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University of Saskatchewan Students' Union

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University of Saskatchewan Students' Union
Annual General Meeting
Minutes for November 20, 2025 - 6:00 PM
Arts 241 (Neatby-Timlin Theatre)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM. Chairperson Johnson stated the land acknowledgment.

2. Call for Quorum

Quorum was present.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

Motion to adopt the agenda as presented.

AGM001	**Member Reaney / Councillor Finnie**	**Carried**

4. Adoption of the AGM Minutes

Motion to accept the AGM minutes of November 28, 2024, into the official record.

AGM002	**Councillor Fielding / Member Hingsto**	**Carried**

5. Auditor's Report

5.1. Presentation of Audited Financial Statements by KPMG

Alecia Nagy from KPMG conducted the audit in accordance with professional auditing standards.

The auditor confirmed that the financial statements fairly presented the financial position and results of the USSU for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2025.

A clean audit opinion was issued, consistent with previous years.

Alecia explained the organization's financial position, including its assets, liabilities, and net assets.

Key figures presented included:

Financial item	2025	2024
Total assets and liabilities/net assets combined	$28.6 million	$30.0 million
Current assets	$13.9 million	$14.6 million
Cash and investments	$13.5 million	$14.2 million
Property and equipment	$14.8 million	$15.4 million
Current liabilities	$1.5 million	$3.7 million
Long-term liabilities	$28.1 million	$30.3 million

- Current assets decreased by approximately $700,000, primarily due to reductions in funds held in bank and investment accounts.
- Cash and investments totalled approximately $13.5 million, representing a decrease of roughly $768,000 from the previous fiscal year.
- Property and equipment decreased from $15.4 million to $14.8 million.
- During the year, approximately $155,000 was added to property and equipment, while approximately $792,000 was recorded as depreciation (amortization).
- The reduction in long-term liabilities was primarily attributable to ongoing repayments of loans associated with the major Place Riel renovation.

- The principal balance of the loans decreased from approximately $13.4 million to $12.9 million.

Alecia emphasized that the USSU's cash and investment holdings substantially exceeded its current obligations of approximately $1.5 million, indicating a strong financial position and the ability to meet regular operating requirements.

The statement of operations summarized the organization's revenue and expenses between May 1, 2024, and April 30, 2025.

Financial item	2025	2024
Total revenue	$6.9 million	$6.8 million
Total expenses	$6.04 million	$5.95 million
Accounting surplus	$809,000	$795,000

Key observations included:

- Revenue increased slightly compared with the previous fiscal year, primarily due to increases in sales and student fees.
- The increase was partially offset by reduced investment income.
- Expenses increased slightly, primarily in business operations.
- No significant changes in expenditure patterns were identified.
- The USSU continued to demonstrate effective expense management.

Alecia also explained that amortization expenses are non-cash expenses reflecting the depreciation of property and equipment over time. As the organization's loans continue to be repaid, associated financing expenses are also expected to decrease.

These changes could contribute to higher accounting surpluses in future years.

5.2. Financial Statement Resolution

Be it resolved that the audited financial statements of the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union be accepted for the year ended April 30, 2025, as presented.

AGM003	**VP Deis / Member Bytyqi**	**Carried**

5.3. Auditing Firm Resolution

Be it resolved that the auditing firm of KPMG Chartered Accountants be appointed for the 2025/2026 financial audit.

AGM004	**VP Deis / Member Favreau**	**Carried**

6. Proposed Amendments

6.1. Proposed Amendment to Sections 27 & 39 (by USSU Executive)

President Wintermute explained that the Prince Albert campus is an affiliated University of Saskatchewan campus location, with more than 500 students represented by the USSU.

Councillor Finnie asked whether the Prince Albert campus was considered a satellite campus.

President Wintermute clarified that it was an affiliated campus at a separate location.

Councillor Fielding asked whether the proposed committee needed a specified number of members.

President Wintermute explained that the existing informal committee consisted of approximately five to ten students representing different programs.

As this would be the committee's first formal iteration, a fixed membership number had not yet been established. The number could be determined in consultation with the Prince Albert campus and amended later if necessary.

Formally recognize the Prince Albert Student Advisory Committee as part of the USSU's standing committee structure under University Students' Council.

AGM005	**President Wintermute / Member Favreau**	**Carried**

6.2. Proposed Amendment to Section 29 (by USSU Executive)

The amendment sought to revise the academic committee's purpose to better reflect its current responsibilities and activities.

Presented a proposal to add a third Student-at-Large position to the Academic Relations Committee.

