University of Saskatchewan

AGENDA

University Council
Date: October 23, 2025
Time: 2:30-4:30 pm
Location: Convocation Hall (PMB 120)

CALL TO ORDER

1. **Agenda**
   - 1.1. Adoption of the Agenda
   - 1.2. Council Motions
2. **Chair's Opening Remarks-** Dr. Vicki Squires, Council Chair, College of Education
3. **Minutes**
   - 3.1. Approval of Minutes – September 25, 2025
4. **Business Arising**
   - 4.1. JCCP Annual Report
   - 4.2. Recording Meetings for Minutes
5. **Governance Committee**
   - 5.1 Request for Decision: College of Medicine Faculty Bylaws
   - 5.2 Request for Decision: Nomination for Nominations Committee of Council Vacancy
6. **Nominations Committee**
   - 6.1 Request for Decision: Council Committee Vacancies
   - 6.2 Request for Decision: Nomination to the Review Committee of the Dean of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine
   - 6.3 Request for Decision: Nomination to the Review Committee of the Dean of the College of Nursing
7. **Reports**
   - 7.1 President
   - 7.2 Interim Provost and Vice-President Academic
   - 7.3 Graduate Students Association (GSA)
   - 7.4 University of Saskatchewan Student's Union (USSU)
8. **Other Business**
9. **Question Period**

In addition to bringing forward questions during the course of a meeting, council members are encouraged to submit questions on agenda items or matters relevant to council in advance of a meeting. These questions can be sent to the Chair of Council directly or via the Governance Office (vicki.squires@usask.ca; governance.office@usask.ca). Whenever possible, the questions will be forwarded to the appropriate individual. Members submitting questions in advance will be invited to pose their questions during the course of the meeting. Questions from the floor are also welcomed and encouraged.

10. **Adjournment**

Next Council meeting is on November 20, 2025- please send regrets to governance.office@usask.ca

The deadline to submit motions and items to the Executive Committee for the November meeting is October 27, 2025. A full list of submission deadlines can be found **online**.

ZOOM LINK:

Join Zoom Meeting:
https://usask-ca.zoom.us/j/94468267179?pwd=5vAoykSSUDQkClaHlBonVl8aB4aC95.1

Join by Telephone:
Local Saskatoon Zoom Dial-in Number: (639) 638-7474
Other Zoom Dial-in Numbers: https://usask-ca.zoom.us/u/ankZg6SAQ

Join by Video Conferencing Device (SIP):
94468267179@zoomcrc.com

Meeting ID: 944 6826 7179
Passcode: 64312269
Telephone Passcode: 64312269

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL AGENDA MOTIONS

Date: October 23, 2025

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

5.1 Request for Decision: College of Medicine Faculty Bylaws
Motion: It is recommended by the Governance Committee that Council approve the changes to the College of Medicine Faculty Council Bylaws, effective immediately.

5.2 Request for Decision: Nomination for Nominations Committee of Council
Motion: It is recommended by the Governance Committee that Council approve the nomination to the nominations committee effective immediately.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

6.1 Request for Decision: Council Committee Vacancies
Motion: That Council approve the nominations described in the attached report, effective October 23, 2025.

6.2 Request for Decision: Nomination to the Review Committee for the Dean of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine
Motion: That Council approve the nomination of Trever Crowe to the review committee for the Dean of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine.

6.3 Request for Decision: Nomination to the Review Committee for the Dean of the College of Nursing
Motion: That Council approve the nomination of Joel Lanovaz to the review committee for the Dean of the College of Nursing.

MEETING MINUTES

University Council
Date: September 25, 2025
Time: 2:30-4:30 pm
Location: Convocation Hall (PMB 120) and Zoom

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:31 pm.

The Chair, Dr. Vicki Squires began with a Land Acknowledgement.

No members of the media identified themselves.

The Chair reminded members there are no unauthorized recordings of Council meetings.

1. **AGENDA**
   1.1. Adoption of the Agenda

Motion: (Augusta/Dobson): *That the agenda be approved as circulated.*

CARRIED

2. **CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS-** Dr. Vicki Squires, Council Chair, College of Education

Chair Squires opened the first University Council meeting of 2025–2026 with reflections on recent campus energy, leadership changes, and the passing of Dr. Beth Bilson, a pioneering academic and leader. The Chair addressed concerns about academic freedom in the U.S., emphasized the importance of protecting Canadian university values, and encouraged participation in Truth and Reconciliation events before proceeding to the meeting's agenda.

