

# Minutes of a meeting of the USask Board of Governors

Tuesday, March 22, 2022

Emmett Hall Boardroom – PMB 238

**Present:** Shelley Brown (chair), Joy Crawford (via zoom), Grant Devine, Tasnim Jaisee, Jay Kalra (via Zoom), Ritu Malhotra, Keith Martell, Grit McCreath, Louise Simard, Peter Stoicheff

**Resource Officers:** Greg Fowler, Airini, Danielle Dunbar, David Stack (via Zoom), Chelsea Willness (university secretary), Sheena Tait-Rowan (recording secretary)

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## 1. Roll Call

The chair called the meeting to order at 9:02 am on Tuesday, March 22, 2022, and welcomed members, adding that it was a pleasure to hold this meeting and the retreat that will follow, in person.

The chair invited the president to provide his remarks to the board.

## 2. President's statement

President Stoicheff noted the university's positive partnership with the Rimai Modern Art Gallery and the MOU that has led to many great things, including the current exhibit that board members will tour today, "Canoe". The collection belongs to Grit and Scott McCreath and family.

He welcomed Danielle Dunbar as interim vice president university relations and added how fortunate the board is to have Paul Davidson, president of Universities Canada, joining the retreat. This will be the last meeting for USSU president Tasnim Jaisee, as the student elections take place in April.

The president expressed concern around the crisis in Ukraine and spoke to the decision to make a public statement about it. Ukraine is extremely important to this province. Saskatchewan has the second highest number of Ukrainian citizens among Canadian provinces. The university has three MOUs with Ukrainian institutions, and many of our students are from Ukraine. Many more students are of Ukrainian descent. The university noted it may also be difficult for Russian students and faculty and commented on the variety of supports being offered to them including a website that has been set up containing multiple resources and extensive information about how to access support.

The president updated the board on covid protocols. The winter semester was delayed, and the situation was monitored daily. Faculty, staff, and students who needed to be on campus could do so as of February 7<sup>th</sup>. Masks will be maintained until April 30<sup>th</sup>. The university has returned to having a testing option, so members of campus can be fully vaccinated or submit regular testing. The PRT will be re-assessing soon, in preparation for April 30<sup>th</sup>.

The provincial budget will be announced on Wednesday, March 23.

The official opening of the Calgary Hub took place in March and was very well attended. The Alumni Achievement Awards were recently announced, and the president looks forward to an in-person event to honour the recipients – individuals who have had extraordinary impact in their professional sectors and in their communities.

Following campus wide consultation several years ago, six signature areas of research were identified – agriculture, energy and mineral resources, Indigenous peoples, synchrotron sciences, One Health, and water security. Three new signature areas have been identified by the vice president research - communities and sustainability, health and wellness and quantum innovation.

*The board adjourned and the board retreat, with special guest, Paul Davidson, commenced.*

The board meeting was called back to order on Tuesday, March 22, 2023, at 8:45 am. The board chair declared the meeting properly constituted for the transaction of business, with herself as chair and the university secretary as secretary and noted the Indigenous land acknowledgement.

The chair commented that she recently completed a course prepared by the First Nations University of Canada for Deloitte entitled ‘4 Seasons of Reconciliation’ and encouraged members and senior management to consider registering for the course.

### **3. Declaration of conflicts of interest**

None identified.

*The board adjourned at 8:45 am and the standing committees commenced.*

#### **Consent Agenda Items – standing committees**

##### **Approval of board minutes December 14, 2021**

Business arising from the minutes

#### ***STANDING COMMITTEES***

##### **GOVERNANCE AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

##### **Chancellor’s Budget 2022/23**

That the Board of Governors approves the Chancellor’s budget for 2022-2023 expenses, as presented.

##### **AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

##### **2022-2023 Comprehensive Budget**

That the Board of Governors approves the 2022-23 Comprehensive Budget as presented in the attached schedules.

### **Proposed 2022/23 Internal Audit Plan**

That the Board of Governors approves the 2022-2023 Internal Audit Plan and budget as presented effective March 22, 2022.

### **LAND AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE**

#### **Electrical Infrastructure Renewal Program – Power Factor Correction and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System Upgrades Project**

That the Board of Governors provides final approval to proceed with Power Factor Correction and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System Upgrades project under the Electrical Infrastructure Renewal Program.

#### **Integrated Services Renewal Program - Foundational Phase**

That the Board of Governors provides final approval for the foundational phase of the Integrated Services Renewal Program.

#### **Confidential item**

Approved

#### **K.W. Nasser Courts Naming**

That the Board of Governors approves the USask Tennis Courts to be re-named the K.W. Nasser Courts effective April 2022.

### **HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

#### **Renewal, Probation and Tenure**

That the Board of Governors approves the Renewal of probation, tenure and promotion to faculty who received positive recommendations effective July 1, 2022.

#### **Approval of terms and conditions of employment for Research Associates**

That the Board of Governors approves the employment terms and conditions between the University of Saskatchewan and the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) representing Research Associates (RAs) as outlined.

The following resolution was moved and seconded.

**That the consent agenda item(s) be approved by the Board of Governors.**

**4. University Relations report**

Danielle Dunbar, interim vice-president university relations (VPUR) updated the board on the progress of the “Path to Campaign” Launch.

The VPUR extended a thank you to Chancellor McCreath for emceeding the successful Calgary Hub opening event and for being a Calgary alumni champion.

The chair thanked the VPUR for the presentation.

**5. Electronic approvals**

Items distributed for electronic approval between January and March were provided for information.

**Greystone Heritage Trust**

That the Board of Governors approve funding from the Greystone Heritage Trust to be allocated to the four initiatives as outlined below.

- Innovation Agenda Sponsorships
- Support for Structurist, USask Galleries
- Huskie Football Scholarship Pandemic-Related Shortfall
- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion (EDI) Initiatives

CARRIED

**6. Items from Council - Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships (JCCP)**

That the Board of Governors approves the Knight Family Enhancement Chair in Neurological Surgery effective September 1, 2022.

CARRIED

**Other Business**

None.

Board adjourned at 4:25 pm and moved *in-camera* before proceeding to the Public Reception.

***Board only session***

***In-camera – without president***