



SASKATCHEWAN POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC.

GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Regina & Saskatoon Campuses Zoom Meeting Saturday, February 10, 2024

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

Campus Representatives
Moose Jaw: Gaurav Khanna and Kumar Vikram
Prince Albert: Michielin Nguyen, Harishgowtham Shanmugam and Otonye Obom
Regina: Bhavya Trivedi, Vihang Sadhu and Kai Nguyen
Saskatoon: Kritzel Sayana and Daniel Jeong

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

Regrets: Executive Council
Abhishek Jain, VP Moose Jaw Campus

Campus Representatives
Moose Jaw: Adeeti Biswas
Saskatoon: Luis Aguinaga

1. Subject: Call to Order
Steven called the meeting to order at 9:04 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:
 - Adeeti Biswas
 - Gaurav Khanna
 - Kumar Vikram
- Campus Representative, Prince Albert:
 - Otonye Obom



2. Subject: Adoption of Agenda
MOVED by Gabby, SECONDED by Kriztel to accept the Agenda as amended. CARRIED.

3. Subject: Adoption of Meeting Minutes
MOVED by Nicole, SECONDED by Harish to accept the January 20, 2024, Meeting Minutes as presented. CARRIED.

4. Subject: Standing Committee Updates

4.1 Academic Affairs Committee

OERs & Textbook Affordability

Nicole indicated that committee members have talked to their instructors regarding utilizing OERs for their courses. Vihang noted that instructors were unaware of OERs but indicated that they would be interested in developing an OER for their program. Council members agreed that the lack of information seems to hinder the development of OERs. The Committee will discuss the best course of action for this issue.

Nicole, Carol, and Louie prepared a position statement draft which was forwarded to the General Council for consideration. The draft included textbook misuse and policy recommendations.

MOVED by Nicole, SECONDED by Daniel to accept the Textbook Affordability Position Statement as presented. CARRIED.

English Language Requirement

Nicole indicated that the English Language Requirement was discussed during the last SP Board of Directors Meeting and noted that our concerns were referred to the International Department. Nicole indicated that Dr. Has Malik, Provost & VP Academic has mentioned the availability of support for students struggling with understanding their coursework due to their lack of English proficiency. It was noted that the SPSA is not made aware of these specific student supports. Nicole will inquire with Kendra Strong-Garcia, Director, Student Engagement & Learning Services.

Learning Plan Policy Proposal

Carol and Louie are currently working on this agenda item.

4.2 Finance Committee

The Finance Committee has no updates at this time.

4.3 Governance & Policy Committee

The Governance & Policy Committee has no updates at this time.

4.4 Student Affairs Committee

Cafeteria Concerns

Naresh indicated that the cafeteria hours on the website have not been updated. Carol has contacted Kendra regarding this concern. It was also noted that there is a severe lack of options for students with dietary requirements (i.e., vegetarian, vegan, halal, etc.). Council members also indicated that there are a limited number of options available after 1:00 p.m. Naresh will forward these concerns to Bobbi Bates, Manager, Hospitality Services.

Cleanliness

Naresh indicated that concerns were brought forward regarding the cleanliness of certain areas in the Saskatoon campus. It was noted that plates and metal cutlery from the cafeteria are still found on tables all over the campus even though the cafeteria has posted signs indicating that plates and cutlery must not be taken out of the cafeteria. The staff has forwarded these concerns to the Facilities Department.

Fitness & Recreation

The Committee is monitoring the Fitness and Recreation Centres to ensure that issues are addressed appropriately. Daniel indicated that the Wellness Team in Saskatoon has started working on posters to advertise services such as accessing the change rooms. Daniel will contact the Wellness Coordinator to ensure that access is available after hours and during the weekend.

Student Etiquette

Naresh indicated that the orientation provided by the International Department for the Winter Intake included a section on the Student Code of Conduct inside and outside of the classroom. It was noted that students from the September Intake are still being rude to others. Daniel also mentioned that a concern has come forward indicating that students have noticed bullying on campus. Naresh will contact Kendra to suggest implementing an awareness campaign to address these concerns.

Health Services

Naresh has contacted Kendra regarding the Health Nurses' duties and responsibilities and is currently waiting for a response.

5. Subject: Campus Council Updates

5.1 Moose Jaw Campus

Steven indicated that new Campus Representatives have been appointed.