3. **MINUTES**

Motion: (Finnie/Dutchyn): That the minutes of June 12, 2025 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

4. **COUNCIL WELCOME AND GOVERNANCE REFRESHER-** Dr. Julian Demkiw, University Secretary and Chief Governance Officer

Secretary Demkiw provided members with a review of the Council structure and responsibilities. Meeting protocols and virtual attendance were reviewed.

Slides are attached.

5. BUSINESS ARISING

5.1 CASPer Testing Update

Deputy Provost Patti McDougall provided an update to the questions. This item will go back to APC for discussion.

Question: Is neurodivergence being considered in the evaluation of the tool? Dr. McDougall replied that the committee is looking at the data that has been gathered and asking if the information being collected is valid and will bring this up to the committee.

5.2 Eligibility to Apply for, Hold and Administer Research Funding Policy Changes

Deputy Provost Patti McDougall provided an update of the changes that went forward to the Board of Governors for approval. The next steps are to work on the implementation of this with VP Academic and VP Research.

Questions: A member questioned the use of the word "normally" which was part of the revisions. Dr. McDougall explained that "normally" is commonly used in such contexts and emphasized that this is a three-year pilot. The process will be monitored to ensure individuals are supported and fulfilling their duties. Approximately 120 individuals fall into this category, though only a small subset is expected to pursue this route.

Dr. McDougall noted that individuals with and without term wanting to pursue this route would have to be agreed upon within their letter. A member asked if the letter can be revised after the fact. It was noted that the letter will be looked at as part of implementation.

A member expressed appreciation for the changes but noted that Section 3.1 still feels restrictive. They asked if future amendments would be possible. Dr. McDougall responded that amendments are always possible, and this change provides a foundation to begin.

6. REPORTS

6.1 President

President Stoicheff welcomed Council members to a new academic year and acknowledged the upcoming internal reconciliation forum, marking almost ten years to the day since the Truth and Reconciliation report was released. The forum was created as a way for USask to continue our work as outlined by the report.

President Stoicheff welcomed new Council members, committee chairs, and student representatives, and congratulated Vince on his final Council meeting before becoming the next president. He also recognized Patti McDougall's transition to Interim Provost and Loleen Berdahl's appointment as Deputy Provost.

Stoicheff expressed concern about attacks on universities in the U.S., and noted that while Canadian universities are more supported, they still face threats to evidence-based research. He highlighted the financial pressures on Canadian universities, which can indirectly affect institutional autonomy, though Saskatchewan has not experienced these reductions in autonomy. He reaffirmed the university's commitment to responsible stewardship of public funds and the importance of maintaining public and governmental trust to preserve autonomy.

6.2 Interim Provost and Vice-President Academic

Interim Provost Bruni-Bossio echoed several of President Stoicheff's remarks acknowledging that he is recognized as a thought leader across Canada.

Deputy Provost Patti McDougall updated members on the work of the 'think tank' aimed at exploring initiatives to strengthen USask's short-term and long-term financial health through strategic financial planning.

6.3 Graduate Students Association (GSA)

GSA President Palah Roy presented the GSA report noting that the GSA has had their non-profit status reinstated. The GSA is currently working on an initiative to share graduate student experiences as well as advocacy continues on childcare and campus safety.

The full report can be found in the agenda package.

6.4 University of Saskatchewan Student's Union (USSU)

USSU President Emma Wintermute presented the USSU report to Council, highlighting the new student leaders and the successful launch of student groups for the academic year. Tuition and affordability remain key concerns, noting a pay equity forum is scheduled for October 1st. The USSU is also focusing on strengthening collaboration with the Prince Albert (PA) campus and is looking forward to welcoming a student counsellor from PA.

The full report can be found in the agenda package.

7. ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Paul Jones, Chair of APC presented the committee's item as outlined in the agenda package.

7.1 Request for Decision: Masters Admission Category for Doctor of Dental Medicine (D.M.D) Program

Information is in the agenda package.

There were no questions.

Motion (Jones/Dobson): It is recommended by the Academic Programs Committee that Council approve the master's degree admission category for the D.M.D program, effective for the 2027-2028 application cycle.

CARRIED

8. PLANNING AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE

Christian Willenborg, Chair of PPC presented the committee's items as outlined in the agenda package.

