



March 16, 2020

To the Saskatchewan Polytechnic Senior Management Team,

The Saskatchewan Polytechnic Students' Association Executive Council discussed the COVID-19 pandemic situation at great length over the weekend. We understand your direction of following the Government of Saskatchewan's mandate to keep the doors of our campuses open for instructional purposes. We feel it is our duty as representatives of the Sask Polytech student body to make you aware of the students' perspective on this matter as we have not been afforded the opportunity to have our voices heard by decision-makers.

As you well know, U of R and U of S have both suspended on-campus learning to prepare for delivering distance learning for the remainder of the semester. Both Alberta and Manitoba have also suspended on-campus learning due to the dangers of spreading this pandemic. Sask Polytech has chosen to keep classes in person, on campus, and as usual. This obviously garners great concern among the student body. While our average class sizes are much smaller than university lecture halls, students are still sharing a building with thousands of other people every day when they walk the halls of Saskatchewan Polytechnic.

The decision to remain open is quite frankly terrifying for students. They are now forced to come to a public building with thousands of other people because the Saskatchewan Government has decided to play a game of chicken with a disease that has shut down countries and has literally infected the globe. We, as the representatives of the Saskatchewan Polytechnic Students' Association implore you to reconsider your support of this stance.

The planned increased cleaning on campus is a good idea in theory. In practice, just this morning we have seen empty hand sanitizer bottles and poorly cleaned common areas. This is with an entire weekend to prepare. We simply don't see how Sask Polytech is feasibly prepared to increase cleaning measures.

Your students are scared for their families, for their friends, and for their own well-being. All your students are asking for is the ability to learn in a safe environment free of fear and free of danger from possible infection. We are asking you to not play with our mental, emotional, and physical health.

Please consider being precautionary in this situation instead of reactionary. It will only take 1 case of COVID-19 being contracted on Saskatchewan Polytechnic grounds for you to be on the wrong side of history.

Please don't be on the wrong side of history.

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Sincerely,

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