



SASKATCHEWAN POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC.

GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Regina & Saskatoon Campuses Zoom Meeting Saturday, January 28, 2023

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
Regina: Ayomide Famuyide, Joyce Oduntan
Saskatoon: Mickayla Maclachlan, Sahil Singh

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

Regrets: Campus Representatives
Prince Albert: Tapish Grover, Navjot Kaur
Regina: Het Modi

1. Subject: Call to Order
Deep called the meeting to order at 9:06 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.

2. Subject: Agenda
General Council agreed to accept the Agenda as amended.

3. Subject: Meeting Notes
General Council agreed to accept the December 3, 2022 Meeting Notes as presented.

4. Subject: Executive Council Reports
General Council agreed to accept the Executive Council Reports as presented.



5. Subject: Standing Committee Updates

Student Affairs Committee

The Committee had a meeting yesterday to discuss student concerns. Cecily is currently working on scheduling a meeting with the International Department to forward student concerns. It was noted that Thevi Pather, AVP International will be at the Moose Jaw Campus on February 2nd, to hear International student concerns on campus.

Academic Affairs Committee

The Committee had a meeting scheduled but was postponed due to scheduling conflicts. Committee members were tasked to look into which programs have uniforms costs that are not part of their tuition and program fees.

Finance Committee

Ujjval will schedule a Committee meeting in the coming weeks.

Governance & Policy Committee

The Committee had a meeting on Friday, January 13, 2023. Raj indicated that the Committee discussed suggested amendments to the Policies which will be forwarded to the appropriate Council for review.

6. Subject: Action Items

5.1 OER & Textbook Affordability

Rachit indicated that the survey was included in the January SWIPE distribution. Carol noted that the SWIPE was sent to 8,495 email accounts and had 3,822 opens. Out of those opens 395 users clicked on the link to the Textbook Survey and of those, only 67 users completed the survey. It was suggested that a scenario be forwarded together with the survey to urge people to participate in the survey. Palak asked when the SWIPE is distributed and Louie noted that the SWIPE is sent out at the end of each month. It was suggested that the Academic Affairs Committee look into requesting a policy which urges instructors to use textbooks for 2-3 years before changing the edition they are using. Staff will meet with Sydney to discuss the next steps.

ACTION: Sydney & Carol

5.2 Tuition & Fees Concerns

Sydney indicated that some programs require students to purchase uniforms that are not included as part of their tuition and fees. The Academic Affairs Committee members provided their research in which five programs require uniforms that are not included as part of their tuition and fees. Sydney will look into uniform practices at other institutions.

ACTION: Sydney

5.3 Childcare Support for Students

Deferred.

ACTION: Deep



5.4 Locker Concerns

Council members indicated that Regina students were unable to speak with the Facilities Department staff as students were informed that their area was restricted. The Moose Jaw Facilities Department was closed during lunch hours preventing students from addressing their concerns. Cecily has reached out to Kendra Strong-Garcia, Director, Student Engagement & Learning Services, regarding locker student concerns.

ACTION: Cecily

5.5 Parking Concerns

Deferred.

ACTION: Carol

5.6 Cafeteria Concerns

Cecily indicated that the cafeteria hours remain unchanged. Sydney noted that the food has improved and that the cafeteria now offers more vegan options however, the cafeteria hours remain a huge issue as students are scheduled for afternoon/night classes. Executive Council has brought forward these concerns to SPT Senior Admin, who indicated that they will work with the Hospitality Services to provide an extended hours trial run in the Moose Jaw and Regina Campuses. Executive Council also suggested that the SPSA provide snack items in the afternoon when the cafeteria is closed. Executive Council will provide an update once available.

ACTION: Executive Council

5.7 Bylaw Amendments

Deferred.

ACTION: Governance & Policy Committee

5.8 FSAA Advocacy Priorities

Deferred. Deep has forwarded the SPSA's Advocacy Priorities to the Federal Student Advocacy Alliance (FSAA) and is currently awaiting a response.

ACTION: Deep

5.9 SDG Accord

Deferred.

ACTION: General Council

7. Subject: New Business

7.1 SPSA Financials Q2 December 31, 2022

General Council agreed to accept the SPSA Financials Q2 December 31, 2022, as presented.

Kendra Strong-Garcia, Director, Student Engagement & Learning Services joined the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

7.2 SPT Discussion Items with Kendra Strong-Garcia

Parking

Members noted that some students have difficulty paying for parking as they do not have credit cards or usually have cash on hand. It was suggested that options for debit cards be accepted as a method of payment for both the APP and the parking kiosk. It was also suggested that the Commissionaires or Facilities have a cash float wherein students can get change for the parking kiosks. Members also expressed concerns over the delay in snow and ice removal as students are unable to park in their specified lots. It was also noted that students who study at a satellite campus have to pay additional parking fees if they come to the main campus to take classes or to participate in events. Kendra will look into these concerns and provide an update.

Lockers

Kendra indicated that the Facilities Department was supposed to have a booth set up to assist students with locker concerns during Welcome Week. Deep noted that the main student concern was that no one was available to assist students in person. It was also noted that Regina students were unable to get their issues addressed as the Facilities Department area was restricted to students. Another concern brought forward was the inability of students to pay with cash. Kendra indicated that Alice Miller, AVP Student Services is currently looking into changes to the methods of payment for the lockers.

International Student Concerns

General Council expressed concerns that International student needs are not being met and that Sask Polytech should do more to address their needs. Members noted that some programs lack instructors and students are unable to contact Program Faculty to express their concerns. It was suggested that SPT stop their program intake until the issues have been resolved. Members also suggested hiring students as Instructor Aides to help teach some of the courses.

General Council members also discussed the Airport Service and UniBuddy system and noted that these services would be beneficial for students. Kendra mentioned that an Alumni Mentorship Program is currently in development. It was noted that the SPSA and SPT should revisit talks regarding the Airport Service and UniBuddy system to provide this service to students.

Members noted that staff were unavailable during the holidays to assist students arriving in Canada for the Winter Semester. It was suggested that a skeleton staff or an emergency phone number be available to International students for assistance. Cecily indicated that students expressed concerns over the lack of support from International Advisors at the Saskatoon Campus. Sydney has also received complaints from students indicating that the International Advisors on the Regina Campus are unavailable and unhelpful. Raj and Ujjval noted that the International Advisors on their respective campuses have been very accessible to students, however, they are unable to assist students in a timely manner due to the sheer number of students on campus.

Transportation Options

Deep and Sydney will be meeting with the Regina Mayor, Sandra Masters to discuss transportation options for students travelling from Regina to Moose Jaw. Kendra indicated that she attended Community Talks in Moose Jaw to discuss transportation options and housing for students. Carol noted that public transportation is also an issue at the Prince Albert Campus as well.

Kendra left the meeting at 10:36 a.m.

7.3 Meeting with Gallivan

Deep, Ujval and Carol will be attending a meeting with Gallivan on February 16-18, 2023 in Waterloo to discuss the current fee structure and premium renewal. Carol noted that the Health & Dental Plan might need to be adjusted due to the number of services we have added recently. Deep, Ujval and Carol will provide an update after the meeting.

ACTION: Deep, Ujval & Carol

7.4 Student Fees

The Finance Committee will look into the possibility of increasing the SPSA Student Fees for the upcoming Academic Year. Carol noted that the SPSA Student Fees were increased back in 2018, and with the current rate of inflation, it might be time to increase the fees to provide the appropriate service levels at each campus location. Louie will look into other institutions' student fees for comparison.

ACTION: Louie

Executive Council will also discuss this during the Budget Retreat.

ACTION: Executive Council

8. Subject: Closed Session

The closed session began at 10:48 a.m.
The closed session ended at 11:02 a.m.

9. Subject: Announcements

9.1 Staff Updates

The SPSA would like to express their gratitude to Laura Leslie, for her service and wishes her the very best of luck in her future endeavours.

The SPSA would also like to welcome Katrina Vander Kwaak, Administrative Coordinator, Prince Albert who will be beginning her role on February 7, 2023.

10. Subject: Next Meeting

March 25-26, 2023, 9:00 a.m., Saskatoon Campus



11.Subject: Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Date Accepted:

Signature: