Zuhruf Zarooq

URSU Annual General Meeting

February 01, 2024

**VP Student Affairs Report**

**DESCRIPTION OF POSITION**

According to the URSU bylaws, the Vice President Student Affairs deals with matters relating to the student experience, student advocacy, and student representation on campus. The Vice President Student Affairs is also the primary contact point for clubs and oversees the development of URSU club programming. The Vice-President Student Affairs also plays an important role as a student representative by sitting on committees relating to academic and non-academic misconduct, and by representing URSU to URSU’s Student Centres; this includes the Womens’ Centre, URPride, RPIRG, and more.

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<https://www.ursu.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Executive-Committee-and-Executive-Roles-.pdf>

**PRIORITIES & PROGRESS**

**Financial & Food Security of Students**

The University of Regina Students’ Union is dedicated to leading positive sustainable change around students’ lives. In 2015, the United Nations adopted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals that address global challenges everyone faces, hunger, quality education, sustainable communities, etc. As a students’ union, we believe the goals are interconnected and important to every country, community, and the blueprint of URSU. With the help of the new food coordinator Sarah, we streamlined the process for URSU pantry cares. Therefore, the grocery distribution to the students are equitable.

Continuing the work of the old VPSA, the URSU students’ discount program includes discounts for many local businesses. In my term I talked to many local businesses to be a part of URSU’s students’ discount program and managed to get 22Fresh and Ihaday bubble tea while maintaining the existing stores.

Another implementation is the SPC (Student Price Card). This program offers many discounts for the students all over Canada for various businesses. URSU bought some cards to resell it to the students for a very subsidized amount.

Laptop rehoming is another program that offers free laptops for students in need. For this year I managed to restart the business relationship with CFS (Computer for Schools) to acquire more computers to provide them for the students.

Installation of free menstrual hygiene dispenser in Lazy Owl’s Women’s washroom was another project that I took. With the help of FEMIS and Champions of Change club we got a menstrual hygiene dispenser installed at the Lazy Owl making it easier for everyone to get menstrual hygiene products and not only depend on the pantry cares to get them. Unfortunately, Lazy Owl is the only washroom under URSU’s jurisdiction hence it was implemented here. It is very critical that free menstrual hygiene dispensers should be available in all the washrooms at the campus promoting a safe space for all members.

**Advocacy against Academic/non-academic misconducts**

 As my position requires for me to handle these kinds of matters, it disheartens me to say that academic misconducts cases have raised a lot. I’ve been working to raise awareness regarding this matter with the VP Academic of the University Dr. Isabelle Dostaler, and we have a lot to work regarding this persisting problem and promote academic integrity.

**New Student Support fund bylaw amendments.**

 The new student support fund bylaw was amended so that all students at University of Regina has an equitable distribution of the student support funds and the process is much easier and quicker. This ensures that the students get their funds in a quick and efficient manner and that as much as all students get it.

**Student Life and campus experience.**

One of my other focuses is to make the campus life of students enjoyable and safe. This is to increase the students’ campus experience in a positive manner. Hence, the discount programs, changes in many aspects of Lazy Owl, and hosting of events for students to gather. This is crucial as it would help students’ mental health, social life and many more.

**External Relations**

**University Administration**

Monthly meetings with the provost: I’ve been meeting the VP Academic of the University Dr. Isabelle Dostaler regarding many matters and one of them mostly being student life and wellness.

Meetings with the University executive team: URSU executives and the University executives have been meeting to discuss crucial matters that pertains to the University of Regina students and to strengthen the relationship between the URSU and UofR and have aligned goals in the service sector for students.

**Student Experiences**

**Lazy Owl/Welcome Week Events**

Our executive team hosted events and introduced events for students to engage. Hosting these events help students of diverse group to get together and it fosters unity among the students albeit any backgrounds/status/

**Lazy Owl Menu Changes**

Lazy Owl’s menu was changed with the inclusion of many new items. By doing this, it helps us to accommodate of all races, religions, and ethnicities. Providing everyone a safe space to eat and hangout at Lazy Owl.

**Little Free Library**

A program that I introduced that would promote reading among students. Basically, it is just a shelf with books where students can leave one and take one. This would help students read more and would be intellectually beneficial as well.

**URSU students’ discount program and SPC card.**

The students’ discount program implemented by URSU will help students get discounts in locally owned businesses and help them to be financially viable. It is the same with SPC card discounts which would offer discounts for students Canada wide.

**Student Advocacy**

**VPSA & Student Advocate Role**

 As the student advocate was vacant for few months, I took care some of their roles mainly having meetings with students who needed financial assistance. And delegated some of the other roles to a contract-based student advocate and supervising them.

