Thursday, April 15th 2021

Hello and happy finals season, the second Winter Term Final Season that is remote due to COVID-19. We are hopeful that faculty and instructors have listened to the feedback of students that we have brought forward throughout the year, while developing their final exams and assignments. As the current executive is nearing the end of their term, we are focused on final meetings with members in the university, creating the new budget for the USSU, and developing a thorough transition for the incoming executives. The executive has met with the University of Saskatchewan Faculty Association, Dr. McDougall, and Nancy Turner in regards to the Town Halls that the USSU conducted. We have also met with the Pandemic Response Team, Association of Constituency Presidents, USSU council committees, and Usask Board of Governors. Our Womens’ Centre hosted a Pro Choice Awareness week and we also highlighted our amazing Senior Managers over the course of a week as well. During the Internal Forum on March 26th the Executive, alongside President Stoicheff announced the signing of the Anti-Racist MOU which has been included below. Our USSU President had a lot of fun emceeing the Internal Forum as well as the Indigenous Students Experience Day The USSU has been busy developing new policies and terms of references for new committees and roles as well as funding opportunities for student groups to better support undergraduate students and staff. March is also election season for the USSU and we are excited that our incoming executive has been elected and will start on May 1st, 2021! The incoming executive is as follows:

- Tasnim Jaisee as President
- Abhineet Goswami as Vice President Operations and Finance
- Tauqueer Iftikhar as Vice President Academic Affairs
- Nickol Saenz as Vice President Student Affairs

The executive has taken the time that COVID has provided to make significant changes to the organization, but the biggest change is the retirement of our General Manager, Caroline Cottrell. Caroline announced that her last day will be April 30th, after 15 years of dedication and service to the USSU. We wish Caroline all the best in the future and are thankful for her many years of leadership and mentorship to the hundreds of student leaders who have sat on council or in an executive position.

With respect,
Jamie Bell
Kiefer Roberts
Jory McKay
Autumn LaRose-Smith
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
This document (the “MOU”) is entered into on March 26th, 2021, between

THE UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN STUDENTS’ UNION

and

THE UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
March 26th, 2021

Definitions and Preamble
The University of Saskatchewan Students’ Union (USSU) and the University of Saskatchewan (USask) will work together in a coordinated way to dismantle institutional structures, policies and processes that contribute to inequalities faced by marginalized groups. This involves challenging oppressive and systemic racism at all levels across USask campuses as it affects our greater community.

Both parties understand the deeply rooted and colonial history of Canada and further understand that intentional and direct affirmative action needs to be taken. Education is a significant component in dismantling and critiquing racism and oppression, and the systems, structures, belief systems, values and attitudes in which it is rooted. These actions will require students, staff, faculty, and senior leadership to work together in collaboration to ensure that we are realizing a meaningfully inclusive, equitable, and safe working and learning environment. This involves proactively assessing and solving issues and providing a safe reporting mechanism for anyone experiencing racism.

Article 1: Purpose and Principles
The purpose of this MOU is to define ways in which the USSU and USask can work together to dismantle racism and oppression within our USask community.

The essential principle is one of mutual respect through which concerted action can be taken without fear of retribution; as well as:

1. Pay careful attention and be responsive to on-campus dynamics that may positively influence or negatively suppress groups or individuals based on race.
2. Build strong and lasting relationships through any means possible.
3. Actively listen, learn, and set shared and achievable goals.
4. Work in collaboration by enacting niḵānītūn manācitowinihk (Cree), ni
manāchihitoonaan (Michif), leading with respect (English).
5. Share leadership on initiatives related to anti-racism and oppression.
6. Conduct on-going assessment of outcomes and ensure continuity.
7. Take direct and appropriate action wherever possible without fear of retribution.

Article 2: Commitments of the USSU and USask

Article 2.1: Commitments of the University of Saskatchewan Students’ Union

The USSU will:
1. Work within its mandate of serving and supporting undergraduate students by actively
creating an environment within student union spaces, centres, and operations that
ensure anti-racism, anti-oppression is an integral part of the Union’s ethos.
2. Wherever practical and possible, provide employment for students that reflects the
broader campus community.
3. Actively promote anti-racism, anti-oppression through its governing bodies, associate
governing bodies, committees, and through the funding provided to campus groups
and societies.
4. Work closely with support units within the portfolio of Teaching, Learning and
Student Experience as well as the Office of Vice-Provost Indigenous Engagement, to
develop, implement and promote anti-racism, anti-oppressive initiatives.
5. Allocate funding to groups and individuals with specific anti-racist, anti-oppressive
programming and events. This funding will fall outside regular campus group grants.

Article 2.2: Commitments of the University of Saskatchewan

USask will:
1. Identify anti-racism, anti-oppression training that is meaningful for our community
and facilitate delivery of the training through credible and relevant means. Anti-
racism/anti-oppression training will be mandatory for senior university leadership and
related training will be encouraged for faculty and staff.
2. In collaboration with the Office of Vice-President Research, explore and provide
research opportunities and partnerships that will provide insight into the current
realities and future possibilities.
3. Explore opportunities to provide support for anti-racism, anti-oppressive initiatives
organized by the USSU, student groups and individuals, including funding to be
allocated by the USSU for such initiatives.
4. Create space for an undergraduate representative on the Anti-Racism, Anti-
Oppression committee led by the Office of the Vice-Provost Indigenous Engagement
to be filled or selected by the USSU.
Article 3: Reporting

The USSU and USask will conduct ongoing evaluations and assessments of outcomes to ensure continuity of anti-racism, anti-oppression work. Both parties will meet to collaboratively assess progress, remain informed of current research and campus initiatives, consider ways to report on retention activities for students, and explore possibilities for continued work.

Article 4: General

1. This MOU serves to define the means to enhance and encourage further joint engagements; however, the parties acknowledge and agree this MOU is not meant to create a binding legal relationship, enforceable rights or obligations between them, but rather it is the expectation of the parties that if any joint projects are pursued the parties, acting reasonably, shall negotiate and execute legally binding agreements with respect to the same that will set out the obligations and responsibilities of each.

2. The parties intend to contribute internal resources to complete the tasks set out in this MOU. The parties acknowledge and agree that any retention of third party consultants or the launch of any project requiring other resources, and associated cost sharing, shall be agreed to in writing in advance of any expenses being incurred.

Autumn LaRose-Smith
President
University of Saskatchewan Students’ Union

Peter Stoicheff
President and vice-chancellor
University of Saskatchewan