



**SPSA**  
SASKATCHEWAN POLYTECHNIC  
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC.

**SASKATCHEWAN POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS'  
ASSOCIATION**  
**STUDENT OPEN FORUM ASSEMBLY – MEETING**  
**Tuesday, October 27, 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 and Nadine Robins. Tara Pejski, Advocacy Manager, Campus Directors: Sanchi Anand, Dhananjay Khanna, Caitlin Smith, Kayla Ngo, Jeslyn Mitchell.

**Call to order:** Jesse called the meeting to order on October 27, 2020 at 4:05 p.m.

**\* 2 Students in attendance\***

**1. Introduction & Welcome**

Jesse welcomed 2 students to the meeting, acknowledging that there is room for improvement regarding attendance.

A round table of introductions began with Jesse, explaining his role and experiences.

**2. Guest Speaker:**

Tara Pejski, Advocacy Manager, spoke on her role, what advocacy is, how and when she can help. Tara also explained that she works for students not Sask Polytech. She then posted the advocacy video link in the group chat so students could view it on their own time.

A student asked a question regarding plagiarism. Due to online learning, some students feel intimidation regarding plagiarism as it is greatly stressed by some instructors that this is an area of concern. Tara explained how she could help in this area and gave examples of how she helped in the past. As well as, explaining that learning services has other resources that can help with this such as; Grammarly, and other writing support guides. With these guides your work can be checked for plagiarism and citation, allowing students to check their work without repercussions.

**3. Items for Discussion:**

**• Student Concerns:**

- **Health and Dental Plan:** A student felt that the plan was very unsatisfactory, “Garbage”, due to the massage plan and other supplemental health/practitioner care only being \$20.00 per visit, up to \$400.00 per year. Tara explained that another way to look at it is that the cost of the plan is only \$255.00 so it pays for itself quite quickly.

Jesse stated that this is something the council could look into.

**Action: Jesse**

- **Areas for Group Study:** Due to the pandemic, it is very difficult to find a room to conduct a group study. Is it possible to inquire with Sask Polytech to have a designated classroom for this? Jesse stated that he felt it would be difficult given the restrictions and guidelines in place, however, council will inquire. Bob will get in touch with the student regarding updates.  
Sanchi suggested using Zoom for group study as it has been successful in the past and sessions can be recorded.

**Action: Jesse/Bob**

- **Open Campus Council Director Position:**

Regina – 1 Position

Prince Albert – 1 Position

The position of Director entails: Students representation, spreading information, belonging to standing committees such as; Student Life, Sask Polytech Academic Policies.

All interested students are to contact their VP of Campus.

- **Executive Council update:**

- Approving strategic plan: It will be posted on the SPSA website.
- Tuition and Fee Policy: Working to ensure proper fees are assessed during the pandemic.
- Study Spaces for students: This is essential due to mental health in the winter.

- **SPSA Connect APP:**

Students were encouraged to download the App. This revamping of the App was an investment this year, great resource, with lots of information and gateway to events.

- **Assistance From A Distance:**

Jesse explained how this online scheduler works and a great tool to reach out to SPSA staff and Executive council. Appointments can be booked for Health and Dental, Used Textbooks, Legal Assistance, Student Advocacy and Club inquiries.

- **Open Discussion:**

How does the Students' Association engage with trades students?

Each Campus Manager explained how they engaged with trades students before the pandemic. This has always been a challenge, however, pub nights, food giveaways and events featuring prizes helped to get them involved. Jesse explained that all interaction is difficult right now.

- **Upcoming Events:**

- Trivia - Oct 27<sup>th</sup> @ 7p.m. via Zoom and Kahoot, details posted on the SPSA Connect App
- Decorate Your Space, Halloween Contest - Oct 30<sup>th</sup>
- National Donut Day – Nov 5<sup>th</sup>
- SPSA's Got Talent - November 16<sup>th</sup>
- AGM - November 18, more details to come

#### **4. Final Closing:**

Jesse thanked all for coming despite the inability to have free Pizza.

#### **5. Meeting Schedule**

- Nov. 24/20 @ 4:00 p.m. (Zoom)
- Jan. 26/20 @ 4:00 p.m. (Zoom)
- Feb. 23/20 @ 4:00 p.m. (Zoom)
- Mar. 23/20 @ 4:00 p.m. (Zoom)
- April. 13/20 @ 4:00 p.m. (Zoom)

#### **6. Next Meeting**

- November 24/2020 @ 4:00 p.m. Via Zoom

**Adjournment:** Jesse adjourned the meeting at 5:02 p.m.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tara Pejski  
Advocate Manager  
[tara.pejski@spsa.ca](mailto:tara.pejski@spsa.ca)  
SPSA Saskatoon Office  
Tel: 306-659-4345

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