



SPSA
SASKATCHEWAN POLYTECHNIC
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC.

**SASKATCHEWAN POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS'
ASSOCIATION**
STUDENT OPEN FORUM ASSEMBLY – MEETING
Tuesday, November 24, 2020 @ 4:00 p.m.
All Campuses

NOTES

Present: Meeting Chaired by Jesse White, SPSA President. Robert Carnahan, VP Prince Albert, Thao Pham, VP Saskatoon, Reese Skjonsby, VP Regina.
Campus Managers: Crystal Gellner, Adeyemi Williams. Executive Assistant: Louie Ramos. Campus Directors: Sanchi Anand, Caitlin Smith, Kayla Ngo, Jeslyn Mitchell, Jithin Raju, Daisy Ngoc Vu.

Call to order: Jesse called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

*** 4 Students were in attendance***

1. Introduction & Welcome

Jesse welcomed everyone to the meeting. He started off by introducing himself, the executive council members in attendance, the general council members in attendance, as well as the SPSA staff in attendance. This was followed by a quick introduction of the students in attendance.

2. Review of Meeting Minutes

There was no adjustment made to the previous SOFA meeting minutes

3. Discussion Item:

• **Student Concerns:**

- **Health and Dental Plan:** Jesse provided an update on the changes being considered to the H&D plan. He said the changes would cover up to \$40 per visit to a chiropractor, physiotherapist, and any of the other medical practitioners instead of the current \$20 per visit. He said the maximum coverage would still be \$400, but the intent of the changes is to offer student more flexibility in the usage of the plan. He also stated that there would be voting to amend the H&D Plan at the next Executive Council (EC) meeting.

One of the student in attendance asked if a doctor's note would still be required in making claim towards a visit to a chiropractor, and Jesse's response was yes.

- **Study Spaces:** Jesse provided an update on the issue of study space availability that was raised at the last SOFA meeting. He said the concern has been brought up with the Saskatchewan Polytechnic (SP) Senior Management and their initial response was a straight no. He said SP senior management were concerned about the possibility of students contracting or being exposed to Covid19. However after further discussion, they agree to look into it and Jesse would be providing a future

update as soon as SP provide a definitive response. He also stated that the SPSA staff are currently looking at option of getting an outside facilities for student use.

Action: Jesse

- **Open Campus Council Director Position:**

Jesse provided information of vacant positions for Campus Council Directors. He encouraged any student that is interested in the position to have a chat with the designated Campus VP for more information.

- **Executive Council update:**

Jesse said the EC is currently in negotiation with Saskatchewan Polytechnic over the SPSA Master Agreement.

4. Open Discussion:

Jesse asked the students in attendance if they have any concern to bring forward. A student raised concern on how the SP cyberattack has impacted her academics. She said instructors in her program have drastically increased their workload. She also indicated that most of the instructors in her program doesn't have access to teaching resources yet, and students are made to compensate for that with the increased workload. Jesse responded by asking her to contact the student advocate to discuss the situation. He said the advocate would be able to advise on the best way to address the situation.

Another student brought up the issue of extra resources like webcam that they are required to purchase for their exams. She said she feels SP should not be putting students in that position. Jesse advised her to contact the student advocate or reach out to either the Program Head or superior to see if that decision can be overturned.

Finally, a student asked is there has been any discussion on why students are still required to pay full tuition despite the fact that their programs are now offered online. Jesse responded that the issue was raised with SP, and their response was, the education and credentials are still the same regardless of the change. Jesse also stated that the issue was brought up with the Ministry of Advance Education, and that the Ministry took side with SP on the issue. Jesse however said the EC is looking into the issue of Lab fees that was accessed by SP without the students being on campus. Jesse indicated that this issue would still be discussed with the Ministry of Advance Education in future.

The student then asked if there was any written statement from SP, and if getting students to sign a petition can help further the cause. Jesse responded that there was no written statement from SP and that if students can set up an online petition, he'd be willing to show that to SP.

5. Upcoming Events

- November 25th – Noon-hour Scattergories (Cancelled)
- December 2nd – SPSA's Got Talent Contest
- December 4th – National Cookie Day

- December 7-14th – Stress Better
 - December 7th – Noon-hour Scattergories
 - December 8th – Holiday Trivia
 - December 9th – Stress Better Snowman Making
 - December 10th – Dance Off, Stress Off
 - December 11th – Christmas Hamper Giveaway Announcement
 - December 14th – Virtual Art Night
- December 18th – Christmas Hamper Winner Announcement

6. Meeting Schedule

- Jan. 26/21 @ 4:00 p.m. (Zoom)
- Feb. 23/21 @ 4:00 p.m. (Zoom)
- Mar. 23/21 @ 4:00 p.m. (Zoom)
- April. 13/21 @ 4:00 p.m. (Zoom)

7. Next Meeting

- January 26/2021 @ 4:00 p.m. Via Zoom

Adjournment: Jesse adjourned the meeting at 4:59 p.m.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Jesse White
 President
president@spsa.ca
 SPSA Office (Room 146)
 Tel: 306-775-7257

Marina Verchenova
 VP Moose Jaw
vpmoosejaw@spsa.ca
 SPSA Office (Room 1.202)
 Tel: 306-691-8259

Reece Skjonsby
 VP Regina
vpregina@spsa.ca
 SPSA Office (Room 146)
 Tel: 306-775-7259

Thao Pham
 VP Saskatoon Campus
vpsaskatoon@spsa.ca
 SPSA Office (Room 116)
 Tel: 306-659-4703

Robert Carnahan
 VP Prince Albert Campus
bob.carnahan@spsa.ca
 SPSA Office (F206B Tech Centre)
 Tel: 306-765-1710

Crystal Gellner
 Campus Manager, Regina
crystal.gellner@spsa.ca
 SPSA Office
 Tel: 306-775-7823

Nadine Robins
 Campus Manager, Prince Albert
nadine.robins@spsa.ca
 (F206B Tech Centre)
 Tel: 306-765-1708

Tara Pejski
 Advocate Manager
tara.pejski@spsa.ca
 SPSA Saskatoon Office
 Tel: 306-659-4345

Adeyemi Williams
 Campus Manager, MooseJaw
adeyemi.williams@spsa.ca
 SPSA Office (Room 1.202)
 Tel: 306-691-8348