Various paramedical and healthcare practitioner services.

Robyn clarified the responsibilities of the main organizations involved in administering the plan.

USSU:

- Acts as the policyholder and owner of the student health and dental plan.
- Maintains decision-making authority over the plan.
- Determines the direction, design, and overall administration of the service.
- Makes decisions regarding future plan changes and coverage priorities.

ALUMO:

- Acts as the plan administrator and consultant.
- Supports the USSU with insurance negotiations, plan design, research, risk analysis, and financial planning.
- Manages the day-to-day administration of the plan.
- Coordinates student communications and responds to inquiries.
- Supports the operation of the on-campus health and dental plan office.

Securian Canada:

- Acts as the insurance company providing coverage under the plan.
- Works with ALUMO and the USSU through annual insurance renewal arrangements.

Robyn highlighted the importance of the plan as one of the USSU's largest student services.

Key figures shared during the presentation included:

- More than 11,000 students enrolled in the plan during the 2024–2025 academic year.
- More than $3 million in claims utilized during the most recent completed reporting year.
- Approximately 25 years of ALUMO's experience in the student benefits sector.
- More than 100 student associations and partner institutions served across Canada.
- Approximately 1.5 million students are represented through ALUMO's broader network.

He explained that although the USSU plan serves approximately 11,000 students, it benefits from ALUMO's larger purchasing and negotiating capacity across Canada.

ALUMO works with numerous Canadian post-secondary institutions, including the University of Alberta, University of Victoria, McGill University, University of British Columbia, University of Manitoba, University of Toronto, and University of Waterloo.

Robyn also explained that ALUMO is largely staffed by former student executives. This provides the organization with a strong understanding of student governance and the practical challenges associated with managing student services.

Robyn explained that ALUMO has two primary responsibilities in its relationship with the USSU.

Consulting responsibilities:

- Supporting negotiations with insurance companies.
- Developing and reviewing the health and dental plan.
- Conducting research and risk assessments.
- Providing financial and strategic advice.
- Training Council members and executives.

Administrative responsibilities:

- Managing daily plan operations.
- Handling data exchanges and student information.
- Responding to student questions.
- Coordinating communications and information campaigns.
- Supporting the operation of the health and dental plan office in Place Riel.

Robyn confirmed that ALUMO has worked with the USSU since 2001.

Robyn explained the organization's transition from Student Care to its new identity, LUMO.

The rebranding followed the consolidation of three related organizations under one umbrella. The new name was developed to represent the organization's broader identity and its mission of supporting students through successful academic journeys.

He clarified that the transition primarily involved a change in branding rather than a change in the services students receive.

The following changes were highlighted:

- Updated branding across printed materials and brochures.
- A redesigned website launched in September 2026.
- Updated digital communications and email materials.
- A more streamlined website designed around the services students use most frequently.

Students continue to submit insurance claims through Securian, and the general claims process remains unchanged.

Robyn emphasized that Council members are responsible for overseeing the broader direction and success of the health and dental plan.

Their responsibilities include:

1. Understanding how the plan supports the USSU's goals and objectives.
2. Acting as advocates and representatives of the plan.
3. Directing students to appropriate resources when they have questions.
4. Reviewing financial and claims information.
5. Making informed policy decisions regarding future coverage and plan improvements.

He encouraged Council members to consider two perspectives when making decisions:

- Their personal experiences as students who may use the plan.
- Their responsibility to represent the interests of the wider student population.

He noted that individual preferences should be balanced against the needs of the broader student membership. For example, some students may prioritize increased

massage coverage, while others may be more concerned about prescription medication costs or mental health services.

The overall objective should be to make decisions that benefit the greatest number of students while also ensuring support for those with significant healthcare needs.

Robyn explained several important insurance and financial terms that Council members should understand.

Plan fee: The amount charged to students through their tuition statements.

Plan premium: The amount paid to the insurance company to provide the coverage.

He clarified that these two amounts are not necessarily equal.

When the collected plan fees exceed the insurance premium, the difference contributes to the plan's internal reserve funds. When the insurance costs exceed the fees collected, the reserve funds can be used to cover the difference.