8.1 Request for Decision: Business Research Integration and Development Group (BRIDGE) Knowledge Centre

Information is in the agenda package. There were no questions.

Motion (Willenborg/Dick): It is recommended by the Planning and Priorities Committee that Council approve the establishment of the Business Research Integration and Development Group (BRIDGE) Knowledge Centre effective immediately.

CARRIED

8.2 Item for Information: Provisional Centre for Entrepreneurship

Information is in the agenda package. There were no questions.

8.3 Item for Information: Disestablishment of the Centre for the Study of Science and Innovation Policy

Information is in the agenda package.

A member asked why the disestablishment of a Centre does not come to Council for a vote? Secretary Demkiw noted that it is in the Centres Policy; however, the Governance Office will look further into the rationale.

9. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Susan Detemer, Chair of Governance, presented the committee's item.

9.1 Notice of Motion: College of Medicine Faculty Bylaws

Information is in the agenda package.

A member asked for clarification on the faculty and who is eligible to sit on Council. Dr. Detmer replied that this will be reviewed.

An individual asked for the rationale given as to why the Dean of CGPS changed from voting to non-voting member. Dr. Detmer noted that this will also be looked into.

The Chair also mentioned that there is a vacancy on the Nominations committee for a Council member.

10. NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Reza Fotouhi, Chair of Nominations, presented the committee's items.

10.1 Request for Decision: Council Committee Vacancies

Information is in the agenda package. There were no nominations from the floor or questions.

Motion (Fotouhi/Patrick): That Council approve the nominations described in the attached report, effective September 25, 2025.

CARRIED

10.2 Request for Decision: Search Committee for Global Institute for Food Security Executive Director

Information is in the agenda package. There were no nominations from the floor or questions.

Motion (Fotouhi/Patrick): It is recommended by the Nominations Committee that Council approve the nomination for the following senior administrator to serve on the Search Committee for the Executive Director, Global Institute for Food Security, effective September 2025.

CARRIED

11. JOINT COMMITTEE ON CHAIRS AND PROFESSORSHIPS

11.1 Item for Information: Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships (JCCP) Annual Report 2024-2025

The report was in the agenda package. This item will be brought back to the October meeting under business arising.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

There were none.

13. Question Period

Pre-submitted Questions:

Can University Council get a more detailed explanation of the outage of our campus alert systems and apps, and any extra steps the university is taking to protect faculty, students, and staff on campus given recent events and safety issues for large open campus such as ours.

Greg Fowler, Chief Administration Officer and COO explained to members that USask has an external vendor who runs the app which went out nation wide on September 12th. USask has a contingency plan in place with the City of Saskatoon. If an incident occurred during the outage, an alert would have been issued by the City to the campus community. USask is working with the vendor to ensure notification more timely in the future.

With the city making active transport a priority, how is USask keeping up with the changes to how our community arrives on campus? I am particularly interested in the addition of an active transport link using Munroe, from 14th to College, and connecting with the pedestrian-controlled crossing of College at Munroe. From the north side of this crossing, the connection to campus is along the sidewalk on College. The need to navigate Wiggins Road, Health Science, and the Wiggins traffic is a safety concern. There is much about the off-loading of active transit users on College Dr from Cumberland to University Bridge that encourages pedestrians and cyclists to cross Wiggins Road against traffic: a perilous adventure.

Mr. Fowler explained that USask has been collaborating with the City throughout the summer to improve the four major campus crossings on College Drive. These upgrades are part of the broader changes associated with the Link Transit System. The plan includes enhancing safety at turns, widening pedestrian corridors, and removing the existing sky walkway. Since the Link will run down the center of College Drive, the roadway will be narrowed and speed limits reduced, with the goal of improving safety at all crossings.

How will the campus network mirror the work that the City is doing?

Construction of the Link Transit System is scheduled to begin in 2026. USask is currently developing a campus plan to align with this project and will be engaging the campus community through consultations in the near future.

14. **Adjournment**

(Jones): The meeting was properly adjourned at 4:00pm

4. Council Welcome and Governance Refresher

Dr. Julian Demkiw, University Secretary and Chief Governance Officer

USask Shared Governance

Board of Governors

Financial Oversight

University Council

Academic Oversight

Senate

Public Voice

USask is atypical – but not unique – because we have *three* governing bodies, not the standard two.

Role of the Governance Office

The Governance Office is the link between the executive leadership and the governing bodies (Board, Council, Senate) of the university.

