

# Public minutes of a meeting of the USask Board of Governors

**June 21 and June 22, 2021**  
**Via Zoom**

**Present:** Shelley Brown (Chair), Allan Adam (June 22 only), Joy Crawford, Grant Devine, Jay Kalra, Ritu Malhotra, Grit McCreath, Keith Martell, Darrel Monette, Tasnim Jaisee, Peter Stoicheff

**Resource Officers:** Greg Fowler, Airini, Debra Pozega Osburn, Baljit Singh, David Stack, Chelsea Willness (secretary), Sheena Tait-Rowan (recording secretary)

**Guests:** Barry Travers, KPMG; Rob Lamb (Canadian Light Source, Inc. AGM); John Root, Niki Schrie, Tom Kishchuk (Sylvia Fedoruk Centre for Nuclear Innovation AGM)

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

The Chair called the meeting to order on June 21 at 8:05 am for an in-camera session. The declared the meeting 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.

## 2. In-camera session – Board only

Management joined the meeting at 8:12 am.

## 3. President's statement

The President acknowledged and thanked Board members for their continuing work on the Board of Governors. He welcomed new USSU president, Tasnim Jaisee, to the meeting. He then introduced David Stack, the new General Counsel for the university, to his first board meeting as a member of the senior management team. Today's meeting will be Allan Adam's final meeting as a member of the Board and Allan will be recognized for his many contributions later in the meeting.

Highlights from the President's report include the following:

- The president reported that the university conducted successful convocations online earlier in June. Nearly 3500 students graduated and five honorary degrees were conferred to distinguished individuals -Trevor Harriot, That Ngo, Bryan Harvey, Ed Ratushny, and Maria Campbell.
- It has been a challenging month in this province and across Canada. The university has responded with statements to the tragic discovery at the Kamloops Residential School and to the Islamophobia mass murder in Ontario.

- Dr. Singh and Dr. Airini are working on a project to renew the six signature areas under Dr. Singh's leadership.
- The fall term will be transitional and will be much more open with respect to face-to-face presence on campus for students, staff and faculty. In appreciation of our staff and faculty who have worked through an extraordinary challenging year, the university will close on July 2, extending the Canada Day weekend.
- The Pandemic Response team continue to work towards the fall transition guided by the principle that USask will not contribute to worsening the pandemic. We are in contact regularly with the ministry and public health. USask's communications continue align with those of University of Regina and Sask PolyTech, and with the Ministry.
- The university has been actively promoting vaccinations through all of its communications including the weekly COVID updates, website, USask e-newsletters, and social media pages. The president extended a thank you to the USSU for their support and leadership on the student vaccination campaign launched June 1, adding that the university has been working with Saskatchewan Health Association (SHA) to provide a pop-up vaccination clinic on campus for students in the next week.
- President Stoicheff provided a brief update on the Post Pandemic Shift Project (PPS) being led by Debra Pozega Osburn. Now in its final stages, the PPS project is meant to inform us how we will conduct ourselves in a post pandemic world and continue to be the university the world needs.
- The City of Saskatoon has now approved the sector plan that the Board approved and this information is now public.

#### **4. Identification of Conflicts of Interest related to the business of the meeting**

None identified

#### **5. Standing Committees**

Board adjourned and Committee meetings (5.1-5.4) commenced at 8:48 am.

### **Board Meeting reconvenes**

The Board reconvened on Tuesday, June 22 @ 9 am.

#### **6. Welcome and approval of agenda**

The Chair welcomed members back to the Board, thanked member Allan Adam for his past 3 years of service as a senate-elected member of the Board, and wished him much success in his new role as Chief Executive Officer with the Athabasca Health Authority. The President expressed gratitude to Mr. Adam for his insight into indigenous communities and his contributions to the health, well-being and prosperity of people in this province and beyond. Following the presentation of a gift on behalf of the Board and leadership team, Mr. Adam thanked members for the opportunity to be a part of the University of Saskatchewan Board of Governors and thanked members for their friendship and advice over the last few years.

The following resolution was moved and seconded.

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

**CARRIED**

As all members were present for the committee meetings and discussions, the decision items were presented via consent agenda.