These reserves help protect students from sudden increases in fees during years when claims are particularly high.

Claims: Requests for reimbursement or payment for eligible healthcare services used by students.

Change-of-coverage period: The designated period during which students can opt out of the plan or add eligible family members.

Blackout period: A temporary period at the beginning of a student's coverage when new student profiles are initialized. Once this process is complete, students receive continuous coverage throughout their studies.

Robyn explained the difference between individual and group insurance.

Individual insurance can be expensive and may involve restrictions or higher premiums for individuals with pre-existing medical conditions.

Group insurance, such as the USSU student plan, allows students to access coverage under common terms and conditions.

He emphasized that the student plan is designed to treat eligible USSU members equally, regardless of their individual medical circumstances.

International and domestic students are treated equally under the student plan.

He also clarified the distinction between provincial healthcare and extended health coverage:

- Hospital and physician services are generally covered through provincial healthcare.
- Prescription medications and other eligible extended healthcare services are covered through the student plan.

The coverage period runs from **September 1 to August 31**.

Students receive renewed annual benefit maximums at the beginning of the new coverage year.

The total plan fee for 2026–2027 was reported as **$483.18**, divided between health and dental coverage.

Students may also add eligible family members:

- One dependent can be added for an additional plan fee.
- Unlimited dependents can be added for twice the regular plan fee.

Robyn clarified that the specific change-of-coverage deadlines vary and are published on the plan website. He cautioned the Council not to rely on outdated dates shown in the presentation.

Robyn explained that the USSU and ALUMO maintain provider networks that offer additional discounts to students.

Students are not required to use providers within these networks. However, using participating providers may reduce their out-of-pocket expenses.

The network includes participating professionals such as dentists, pharmacists, physiotherapists, and vision-care providers.

Robyn encouraged students to recommend providers who may be interested in joining the network.

Participating providers benefit from increased student business, while students receive additional discounts.

Pharmacy partnership – Rexall

- Rexall is the current exclusive pharmacy network partner.
- The partnership provides additional discounts that work alongside the insurance coverage.
- Students receive 25% off eligible non-prescription items from Rexall's in-house brands.
- The agreement is reviewed and renewed annually.

Vision partnership – Specsavers

- Provides discounted eyewear and eye examinations.
- Offers additional student discounts.

Individual provider partnerships

- Include independent dentists, eyewear providers, and other healthcare professionals.

- ALUMO conducts periodic audits to ensure providers continue to meet the agreed requirements.
- Additional providers are periodically approached to expand the network.

Robyn explained that providers are generally motivated to participate because the network can direct additional student customers toward their businesses.

Robyn emphasized that Council members should direct students to the appropriate support channels rather than attempting to interpret complicated insurance questions themselves.

The main resources include:

1. **Place Riel Health and Dental Plan Office:** The recommended option for students requiring direct assistance. Staff have access to the relevant administrative systems and can provide accurate information.
2. **Online Contact Centre:** Provides frequently asked questions, a support forum, and access to the call centre.
3. **ALUMO Website:** Provides plan information, coverage details, and other resources.

He specifically encouraged Council members to forward complicated or personal inquiries to USSU staff, executives, or ALUMO.

This is particularly important when questions involve individual medication claims or confidential health information.

Councillor Vogler asked whether Council could receive a breakdown showing whether healthcare costs were being distributed across a large number of students or whether a smaller number of students were accounting for a significant proportion of total claims.

Robyn confirmed that ALUMO prepares an annual claims report for the USSU. The report includes claims trends and utilization information that would help answer this question.

He indicated that the report was being prepared and was expected to be available by November.

He further explained that claims distribution varies from year to year. Prescription medications often involve numerous smaller claims across the membership, whereas expensive medical equipment or unexpected accidents may result in a small number of particularly large claims.

He emphasized that the plan serves two important purposes: supporting the greatest number of students while also providing assistance to students with the greatest healthcare needs.

Councillor Finnie explained that he is originally from Manitoba and maintained Manitoba provincial healthcare coverage while studying in Saskatchewan.

He asked whether the USSU student health and dental plan could cover hospital expenses if they needed emergency medical treatment in Saskatchewan and were required to pay out of pocket.

> Robyn clarified that the student plan provides extended healthcare coverage and does not replace provincial coverage for hospital and physician services.
>
> He explained that he was not an expert on the interaction between Manitoba and Saskatchewan provincial healthcare arrangements.
>
> He suggested that the student consult the appropriate provincial healthcare authority to confirm their coverage arrangements while studying in Saskatchewan.
>
> He also mentioned that maintaining Saskatchewan provincial healthcare coverage might be an option, but acknowledged that the specific circumstances would need to be verified.

Councillor Finnie asked for clarification regarding the prescription coverage available through the pharmacy partnership, specifically whether the $40 limit applied once or separately to each prescription pickup.

> Robyn explained that eligible out-of-pocket prescription expenses could receive coverage of up to 100%, subject to a $40 cap.
>
> He clarified that the $40 limit was not a one-time annual allowance. It applied each time an eligible prescription was picked up.
>
> Councillor Finnie indicated that the clarification was relevant because they continued to incur out-of-pocket expenses for a particular medication.
>
> Robyn recommended that the student visit the Place Riel health and dental plan office for a more detailed review.
>
> He explained that the office could examine the individual claim and determine how the medication was being processed.
>
> Students were encouraged to bring their Explanation of Benefits from the pharmacy to help staff investigate the issue.
>
> Robyn also emphasized that individual medical and prescription-related questions should be discussed privately rather than in a public Council meeting.

Councillor Desjarlais asked for further clarification about the provider network arrangements and whether additional pharmacies and healthcare providers could be included.

He noted that not all students necessarily have convenient access to Rexall or the participating dentists currently available

Robyn explained that the pharmacy arrangement with Rexall is exclusive. This exclusivity allows the partnership to provide additional discounts to students.

The agreement is reviewed annually to ensure that it continues to serve students effectively.

He also discussed the Specsavers partnership and the broader network of individual healthcare providers.

For individual providers, ALUMO periodically reviews participating locations to ensure that they continue to meet the agreed discount requirements.

ALUMO also contacts providers in university communities to encourage them to join the network.

Robyn confirmed that Council members, executives, and staff could recommend potential providers. Interested providers would need to sign an agreement confirming that they would honour the required student discounts.

Councillor Desjarlais asked a question:

6. Minutes and Reports for Information

6.1 USC meeting minutes:

Motion to change the meeting minutes from last week, from changing Finnie to Councillor Finnie

USC036	**Councillor Finnie/ Councillor Masood**	**Carried**

Motion to adopt the amended USC meeting minutes from last week-

USC037	**Councillor Finnie / Councillor Boutin**	**Carried**

6.2 Executive Committee Minutes & Report:

President Safaeian:

The President reported that a major focus during the previous week had been developing the proposed Vice-President Indigenous Initiatives and Projects position.

Several meetings were held to review the proposed portfolio and ensure that its language, responsibilities, eligibility requirements, and selection criteria were appropriate.

Meetings included:

- Councillor Nate Desjarlais.
- Representatives from the Indigenous Student Union (ISU).
- Representatives from the Indigenous business student support organization.
- Representatives from other Indigenous student organizations.
- Senior USSU managers

President safaeian explained that these consultations were intended to gather feedback, address concerns, and ensure that the proposed position reflected the needs of Indigenous students and organizations.

Projects and policy work:

- President Safaeian Network Policy, approximately 25 pages in length and including related bylaws, had been completed.
- Work on the proposed Vice-President Indigenous Initiatives and Projects portfolio was continuing.
- Preparation of a University Council speech was also underway.

Events and engagement:

The President attended several events, including:

- An event hosted by the University of Saskatchewan Business Students' Association.
- A campus event involving children and community engagement.
- Red Cross-related activities.
- A five-kilometre run organized by the University of Saskatchewan running club.

The President concluded by emphasizing that consultation and development of the proposed Indigenous initiatives portfolio remained a major priority.

