

The Senate meeting was held electronically via Zoom due to the ongoing COVID -19 pandemic.

The Senate executive committee approved the Zoom format and the following instructions were sent to members prior to the meeting:

- *Only voting members can move or second a motion.*
- *Use the chat function to move or second a motion, ask a question, or otherwise get the attention of the Chair. Please type the word ‘mover’, ‘second’, ‘question’ or ‘comment’ into the chat window to allow the governance team to organize the incoming messages.*
- *The polling feature will be used to vote on motions and will be open for 30 seconds.*
- *Polling results will be shared with Senators for all agenda items.*
- *Video and audio are disabled to all members upon entry, but you can enable when you wish to speak.*
- *Attendance and quorum will be determined by the list of voting members that are indicated in the ‘attende’ Zoom window as of 9:00 a.m.*
- *Guests will be asked to leave the meeting for the confidential items.*
- *Guests are asked to not vote on any items.*

Quorum was achieved and meeting attendance is attached as Appendix A. All voting was completed using the online Zoom polling feature.

1. Chair’s Opening Remarks

Chancellor McCreath began her remarks with the Indigenous Land Acknowledgement. She welcomed all Senators and introduced new members Roy Amaya, Tracy Muggli, Keshia Caplette, Lindsey Crook, Helene Grimard, Kathy Gable, Eric Wilmot, Wade Hainstock, Robert Henderson, Rob Maguire, Zsuzsa Papp, Jamie Bell, Autumn LaRose Smith, Muhammad Shakeel and Rifat Zahan.

Having met quorum, the chair called the meeting to order.

Approval of consent agenda

2. Adoption of agenda
3. Approval of the minutes of April 24, 2021

The chair called upon members for any revisions to the agenda or minutes; there were none.

JONES/HERMISTON: THAT THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

4. Business arising from the minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. President's report

President Stoicheff thanked members of Senate for their service and for attending via Zoom.

He thanked the pandemic response and recovery team (PRT) for the tremendous work it had done. He reported that the University has made great strides despite the pandemic and that its successes were represented in the circulated report. Student enrolment was reported as up from last year and every year for the last several years which spoke to the confidence people have in the university. Research income was up as well, as research activities on campus continued to be superb.

On August 13th, the university announced its COVID-19 vaccine policy mandating that all members be either vaccinated or could choose to be tested twice per week and submit negative test results. This approach has been successful with fully vaccinated staff, faculty and students reaching more than 90% to date. Other health and safety requirements, such as wearing masks in all indoor spaces and at outdoor gatherings with more than 20 people, are to be continued. Beginning January 4, 2022, the option to submit COVID test results will be removed and full vaccination will be required.

The president called attention to VIDO and the development of two vaccine candidates, one of which is nearing the end of Phase 1 trials. Results suggest it is very effective against the Delta variant and will be moving shortly into Phase 2 trials and potential roll out as a booster in 2022. The federal government supported VIDO with \$60M in the spring budget, along with the province at \$15M and the city with \$250K. This level of financial support demonstrated the high regard given to the work of VIDO. The community has also supported VIDO with several million dollars in private donations.

With regard to the post-pandemic shift project, he noted it began with external consultations (with Senate playing a large role), asking people how their lives were changing professionally and personally, and how the university could be responding to the pandemic. Dr. Debra Pozega Osburn, Vice President University Relations, reported on the project in detail later in the meeting. The president noted it was the first project of this kind by a major university in Canada.

The City of Saskatoon and the university worked together on a wastewater project which helped to make predictions on COVID levels in the community.

2021 will mark the 50th anniversary of Gerhard Herzberg's acceptance of the Nobel Prize in 1971. He spent 10 years at USask as a faculty member, coming here from Germany during the rise of Nazism. He and his wife fled to Canada, and he accepted a position at USask, which had the humanity and vision to offer him an academic appointment. He credits the university in his Nobel acceptance speech as giving him a home academically and for his family.

This past summer, the university was gifted with an Indigenous strategy. It is the first such strategy gifted to a major university by an Indigenous community and it is beginning to be implemented.

