



SASKATCHEWAN POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC.

GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Regina & Saskatoon Campuses Zoom Meeting Saturday, December 16, 2023

Present: Executive Council
Steven Jose, President; Gabriela Pozner, VP Regina Campus and Nicole Zalesak, VP Saskatoon Campus

Campus Representatives
Regina: Kai Nguyen and Vihang Sadhu
Prince Albert: Michielin Nguyen and Harishgowtham Shanmugam
Saskatoon: Kriztel Sayana, Daniel Jeong and Luis Aguinaga

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

Regrets: Executive Council
Abhishek Jain, VP Moose Jaw Campus and Naresh Saroye, VP Prince Albert Campus;

Campus Representatives
Moose Jaw: Swetal Shah and Het Patel
Regina: Bhavya Trivedi
Prince Albert: Kevin Duong

1. Subject: Call to Order
Steven called the meeting to order at 9:05 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: Adoption of Agenda
MOVED by Nicole, SECONDED by Harish to accept the Agenda as presented. CARRIED.

3. Subject: Adoption of Meeting Minutes
MOVED by Nicole, SECONDED by Daniel to accept the November 18, 2023, Meeting Minutes as presented. CARRIED.

4. Subject: Standing Committee Updates

4.1 Student Affairs Committee

Kendra Strong Garcia, Director, Student Engagement and Learning Services joined the meeting to provide an update on several issues that General Council had previously brought forward.

Transportation

Kendra indicated that she is currently working with the Institutional Research & Analysis (IR&A) team to distribute a survey by the end of January. This survey aims to learn how students are affected by the lack of housing and transportation options for the Moose Jaw and Regina campuses.

Childcare Services

Kendra explained that a link to the provincially regulated childcare list will be added to the SP Website as a resource for students seeking childcare options.

Textbook Concerns

Kendra has connected Nicole Zalesak, VP Academic to Dr. Mike Gillespie, AVP Learning & Teaching regarding students' textbooks concerns. Nicole noted that some programs require textbooks solely for the online access codes, which provide access to quizzes and exams that students are required to take.

Online Orientation

The SP Student Engagement Team will be adding a program information module on the Online Orientation that will be provided to all students. This module will include information such as program start dates, city campus location, required textbooks and class schedule. Kendra hopes to have all program information prior to the 2024 Fall Semester starts.

Fitness & Recreation

Council members noted student concerns such as Wi-Fi connectivity and APP user-friendliness. Daniel also noted that the APP is still not working for Android users. Kendra will look into these concerns and provide an update once available.

Health Services

Kendra indicated that the Full-time Campus Nurse in Regina is on leave until January 2024. Regina Campus Nurse hours should be back to 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. once the full-time nurse returns. Kendra also noted that she is currently looking for another campus nurse in Saskatoon. Council members inquired about what services the Campus Nurse will provide to students. Kendra noted that the Campus Nurses can only provide certain services such as vaccinations as they are not Nurse Practitioners. Nicole and Kriztel indicated that the satellite campuses would like to receive these services as well, however, the vaccination clinic timings are not feasible for satellite campus students. Kendra will look into scheduling SHA Vaccination clinics at the satellite campuses.

Counselling Services

Council members indicated that Counselling hours are inconsistent across all campuses and that appointment hours are unhelpful for students who have classes from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Kendra will look into these concerns and adjust hours accordingly.

Cafeteria Hours

The cafeteria hours will be extended to 3:30 or 4:30 depending on the campus, however, no implementation date has been announced yet.

Locker Concerns

Kendra will contact Bernice Ellis, Interim AVP Facilities Management regarding updating the locker maps.

4.2 Academic Affairs Committee

Chemistry Tutor

Nicole has contacted Kendra regarding providing an in-person Advanced Chemistry Tutor in Saskatoon. Nicole noted that Kendra will look into this concern.

Co-op Work Term Fees

Committee members indicated that students who decide to participate in a co-op work term would need to pay a fee of \$1,400. This fee would provide access to a list of SP-approved employers and SP employees who can assist in resume-building, interview practices, and finding the best-fit employer for the student co-op. Committee members noted concerns that students who are unable to secure employment will not be provided a refund for their Co-op Work Term Fees. It was noted that Laura Sperlie, Director, Strategic Enrolment Management will be the best contact for this concern.

4.3 Finance

The Finance Committee has no updates at this time.

4.4 Governance & Policy

Election Policies

A meeting has been scheduled with Carol, Ashley and Louie to discuss the Election Policies.

5. Subject: Campus Council Updates

5.1 Moose Jaw Campus

Steven indicated that there were security concerns regarding bags not being allowed in the gymnasium during the exam week. Abhishek is currently looking into this issue.

5.2 Prince Albert Campus

Harish indicated that students have suggested increasing the Library Hours to accommodate students during the exam season.

5.3 Regina Campus

Gabby has forwarded student concerns over the unsafe parking lots to the SP Facilities and Campus Safety & Security departments. It was noted that the Regina Campus parking lots would be under the purview of the Wascana Centre Authority and that SP would have to contact them in order to maintain the parking lots.

5.4 Saskatoon Campus

Nicole indicated that there have been some concerns regarding the cleanliness of the campus. Some washrooms are not being cleaned and plates and metal cutlery from the cafeteria have been left on tables. It was noted that a new cleaning company has been hired by Facilities and suggested that the Campus Council continue monitoring the cleanliness of the campus.

Kriztel indicated another security company comes to the Ave W Campus during the start and end of the school day to help with students' security concerns.

6. Subject: Action Items

6.1 Tuition & Fees Concerns

Deferred.

ACTION: Nicole

6.2 Childcare Support for Students

Please refer to 4.1. Student Affairs Committee.

6.3 Parking Concerns

Please refer to 4.1. Student Affairs Committee.

6.4 Cafeteria Concerns

Please refer to 4.1. Student Affairs Committee.

6.5 Student Concerns Follow-up

Please refer to 4.1. Student Affairs Committee.

6.6 Student Etiquette

General Council members expressed concerns regarding student conduct and etiquette on campus. Members indicated that some students have been disrespectful and disruptive on multiple occasions. It was suggested that the Student Affairs Committee contact Kendra and the International Education to provide a session regarding the Student Code of Conduct and Canadian Culture.

ACTION: Student Affairs Committee

7. Subject: New Business

7.1 International Student Admissions

Nicole led a discussion on concerns regarding students who are experiencing difficulty understanding the coursework due to their lack of English proficiency. Vihang indicated



that each program has different English Language Requirements which is similar to other post-secondary institutions. It was also noted that depending on the student's country of origin, the English Language Requirement also varies. Further, some international students were told that they could switch programs easily once they arrive in Canada. Vihang noted that this information might be from recruiters or sub-agents in order to secure potential students. Council members forwarded these concerns to Kendra and will contact Annie Fu, Manager, International Education regarding these concerns as well.

ACTION: Nicole

Council members also discussed the usage of AI Tools for assignments and term papers. Members agreed that it would be beneficial if SP could develop a policy to police AI Tool usage to preserve academic integrity. Presentations on appropriate use of AI Tools would be beneficial as well. This agenda item will be added to the EC Agenda for further discussion.

ACTION: Louie

Kendra left the meeting at 11:08 a.m.

8. Subject: Closed Session

The closed session began at 11:09 a.m.
The closed session ended at 11:20 a.m.

9. Subject: Announcements

There are no Announcements at this time.

10. Subject: Next Meeting

Saturday, January 20, 2024, 9:00 a.m. (Zoom)

11. Subject: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:24 a.m.

Date Accepted:

Signature: