



SASKATCHEWAN POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC.

GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Regina & Saskatoon Campuses

Rm. 1130 – Regina Campus

Sunday, October 16, 2022

Present: Executive Council
Deep Pandya, President; Ujjval Chavda, VP Moose Jaw Campus;
Raj Chandran, VP Prince Albert Campus; Sydney Soloway, VP Regina Campus; and
Cecily Chartier, VP Saskatoon Campus

Campus Representatives
Moose Jaw: Palak Halani, Rachit Mehta, Dakshesh Raval
Prince Albert: Tapish Grover, Tom Varghese Manoj
Regina: Ayomide Famuyide, Joyce Oduntan, Het Modi
Saskatoon: Bernice Castro, Mickayla Maclachlan, Sahil Singh

SPSA Staff
Carol Tetreault, General Manager, and Louie Ramos, Executive Assistant

1. Subject: Call to Order
Deep called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

The SPSA acknowledges that we are on Treaty 4 and 6 Territory, the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

1.1 Introduction of New General Council Members

The SPSA would like to welcome the following individuals to the SPSA General Council:

- Campus Representative, Moose Jaw:
 - Palak Halani
 - Rachit Mehta
 - Dakshesh Raval
- Campus Representative, Prince Albert:
 - Tapish Grover
 - Tom Varghese Manoj
- Campus Representative, Regina:
 - Ayomide Famuyide
 - Joyce Oduntan
 - Het Modi

- Campus Representative, Saskatoon
 - Bernice Castro
 - Mickayla Maclachlan
 - Sahil Singh

2. Subject: Adoption of Agenda

MOVED by Sydney, SECONDED by Cecily to accept the Agenda as presented. CARRIED.

3. Subject: Adoption of Meeting Minutes

MOVED by Het, SECONDED by Mickayla to accept the March 27, 2022, Meeting Minutes and April 6, 2022 Email Vote as presented. CARRIED.

4. Subject: Executive Council Reports

MOVED by Cecily, SECONDED by Tom to accept the Executive Council Reports as presented. CARRIED.

5. Subject: SPT Discussion

Kendra Strong Garcia, Director, Student Engagement and Learning Services

OERs and Textbook Affordability

General Council members indicated that some programs require students to purchase a textbook/workbook to access online quizzes. Council members agreed that this model is unfair as taking quizzes, a course requirement, is an extra expense. Members also indicated that there are concerns regarding the availability of textbooks. Programs are requiring textbooks that are unavailable at the bookstore. Members also mentioned that in some programs, cohorts in the same course have varying requirements. There is currently no consistency with instructor requirements.

Deep and Carol indicated that a few years ago, the SPSA forwarded a position statement regarding Open Education Resources and Textbook Affordability to Sask Polytech Senior Admin. The position statement outlined developing a policy that would require programs to use the same edition of textbooks for at least 2 to 3 years before being changed and the development of more OERs for student use. Louie will forward this document to Kendra for review.

ACTION: Louie

Instructor Competency & Behaviour

The SPSA has received concerns from students regarding instructor behaviours such as rudeness and usage of threatening language in class. Most students are afraid to come forward with their concerns due to fear of reprisal. Students who have successfully filed a complaint were told that they have no choice as there would be no instructor left to teach the course. Students also noted that some instructors were not familiar with the course material that they are teaching. General Council indicated that this is a huge

concern as students may fail their exams if they were taught incorrectly. Other concerns that students have brought forward include attendance policies and class cancellations. Students indicated that there is no consistency between attendance policies in programs and the minimum timeframe for cancellation of classes. General Council members noted that some attendance policies are unfair to a certain group of students. Classes are also being cancelled 30 minutes before the scheduled time which makes it difficult for students who are travelling. Instructors also do not provide information regarding make-up classes or if the student needs to learn the material on their own.

Kendra noted that Student Relations have developed a process for Instructor Complaints. Kendra will inform General Council once the process has been approved by Sask Polytech's HR Department. Kendra also indicated that the Instructional and Leadership Development Centre (ILDC) has been providing training for instructors to teach effectively.

Faculty Survey & Evaluation

General Council indicated that most students do not feel that the survey provided at the end of a course is confidential enough. Kendra explained that once the survey has been completed, they are forwarded to the Academic Chair and Learner Pathways for review. The surveys do not include the student's name, email or Student ID number.

Tuition & Fees

The SPSA has received concerns from International Students regarding tuition estimates. It was suggested that a policy be developed to prevent changes to students' Tuition & Fees, 14 days before the program start date. Some students reported that when they received an additional charge on their accounts, they have seen differing balances from their classmates who are in the same program. General Council also noted that some programs were able to negotiate the increment to the increase of their tuition & fees. Some programs are also being charged a Lab Fee, but they do not have access to the labs or don't have any lab component in their courses. The Academic Affairs Standing Committee is tasked with following up on this issue.

