

University of Saskatchewan Students' Union

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Fate of U-PASS Transit Service in Hands of Students

The future of the U-PASS service, a transit pass used by many post-secondary students in the city, will be decided once and for all by referendum on November 4-5, 2008.

The U-PASS service provides City transit passes to U of S undergraduate students for use during the academic year (beginning of September until the end of April). The referendum vote, which will be held online, will ask students if they wish to make U-PASS a permanent service.

"The University of Saskatchewan Students' Union is not advocating for or against the service," said Josie Steeves, USSU President. "We are in full support of having the student body provide final judgment on whether to continue with a public transit pass system."

In February 2007, U of S students voted 59% in support of a two-year U-PASS trial program. If students vote in support again this week, the referendum vote would make the U-PASS service permanent.

U-PASS is subsidized via a mandatory student fee currently set at \$59 per academic term (\$118 for a full academic year) for full and part-time students. Some students, including those outside of city limits, enrolled exclusively in distance education courses, living in on-campus housing, or holding disability parking passes, may qualify for a pass (and fee) exemption.

Steeves said that the Students' Union has received positive and negative feedback about U-PASS since the program began.

"We've heard concerns expressed by some students, many of whom drive their own cars to campus, that the mandatory fee is unfair," said Steeves. "Conversely, we've also heard many supportive comments from students about U-PASS because they find it convenient and support its environmental benefits."

Polls will open on Wednesday November 5 at 9:00 a.m., and close on Thursday, November 6 at 4:30 p.m. Results will be posted at ussu.ca later that day at 5:30 p.m.

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