



# **University Council Report - October 2024**

## **Academic Awareness Week**

USSU's Academic Advocacy Office hosted the USSU's fall Academic Awareness Week from September 23-27th. Throughout the week, the USSU strove to help undergraduate students become more familiar with their rights and the academic support available to them. VP Bauman collaborated with the library and tabled in the Arts Tunnel and the North Concourse of Place Riel, handing out USSU Academic Handbooks, Survival Calendars, library resources, and snacks. Tie-dying activities for two of the five days facilitated productive and informal conversations with students about their academic questions, rights, and perspectives on AI. VP Bauman's AI information campaign also launched, and the USSU released a series of videos on Instagram and YouTube, citing the university's new AI guidelines for students. Finally, VP Bauman and her team answered "Ask Me Anything (Academic Style)" questions that had been submitted throughout the week. Overall, we engaged with hundreds of students online and in person, handed out important resources, and built more trust with students.

## **Civic and Provincial Elections**

The USSU is committed to informing students of their voting rights and the importance of voting in a democracy. We hope to make democracy interesting for students by getting them to participate. To do that, we hosted several events to make students aware of their civic and provincial candidates.

We hosted the Mayoral candidate forum in Health Sciences on October 15th from 4:00 to 7:00 PM. Candidates Don Atchinson, Cynthia Block, Cary Tarasoff, and Gordon Wyantt were present. They explained their campaigns, and students had a



chance to ask questions. The main issues highlighted by the students revolved around transit - BRT and its availability and accessibility, housing, safety around the city, and infrastructure development within the city.

Additionally, we hosted a Provincial Elections debate watch party on October 16th at Louis' for students so that they could get a chance to learn more about the platforms for both parties competing in the provincial elections.

## Fighting Food Insecurity on Campus - uFood

In September 2024, the uFood program, managed by the USSU through its uFood Centre, witnessed a remarkable surge in demand, serving **214 hampers** to 172 students—a significant increase from 139 hampers for 121 students in September 2023. This upward trend not only highlights the pressing need for food security among our student population but also underscores the USSU's unwavering commitment to advocacy and support. With a total of 1,140 hampers distributed during the Fall 2023 term, the uFood program stands as a vital lifeline for students facing food insecurity. As we continue to address these challenges, we reaffirm our dedication to fostering an inclusive campus where every student has access to essential resources, empowering them to thrive academically and personally.

## Sexual Violence Awareness Week

The USSU Women's Centre organizes Sexual Violence Awareness Week as a crucial initiative to educate and inform the campus community about issues surrounding sexual violence. This annual event features a range of programming designed to raise awareness, promote prevention, and provide support for survivors. Throughout the week, the USSU Women's Centre takes a leading role in coordinating activities, workshops, and discussions that address various aspects of sexual violence and consent. A particularly powerful moment during this week



was the **Take Back the Night March**, where all USSU executives and councillors participated, demonstrating their solidarity and commitment to creating a safer campus environment. This unified show of support from student leaders helps to strengthen the message and encourages broader community engagement in the fight against sexual violence.

## Queerapalooza

The USSU Pride Centre hosted Queerapalooza, an exciting week-long celebration of queer culture and identity from October 15-18, 2024. This annual event aimed to foster awareness, education, and community building among LGBTQ2S+ students and allies on campus. Queerapalooza offered a diverse range of activities designed to engage, inform, and entertain participants while promoting inclusivity and understanding.

Date	Event	Description
October 15	Resource Fair	An informative gathering showcasing various LGBTQ2S+ resources and support services available on campus and in the community.
October 16	Two Spirit 101: Indigenous Worldviews of	An educational session exploring Indigenous perspectives on gender and sexuality, focusing on Two Spirit identities and experiences.



	Gender and Sexualities	
October 17	Doll Up and De-Stress	A relaxing and creative event where participants engage in self-expression through makeup and fashion while practicing stress-relief techniques.
October 18	Rock Your Horror Drag Show	A vibrant and entertaining drag performance with a horror theme, celebrating queer artistry and self-expression.

## Mental Health Awareness Week

The USSU Help Centre's Mental Health Awareness Week, scheduled for October 21-25, 2024, is a vital initiative aimed at promoting mental well-being among students on campus. This week-long event features a diverse range of activities designed to raise awareness, provide support, and equip students with practical tools for managing their mental health. By offering a mix of educational, interactive, and creative sessions, the Help Centre demonstrates its commitment to addressing various aspects of mental wellness and fostering a supportive campus environment.

Date	Event	Description
October 21	Safe Talk Training	A session focused on suicide prevention skills, equipping participants with valuable tools to support those in crisis.
October 22	Mindfulness and Journaling Session	An interactive workshop promoting self-reflection and stress reduction through mindfulness practices and journaling techniques.
October 23	Kahoot and Karaoke	A fun-filled event combining trivia games and karaoke, designed to foster social connections and provide stress relief through entertainment.
October 24	Sip and Paint	A creative outlet where students can relax, express themselves artistically, and unwind in a supportive atmosphere.
October 25	Smash the Stress	An energetic event designed to help students release tension and manage stress through physical activities and stress-busting exercises.



In conclusion, all of the USSU's initiatives demonstrate our unwavering commitment to our three core goals for this year: **advocacy, awareness, and alliance**. Through events like Academic Awareness Week and our civic engagement efforts, we've created more awareness about student rights and fostered informed participation in democracy, embodying our advocacy mission. Our focus on crucial issues such as sexual violence awareness, LGBTQ2S+ inclusion, and mental health underscores our dedication to raising awareness on vital campus concerns. Finally, we've strengthened our collective voice and impact by forging alliances with various campus groups and community partners. As we move forward, the USSU remains committed to its resolve to be the catalyst for positive change on campus. We are not just shaping the present; we are sculpting the future of student life at the University of Saskatchewan. Together, we are building a more inclusive, informed, and empowered student community – one event, one initiative, and one voice at a time.

Yours Sincerely,

Krunal Chavda,

**President**

**University of Saskatchewan Students's Union**