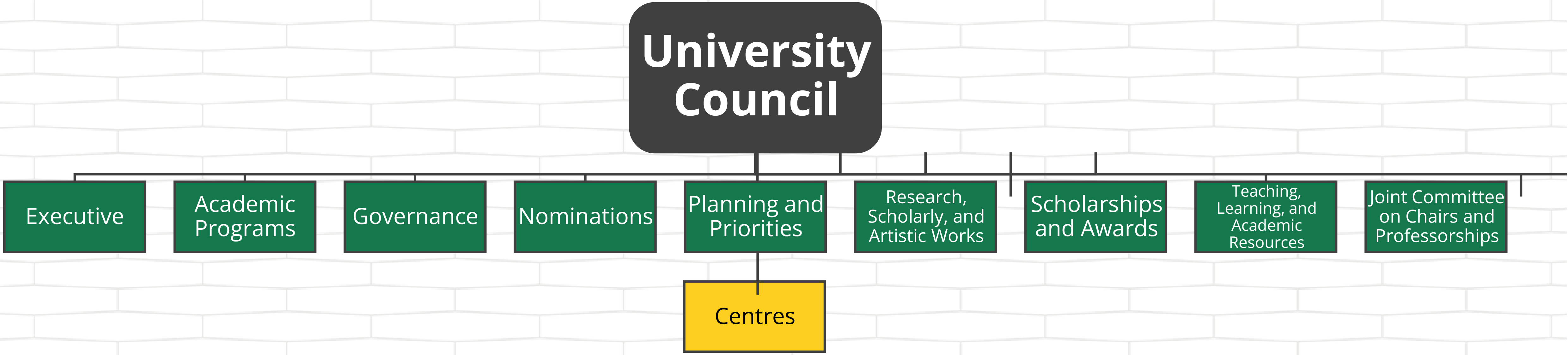
University Council – Responsibilities

University Council has oversight of the academic affairs of USask. Some duties of Council include:

- Granting degrees, diplomas and certificates
- Grants scholarships, prizes, and bursaries.
- Approving new academic programs, deleting existing programs, and modifying programs.
- Authorizing the Board to establish new colleges, schools, departments, and centres.
- Sets methods and rules for evaluating student performance.
- Disciplines students for academic dishonesty and hears appeals on academic decisions.
- Sets standards for admission.
- Makes recommendations on physical and budgetary plans for the university.

Did you know that all members of Council are part of the Academic Appeal Board?

University Council – Committees



Rules of Order

Council is regulated by:

- *The University of Saskatchewan Act, 1995*
- Council Bylaws
- Guidelines and procedures approved by Council
- Proceedings regulated by Kerr & King (approved by Council in 2004)
    - Currently under review
- Presided by the chair, who maintains decorum and a neutral position
- Members must direct questions to the chair

Summary of common Kerr & King procedures located in the

Governance PAWS Channel

Council Meetings

- Council meetings are held monthly (no meeting in February, July, August)

- Participate by Zoom, if needed
  - Members are strongly encouraged to attend in person where possible
  - every effort will be made to accommodate those connecting remotely, please note that we are unable to completely duplicate the experience of attending in-person.
  - Zoom link will be posted on the meeting Agenda

Meeting Protocols

Zoom Protocols

- Ensure your **full name** is written on your screen- unidentifiable attendees will be removed from the meeting.
- For motions and questions members in attendance will be called on first; Zoom participants will be called on second.
- If you wish to pose a question or make a comment type the words “question” or “comment” in the chat and you will be called on accordingly. ***Turn on your video when*** the chair calls on you to speak.
- No unauthorized video or audio recordings of the meeting are permitted.

In Person Protocols

- Voting members can be seated in the front rows at the tables
- A voting card will be used at each meeting to identify voting members. Ensure to pick up and drop off your cards each meeting.
- If you have a question on an agenda item or during question period- go to the microphone and the Chair will call on you.

Other Protocols and Practices

- ***Motions*** will be posted approximately ten days in advance of each meeting on the Council Website.
- ***Agenda and materials*** will be posted seven days in advance of each meeting (with potential of some items being forthcoming)
- Members are invited, but not required, to submit questions on matters relevant to Council or on any agenda item in advance of a meeting.
- All Council members can submit motions, agenda items, and questions to the Executive for consideration via **governance.office@usask.ca.**
  - The deadlines for submission can be found on the Executive Committee page from the Council website.