AGM006	**VP Jacob / Member Favreau**	**Carried**

6.3. Proposed Amendment to Section 30 (by USSU Executive)

The purpose of the amendment was to strengthen representation of the student communities the committee is responsible for advocating for.

Presented a proposal to add two Student-at-Large positions to the committee:

- **One international student representative.**
- **One Indigenous student representative.**

AGM007	**VP Hubick / Member Kemmer**	**Carried**

6.4. Proposed Amendment to Section 31 (by USSU Executive)

The first change involved replacing references to the Appointments Committee with the Executive Committee, as the Appointments Committee had been discontinued several years earlier.

The second change concerned the committee's responsibility for reviewing insurance extension applications from campus groups.

VP Deis explained that the committee did not have the authority to overturn decisions made by the insurance provider. If an insurer declined coverage, the committee could not reverse that decision.

To remove the committee's responsibility to act as an appeals board in these circumstances.

AGM008	**VP Deis / Member Favreau**	**Carried**

6.5. Proposed Amendment to Section 37 (by USSU Executive)

President Wintermute presented an amendment concerning the terms of reference and composition of the Indigenous Students Advisory Committee.

In particular, the amendment addressed inconsistencies involving the use of the term President and the exclusion of the Métis Students' Union or Métis students at the University of Saskatchewan.

The purpose was to ensure that the committee's formal documentation reflected its inclusive composition.

To ensure that the committee's terms of reference accurately reflected its actual membership and the diversity of Indigenous students represented on campus.

AGM009	**President Wintermute / Member Kamel**	**Carried**

7. Proposed Motions

7.1. Proposed Motion (by Nada Emara)

To write a formal public letter which would include:

1. **Supporting a full arms embargo to stop all military contacts between Canada and Israel**
2. **Condemnation of the ongoing genocide against Palestinian people**
3. **Opposing premier Scot Moe’s invitation to Israel’s ambassador to discuss economic partnership and cooperation amid a genocide**

AGM010	**VP Jacob / Member Elsayed**	**Carried**

7.2. Proposed Motion (by Nada Emara)

Member Kemmer pointed out that a similar provision had already been incorporated into the USSU's investment policy during the previous year's AGM.

The member questioned whether the proposed motion would require the USSU to divest from investments that were already prohibited under its own policy.

VP Deis clarified that the current proposal was not intended to amend the USSU's investment policy. Instead, it sought to encourage the University of Saskatchewan to introduce similar provisions into its own investment policy.

The proposed wording change replaced the term environmental harm with exploitation of natural resources without environmental analysis, reflecting the language used in the USSU's existing policy.

AGM011	**Member Kemmer / Member Gallays**	**Carried**

To have the USSU advocate for changes to the University of Saskatchewan's investment practices.

AGM012	**Member Elsayed / Councillor Jain**	**Carried**

7.3. Proposed Motion (by Nada Emara)

VP Deis provided clarification regarding the USSU's authority and limitations:

- The USSU can submit items to the Board of Governors on behalf of students.
- However, the USSU cannot guarantee that the Board will include those items on its upcoming December meeting agenda.
- The USSU can undertake advocacy campaigns, although it cannot guarantee what future executive teams will be able to accomplish.

Member Kemmer proposed splitting the motion into two separate resolutions.

The member explained that the immediate action being requested and the requirement for future executives to continue pursuing the objective until it was achieved were two distinct matters that should be considered separately.

To split motion 7.3 in two distinct motions

AGM013	**Member Kemmer / Member O'Reilly**	**Carried**

Councillor Albrecht raised concerns about whether the proposed motions under Section 7 could conflict with the USSU's and the Board of Governors' commitment to political neutrality.

President Wintermute responded that:

- The student body has one representative on the Board of Governors.
- The Board has commitments relating to sustainability, equity, diversity, inclusion, and decolonization.
- Whether a particular issue would be discussed by the Board would ultimately depend on the Board's procedures and discretion.

The discussion also addressed whether publicly expressing solidarity with Palestine in relation to the ongoing conflict could be considered inconsistent with political neutrality.

President Wintermute clarified that the Board's consideration of such matters would be subject to the discretion of the Board's chair and university secretary

Member Emara proposed an amendment:
To move the proposed Board of Governors submission to the meeting following the December meetings, allowing the matter to be considered for a subsequent agenda in the new year.

AGM014	**Councillor Abedi / Member Sieben**	**Carried**

7.4 Proposed motion by (Nada Emara)

Member Kemmer expressed concern that the wording was too broad and could create an indefinite obligation for future executive teams.

The member argued that the motion lacked a clearly defined endpoint and that future executives could be obligated to continue pursuing the objective indefinitely.

