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Starting our USSU terms on May 3rd, our executive committee has been busy learning all about our roles and responsibilities of our individual portfolios and governance of the USSU. With the start of a fresh new year of executives comes a series of orientations and preparations. We spent the first few weeks in various meetings learning about IT support, accounting, Studentcare, internal operations, bylaws and policies, event planning and more. During this time, we also had the opportunity to introduce ourselves to the USSU Daycare director (Colleen Gerling) and Centre Coordinators. We are grateful to our incredible team of Senior Managers, Jason Ventnor, Jason Kovitch, Stefanie Ewen, and Amanda Mitchell, for their patience and dedication in coordinating these orientation meetings and supporting us in our learning of the USSU's organizational structures.

We are particularly focused on making our individual executive projects a success this year. We started by building a completely new record-keeping approach for all executive projects in order to lead a strong year of initiatives. Every phase of individual projects is now recorded and processed for all executives to oversee layer by layer. We believe that by doing so, we will be able to ensure that project deadlines are reached on time and that we will be able to offer constant progress updates on each project. We make it a point to meet weekly with our executives to keep each other updated on the status of these projects. We also meet weekly with our group of senior managers as an executive to ensure that all significant union operational tasks are running smoothly. Our work on academic advocacy, sustainability, and accessibility will continue throughout our term.

University Students' Council (USC) and Association of Constituency Presidents (AOCP) are vital to our executive communication with students. We are compiling a complete list of contact information for all students selected for these memberships for the following terms as we prepare for these meetings, which will begin in September. We anticipate that by establishing this early communication line, we will be able to ensure that these students receive enough support from the USSU when they begin working in their elected roles. We are also in the process of putting together packages for USC and AOCP members. In the coming months, we will send out the complete versions of these packages to help these students understand their duties and duties for these particular committees. In addition, we are in the process of arranging guest speakers from other university departments to attend and present relevant topics for students at these meetings.

As the USSU supports more than 200 campus groups every year by sponsoring their events, space booking, training, and more, we are concentrating on drafting an updated comprehensive campus group policy. The policy will be revamped to make the USSU more inclusive, transparent, and accessible. This updated policy will not only support the campus group to operate smoothly but will also help the USSU to expand. Furthermore, to continue to support the

work of campus groups, we are updating our Campus Group Management System which collects and stores many details of these groups. We are currently working with our IT manager, Scott Henderson, to strengthen the system's user interface capabilities.

We have started forming early relationships with students in positions of leadership at other university campuses. During our first meetings with the Undergraduates of the Canadian Research-Intensive Universities, the organization underwent an election, and we welcomed a new Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary-Treasurer. We are thrilled to collaborate with the new team, and we have begun to engage in meaningful dialogues on vaccine campaigns and other current events affecting post-secondary students across Canada. Also, we connected with student executives from the University of British Columbia to discuss improving campus housing. Additionally, we met with student executives from the University of Regina to discuss increasing job opportunities for students.

For student advocacy pieces, earlier this month, we voiced our support for students in the College of Education who were starting in their placement opportunities as they were initially unable to receive vaccines regardless of teachers being eligible for their first dosages. We worked with Patti McDougall, the Vice Provost Teaching, Learning and Student Experience on this advocacy and we were updated with news that these students were finally eligible to receive their vaccines. Next, we are also working with Patti to create a plan for an exam writing center for students in the upcoming terms, during this pandemic, we have had many students concerned about the lack of quiet places in their homes to write their finals. After that, with Patti, we are in the initial process of co-developing certificates of recognition for students who attended and passed their courses during this covid-era. Lastly, for advocacy, we are working with the university's communications team on a new vaccine campaign to encourage students to get vaccinated so that we can all keep our communities safe.

This last month, execs represented the USSU in over 15 different USask-related committees and met with varying university branches. We were invited to attend a Mental Health First Aid training, and going forward, we hope to have all executives receive that form of training. We attended the Studentcare Summit and learned about many new programs that Studentcare will introduce in the coming year to improve the student experience and mental health wellbeing. We also attended the Grounding Circle in support of the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc community to show our solidarity with the USask Indigenous community and the wider campus affected by the recent events.

On our executives' social media (Instagram and Facebook), we introduced the four executives as a group and then featured each exec individually with their bios. We also created a post congratulating the USask class of 2021 on their convocation. Additionally, we spoke about our support for the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc community and shared a post reminding undergraduate

students of the free online Empower Me counselling service that we provide. On the Centres' social media accounts, they started another round of promotion for the USSU Centres Discord server. On the individual USSU centres' social media accounts, Women's Centre celebrated Mother's Day and Menstrual Hygiene Day and Pride Centre celebrated International Day Against Homophobia and Pansexual Visibility Day.

We also welcomed two newly hired coordinators into our organization, Madi Kuhn as the USSU Women's Centre coordinator and Rayna Rahman as the USSU Help Centre coordinator. They will be joining our continuing Pride Centre coordinator, Rene Clarke and provide various types of resources for students throughout this next year. In the meantime, centre coordinators and their volunteers continue to use the Discord platform to provide peer support to USask students. With all USSU Centre services being delivered online, student volunteer duties will be overseen by the coordinators throughout the summer. This is different from other years where volunteers end their shifts in April. Now, volunteers will have the eligibility to stay on as volunteers through the summer and into September during the new volunteer recruitment cycle if they choose. Centre volunteers are also facilitating several summer discussion groups, including Queer Women's Night, Desi Women's Discussion Night, Pride Centre Hangout, and Queer Book Club. Our pride centre coordinator is currently focusing on initiatives for Pride Month in terms of new centre projects.

While all our office duties are still running through online communication, we are optimistically upholding our responsibilities and providing strong support for our USask undergraduate students. We are thrilled to have such a wonderful group of staff to work with for the following year. We are looking forward to embarking on many projects, and we are optimistic about a safe return to campus eventually.

With Respect,

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