The president hoped Senators were able to visit campus to see it illuminated at night with orange lights to mark the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30th, 2021, calling attention to several of the TRC calls to action in the form of banners and projections around the Bowl.

The chancellor thanked the president and called for questions.

A Senator asked if there is a way to commend virologist, Dr. Angela Rasmussen, with regard to her efforts related to the COVID pandemic. On social media, she contacted Paul Brandt, country music artist from Calgary, who had posted a specific health-related question, to answer his query. They had a Zoom

call and then Mr. Brandt commented on a CBC radio interview that Dr. Rasmussen had changed his mind and he was now supporting the vaccine.

President Stoicheff noted that Dr. Rasmussen is a member of the team at VIDO, hailing from the United States, and is an example of the world-class talent the university can attract when doing work at the global level. He noted there have been many faculty members and others that have stepped up to try to inform the public and to engage in public discussion about data-based health realities, and he wished to thank them as well.

6. Report on undergraduate student activities

University of Saskatchewan Students' Union president, Tasnim Jaisee presented the report.

The chair called for questions and a Senator asked how the new vaccination policy would affect them as part of a religious minority. President Stoicheff responded that the university offers many forms of accommodation but could not comment on their individual case.

A Senator asked if there was a way Senate could officially show support for the University of Saskatchewan's vaccine research and its health and safety protocols, by way of a motion. Dr. Willness suggested a motion be brought forward during Other Business and that the Governance Office would assist with the wording of the motion if required. The Senator agreed that would be reasonable and that he would ask that the motion be considered later in the meeting.

7. Report on graduate student activities

A written report was provided by the Graduate Students' Association and was presented by GSA president Rifat Zahan. There were no questions on the report.

8. Report on Board of Governors

Joy Crawford, Senate-elected member of the Board of Governors, spoke to her written report. There were no questions.

9. University Council Reports

The Chancellor called upon Dr. Pamela Downe, Acting Chair of University Council and she introduced Dr. Susan Detmer, Council Chair-elect, to present the next four items and to answer any questions received.

9.1 Change to Admission Qualifications for the Master of Business Administration (MBA) program - MCAT

A Senator commented that they strongly supported the motion, as a recent graduate of the program, and noted that few universities offer the program combining business and medicine and they were pleased to see the formalization of the admission qualifications.

KAMINSKI/THRONBERG: THAT SENATE CONFIRM COUNCIL'S APPROVAL OF THE CHANGE TO ADMISSIONS QUALIFICATIONS TO THE MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (MBA) PROGRAM TO ALLOW EITHER A MINIMUM SCORE OF 500 ON THE GMAT, OR COMPLETION OF THE MCAT AND ADMISSION TO THE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AT USASK, EFFECTIVE THE 2022-23 ADMISSIONS CYCLE.

CARRIED

9.2 Change to Admissions Qualifications for the Master of Business Administration (MBA) program – 3-year degree

A Senator expressed concern that moving from an interview process to a written essay may impact those whose written communication skills are less strong and asked if there are any provisions in place to accommodate those students in any way.

Council chair-elect Detmer responded that with a written statement, students would have the chance to utilize services through the Gwenna Moss Centre to assist with their statement, whereas with the interview they are on the spot. Another reason for the change is that the interviews were not providing the information necessary to make a decision on admission.

THRONBERG/KAMINSKI: THAT SENATE CONFIRMS COUNCIL'S APPROVAL OF THE CHANGE TO ADMISSIONS QUALIFICATIONS TO THE MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (MBA) PROGRAM TO ALLOW APPLICANTS TO HOLD A THREE-YEAR UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE, EFFECTIVE THE 2022-23 ADMISSIONS CYCLE.

CARRIED

9.3 Changes to Admissions Qualifications for the Master of Arts (MA) in Clinical Psychology

There were no questions or comments.

KAMINSKI/THRONBERG: THAT SENATE CONFIRM COUNCIL'S APPROVAL OF THE CHANGE TO ADMISSIONS QUALIFICATIONS TO THE MASTER OF ARTS (MA) IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY TO REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT OF A GRADUATE RECORD EXAMINATION (GRE), EFFECTIVE THE 2022-23 ADMISSIONS CYCLE.