5.2 Prince Albert Campus

Naresh indicated students have requested hot water stations due to the inclement weather. Naresh will contact Kendra regarding this concern. Naresh also noted that students have suggested having more sporting and gaming events.

Council members indicated that some students are unable to download the SPSA Connect APP. Carol will contact Ashley regarding this concern.

ACTION: Carol

5.3 Regina Campus

Gabby indicated that there have been concerns regarding the conduct of a Cafeteria Staff member. Gabby has contacted the Cafeteria Manager regarding these concerns.

5.4 Saskatoon Campus

Nicole indicated that there have been some concerns regarding the cleanliness of the campus, specifically the washrooms and the laboratories. Kriztel indicated that transit buses have been a concern lately, noting that students have to wait for a long time as buses are always full. Kriztel will meet with Carol to discuss these concerns. Please refer to 6.7 Ave W Concerns.

6. Subject: Action Items

6.1 Tuition & Fees Concerns

Deferred.

ACTION: Nicole

6.2 International Student Admissions

Please refer to 6.2 Student Affairs Committee.

6.3 AI Tools Usage

Louie has forwarded research to the Executive Council for review. Executive Council agreed that it would be beneficial to contact Kendra to request an update on Academic Integrity Guidelines for AI Usage. Nicole will contact Kendra regarding this concern.

ACTION: Nicole

6.4 SPSA Student Fees

Carol indicated that any changes to the SPSA Student Fees structure must be submitted to SP by February 28, 2024. It was recommended that the Student Fees structure remain the same due to the increase approved last year.

MOVED by Gabby, SECONDED by Harish to keep the current Student Fee structure with the exception of the newly approved International Student Gap Coverage Fee. CARRIED.

6.5 Student Credentials

Complete. Nicole and Carol indicated that the SP Academic Council is aware of this issue and is in the process of making amendments to certain programs. Carol has contacted Kendra to inform them of this issue as well.

6.6 Campus Cleanliness

Carol and Louie have forwarded the concerns to Facilities, who is currently working on addressing these concerns. This item will be removed from the Agenda.

6.7 Ave W Concerns

Deferred. Kriztel and Carol have scheduled a meeting for next week.

ACTION: Kriztel & Carol

7. Subject: New Business7.1 SPSA Referendum Results

The Executive Council announced that 83.23% of voters voted in favour of implementing the International Student Emergency Medical Coverage, Repatriation and Transportation Plan beginning in Fall 2024. Carol thanked all Council members and staff for their efforts in ensuring that the student body is making an informed decision.

7.2 SPSA Standing Committees

The newly appointed Campus Representatives will participate in the following SPSA Standing Committees:

- Academic Affairs Committee: Gaurav
- Student Affairs Committee: Adeeti
- Governance & Policy Committee: Vikram & Otonye

7.3 VP Job Description Presentation

Louie has forwarded the VP Finance and VP Campus Job Descriptions to the General Council for review. Louie explained that the VP Job Descriptions were amended to comply with the Bylaw Amendments approved at the last Annual General Meeting.

7.4 International Student Cap

The Canadian Government recently announced an International Student Cap for post-secondary institutions. Carol and Louie attended the AMICCUS discussion regarding the International Student Cap and noted that other student organizations are concerned with the change. Council members agreed that it is currently difficult to assess how much the International Student Cap will affect student organizations due to the lack of available parameters. It was suggested that this concern be forwarded to the Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Council (SPSC) for discussion.

ACTION: Steven & Nicole

7.5 H&D Plan Family Add-on

Otonye indicated that some students missed the Family Add-on deadline due to the lack of information regarding the Health & Dental Plan. Otonye noted that students have received the SPSA Orientation, however, students are unable to remember all the information provided at that time. Carol explained that allowing an extension for some students will cause delays in other students' plan entitlement. Carol noted that the SPSA will enhance advertisements to ensure timelines are clear regarding the H&D Plan.

8. Subject: Closed Session

The closed session began at 10:57 a.m.
The closed session ended at 11:38 a.m.

9. Subject: Announcements9.1 Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Student Council



Steven and Nicole will be attending the Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Student Council in Regina on February 21, 2024.

9.2 New Saskatoon Campus Committee

Nicole has received an invitation to participate in the new Saskatoon Campus Planning Committee.

10.Subject: Next Meeting
March 23-24, 2024, Saskatoon Campus

11.Subject: Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Date Accepted:

Signature: