



The University of Regina Students' Union (URSU) is a not-for-profit organization whose role with respect to students is specified by the University of Regina Act. Our membership consists of roughly 16,500 students at the University of Regina (UofR) and its affiliated colleges and campuses. As a not-for-profit organization, we are governed further by the Saskatchewan Non-Profit Corporations Act as well as our Constitution.

As you likely are aware, URSU has administered an agreement with the City of Regina on a U-Pass program that covers the Fall and Winter semesters. This program has operated since the Fall of 2016. In that time, we have noticed a dramatic transformation of how students travel throughout the city. For example, our sales of bus products during the spring/summer has grown approximately 350% since the U-Pass was introduced. Accordingly, many of our members have expressed concerns that studying in the spring/summer is cost-prohibitive to them if there is no accompanying spring/summer U-Pass.

In February of 2019, a motion was passed at a Special General Meeting of URSU. With the passing of said motion, our members requested that we hold a referendum on whether or not we should have Spring/Summer U-Pass similar to the Fall and Winter U-Pass and costing between \$70-\$99 for the full Spring/Summer. This referendum was held in March of 2019 with the yes side tallying 1844 votes and the no side tallying 323 votes. During the most recent Spring/Summer, we were inundated with complaints about how the students had voted for a Spring/Summer U-Pass and yet none had been implemented yet.

URSU respectfully requests that City Council support this agreement. Aside from the financial guarantee that Regina Transit would receive from URSU, we believe that the U-Pass program has and will continue to establish new habits of travel among each generation of students as well as re-shape the possibilities for all citizens traveling across the city through the creation of effectively a second "transfer hub" at the UofR.

For the students, the benefits are relatively straight-forward. First, a U-Pass for 4 months typically costs less than simply plating your vehicle for one month. Thus, the barrier-to-entry for post-secondary education can be substantially lowered. This is apparent in the anecdotal evidence of who is using the U-Pass most thus far: predominantly international, indigenous, or relatively less affluent students. This is especially relevant when the cost of tuition continues to increase on an annual basis (e.g. a domestic student taking 3 courses today pays more than \$200/semester more than they did in the Fall of 2016 whereas the U-Pass fee has never increased in that same time frame).



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Second, as the URSU Committee on Sustainability and Social Responsibility and other on-campus groups have argued, more students taking the bus should lead to reduced traffic congestion, improved parking on campus, and reduced pollution and carbon emissions. We grant that this effect is reduced during the Spring/Summer when there is less traffic on campus, but we also wish to highlight the importance of establishing and supporting better transit habits, and the consistent availability of a U-Pass will contribute positively to that goal.

We thank you for your consideration and welcome any questions or concerns you may have.

Neil Middlemiss