Member Gallays spoke in favour of the motion, arguing that maintaining the commitment was important and that future executives should continue the work until the objective was achieved.

USSU to be mandated to work on the disclose and divest campaign until it is fully achieved, for as long as it takes.

AGM015	**Member Gallays / Member Sieben**	**Carried**

8. President's Report

President Wintermute acknowledged November 20 as Trans Day of Remembrance, recognizing transgender and gender-diverse individuals who had lost their lives due to direct and indirect consequences of transphobia.

The President also acknowledged the work of the USSU Pride Centre and its commitment to supporting transgender and queer students through resources, community-building, and advocacy.

The report recognized the challenges created by increasing anti-queer rhetoric and anti-trans legislation and reaffirmed the USSU's commitment to providing safe and supportive spaces.

The executive team began its term with an emphasis on improving academic advocacy, student governance, and community connections.

Throughout the summer, the USSU worked to make its activities and governance processes more accessible through its weekly Week at a Glance communications.

These initiatives included educational content explaining:

- Student wages and employment structures.
- Academic navigation and student support.
- Campus club leadership.
- Sexual and gender-based violence.
- Consent and related university policies.
- The purpose and procedures of Annual General Meetings.

The President emphasized that accessibility and transparency were central to making student leadership more approachable.

The USSU also established shared values to guide its work: sustainability, integrity, accessibility, respect, and critical empathy.

The Academic Office focused on improving student outreach and addressing academic concerns through greater collaboration across university colleges and departments.

Key initiatives included:

Digital Skills Help Centre

- The USSU worked with the University Library to assess student accessibility to the Digital Skills Help Centre.
- The objective was to improve students' technological knowledge and digital literacy.

Academic Integrity Forum

- The USSU supported the formal establishment of the Academic Integrity Forum.
- The forum was co-chaired by VP Jacob and Dr. Susan Benz.
- Following several months of preparatory work, the forum held its inaugural meeting in September.
- Discussions included tiered hearing systems, sanction guidelines, and emerging challenges involving artificial intelligence and assessment design.
- The forum aims to bring together student advocates, governance staff, and associate deans to establish shared standards and address broader systemic concerns.

Student Intake and Navigation Positions

The University introduced a student intake position and student navigator role intended to help students understand and navigate academic challenges and available pathways.

Undergraduate Research Opportunities

The Academic Office continued working to expand undergraduate research opportunities and identify barriers affecting student success.

Teaching Excellence Awards

The USSU continued supporting recognition of outstanding teaching by faculty and staff through its Teaching Excellence Awards.

Student Learning Experience Evaluation Questionnaires (SLEEC)

The USSU worked toward improving transparency, accessibility, and equity in student learning evaluations.

Additional work involved revisions to assessment frameworks and pedagogical processes.

Academic Governance and Future Initiatives

The Academic Relations Committee continued to serve as an important space for student academic advocacy.

The Academic Office also identified two ongoing priorities:

- Advocating for a centralized database of examination files.
- Improving transparency and accountability in the University's use of SLEEC forms.

These initiatives were expected to continue into the new year.

The President highlighted the USSU's continued work to address sexual and gender-based violence on university campuses.

Key activities included:

- Continued collaboration with the Saskatoon Sexual Assault and Information Centre (SSAIC).
- The Women's Centre hosting Sexual Violence Awareness Week, focusing on solidarity, education, and systemic unlearning.
- Advocacy for urgent updates to the University's Sexual Violence Policy and Response, which was last updated in 2015.
- Calls for long-term, campus-wide education campaigns addressing consent, allyship, and support for survivors.
- Continued efforts to challenge misogyny, racism, sexism, and systems that contribute to sexual violence.

The President also reported that eight University of Saskatchewan students were volunteering in an initiative with SSAIC and the USSU to deliver sexual and gender-based violence prevention programming to the broader Saskatchewan community.

The USSU identified concerns surrounding wages for undergraduate student workers employed in non-unionized positions.

Through discussions with student leaders and the USSU Pay It Forward Forum, the organization identified the need for greater transparency and more equitable student wage structures.

The USSU continued advocating for:

- Greater awareness of the university's student wage grid and salary band system.
- Increased transparency in how student wages are determined.
- Wage policies and subsidies that are more consistent with those of other U15 research-intensive universities.

The USSU met with the Saskatchewan Minister of Advanced Education to discuss several student-related concerns and advocate for improved post-secondary support.