CARRIED

9.4 Change to Admissions Qualifications Nursing English Proficiency

There were no questions or comments.

THRONBERG/ KAMINSKI: THAT SENATE CONFIRM COUNCIL'S APPROVAL OF THE CHANGE TO THE MINIMUM STANDARD OF ENGLISH PROFICIENCY FOR APPLICANTS TO THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, EFFECTIVE THE 2022-23 ADMISSIONS CYCLE.

CARRIED

(Secretary's note: questions were received via the Zoom chat but were not seen until after this item so were addressed in Question Period).

The chair called a 10 minute break, returning at 10:15 a.m.

10. Senate Committee Reports

The chair noted that the following agenda items were from Senate committees and that President Stoicheff would present the reports and answer any questions on the following four executive

committee reports, the honorary degrees committee report, and the report of the joint nominations committee for chancellor.

10.1 Senate Executive Committee Reports

10.1.1 Report on activities

The report was presented and there were no questions or comments.

10.1.2 Addition of Deputy Provost to Senate Membership

President Stoicheff presented this item adding that Dr. Patti McDougall had been selected as the Deputy Provost effective October 1, 2021, serving previously in the role of Vice-Provost, Teaching, Learning and Student Experience since 2013. He also clarified that the request is to approve the addition of the position of deputy provost to the Senate membership, not specifically Dr. McDougall.

A Senator asked to define the word 'ex-officio' before voting. Dr. Willness responded that ex-officio members on Senate have voting rights, unless otherwise specified in the bylaws.

Dean Kresta added a comment of assurance to Senators that the Provost's Office works very hard and that, as a dean, she has been very happy to see the role of Deputy Provost introduced as it is an essential support role for the university.

BROTHWELL/ALCORN: THAT SENATE APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY PROVOST AS AN EX-OFFICIO MEMBER OF SENATE, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

CARRIED

10.1.3 Conferral of degrees for Fall 2021 Convocation

President Stoicheff began by stating that although holding another convocation virtually was not ideal for students, it was necessary to ensure everyone's health and safety. He applauded everyone's efforts in transitioning to these virtual ceremonies, and noted his hopes that Spring Convocation 2022 could be held in person.

The chair called for questions. No questions or comments were received.

MACDONALD/BERGSTROM: THAT SENATE APPROVE THE CONFERRAL OF DEGREES, DIPLOMAS, AND CERTIFICATES IN ABSENTIA AND ADMIT GRADUANDS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN, WITH POWERS PROVIDED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWA ACT, 1995.

BY WAY OF THIS MOTION, ALL CANDIDATES HAVING FULFILLED THEIR REQUIREMENTS MAY BE ADMITTED TO THE DEGREES, DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES TO WHICH THEY ARE ENTITLED AND TO VEST THEM WITH ALL THE POWERS, RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES PERTAINING THERETO. THESE DEGREES, DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES WILL BE GRANTED ON THE DATE OF THEIR ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED CONVOCATION CEREMONY.

CARRIED

10.1.4 Revisions to Senate Education committee terms of reference

President Stoicheff noted two requested revisions to the Senate Bylaws, specific to the terms of reference for the Senate education committee: one is to allow for the university secretary to appoint a designate, and the other is an addition under powers of the committee (“to confirm a decision of Council to change academic and other qualifications required for admission as a student, and to report for information to Senate on these confirmations as appropriate”).

The latter stems from changes to the academic programs approval process, following an extensive review conducted by the Governance Office and many other stakeholders. The proposed changes are intended to enable increased responsiveness and timeliness, while maintaining rigor and oversight.

A senator asked what provisions were being made for the education committee to seek the advice of people from the professional sectors as part of making the type of decision permitted by this change to the terms of reference. Dr. Thomarat responded that there are a few avenues allowing professional associations to be engaged in this process. One is that the education committee can develop its own procedures associated with this responsibility, and those procedures could involve consultation with the applicable professional association on Senate, for example. Another safeguard is that some of the faculty councils that make the recommendations on admissions qualifications have professional associations on their membership. There are also two principles in the Admission to Degree Programs policy that are relevant: professional requirements of a program need to be part of the selection criteria, and USask must also steward enrolment in programs by considering things like course needs and requirements of Saskatchewan communities.