<b>7. Consent Agenda Items – standing committees</b>	
As all members were present for the committee meetings and discussions, the decision items were presented via consent agenda. There was no additional business identified as arising from the minutes	
7.1 Approval of the March 21 Board of Governors meeting	
7.2 Approval of the March 21 public minutes	
<b>5.1 Governance and Executive Committee</b>	
5.1.3	The Board of Governors approves the appointment of members and chairs to the standing and ad hoc Board committees.
5.1.4	The Board of Governors appoints two Board members to Senate’s Joint Nomination Committee for Chancellor.
5.1.5	The Board of Governors approves the selection process for the Chair of the Board of Directors for the new land entity, as discussed.
5.1.6	The Board of Governors approves the Living our Values Policy pending Council and Senate approval.
5.1.7	The Board of Governors approves the Postdoctoral Fellows Policy effective June 22, 2021.
<b>5.2 Land and Facilities Committee</b>	
5.2.4	The Board of Governors provides final approval of the project program, design, schedule, and capital cost for the W.P. Thompson Building Renewal project.
5.2.5	The Board of Governors provides preliminary approval to proceed with continued development of the Crop Development Centre (CDC) Enhanced Breeding/Genomic Selection Facility project, understanding that the estimate for the total capital cost of the project.
5.2.6	The Board of Governors provides approval for the major capital equipment purchases associated with Integrated Genomics for Sustainable Animal Agriculture and Environmental Stewardship (IntegrOmes) project, subject to the completion of an acceptable agreement for the purchase and ownership of the equipment.
5.2.7	The Board of Governors approves the major capital equipment purchase and operating costs budgets for the Canadian Agricultural Centre for Engineering Biology

	(CACEB) CFI proposal, subject to confirmation of the non-USask funding sources for the project.
5.2.8	The Board of Governors provides preliminary approval to proceed with continued project development for Electrical Infrastructure renewal and replacement, understanding that the estimate for the total capital cost of the project
5.2.9	The Board of Governors accepts the 2021-22 Annual Capital Projection.
<b>5.3 Audit and Finance Committee</b>	
5.3.4	The Board of Governors approves the 2021/22 comprehensive budget.
5.3.10	The Board of Governors approve a custom target date fund strategy as its default fund option for the Research Pension Plan.
5.3.12	The Board of Governors approves the updated Debt Policy effective June 22, 2022.
<b>5.4 Human Resources Committee</b>	
5.4.3	That the Board of Governors approves the proposed changes to senior administration total rewards, effective July 1, 2021.
5.4.6	That the Board of Governors approves the re-appointment of the vice-dean, research, College of Medicine for a five-year term effective July 1, 2021.
5.4.7	That the Board of Governors approves the promotion appeals as presented effective July 1, 2021.

The following resolution was moved and seconded.

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

**CARRIED**

## **8. Special Nominations Committee to appoint the Chair and Vice-chair**

The Chair turned the meeting over to the Chancellor and recused herself from the discussion. The Vice-chair addressed the Board regarding the motion coming forward before recusing herself.

The Board moved in-camera to discuss the Vice-chair's concern and the motions being presented.

The Board of Governors approved the motion to re-appoint Shelley Brown as Chair of the Board for a two-year term beginning July 1, 2021.

**CARRIED**

The Board of Governors agreed to table the motion to re-appoint Joy Crawford as Vice-chair of the Board for a two-year term beginning July 1, 2021, to the end of the meeting to allow for a conversation with Ms. Crawford.

**CARRIED**

The Board Chair asked to re-address this item prior to the formal in-camera session.

**9. Electronic approvals – received for information**

**10. Correspondence/communications received/distributed**

For information.

**11. Items from Council**

**11.1 Beef Industry Integrated Forage Management and Utilization Chair**

The Board of Governors approves the Beef Industry Integrated Forage Management and Utilization Chair effective July 1, 2021.

**CARRIED**

**11.2 Joint committee on Chairs and professorships 2020-2021 annual report**

Presented for information.

**12. Greystone Heritage Trust**

The Board of Governors approves up to \$155,000 from the Greystone Heritage Trust to be allocated to Huskie Athletics for championship costs.

**CARRIED**

**13. University Relations Report**

The vice-president university relations presented an update on the progress of the comprehensive campaign for information.

**14. Canadian Light Source, Inc. (CLS) Annual General Meeting**

The Chair welcomed the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer from the CLS to the meeting. The Vice-president Research introduced the CLS and guests and chaired the AGM.

**15. Sylvia Fedoruk Centre for Nuclear Innovation (SFCNI) Annual General Meeting**

The Chair welcomed the SFCNI Board Chair, the Executive Director, and the SFCNI Board secretary to the meeting. The Vice-president research chaired the AGM.

**16. 2021 Annual Report on Wholly Owned Entities (WOEs)**

The Vice-president finance and resources presented the report for information that covers the university's other four subsidiaries including the Prairie Swine Centre Inc., Agrivita Canada Inc. and 621602 Saskatchewan Ltd., and the University of Saskatchewan Alumni Association.

The Board meeting moved in-camera at 12:05 pm to further discuss agenda item 8, the appointment of the Chair and Vice-chair of the Board. Shelley Brown and Joy Crawford recused themselves from this discussion.

The Board of Governors re-appoints Joy Crawford as Vice-chair of the Board for a two-year term beginning July 1, 2021.

**CARRIED**

The Board reconvened at 12:10 pm to continue with the agenda.

**17. Other Business**

**17.1 Multi-Year Funding Accountability report**

The provost and Vice-president academic presented this item for information to the Board.

The Board adjourned to move in-camera at 12:20 pm.

**18. *In-camera session* – with the President**

**19. *In-camera session* – Board only**