The priorities raised included:

1. Renewal of the post-secondary multi-year funding agreement.
2. Elimination of interest on Saskatchewan student loans.
3. Expansion of access to open educational resources.
4. Advocacy against the international student cap imposed by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).
5. Increased mental health and addictions support, particularly for students attending northern and regional colleges.
6. Updating sexual violence prevention policies at post-secondary institutions every three years.
7. Repealing Bill 137, the Parents' Bill of Rights.
8. Reviewing student wage policies at post-secondary institutions every three years.
9. Increasing funding and visibility for student housing in urban and rural communities, particularly for students facing systemic barriers to higher education.

The USSU also met with the City of Saskatoon to discuss shared priorities.

A further meeting with the Office of the Treaty Commissioner was planned for later in November to strengthen relationships and collaboration.

President Wintermute emphasized the importance of including Indigenous students in the USSU's advocacy and governance initiatives.

The USSU continued building relationships with:

- Indigenous student leaders.
- The Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre.
- The Office of the Vice-Provost Indigenous Engagement.
- The Indigenous Students Advisory Committee.

The President emphasized that Indigenous knowledge, language, culture, and leadership were essential components of the university community.

The President provided an update on the status of campus clubs and constituency groups.

- 152 Fully ratified campus clubs
- 9 Provisionally ratified clubs
- 14 Ratified constituency groups

The President separately identified 112 campus clubs within its breakdown of student groups.

The USSU continued encouraging students to establish and participate in campus clubs, highlighting benefits such as:

- Room bookings and access to university spaces.
- Grants and funding opportunities.
- Insurance extensions.
- Advertising and IT support.
- Administrative assistance.

The USSU has also approved $23,181.72 in group funding since the executive team began its term in May.

The funding included:

- $1,150 in Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion funding.
- $750 in Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression funding.
- The remaining funding was primarily distributed through Projects and Initiatives Grants.

These grants supported student-led events, printing, venue bookings, and other campus activities.

The President discussed the Group Orientation and Leadership Sessions (GOALS), an orientation program designed to ensure campus group executives understand the USSU's mission, values, and responsibilities.

The training covered:

- Anti-racism and anti-oppression.
- 2SLGBTQIA+ vocabulary and pronoun usage.
- Sexual violence recognition and prevention.
- Democratic governance.

The President noted that campus group executives had responded positively to the training.

The USSU had also made changes to its ratification and funding processes to reduce unnecessary steps and improve accessibility.

The USSU continued working to improve student engagement and rebuild campus community connections following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Events organized throughout the summer and fall included:

- USSU Summer Games.
- International Yoga Day in partnership with USask Rec.
- Back to School Bash.
- Carless Drive-In.
- Speed Friending.
- Academic Awareness Week.
- Three-day Indigenous Makers Market.
- Climbing socials at PAC.
- Campus Sustainability Month activities.
- Sustainable Clothing Swap.
- Craft Night in partnership with the Office of Sustainability.

Upcoming activities included:

- Holiday Movie Night.
- Weekly Colouring and Cocoa events during finals.

The USSU centres also hosted their annual themed weeks, including Sexual Violence Awareness Week, Who Needs Feminism, Queerapalooza, and Mental Health Awareness Week.

The President acknowledged the contributions of the University Students' Council and Association of Constituency Presidents.

These student leaders represented different colleges and constituencies and helped bring student concerns and priorities to the attention of the USSU.

The President also highlighted the USSU's responsibility to represent more than 500 students at the Prince Albert campus.

The campus includes students from programs such as:

- Nursing.
- Arts and Science.
- Edwards School of Business.
- Dentistry.
- Education.

The USSU welcomed its first Prince Albert campus representative to the University Students' Council during the current academic year and continued meeting with campus leadership.

President Wintermute outlined several priorities for the remainder of the academic year.

These included:

- Working with incoming University President Dr. Vince Bruni-Bossio on the institution's next five-year strategic plan.
- Strengthening collaboration with Indigenous and international student leaders.
- Continuing to address emerging university-wide policy and governance issues.
- Advancing equity, diversity, inclusion, and decolonization initiatives.
- Introducing conversation circles during the winter term to support education surrounding the University's Indigenous Strategy.
- Improving campus club support and accessibility.
- Continuing academic support and navigation initiatives.
- Hosting an Undergraduate Research Symposium during the second semester.
- Maintaining advocacy efforts on behalf of all students.

The President encouraged students to become involved in student governance by running for executive positions, participating in college and constituency organizations, joining campus clubs, and applying for Student-at-Large positions on USSU committees.

The President concluded by emphasizing that the USSU exists not only to provide services such as the bus pass and health and dental plans, but also to create opportunities for students to build community and actively shape their university experience.

9. **Questions and Comments for Executive**
   No questions.

10. **Any Other Business**
    There was no other business.

11. **Adjournment**
    Chairperson Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:29 PM.