**Fund the Future**

Advocating against high tuition rises for all the students at University of Regina has been one other focus. With our VP Externals leading, Fund the Future we organized a rally at the university speaking against it.

**ONGOING & FUTURE PLAN**

* New Constitution.
* Standardize the current bylaws and policies.
* Fundraising events for URSU cares programs (Cares Pantry, Community Fridge, Threads, Garden).
* To advocate against academic and non-academic misconducts.
* To advocate against the rising tuition amount.
* Acquire more local businesses to the URSU Students’ discount program.
* Advocate for the free menstrual hygiene dispensers all over the university.
* Streamline the process of Q-pay (the new platform we’d be transitioning from CampusGroup).
* Implement Regina Rumbles event.
* Standardize URSU Radio station.
* Revitalization of Lazy Owl

**ACTIVITIES**

**May**

* Transition meeting with the Ex VPSA Harsh Kumar Patel.
* Training regarding Roberts Rule of Orders.
* Executive meetings throughout the month.
* Board Meeting.
* Senior manager’s meetings.
* Welcome week meetings throughout the month.
* Meeting with the retired Provost David Gregory
* Personal conference regarding sustainability and how to be sustainable.

**June**

* Executive meetings.
* Board Meeting.
* Senior manager’s meetings.
* Welcome week meetings.
* Meeting with Emily Eaton regarding University Layoffs.
* First meeting with the new Provost Dr. Isabelle Dostaler.
* Meeting regarding an app called Safer Walk for students.
* Lazy Owl menu revision meetings.
* Meetings with businesses for the URSU students’ discount program.
* Meeting for URSU radio station.
* Meeting with Gallivan (URSU’s insurance provider).
* Attendance to Gallivan’s Annual Client Advisory Council Meeting.

**July**

* Executive meetings.
* Board Meeting.
* Senior manager’s meetings.
* Welcome week meetings.
* Meetings with businesses for the URSU students’ discount program.
* Meetings for URSU radio station.
* URSU budget meeting.
* Meeting with Student advocate.
* Meeting with SPC.
* Meeting with students who were auditioning for the URSU Radio program.
* CDC meetings.
* Fund the future meetings.
* Meetings regarding Lazy Owl.
* Meeting with Gallivan.

**August**

* Executive meetings.
* Board Meeting.
* Senior manager’s meetings.
* Welcome week meetings.
* Meeting with the Provost.
* Meetings with businesses for the URSU students’ discount program.
* Meetings for URSU radio station.
* Follow-up Meeting with SPC.
* Meeting with students who were auditioning for the URSU Radio program.
* CDC meetings.
* Fund the future meetings.
* Follow-up meeting with Gallivan.
* Club fair.
* Welcome Week.

**September**

* Executive meetings.
* Board Meetings.
* Senior manager’s meetings.
* Welcome week meetings t.
* Meeting with Associate Dean regarding academic misconduct.
* Introductory meeting with the current EDIA Sujatha Ross.
* Emergency Bursary meetings with the students.
* Student support fund bylaw amendment meeting.
* CDC meetings
* Meeting with Champions of Change.
* Meeting with AVP – Student Affairs of the University John Smith.
* RFP meetings.
* Meeting with Muhammed Fiaz (Saskatchewan Party).

**October**

* Executive meetings.
* Board Meetings.
* Senior manager’s meetings.
* Frost week meetings.
* Meeting with John Papandreos from FEMIS.
* PEC funding policy review meeting.
* CDC meetings.
* Meeting with the temporary student advocate.
* Personal UN conference regarding the Declaration of Rights of the Indigenous People (UNDRIP).
* URSU executives and University executive team meeting.
* Emergency Bursary meetings with students.
* Meeting with the Provost.

**November**

* Executive meetings.
* Board Meetings.
* Senior manager’s meetings.
* Frost week meetings.
* CDC meetings.
* Emergency Bursary meetings with students.
* Events committee meetings.
* Meeting with the Provost.
* Meeting with Gallivan.
* URSU executives and University executive team meeting.

**December**

* Executive meetings.
* Board Meetings.
* Senior manager’s meetings.
* Frost week meetings.
* CDC meetings.
* Emergency Bursary meetings with students.
* Made a video with the provost promoting Academic Integrity.
* Attendance to the University President’s Dinner.
* CDC terms of reference and guidelines review meeting.
* Meeting with the Provost.

**January**

* Executive meetings.
* Board Meetings.
* Senior manager’s meetings.
* Frost week meeting.
* Frost week and club fair.
* Emergency Bursary meetings and academic Misconduct meetings.

Thank you for reading, please reach out to me anytime!

Zuhruf Zarooq – Vice-President Students Affairs

URSU Annual General Meeting - Regina, Saskatchewan

February 1st, 2024

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