

SPSU FAQ

QUESTION: Do you support the creation of and membership in the Saskatchewan Provincial Students Union, to advocate for the interest of students at the provincial level, for \$2.5 per semester indexed to CPI?

What is the purpose of this referendum?

Since approximately 2017-2018, there has been no major movement towards advancing the needs and rights of students in the province. We hope to create an independent organization, separate from URSU, that could support student needs at the provincial level. To that end we are asking for \$2.5 per semester to fund an organization that could do this, called the Saskatchewan Provincial Students Union.

How would this work?

The SPSU would be a separate, independent student organization that students at the University of Regina and students at First Nations University would be a part of. The organization would be powered by students, who would also be members, the membership fee being 2.5 \$ per semester. SPSU would work to carry out the goals of students as democratically decided by them through SPSU. All the services already provided by Student Union, Like BussPass, Cheaper and even wider Health and dental plan, cheaper BussPass Fees, T shirts, Bursaries for your ancillary fee, will be available .

How would SPSU make students' lives better?

Governments need organizations they can rely on to advise on laws and push the issues important to citizens. These organizations include labour unions, NGOs, and other organizations that lobby on behalf of their members. Students noticeably have no provincial organization other than the individual student unions at institutions to fight for them. Such unions will need an office and staff for its day-to-day activities, which requires funds to function

Can Sask Polytechnic and University of Saskatchewan students be members?

It is our hope that if this model is successful that students at Sask Polytechnic and University of Saskatchewan will join in on the SPSU model and seek membership in the organization. There is interest from students at these schools, but no formal conversations have been held and it looks like students are waiting to see what University of Regina students decide

What about the Canadian Federation of Students, don't we pay fees to this organization?

The Canadian Federation of Students is a national student organization with provincial bodies. Students at the UofR are members of CFS. The CFS-Saskatchewan is currently dormant. In 2020, students at the University of Regina voted to order URSU to withhold student fees from CFS. These funds are held in trust, and URSU would be held liable if these funds were used for

anything other than holding them in trust until a settlement is negotiated with CFS with regards to this money.

Until URSU and CFS work out this legal conundrum, there is no provincial body to represent students, which leads to many costs to students, from housing, to food, to education. After that conundrum is settled, SPSU could either dissolve if students prefer CFS, or continue to independently fight for students if students prefer to leave the CFS.

For more details on the CFS and the issues related to it on campus, please visit ursu.ca/cfs or for more information on CFS, visit cfsfce.ca

Wasn't there a Saskatchewan Students Coalition that could do this?

The Saskatchewan Students Coalition is an on again, off again ad-hoc committee type organization where the student unions of Saskatchewan get together to try and do provincial work. While the SSC has been able to organize on occasion, the SSC lacked any formal structure and as such went through periods of inactivity. By creating a structure and then asking other student unions to join an existing structure, this would ensure more stability and the viability of student organizing provincially.