Meeting Minutes Tools

We would like to begin using Zoom to record audio of the meeting for the purpose of taking minutes and want to check-in with Council members about questions or concerns with the approach.

- *Recordings would be used and viewed by Governance Office team only;*
- *Once minutes are approved at the next meeting, recordings would be deleted*
- *Continue to follow current practice of minute taking as per Kerr and King (ş114) including:*
  - *"A summary of significant points raised during the debate of motions but not a verbatim account of speeches"*
  - *"Any commitments made by officers or others present at the meeting"*

Questions or concerns can be sent to Chair or Secretary and will be discussed at the Executive Committee.

Resources

Governance PAWS Channel

- Add the channel to “Favourites” for easy access.
- Easily find resources and information for governing bodies.
  - Agendas
  - Key documents
  - Contact information

Governance

★ Remove from Favourites

Governing Bodies' Resources

Find information for the following:

- **Meetings** - schedule, agenda, minutes
- **Committees of Council** - SharePoint sites, membership, Terms of Reference
- **Elections** - nominations
- **Bylaws**
- **and more**

Senate Board Council

Key Governance and Institutional Resources

- Introduction to Governance
- University of Saskatchewan Act, 1995
- USask Organization Structure

Governance Office

Your USask Governance Office team is always willing to lend a hand or answer your questions – just reach out to governance.office@usask.ca.

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

AGENDA ITEM NO: 4.1

Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships Committee 2024-2025 Annual Report for Information

Presented by: Dr. Dawn Wallin and Dr. Scott Walsworth
Date of meeting: October 23, 2025

BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

SUMMARY

The University of Saskatchewan Act, 1995, Section 61.1 states that Council may " *… where it considers it appropriate on academic grounds, authorize the Board to provide for (i) the establishment of any college, school, department, chair, endowed chair or institute."* As the establishment of a Chair or Professorship has a financial consequence, the board's role in approving the establishment of a Chair is required. The Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships (JCCP) between the Board/Council was established to bring both approving bodies to the table, thus ensuring that academic and financial concerns are considered in conjunction with one another.

The Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships (JCCP) met on 3 occasions throughout 2024-25.

MEMBERSHIP

EIGHT MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE. CO-CHAIRS ARE DESIGNATED FROM THE PROOSTS OFFICE AND FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT, RESEARCH OFFICE. AT LEAST ONE MEMBER OF COUNCIL AND ONE MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS. AT LEAST ONE MEMBER OF RSAW. AT LEAST ONE MEMBER EACH FROM UNIVERSITY SECRETARY, VICE-PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY RELATIONS, AND VICE-PRESIDENT, ADMINISTRATION

Committee Members

Scott Walsworth	Vice-Provost, Faculty Relations
Dawn Wallin	Associate Vice-President, Research
Lori Bradford	Member of Council
Grant Devine	Member of the Board of Governors
Steve Milosavljevic	Member of RSAW
Julian Demkiw	University Secretary
Shandi Thompson	Manager, Donations and Trusts, University Relations
Trevor Batters	Controller and Director, Financial Operations

NEW CHAIRS:

Four new Chairs were recommended for approval:

- Chair in Swine Welfare – Western College of Veterinary Medicine;

- Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission Applied Genomics and Pre-Breeding Cereals Chair – College of Agriculture and Bioresources;
- Chair in Beef Cattle - Western College of Veterinary Medicine; and
- Buckwold Milani Chair in Commercial Law – College of Law

RENEWALS:

No renewals took place in the 2024-2025 year.

APPOINTMENTS:

- Dr. Flavia van Cleet - Beef Industry Integrated Forage Management and Utilization Chair – College of Agriculture and Bioresources – appointed March 1, 2025 for a 5 year term;
- Professor Dino Kritsiotis - Ariel Sallows Chair in Human Rights – College of Law – appointed January 1, 2025 for a 6 month term;
- Professor Kerri Froc - Law Foundation of Saskatchewan H. Robert Arscott Chair – College of Law – appointed January 1, 2025 for a 1 year term;
- Dr. Camille Partin - Shklanka Chair in Precambrian Critical Mineral Systems – College of Arts and Science – appointed January 1, 2025 for a 5 year term;
- Dr. Yalonde Seddon - Chair in Swine Welfare – Western College of Veterinary Medicine – appointed November 1, 2024 for a 5 year term;
- Dr. Kaidi Wang - Agricultural Microbiology and Bioproducts – College of Agriculture and Bioresources – appointed September 1, 2024 for a 5 year term;
- Dr. Regan Schmidt - Chartered Professional Accountants (CPA) Chair in Accounting – Edwards School of Business – appointed July 1, 2024 for a 3 year term; and
- Dr. Craig Wilson - Sutherland Scholar in International Business - Edwards School of Business – appointed July 1, 2024 for a 3 year term