ACTION: Academic Affairs Committee

Childcare Support for Students

General Council indicated that students are requesting childcare facilities on the Moose Jaw and Saskatoon main campuses. Kendra indicated that she will look into having something in place at the Moose Jaw campus.

ACTION: Student Affairs Committee

International Student Advisors

General Council indicated that there are not enough International Student Advisors to help students with their concerns. General Council hopes that each campus location has at least two permanent International Student Advisors to help address student concerns.

Lockers

Cecily indicated that posters on campus have helped with locker inquiries regarding how to use locks and staff contact information. Cecily has also forwarded Executive Council's suggestions on the current Locker Terms & Conditions to amend some of the wording. Kendra will follow up with Facilities regarding this item.

ACTION: Student Affairs Committee

Parking

It was noted that students studying at satellite campuses would have to pay for city parking and campus parking should they want to come to the Saskatoon Main Campus to access facilities. Kendra will look into options for these students.

ACTION: Student Affairs Committee

Cafeteria

General Council expressed concerns regarding Cafeteria hours and the unavailability of certain food items. Students who have late or evening classes have no access to food services as the cafeteria is closed by 1:30 p.m. It was suggested that the Cafeteria do a trial run of closing later in the day to provide grab-and-go items to students who are taking late/evening classes.

ACTION: Student Affairs Committee

6. Subject: Action Items

6.1 Virtual Healthcare

Complete. Carol indicated that the myvirtualdoctor has been implemented on September 1, 2022.

6.2 SPSA Financials Q3 March 31, 2022

Complete. The SPSA Financials Q3 March 31, 2022, has been approved via email on April 6, 2022.

7. Subject: New Business

7.1 Bylaw Amendments

Deferred. The Bylaws Draft will be forwarded to the Governance & Policy Committee for review and input.

ACTION: Governance & Policy Committee

7.2 SPSA Standing Committee Members

7.2.1 Academic Affairs Committee

- Sydney Soloway, Chair
- Rachit Mehta
- Mickayla Maclachlan

7.2.2 Finance Committee

- Ujjval Chavda, Chair
- Het Modi

- Tom Varghese Manoj
- Sahil Singh

7.2.3 Governance & Policy Committee

- Raj Chandran, Chair
- Dakshesh Raval
- Joyce Oduntan
- Bernice Castro

7.2.4 Student Affairs Committee

- Cecily Chartier, Chair
- Palak Halani
- Tapish Grover
- Ayomide Famuyide

7.3 YE June 2022 Audited Financial Statements

MOVED by Ujjval, SECONDED by Sydney to present the YE June 30, 2022, Audited Financial Statements to the membership at November 2, 2022, Annual General Meeting. CARRIED.

7.4 SPSA Financials Q1 September 30, 2022

MOVED by Ujjval, SECONDED by Cecily to accept the 1st Quarter Financial Statements ending September 30, 2022, as presented. CARRIED.

7.5 SPSA Operating Budget

The SPSA Operating Budget (2022 – 2023) outlining the budget vs actual figures to date was distributed to the General Council for review.

7.6 Upcoming Meetings

7.6.1 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting is currently slated for November 2, 2022, at noon. Deep asked council members to encourage other students to attend the AGM.

7.6.2 Council Connect Meetings

The Student Open Forum Assembly Meetings or Council Connect Meetings are scheduled for every last Tuesday of the month. General Council members are expected to attend these sessions and actively listen to any student concerns that may arise. The next Council Connect Meeting is on Tuesday, October 25, 2022, at noon.

7.6.3 General Council Meeting

General Council Meetings will be scheduled monthly to keep all members informed of any student concerns and Executive Council activities. The next General Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 26, 2022.



7.7 FSAA Advocacy Priorities

Deep explained that the Federal Student Advocacy Alliance (FSAA) is a national coalition comprised of the British Columbia Federation of Students (BCFS), the Alberta Students Executive Council (ASEC) and the SPSA. The FSAA aims to provide a unified student voice for Western Canadian students to influence national change. The FSAA has requested the SPSA to provide two advocacy priorities for Saskatchewan students which will be presented to the Ministers in Ottawa in early winter/late spring. VP Campuses will discuss further with their respective Campus Councils and forward suggestions at the next General Council Meeting.

ACTION: VP Campuses

7.8 SDG Accord

Deferred.

ACTION: Deep

8. Subject: Closed Session

The closed session is deferred until the next General Council Meeting.

9. Subject: Announcements

There are currently no Announcements at this time.

10. Subject: Next Meeting

Wednesday, October 26, 2022 (Tentative)

11. Subject: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:16 p.m.

Date Accepted:

Signature: