Thursday November 19th, 2020

Winter has marked its arrival with a record breaking blizzard and term one is almost coming to an end. This year, reading week was filled with snow plows, rising cases of COVID-19, and a new Provincial Cabinet. During the month of October, the executive hosted a Mayoral Candidates forum with the help of Martin Gaal, PhD, and Lecturer for the Department of Political Studies. The Forum allowed all mayoral candidates an opportunity to speak to students and answer any questions they may have. The executive continues to work on the Anti Racism MOU with the university, and are in the process of consulting students. We have also picked the representatives for the Student Forum and are excited for them to have an opportunity to work with the university to discuss a number of topics. Our Senior managers continue to deliver the Upass for undergraduate students and are working to explore a delivery method for the winter term. We also had an opportunity to work with Youthful Cities on their ‘Saskatoon Future of Sustainable Work’ Hackathon event on Friday October 30th. Students had an opportunity to present their ideas for a more sustainable future and receive feedback.

As we dive into term two using the University of Saskatchewan’s Hybrid model we continue to raise concerns surrounding quality of education. These concerns are not limited to our institution as students across the world have expressed issues with online classes. The executive has been meeting with university senior leadership and will be meeting with the University of Saskatchewan Faculty Association to address students’ concerns. We believe that online classes have the potential of opening new doors for students and we want to ensure they feel supported in their new virtual reality. The executive continues to work with the Undergraduates of Canadian Research-Intensive Universities (UCRU) to plan a national lobby week starting on November 23rd, this will be done virtually and coordinated with members of the provincial and federal government as well as 10 of the U15 Universities.

On November 8th and November 11th we remember the soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the world wars. We pay our respect and give a moment of silence to honour those who fought for our freedom.

With respect,
Jamie Bell
Kiefer Roberts
Jory Mckay
Autumn LaRose-Smith