COMPLETED TERMS:

- Dr. Stuart Smyth - Agri-Food Innovation and Sustainability Enhancement Chair – College of Agriculture and Bioresources – term ended April 30, 2025;
- Dr. David Blackburn - Chair in Patient Adherence to Drug Therapy – College of Pharmacy and Nutrition – term ended April 15, 2025;
- Dr. Virginia Torrie - Estey Chair in Business Law – College of Law – term ended December 31, 2024;

- Dr. Aaron White - Jarislowsky Chair in Biotechnology Management – VIDO – term ended December 30, 2024;
- Dr. Ron Geyer – Nutrien Chair in Clinical Research – College of Medicine – term ended September 30, 2024; and
- Professor Glen Gardener - Law Foundation of Saskatchewan H. Robert Arscott Chair – College of Law – term ended August 31, 2024;

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORS:

- Dr. Nazeem Muhajarine – College of Medicine;
- Dr. Julita Vassileva – College of Arts and Science;
- Dr. Valerie Verge – College of Medicine;
- Dr. Lorne Babiuk (Emeritus) – Western College of Veterinary Medicine; and
- Dr. Verna St. Denis (Emeritus) – College of Education

EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE JCCP PROCESSES:

- Having set meetings throughout the year for the JCCP Committee
    - This allows for University Relations to be better able to plan drafts and for the Committee to better plan
    - Held the meetings based around the UC and BoG meetings.
- Communications to Chair, Dean's, and ADR's six months prior to the end of the term
    - This helps to ensure the Chair and Management Committees can meet and discuss renewal, if possible, or having a final report done for the end of the term of the Chair
- Continuation of the use of the shared digital space for research chairs records
    - This has been integral in ensuring we have all the documentation
- Creation of a shared email address specific to research chairs – research.chairs@usask.ca

FOCUS FOR 2025-2026:

- Continued communication between internal units to ensure timelines can be met with a realistic sense of time of working through all unit needs;
- Continued communication to research chairs, unit leaders and Management Committee chairs;

- Improve submission of reports to JCCP.
- Work with governance office on appropriate processes for creation of honourary chairs.
- Working on reviewing and updating the terms of reference to ensure alignment with the collective agreement and chairholder and funder expectations.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Members of the Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships included Scott Walsworth, Dawn Wallin, Lori Bradford, Steve Milosavljevic, Shandi Boser, Trevor Batters, Julian Demkiw and Grant Devine. Appreciation is noted for the critical reviews of documents, and for attending to committee requests in a timely and detailed manner.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Wallin and Scott Walsworth

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

INFORMATION

University Council
Date: October 23, 2025
Subject: Recording Meetings for Minutes
Agenda Item: 4.2

SUMMARY

During the Council meeting held on September 25, 2025, Secretary Demkiw mentioned that the Governance Office would like to begin using Zoom to record audio of Council meetings for the purpose of taking minutes.

- Recordings would be used and viewed by Governance Office team only
- Once minutes are approved at the next meeting, recordings will be deleted
- Continue to follow current practice of minute taking as per Kerr and King (ş114) including:
    - "A summary of significant points raised during the debate of motions but not a verbatim account of speeches“
    - “Any commitments made by officers or others present at the meeting”

At its October 10, 2025 meeting, the Council Executive revisited this topic. There were no concerns or questions brought forward from Council or the Committee Chairs; therefore, the following motion was carried:

> Motion: That the Executive Committee endorses recordings of Council and Council Committee meetings to be used solely by the Governance Office for the purpose of supporting accurate minute-taking and will be destroyed once minutes are formally approved at the subsequent meeting.

The term *endorses* indicates that Council and Council committees have the discretion to omit certain aspects or the entirety of meeting records if deemed appropriate.

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

REQUEST FOR DECISION

Committee Name: Governance Committee, University Council
Date: October 23, 2025
Presented by: Susan Detmer, Chair, Governance Committee

Subject: College of Medicine Faculty Council Bylaws Revisions

MOTION

It is recommended by the Governance Committee that Council approve the changes to the College of Medicine Faculty Council Bylaws, effective immediately.

