

Public Minutes of a meeting of the USask Board of Governors

October 4, 2021
Via Zoom

Present: Shelley Brown (Chair), Joy Crawford, Grant Devine, Tasnim Jaisee, Jay Kalra, Ritu Malhotra, Keith Martell, Grit McCreath, Darrel Monette, Louise Simard, Peter Stoicheff

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

Guests: Danielle Dunbar, associate vice-president advancement and chief development officer (agenda item 8); Patti McDougall, deputy provost (agenda item 9)

1. Call to order and Chair's remarks

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:05 and welcomed members to the meeting, declaring the meeting properly constituted for the transaction of business, with herself as chair and the university secretary and chief governance officer as secretary and noted the Indigenous Land acknowledgement.

The Chair stated that she would need to leave the meeting early due to a scheduling conflict. The Vice-chair will take over at that time. She commented on the events on campus around the Truth and Reconciliation Day during the last week of September and commended the university's work. A member encouraged governors to visit a special display in the Murray Building Library related to Truth and Reconciliation and to "Every Child Matters - Orange Shirt Day".

2. In-camera session – Board only

Management joined the meeting at 8:20 am.

3. President's statement

The President welcomed members to the meeting and thanked governors for their ongoing contributions, adding that he is looking forward to meeting in person with members at the December meeting. He reported that 91% of the campus community has now received two vaccinations. The university continues to work with the Pandemic Response Team (PRT) to plan for the winter term although the current increase in variant rates has complicated the process. The President acknowledged vice-president university relations, Debra Pozega Osburn and her plans to retire from the university following an administrative leave in February. He thanked Debra for her many accomplishments and contributions to USask and wished her the very best.

He reported that VIDO continues to consult with Health Canada on clinical testing required of the second candidate that will act as a booster for licensed vaccines. The pilot manufacturing facility

construction is on schedule for the end of the year and commissioning of the facility will begin early 2022.

The President stated that the university is collaborating with several organizations across the province to create an entrepreneurship and innovation incubator. The incubator will assist diverse startups by offering programming, business planning, mentoring, support, and connections with investors and will provide flexible space for startups in a location in Innovation lace, shared with Innovation SK.

The offices of the vice-president research and the provost and vice president academic are leading a process to renew the signature areas for the next decade.

Researcher Dr. Malcolm King (Medicine) has been named a fellow in the Royal Society of Canada, adding that two USask students have been named recipients of the prestigious STEM leadership scholarship.

USask was a participant at the Tokyo Paralympics and the Olympics. Keely Shaw, a doctoral candidate in Kinesiology, won Canada's first medal at the Paralympics in Tokyo – a bronze medal in cycling. Coach Lisa Thomaidis led Team Canada's women's basketball team to the Tokyo Olympics and was joined by USask alumni, Rhonda Shishkin, who served as the team's physiotherapist.

The Canadian Light Source Inc. (CLS) has seen a change in its Board Chair, and Executive Director Rob Lamb has now stepped down.

The Fedoruk Centre is hosting an international isotopes conference next June.

The Global Institute for Food Security received funding from the Ministry of Agriculture and Innovation SK combined to support the new engineering biology centre that will focus on attracting investments and companies to the province's agriculture and food sectors.

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation was held on September 30. The university bowl as transformed with incredible lighting and projected the 94 calls to action on three of the university's buildings.

The university recently renewed its agreement with Wanuskewin.

The President's Executive Committee has completed its anti-racism education sessions. The senior leadership forum will participate next in the sessions.

The Calgary Hub is now open to the public. The hub is designed to be a place for alumni, staff, and students to connect with one another. A formal opening will take place on December 6.

The Chair thanked the President for his remarks. There were no further comments.

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 8:55 am.

Board meeting reconvenes

The Board reconvened at 12:55 following a short lunch break.

6. Welcome and approval of agenda

The following resolution was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Governors approves the agenda as distributed.

7.	Consent Agenda Items – standing committees
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 July 28 and August 31 Board of Governors meeting minutes	
5.1 Governance and Executive Committee	
5.1.3	The Board of Governors approves the appointment of a Board member to each of the following committees: Fall 2021 - Dean, college of arts & science; vice-provost teaching learning and student experience search committees; and dean, college of dentistry, dean, college of engineering review committees effective October 5, 2021; Winter 2022 - Dean, college of education, and vice-provost indigenous engagement search committees.
5.2 Human Resources – no decision items	
5.3 Land and Facilities Committee	
5.3.4	Arts building renewal The Board of Governors provided final approval for the execution of the Deferred Maintenance (DM) of the arts building renewal project.
5.3.5	5.3.5.1 High-speed imaging platform for deep phenotyping of zebrafish models of cardiovascular disease The Board of Governors grant final approval of the final program, capital, and operating budgets for the high-speed imaging platform for deep phenotyping of zebrafish models of vascular disease. 5.3.5.2 Software Analytics Research Lab

	The Board of Governors grant final approval of the final program, capital and operating budgets for the software analytics research lab CFI proposal.
5.3.6	Global Institute for Food Security Copernicus Storage Upgrade (Major Capital Equipment Purchase) The Board of Governors approves the purchase of high-performance computing infrastructure effective October 4, 2021.
5.3.7	Global Institute for Food Security PacBio Sequencer Lease Agreement (Major Capital Equipment Purchase) That the Board of Governors approves the lease and future acquisition of PacBio sequencing machine effective October 4, 2021.
5.3.8	Revision of University of Saskatchewan Traffic Bylaws The Board of Governors approves the revisions to the University of Saskatchewan Traffic Bylaws (Section 100 of the University Act, 1995) as described in the written materials, effective December 2021.
5.4 Audit and Finance Committee	
5.4.6	Certified Banking Resolution update The Board of Governors approves the banking resolution and authorizes the university secretary and chief governance officer to sign the resolution, effective October 4, 2021.

The following resolution was moved and seconded:

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

CARRIED

7. University Relations Report The associate vice president advancement and chief development officer Danielle Dunbar provided an update to members on the comprehensive campaign for information.

8. Micro-credential framework development and pilot programs – for information

The provost and vice-president academic, Dr. Airini, provided a report for information to update the Board on the development of a University of Saskatchewan micro-credential framework, its associated pilot, and context for forthcoming investment.

9. Faculty complement planning – for information

Deputy provost, Patti McDougall spoke to USask’s framework for attracting and retaining quality personnel, tenure and promotion, measuring the success of faculty, and areas of continued success for information..

10. Greystone Heritage Trust

The Board of Governors approves funding from the Greystone Heritage Trust to support the USask Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy and Action Plan.

CARRIED

11. Correspondence – for information

12. Policy Oversight Committee Annual Report 2020-2021 – for information

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

14. *In-camera session* – Board only

The Board adjourned at 2:30 pm and moved in camera.