A senator expressed concern of the erosion of participation by the full Senate as this is one area that Senate has decision-making authority. The chair of the education committee added that the committee will take the concerns of Senators into account when creating its procedures and processes to do the assigned work.

BELL/GUSTAFSON: THAT SENATE DELEGATE CONFIRMATION AUTHORITY FOR ADMISSIONS QUALIFICATION CHANGES TO THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE AS PART V.8 OF THE SENATE BYLAWS, EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 2021.

CARRIED

10.2 Honorary Degrees Committee Report - CONFIDENTIAL

This item was confidential and was removed from these minutes.

10.3 Joint Nomination Committee for Chancellor - CONFIDENTIAL

This item was confidential and was removed from these minutes.

11. Living our Values Policy

Chancellor McCreath introduced Cheryl Carver, associate vice-president, people and resources, to present the policy.

Ms. Carver explained that Senate approval is the final step toward implementation of this policy and highlighted that its purpose is to translate our values into statements of expectation for conduct of members of our university community and to reaffirm those values. This policy has been extensively consulted upon across campus and has been approved by both University Council and the Board of Governors in June of this year.

The chair called for questions and there were none.

MACDONALD/WAGNER: IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT SENATE APPROVE THE LIVING OUR VALUES POLICY, TO BE EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 2021.

CARRIED

12. Senate Engagement Plan update

Dr. Willness presented the update noting that, at the last meeting of Senate, the membership and terms of reference were approved for an advisory group to guide the engagement plan work. She thanked the members of the Senate engagement plan advisory group, Chancellor McCreath, Max Bilson, Susanne Berg, Kelley Moore, Doug Brothwell, Jamie Bell, Marcy Hildebrand and Lesley Leonhardt for their contributions.

She spoke to the document contained in the agenda materials and explained next steps that include organizing focus groups to engage in-depth with any Senators willing to give their time to provide feedback and input on the plan. The advisory group will continue working on the document and will report again at the spring 2022 meeting.

The chair thanked Dr. Willness for her work on this plan and was excited to continue serving on this important advisory group. There were no questions for Dr. Willness.

13. Items for Information

The chair noted the next three items were for information only.

13.1 Post-pandemic Shift Project Update

The chair welcomed Dr. Debra Pozega Osburn, vice-president university relations, to present an update on the Post-pandemic Shift Project.

The presentation is attached as Appendix B.

Dr. Pozega Osburn thanked members for their contributions to the plan and noted she is happy to take questions or hear any comments Senators may have.

A Senator asked a question about the student residences and how the new vaccine policies have affected them. The chancellor responded advising that Dr. Jay Wilson will be contacting the student directly to discuss.

There was a comment from a Senator that the pandemic may go on forever and hoped conversations will continue about how to be effective going forward.

A Senator complimented Dr. Pozega Osburn on an excellent presentation and anticipated focus on institutional excellence would not be lost going forward.

President Stoicheff noted he was proud of the plan and thanked Dr. Pozega Osburn for her leadership as vice-president university relations, adding that she will be retiring at the end of February and that it was a huge privilege to have worked with her over the years.

The chancellor also thanked Dr. Pozega Osburn for her service on behalf of Senate noting that she had built so many relationships, accomplished much and were grateful to have her in our community.

The chair welcomed Dr. Willness to present the next two items, 13.2 and 13.3.

(Secretary's note: the full contents of the plan can be found here: <https://plan.usask.ca/post-pandemic>)

13.2 Policy Oversight Committee annual report

Dr. Willness noted that the written report was circulated, and she was happy to answer any questions; there were none.

13.3 Report on non-academic student discipline for 2020/21

The written report was circulated in advance; there were no questions.

14. Other Business

Senator McKercher presented the following motion as discussed earlier in the meeting:

That Senate acknowledges the University of Saskatchewan's mandate and accomplishments in vaccine research, health sciences, and public policy related to the COVID-19 pandemic and confirms in principle its support for the university's COVID-19 vaccine policy and its implementation.