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

At the September meeting of University Council, the Governance Committee presented a notice of motion to amend the College of Medicine Faculty Council Bylaws in accordance with the requirement for a 30-day notice period for any bylaw amendments.

At the time of this notice of motion, two concerns were raised at the Council meeting:

1) The Dean of the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies was no longer listed as a voting member of this faculty council, and
2) The ability of medical faculty members (as defined in the Medical Faculty Policy) to serve on faculty councils, given that they are not members of the General Academic Assembly.

Since the time of the notice of motion and the posting of this report, no other concerns or questions were raised to the committee or the Governance Office.

On the first point, the exclusion of the Dean of the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies was an oversight. As per Part 3, section VI, clause 1(j) of the *Council Bylaws and Regulations*, this dean (or their designate) is a voting member of all faculty councils. This has been amended in the document that is attached to this report.

For the second point, the Governance Committee reconvened on October 14, 2025 to discuss this matter. The discussion of this centered on 1) the power of University Council to determine the membership of faculty councils, and 2) the context of the College of Medicine's request to enable medical faculty to serve as voting members.

Authority of Council

The composition of faculty council is determined by University Council and they are granted certain delegated authorities by Council through the Council bylaws. In this way, they operate very similar to a committee of Council.

The University of Saskatchewan Act, 1995 defines the composition of University Council and says that the two representatives for each college (ss 53(2)(b-c)) and the 54 faculty members at large (ss 53(2)(i)) must be members of the General Academic Assembly (GAA). The GAA is defined to include, among others, all faculty members, and faculty members are further defined to be "a person who is employed on a full-time basis by the university or an affiliated or federated college and who serves as a professor, associate professor, assistant professor, lecturer, full-time special lecturer, full-time instructor, librarian or extension specialist" (ss 2(h)). However, the *Act* does not make mention of any requirements for serving on a faculty council, and is actually silent on anything relating to faculty councils. Instead, these bodies are defined and created under Part 3, section VI of the *Council Bylaws and Regulations*.

Currently, there are people that certain colleges/schools, with the consent of University Council, have opted to have on their faculty councils who are not members of the GAA, such as students and other stakeholders. This is because, while there are statutory restrictions for the membership of University Council, similar restrictions do not exist for faculty councils, and as such a range of memberships exists across the faculty councils.

Context of Request from the College of Medicine

The Governance Committee also used their meeting on October 14 as an opportunity to discuss this matter with Dr. John Gordon, Chair of the College of Medicine Faculty Council. This discussion highlighted, among other elements, the following matters:

1) Medical faculty members currently sit on the College of Medicine Faculty Council, and—although specific nomenclature and governing arrangement may differ—other medical schools in Canada operate with their equivalents on equivalent decision-making bodies.
2) Medical faculty members are integral to the provision of medical education and, as per the *Medical Faculty Policy*, hold university academic appointments with academic rights, freedoms, and responsibilities similar to those held by other university faculty members. They contribute to curriculum development, supervise graduate students, conduct independent research, and must meet the same standards for promotion as other faculty members.
3) Not having medical faculty members able to participate in the governance and decision making of the College of Medicine poses a significant risk to the accreditation of the medical education program.

Due to the foregoing reasons, the Governance Committee is supportive of the bylaws going forward as previously submitted.

Additional Background

As described in the cover report to Council that supplemented the notice of motion in September, the College of Medicine indicated a desire to change their bylaws due to three different reasons:

1. *Adoption of the 'One Faculty' Model*: The current/old bylaws do not incorporate the One Faculty model adopted by the College of Medicine, and instead had distinctions between university employees and medical faculty members (formerly community faculty members).
2. *Accreditation Requirements*: Certain changes were required to align with the latest Canadian Colleges of Medicine accreditation standards and regulations.
3. *General Governance Improvements*: Certain modifications were made to the organizational structure to improve governance and decision-making processes.

ATTACHMENTS

1. College of Medicine Revised Bylaws

College of Medicine

Faculty Council for Academic Programs

Rules, Regulations & Bylaws

Approved by Faculty Council, May 28, 2025

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
College of Medicine
MEDICINE.USASK.CA

PART I

1. Short Title

These By-Laws and Regulations may be cited as 'The By-Laws of the Faculty Council of the College of Medicine, 2025'.