VP Vincent:

- Attended a meeting with the Big Leaders Council.
- Provided information regarding the number of registered campus groups, alongside other USSU representatives.
- Continued working on automating administrative processes to improve efficiency and reduce delays in USSU operations.

Transit survey project:

VP Vincent reported that discussions had begun with the City of Saskatoon's transit team regarding the development of a student survey.

The survey is intended to gather student feedback about:

- Transit reliability.
- Cleanliness.
- Safety concerns.

Further information was expected to be provided to Council at the following meeting.

USSU operations and events:

- Reported positive progress with USSU-related operations and the addition of new tenants.
- Noted that several new businesses had expressed interest in joining.
- Attended various campus group events.

VP Mendez Rosales:

Student academic support:

- A significant number of new academic screening cases had been received during the midterm period.
- Planning had begun for Winter Welcome Week.
- Council members were invited to share ideas and suggestions for upcoming activities.

Academic resources:

- Work was underway to revise the syllabus guide.
- The existing guide was last updated in 2023 by Elizabeth Bowman.
- Once the revised version is complete, it will be presented to Council.

Teaching and Excellence Awards:

Planning and coordination for the Teaching and Excellence Awards continued.

VP Gonzalez Avila:

Housing Registry:

- Worked with the USSU IT Manager to make improvements to the Housing Registry website.
- The changes were intended to make the website more user-friendly.
- Council members were encouraged to review the updated platform and provide feedback.
- Students looking for rental accommodation can also be directed to the registry.

Transportation Advisory Committee:

- Attended a meeting of the relevant transportation advisory committee.
- No major developments were reported.
- Council members were encouraged to forward transportation-related concerns so they could be raised through the committee.

Residence-related concerns:

- Attended the quarterly residence meeting.
- Noted that several residence-related concerns had been raised.
- Asked Council members to forward student complaints or concerns, particularly regarding residence doors and other ongoing issues.

Events and professional development:

- Attended a rock-climbing social.
- Participated in a webinar focused on navigating student crises.

Motion to adopt the USC Executive Committee Minutes & Report –

USC038	**Councillor Vogler / Councillor Jaiswal**	**Carried**

7. College/Constituency Report

7.1 Agriculture and Bioresources:

Councillor Boutin presents:

- Several lunch-and-learn sessions had taken place and were successful.
- A donation of **$250** was made to the Saskatoon Legion in memory of CFB Rainier.
- Poppies and wreaths were collected and placed in the constituency lounge.

A Halloween food drive was scheduled for Saturday. Volunteers would meet at the Agriculture and Bioresources lounge at 5:00 PM and collect non-perishable food donations from community members during trick-or-treating hours.

The collected donations would subsequently be donated to support those in need.

7.2 Arts and Science

Councillor Wardell presents:

Planning was underway for a study night scheduled for **November 25**, in partnership with the student health and recreation organization.

The event would be open to all students and would include live jazz music.

Discussion regarding artificial intelligence in coursework:

The representative raised concerns being discussed within the Arts and Science Students' Union regarding the use of artificial intelligence in academic settings.

Concerns included:

- The use of AI to generate course materials and coursework.
- The potential use of AI tools to grade student assignments.
- The implications for academic integrity, transparency, and the quality of education.

Students experiencing concerns related to AI use in their courses were encouraged to contact their student representatives and share their experiences.

The Arts and Science Gala was announced for **January 9**, and Council members were encouraged to attend.

7.3 Dentistry
No councillor present

7.4 Education
Councillor Radke presents:

A Spirit Day was planned for Friday.

- Encouraging students to dress up.
- Distributing candy.
- Allowing students wearing costumes to enter a costume-related draw.

7.5 Edwards School of Business
No councillor present

7.6 Engineering
No councillor present

7.7 Indigenous Students
Councillor Desjarlais presents:

- Indigenous Student Career Fair
  The career fair was scheduled for the following week and was expected to provide Indigenous students with access to

employment opportunities and professional connections.
Two major accounting firms were expected to participate. The representative highlighted the importance of these partnerships in creating career opportunities for Indigenous students.

