



To Our Student Membership – June 13, 2018

Our organization was astounded by Saskatchewan Polytechnic's decision to abolish Recreation Services in Moose Jaw, Prince Albert and Saskatoon on May 31, 2018. Since that time the Students' Association has sought out answers and clarification from Dr. Anne Neufeld, Provost and VP Academic; and on two separate occasions has forwarded questions and concerns to Dr. Larry Rosia, President and CEO, with no meaningful response.

The Students' Association has listened to the concerns of our membership and share in your shock and outrage. We strongly believe that our students deserve a clear and honest explanation as to the full reasoning behind this decision and the future of recreation at Saskatchewan Polytechnic. The SPSA has requested a meeting with the Saskatchewan Polytechnic Board of Directors, and is in the process of requesting to be added to the formal agenda for the June 27th Board of Directors Meeting. Some of the concerns we hope to present to the Board on behalf of the students are as follows:

1. Saskatchewan Polytechnic Administration is not being transparent about the decision to abolish Recreation Services at three campuses. Campus Recreation, a long standing partnership between Prince Albert and Saskatoon Recreation Services and the SPSA was led to believe that the extensive information they were providing to Saskatchewan Polytechnic was to better enhance its' programming, not to dismantle the program created by the partnership. How do these actions exhibit honesty with one another?
2. The data Saskatchewan Polytechnic Administration relied on to inform the decision to abolish Recreation Services at three campuses is biased, outdated and insignificant. As an institution that promotes research integrity, it is concerning that the work to collect this data does not adhere to the principals of research ethics. Saskatchewan Polytechnic Administration ignored countless published studies and available external organizations' data that do not support this decision and they manipulated their findings to fit their desired outcome. It appears that a direction had already been established and the data provided to the students was sought out to support this direction. Does the Board believe that the decision to abolish Recreation Services at three campuses was sound and informed?
3. Saskatchewan Polytechnic Administration surveyed no more than 68 students across all four campuses for input on the importance of recreation. If the decision was made to cut the Athletics program because less than one percent of students participated, how then can the data collected from less than .75 percent of the student body provide the future direction of recreation services?

As previously stated, the SPSA is willing to enter into discussions with Saskatchewan Polytechnic Administration regarding the future of recreation once a formal investigation into the actions of some senior officials is complete. As the SPSA is eager to learn about the new wellness strategy in hopes of recreational programming being reinstated in Moose Jaw, Prince Albert and Saskatoon, we have submitted a request to Dr. Neufeld to provide us an update into the investigation.

While the SPSA awaits a response from Dr. Neufeld, as well as our meeting with the Board of Directors, we will continue to pursue all avenues to bring recreational programming back to all campuses.