The Chancellor called for questions and hearing none called for a mover and seconder and then for a vote with the following results:

MCKERCHER/GOUGH: THAT SENATE ACKNOWLEDGES THE UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN'S MANDATE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN VACCINE RESEARCH, HEALTH SCIENCES, AND PUBLIC POLICY RELATED TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND CONFIRMS IN PRINCIPLE ITS SUPPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY'S COVID-19 VACCINE POLICY AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION.

CARRIED

Dr. Willness provided a Senate election update, noting there are four member-at-large and eight district positions (districts 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 14) in the call for nominations. All members of the convocation are eligible to nominate and be nominated. In the case of a district, the nominee must be a resident of that district. The call for nominations will close March 1, 2022.

She also provided an update on the activities of the nominations committee as they met October 26, 2021, and appointed Susanne Berg as the Senate representative on the vice-president university relations search committee and appointed Jay Wilson as one of the ex-officio members of the Senate education committee, a position that was vacant due to the resignation of Jackie Ottmann from the university.

15. Question Period

The chair called for questions.

A Senator commented about the English language requirement for Nursing and how it may affect Indigenous learners taking their elementary and secondary school programs in their Indigenous language, and whether they would be at a disadvantage for admission into the Nursing program, knowing they would most likely return to their communities to offer health care in their language.

Dr. Airini, provost and vice-president academic, introduced the new dean of the College of Nursing, Solina Richter, reporting that she has reached out to the Senator for further follow-up.

Another question was asked about statistics on student diversity including gender by college, Indigenous heritage, who the university is attracting and who is registering. They also asked for data on diversity among leadership and senior leadership.

Dr. Jay Wilson and Dr. Patti McDougall provided the following information:

Grad across all schools 54% women, undergrad 57% women.

- Overall enrolment up 0.2%, with the most significant growth in the number of graduate students.
- Indigenous graduate student numbers are up 17% and undergraduate down by 4%.
- International student numbers are up 7.8%.
- Of senior leadership members, 45% are male and 55% are female.

A full enrolment update will be provided in April, but current information is available online <https://leadership.usask.ca/priorities/reports/enrolment.php>. There are future plans for a new dashboard that will reference EDI data as it is collected from students going forward.

The chair thanked Drs. Wilson and McDougall and called upon a student Senator who wished to comment. He noted he will soon be a graduate student and had been looking at professional and graduate school opportunities and appreciates the comprehensive diversity data available to assist with considering where to apply.

A Senator commented that they supported the decision of Senate regarding the revisions to the education committee terms of reference but asked that when that committee reports back to Senate on program approval items, that it include notes on any consultations done by professional societies to ensure they were part of the decision making process. Max Bilson, chair of the education committee, responded that this will be included. A Senator, who is also a member of the executive committee, reported that the issues brought up today regarding the change of the terms of reference were also discussed in depth at the executive level. They felt this change to the process was worth trying and that

Senate may provide even better consultation results as the education committee can have dedicated people serving with expertise to provide more focused discussions.

A Senator asked about issues in the media regarding the professor who had misrepresented her Indigenous heritage as well as the appointment of a non-Indigenous professor to the position of vice-dean Indigenous in the College of Arts and Science. Dr. Airini responded that the appointment to the vice-dean Indigenous role was an acting, temporary appointment as they await the completion of the search process for that position. Dr. Jaime added that she had been working closely with her acting replacement on initiatives that are set forth in that portfolio and that the position is supported by an Indigenous staff member as well as by the Indigenous Studies department. They are working with Elders on matters pertaining to Indigenous identity, which is a top priority across campus. Dr. Airini commented that senior leaders are aware that continued work is required to build close relationships with Indigenous leaders and to move forward in a respectful way.

The Chancellor thanked Senators for their questions.

16. Adjournment

The chair thanked the staff of the Governance Office for all of their work putting the meeting together and Senators for participating. She noted the next meeting is scheduled for April 23, 2022 and that convocation will take place virtually on November 10, 2021. She noted the two honorary degree recipients that will be honored at convocation, Dr. David Mulder with an honorary doctor of laws and Dr. Wilfred Keller, with an honorary doctor of science.

DECILLIA: That the meeting be adjourned (12:35 p.m.).