

# Minutes of a meeting of the USask Board of Governors

July 6, 2020

Via WebEx

**Present:** Shelley Brown (chair), Allan Adam, Joy Crawford, Grant Devine, Jay Kalra, Ritu Malhotra, Grit McCreath, Autumn LaRose-Smith, Peter Stoicheff

**Resource Officers:** Karen Chad, Greg Fowler, Melissa Just, Debra Pozega Osburn, Tony Vannelli, Chelsea Willness (secretary),

**Guests:** Lesley Anderson (City of Saskatoon); Ralf Neilsen, Stephen Hack (Colliers); Robert Lamb, Bill Matiko (CLS); John Root, Tom Kishchuck, Niki Schrie (Fedoruk Centre); Jackie Ottmann (vice provost Indigenous Engagement, USask); Minister Tina Beaudry-Mellor, Mark McLoughlin, and Tessa Ritter (Ministry of Advanced Education).

**Also in attendance:** Dara Hrytzak, Julian Demkiw, Jennifer Thoma, Janelle Hutchinson, Terry Summers, Cheryl Carver, Dailene Kells, Sheena Tait-Rowan

---

## 1. Call to order and chair's remarks

The chair called the meeting to order at 8:02 for an in-camera session, and invited management to join the meeting at 8:20 am. The chair declared it properly constituted for the transaction of business, with herself as chair and the university secretary and chief governance officer as secretary, and she noted the Indigenous Land acknowledgement. The Chair welcomed Board members and noted that hopefully in the fall we can be together as a team to meet in person, according to safe social distance. She noted that we received the Orders in Council on the appointment of new Board members, Keith Martell and Darrel Monette.

## 2. *In-camera session – board only*

Management joined the meeting at 8:20 am

## 3. President's statement

The President welcomed Dr. Melissa Just, as Interim Provost, and Autumn LaRose-Smith, USSU President. He provided a brief COVID-19 update and noted a number of recent successes including the receipt of \$3.1M from the province to renew Griffiths Stadium (lights and turf), which will enable USask to host the Vanier Cup and Roughrider training camp; and two USask research centres receiving a total of \$77M in national CFI funding. The President also noted that the Sustainability strategy and EDI policy will each be presented to three governing bodies in the fall, as well as the Indigenous Strategy at this meeting. In response to the Black Lives Matter movement, the president noted having released two statements, including a number of concrete actions.

## 4. Declaration of conflicts of interest

The Chair called on members to identify any conflicts of interest. A Board member declared a potential conflict of interest, but the circumstances were deemed acceptable by the Chair and Board.

*The Board adjourned and Committee meetings commenced at 8:55 am.*

**8:30 AM, July 7, 2020**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. She noted that Darrel Monette was in attendance for one hour and welcomed him to the Board. The Board adjourned for the meeting of the Human Resources Committee.

*The Board reconvened 9:22 am with approval of the agenda.*

The following resolution was moved and seconded.

**That the Board of Governors approves the agenda as distributed.**

**CARRIED**

There was some discussion on items in the consent agenda.

- Land & Facilities Committee: Land Governance item
- Audit & Finance Committee: Melissa Just offered follow up on a question received during the committee meeting regarding where our Indigenous students are located in the province.

There was no additional business identified as arising from the minutes.

All committee motions were approved by the full Board as part of the following consent agenda:

#	CONSENT Agenda Items
<b>5. Standing Committees - Land &amp; Facilities Committee</b>	
5.5	<p>Endowment Land Governance report – Colliers</p> <p>1) That the Board of Governors accepts the report from Colliers Project Leaders Inc., titled Land Governance Models Report – University of Saskatchewan.</p> <p>2) That the Board of Governors approves the report recommendation to create a separate legal entity to manage the development of 991 acres of University of Saskatchewan endowment lands and requests management to develop an implementation plan, including anticipated costs and timelines, by December 2020.</p>
5.7	<p>Global Institute for Food Security – re-location to 421 Downey Road</p> <p>That the Board of Governors approves a 5-year sublease agreement with Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation (SOCO) for 421 Downey Road to be used as headquarters and laboratories for the Global Institute of Food Security (GIFS). The sublease agreement is to be effective September 1, 2020.</p>

5.8	<p>Thorvaldson Building renewal project</p> <p>On recommendation of the Land &amp; Facilities Committee, that the Board of Governors provides final approval prior to execution of the Thorvaldson Building Renewal project, at a total capital cost of \$3.48 million.</p>
5.9	<p>Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) proposals exceeding \$500,000</p> <p>5.9.1 Development of controlled facilities for insect research</p> <p>That the Board of Governors grant approval of the final programme, capital and operating budgets for the Development of Controlled Facilities for Insect Research CFI proposal.</p> <p>5.9.2 High-Performance Computing for the Dynamic Simulation of Next-Generation Quantum Materials</p> <p>That the Board of Governors grant approval of the final programme, capital and operating budgets for the High-Performance Computing for the Dynamic Simulation of Next-Generation Quantum Materials CFI proposal.</p>
5.10	<p>Annual capital update</p> <p>That the Board of Governors accepts the 2020-21 Annual Capital Projection.</p>
<p><b>7. Standing Committees - Governance &amp; Executive Committee</b></p>	
7.3	<p>Search and review procedures</p> <p>That the Board of Governors approve the recommendations of the Joint Committee to Review Search and Review Procedures for Senior Administrators, and also consider and approve, if appropriate and in the best interest of the university, the additional issues considered/outlined by the Committee but not explicitly listed in the recommendations section.</p>
7.4	<p>Amendments to Board Bylaws</p> <p>The Board of Governors approves the amendments to the Board Bylaws as provided, effective immediately.</p>
7.7	<p>Re-appointments of Deans – Kinesiology, Law</p> <p>7.7.1 That the Board of Governors approves the re-appointment of Dr. Chad London as Dean, College of Kinesiology for a second term, for a five-year period effective November 1, 2021.</p> <p>7.7.2 That the Board of Governors approves the re-appointment of Professor Martin Phillipson as Dean, College of Law for a second term, for a five-year period effective July 1, 2021.</p>

7.1.8	<p>Meewasin Valley Authority Board of Directors appointments</p> <p>That the Board of Governors confirm the appointment of Dr. Yuguang Bai, confirmation of appointment received by letter dated October 17, 2018 for appointment from October 5, 2018 to October 4, 2021;</p> <p>And,</p> <p>That the Board of Governors approve the continued appointment of Mr. Colin Tennent, current appointment September 26, 2016 to June 30, 2019 (lapsed), for a three-year term effective immediately, expiring June 30, 2022;</p> <p>And,</p> <p>That the Board of Governors approve the extension of the term for Mr. Ryan Walker – current appointment August 11, 2017 to August 10, 2020 for a three-year term commencing August 11, 2020, new term expiring August 11, 2023.</p>
<b>8. Standing Committees - Audit &amp; Finance Committee</b>	
8.6	<p>2020/21 Comprehensive Budget</p> <p>That the Board of Governors approve the 2020/21 comprehensive budget.</p>
8.11	<p>Donor and Gift Anonymity Policy revision</p> <p>That the Board of Governors approve the revised version of the Donor and Gift Anonymity Policy effective July 7, 2020.</p>
8.12	<p>University of Saskatchewan Crown Foundation Policy – delete existing policy</p> <p>That the Board of Governors approve the removal of the University of Saskatchewan Crown Foundation Policy effective July 7, 2020.</p>
8.18	<p>Audit Services Charter</p> <p>That the Board of Governors approve the Audit Services Charter as presented effective March 24, 2020.</p>
<b>9. Standing Committees - Human Resources Committee</b>	
9.3	<p>Senior administration total rewards and expenses</p> <p>That the Board of Governors approve the proposed changes to senior administration total rewards, effective July 1, 2020.</p>
9.6	<p>Promotion approval</p> <p>That the Board of Governors approve the award of Promotion to a clinical faculty member, who was not included in the original list approved at the March Board of Governors meeting.</p>
9.7	<p>Promotion appeal approval</p>

	That the Board of Governors approves the promotion to a faculty member in the department of educational administration, effective July 1, 2020.
10.	10.1 – 10.4 That the Board of Governors approves the minutes of the meetings of March 23 & 30, April 29 and June 3, 2020.

11. The following resolution was moved and seconded.

**That the Board of Governors approves the consent agenda items as presented.**

**CARRIED**

**12. Items from Council**

**12.1** The Provost described that there are two chair positions for approval. The first is a revision of an existing chair position in Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, which was brought forward to University Council with no questions submitted and was approved at their June meeting. The chair asked for clarification on the funding model and the funding commitment from FCL.

The second professorship was original approved by the Board in 1984, but the existing terms made it difficult to recruit. The terms have been updated to reflect current needs and ensure a stronger candidate pool but retaining the original intent of the position. This was also approved at Council’s June meeting. The chair asked whether there will be sufficient funds from the endowment given the investment climate at this time. The provost responded that there is a sufficient balance in the fund.

**12.1.1 Co-operative Retailing System (CRS) Chair in Cooperative Governance**

The following resolution was moved and seconded.

**That the Board of Governors approves the five-year renewal of the CRS Chair in Co-operative Governance effective July 1, 2020.**

**CARRIED**

**12.1.2 The Van Vliet Term Professorship in Agricultural**

The following resolution was moved and seconded.

**That the Board of Governors approves the Van Vliet Term Professorship in Agricultural Economics effective July 13, 2020.**

**CARRIED**

**12.2 Greystone Heritage Fund**

The President noted that championship fees are an added expense that Huskie Athletics would not be able to cover this year, but could on their own in future years. It’s possible that championships will not be held this year; this is not confirmed yet by CanWest (decision to come in October 2020). This would be a one-time request and may not be needed.

The following resolution was moved and seconded.

**That the Board of Governors approve up to \$155,000 in expenditures from the Greystone Heritage Trust, as per the Trust's terms (1989).**

**CARRIED**

### **12.3 Correspondence**

The chair described the correspondence received, as well as her response on behalf of the Board. There were no comments or questions.

### **13. Indigenous Strategy**

The President noted that this document has been underway for a couple of years with extensive consultation and collaboration. PEC, Council, and others have been very supportive of the document. The pathway for this document is different from other strategic plans, as it is being gifted to the University. Elders, knowledge keepers and others have dedicated a lot of time to this document and its process.

The chair noted that the document was very well done. It will be a challenge to implement the strategies and not sure what the timeframe is, but a lot of very good strategies are outlined. Allan Adam noted that the document is a step forward in reconciliation and contains good ideas. The challenge is not what can be done, but what can be acceptable.

Jackie Ottmann, Vice Provost Indigenous Engagement joined the meeting at 9:58 am, and began her presentation with the Land Acknowledgement. She described the extensive consultation process, with community as well as Indigenous faculty, staff, and students. There was a large community gathering at Wanuskewin, with 29 different Indigenous organizations attending. Four Elder gatherings were held. She described gifting as an expression of respectful reciprocity – there is a responsibility for maintaining and ensuring the care of the gift. There is a celebration planned for September 2<sup>nd</sup> with the Elders and others. The document outlines responsibilities as well as wise practices (good things that are happening at the university). It is written through Indigenous voices, with Indigenous thought. There are 7 themes that came out of the consultations, which were formed into commitments: Renewal, Creation, Right Relations, Representation, Stewardship, Wellness, and Safety. Each is accompanied by calls to action.

The chair thanked Jackie Ottmann for joining the Board for the presentation.

### **14. Minister's visit**

#### **14.1 Briefing for minister's visit**

The President and Sara Daniels, AVP Government Relations, provided some context for the discussion.

#### **14.2 Minister Tina Beaudry-Mellor**

Minister Beaudry Mellor, Mark McLoughlin, and Tessa Ritter joined the meeting at 10:58 am. The Chair welcomed the Minister and her team. The Minister welcomed Autumn LaRose-Smith and offered congratulations. She expressed appreciation for President Stoicheff's leadership role throughout the pandemic. She noted that there has been an incredible level of engagement and collaboration with sector partners, and that President Stoicheff was a wise and thoughtful leader, and steady hand through all of it.

The Minister stated that she had three main things to discuss:

1. Efforts to complete review and sign-off from the SHA on plans and actions.
2. That the pandemic has disrupted the business model of post-secondary institutions. Need to focus on international and Indigenous student retention, opportunities presented by micro-credentialing and upskilling, and the innovation economy. There are areas where USask has a natural advantage (VIDO Intervac, genomics crop research, food and water security, health supply chain) and these need to be accelerated. Fits well with being the university the world needs.
3. Goals for the sector is to position us in the most competitive position possible coming out of the pandemic. We will come out of it at roughly the same time as other institutions across Canada. The international context is very competitive. The current US position may benefit us. There will be a forum in the Fall focused on international matters.

The Deputy Minister commented that the collaboration amongst the sector needs to be continued—finding coalition and collaboration. Emphasis on international matters, and also continuing to look at how we tie our efforts to the Growth Plan.

The Chair thanked the Minister and the government for their response during the pandemic. The province put a priority on the safety of citizens, and in our context, the safety of our students both domestic and international. She thanked them for allowing USask the flexibility it needed to develop an appropriate response to the pandemic, and that the support from the Ministry has been appreciated.

The Chair invited questions followed by further discussion. The Chair thanked the Minister and team for joining the meeting.

#### **15. CLS AGM**

The Chair welcomed Robert Lamb (CEO) and Bill Matiko (CFO), and turned to Karen Chad to introduce the CLS and guests. Karen Chad chaired the AGM, and Chelsea Willness acted as recorder.

#### **16. Fedoruk Centre AGM**

The Chair welcomed guests Tom Kishchuck (Fedoruk Centre Board Chair), John Root (Fedoruk Centre Executive Director), and Niki Schrie. Karen Chad chaired the AGM, and Chelsea Willness acted as recorder.

The guests departed. The chair thanked management for their reports and participation.

**The board adjourned to *in-camera* at 1:32 pm.**

#### **17. *In-camera* session – with the President**

*The President departed at 2:08 pm.*

#### **18. *In-camera* session – Board only**

*The Board adjourned at 2:20 pm.*