7.8 International Students
Councillor nyasha presents:

The monthly international student check-in was scheduled for the following day.

The purpose of the meeting was to connect with international students, gather feedback, and identify any concerns they might be experiencing.

The representative emphasized the importance of continuing to provide opportunities for international students to share their experiences and raise issues affecting them.

7.9 Kinesiology
Councillor Clark presents:

Reported that the constituency had held its monthly breakfast meeting with the Associate Dean of the College of Kinesiology.

Discussion topics included:

- Upcoming academic changes within the university.
- Updates relevant to student leaders.
- Changes to the student lounge and study spaces in the Physical Activity Complex (PAC).

7.10 Law
Councillor Vogler presents:

Reported that the constituency had successfully hosted its Fall Formal on the previous Saturday.

The event raised $1,510 for Care and Share, a local charity.

Other upcoming activities included:

- Puppy-related activities in the Law lobby during the month.
- The Indigenous Law Students' Association's annual Halloween party, scheduled for the following day.
- Planning for the annual blood drive later in the month.

7.11 Medicine
Councillor Chowdhury presents:

- Abortion Care Lunch Talk.
- Breast Cancer Awareness Talk.
- Vascular Surgery Lunch Talk.

The representative reported strong attendance at these events.

Halloween activities:

The constituency hosted a Halloween event called *Pop and Pumpkins*, where students participated in making dirty sodas and decorating pumpkins.

The event was held at both the Saskatoon and Regina campuses, with positive participation reported.

Additional Halloween activities were planned:

- Saskatoon students were invited to attend an event at Hudsons that evening.
- Regina students were scheduled to have a similar event the following day.

Harm Reduction initiatives:

The Students for Harm Reduction and Policy Group organized a rubber duck sale.

All proceeds were intended to support:

- The Tribal Council Health Center in Saskatoon.
- The Nevada Youth Health Center in Regina

7.12Nursing
Councillor Fortier presents:

- A student event called *Boo's for Clues* was scheduled for the following day.
- The event would involve different stations across campus where students could follow clues and receive candy.
- A spring event announcement had also been posted.

Academic concerns:

The representative reported ongoing discussions about a possible transition to pass/fail grading for clinical placements.

Some upper-year nursing students had expressed concerns about how the proposed changes could affect their academic standing and grades.

The changes were still under discussion, and the representative indicated that they might initially affect incoming third-year students.

A petition was potentially being considered, although the details had not yet been finalized.

Community engagement:

- The constituency was exploring opportunities to work with the Canadian Red Cross.
- Potential involvement included volunteer initiatives and a fundraising gala.
- Work was also continuing on nursing student merchandise.

7.13 Pharmacy and Nutrition
No councillor present

7.14 Prince Albert
Councillor Robinson presents:

The campus had recently hosted a student health fair, which was successful.

Following the upcoming reading week, the representative planned to establish an information table in the campus atrium.

The purpose would be to speak directly with students, gather feedback, and better understand their concerns and needs.

The Chair welcomed the initiative and encouraged the representative to share updates on its progress at future meetings.

7.15 St. Thomas More
Councillor Finnie presents:

The college had hosted its Fall Festival on the day of the meeting.

Activities included:

- Beading.
- Bracelet making.
- Keychain making.
- A hot chocolate bar.

The hot chocolate initiative was organized in collaboration with Just Youth and involved the distribution of fair-trade hot chocolate.

The representative explained that the initiative aimed to promote ethically sourced products and awareness of labour practices, including concerns about child labour.

Students interested in learning more were encouraged to contact the relevant student organizations or St. Thomas More College.

Councillor Masood would be attending the St. Thomas More College Corporation meeting on November 7, alongside Councillor Finney.

The meeting is an annual governance meeting intended to provide community input into the operation and governance of the college.

The representative explained that the Corporation oversees the operation of St. Thomas More College as a federated Catholic college within the University of Saskatchewan.

The meeting was compared to University Senate, as it provides an opportunity for governance discussions, motions, and updates about the college's operations.

