Thursday, June 11th 2020

As May came to an end and June finally brought the April showers, the University of Saskatchewan Students’ Union executive began strategizing for their term. As a reminder, the USSU executive came into their new roles in May and began transitioning into their positions, as well as adapting to the new “virtual reality”. We have decided to continue and further the work of The Path Forward, the strategic plan developed by the 2019-2020 executive and will be releasing an updated version in the upcoming months that further outline our goals for 2020-2021. Meanwhile, our newly elected Vice-President of Student Affairs, Jory McKay, has been busy working with the University of Saskatchewan and community partners to plan Pride celebrations for the month of June. Our Vice-President of Academic Affairs, Kiefer Roberts has been busy dealing with an increase of academic grievances since moving online during the final weeks of the 2020 winter term. Jamie Bell, the Vice- President of Operations and Finance has developed and implemented the new Campus Groups Policy which will provide students with greater support and funding. We are grateful for all the hard work that our senior managers have been doing to ensure the sustainability of this organization, and we look forward to a day where we can work in person. On May 25th, the world witnessed the traumatic murder of George Floyd and saw protests taking place on a local and global level for the Black Lives Matter movement. The USSU responded with a statement and promise to do the following:

1. Work alongside students and staff to develop anti-racism policies for the University of Saskatchewan Students’ Union.
2. Dedicate funds towards anti-racism initiatives and partnerships with student groups.
3. Continue to provide and strengthen anti-racism training for our USSU staff and volunteers.

As an organization, we strive to build a safe, healthy, and empowering student experience. With close to 20,000 undergraduate students at the University of Saskatchewan, we must hold ourselves accountable to ensure that this is possible. We have begun working with U of S senior leadership on this matter and will continue to advocate on behalf of students. We challenge the University Council members to reflect on the roles they have in regards to the wellbeing of students.

With respect,
Jamie Bell
Kiefer Roberts
Jory McKay
Autumn LaRose-Smith