7.16 Western College of Veterinary Medicine
No councillor present

8. Business
8.1 Impeachment of Pharmacy and Nutrition councillor
Delayed for next week.

9. New Business
9.1 Discussion on new VP indigenous initiatives and projects

The President introduced the proposed Vice-President Indigenous Initiatives and Projects position.

The initiative originated from discussions with the Indigenous Student Union, which identified a gap in undergraduate Indigenous student representation within the USSU executive structure.

It was noted that the Graduate Students' Association already has a dedicated Vice-President position focused on Indigenous engagement, while the undergraduate student union does not currently have an equivalent position.

The proposed portfolio is intended to address this gap by establishing a dedicated executive position focused on Indigenous student initiatives, representation, engagement, and support.

The President explained that the proposal had been under development for several weeks and involved consultation with Indigenous student organizations and other university stakeholders.

The item was presented primarily for information and to update Council on the work completed so far.

Council members were advised to monitor their emails for further information during the following week.

The President explained that the proposal could potentially be brought forward for discussion and approval at the upcoming Annual General Meeting, although this was not guaranteed.

Councillor Desjarlais provided additional context regarding the importance of establishing the proposed position.

He explained that he had been involved in Indigenous student advocacy and support for approximately three years and that the issue was particularly meaningful to him.

He shared his personal experience of entering the University of Saskatchewan and facing significant challenges during his first year.

He discussed the impact of the residential school experiences of his parents and explained that intergenerational trauma continues to affect Indigenous families and students.

He described feeling that adequate support structures were not always available to Indigenous students and that these gaps contributed to the difficulties he experienced during his transition to university.

Councillor Desjarlais emphasized that Indigenous students may face additional barriers that affect their ability to continue their education.

He referred to figures discussed during his presentation, indicating that approximately 75% of Indigenous students continue into their second year compared with approximately 86% of students overall.

He used these figures to highlight the importance of improving student support and retention.

He further noted that approximately 3,500 Indigenous students attend the University of Saskatchewan, representing a significant student population whose needs deserve dedicated attention.

10. Questions, Comments, and Announcements

Councillor Wilson asked whether the proposed Vice-President Indigenous Initiatives and Projects position would be implemented during the next election cycle or whether it could take effect sooner.

> The President explained that implementation would depend on how quickly the proposal could be finalized and approved.
>
> If the portfolio was sufficiently developed, it could potentially be brought forward at the upcoming AGM on **November 26**.
>
> If additional development time was required, the proposal could instead be brought forward at the following year's AGM, with implementation potentially occurring in a later election cycle.
>
> The President clarified that the position would need to receive approval through the AGM process before it could be formally established.
>
> The final decision would rest with the student members participating in the AGM.

Senior manager Jason Ventnor clarified that undergraduate students have the ability to propose amendments to the USSU bylaws.

The process was explained as follows:

1. Undergraduate students may submit proposed bylaw amendments.
2. Amendments must be submitted by the Friday of the following week.
3. The proposed amendments will be reviewed by the USSU lawyer.
4. The legal review will determine whether the amendments align with the purpose and requirements of the bylaws and comply with the Non-profit Corporations Act.
5. Amendments that pass the review process can be brought forward to the AGM for consideration and a student vote.

The Chair encouraged anyone interested in proposing changes to the election-related bylaws to submit their amendments before the deadline.

Councillor Desjarlais reiterated his strong support for the proposed position and explained that his involvement was driven by a genuine belief that the initiative would improve the university experience for Indigenous students.

He shared that a family member had attended the university in the 1990s but ultimately left after experiencing a lack of support during a group project.

He explained that he had experienced similar difficulties himself and that hearing about his family member's experience had influenced his decision to continue his studies.

He noted that joining the Indigenous Student Union had provided him with a sense of belonging and community that had been important to his ability to remain at the university.

He emphasized that many students who struggle during their first year may leave their programs if they cannot find appropriate support.

He concluded by stating that a dedicated executive position could help prevent these situations by ensuring that Indigenous students have a consistent advocate and a stronger support system.

The Chair thanked Councillor Desjarlais for his contribution.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 pm.