2. Definitions

In these By-Laws and Regulations:

"College" means the College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan;

"Council" means the College of Medicine Faculty Council;

"CPSS" means the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan;

"Dean" means the Dean of the College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan;

"Department" means a department of the College of Medicine;

"**Division**" means a division of the College of Medicine;

"PGME" means the College of Medicine's Postgraduate Medical Education;

"RDoS" means the Resident Doctors of Saskatchewan;

"Rural" means a community with a population of under 20,000;

"School" means the School of Rehabilitation Science;

"SHA" means the Saskatchewan Health Authority;

"SMA" means the Saskatchewan Medical Association;

"SMSS" means the College of Medicine's Student Medical Society of Saskatchewan;

"**UGME"** means the College of Medicine's Undergraduate Medical Education;

"University" means the University of Saskatchewan;

"University faculty member" means a person who is employed by the University, or an affiliated or federated college, and who serves as a professor, associate professor, assistant professor, lecturer, full time special lecturer, full time instructor, or librarian or extension specialist in the College;

“Medical Faculty member” means medical faculty, or medical faculty appointees, who are licensed Saskatchewan physicians (MD or equivalent) or Clinical PhDs, holding clinical appointments within the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) as well as academic appointments* in departments or divisions within the College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

** Academic appointment does not imply being a university faculty member or employment by the university.*

“**Faculty**” refers to either a university faculty member or a medical faculty member, as defined above.

“**Elected member of Council**” refers to both university and medical faculty members elected by their department or by Council;

“Chair” means the elected chair of the Council;

“Secretary” means the elected secretary of the Council.

“By-Laws” means the By-Laws and Regulations of the Council

“**Year”** means the academic year of the University.

PART II

3. College

It is recognized that the College is subject to The University of Saskatchewan Act, 1995 and to all rules, regulations, policies, and procedures that are prescribed from time to time by the Board of Governors, Senate and Council of the University of Saskatchewan with respect to the provision of post-secondary instruction and research in the College of Medicine.

4. Council

In this section:

4.1 “member of a department” means a University or Medical faculty member whose primary University responsibilities are within a Department

4.2 “student member of the College” means a student registered in the College

PART III

5. Membership

5.1. The membership of Council is as directed by the By-Laws and Regulations of the University Council (Part Three, Section V.1.A and V.1.B) In general, Faculty Council should include members of the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina as well as members from College distributed sites and campuses across the province. Council is composed of the following persons: *(*denotes non-voting members):*

a) The President of the University*

b) The Provost and Vice-President Academic *

c) The Vice-President Research*

d) The Vice-President Finance and Resources*

e) The Vice-President University Relations*

f) The Vice-Provost Students and Learning*

g) The Vice-Provost Indigenous Engagement*

h) The Vice-Provost Faculty Relations*

i) The Associate Provost Health*

j) Chief Information Officer and Associate Vice-president Information and Communications Technology*

k) The Dean, College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

l) The Dean, University Library or designate*

m) The University Secretary or designate*

n) The University Registrar or designate*

o) Such other persons as the University Council may, from time to time, appoint in a voting or non-voting capacity

p) Such other persons as the Council may, from time to time, appoint in a non-voting capacity*

q) The Dean of the College

r) Vice-Deans of the College

s) Associate Deans of the College

t) Assistant Deans of the college,

u) Directors of academic programs in the college (including: Master of Physician Assistant Program (MPAS), Undergraduate Medical Education (UGME), Faculty & Learning Environment, Quality & Accreditation, Admissions, Student Services, Faculty Development, Northern Medical Services (NMS))

v) All Department Heads of academic departments, the Director of the School and the Provincial Department Heads of clinical Departments or their respective designates.

w) A faculty representative from each department and a faculty representative from the School.

x) Ten elected faculty members at large.

y) One undergraduate medical and one biomedical sciences student; one student member from the rehabilitation science program; one postgraduate medical student; and one graduate student or post doctorate fellow from the College.

z) Other members of the College and the public are welcome to attend as observers.

6. Officers of Faculty Council

The officers of the Faculty Council are the Chair, Vice-Chair and the Secretary.

6.1 Chair

a) The Chair shall preside at all meetings of Faculty Council, preserve order and decorum, and, subject to appeal, decide all questions of order and other questions as provided in these bylaws.

b) In consultation with the Dean and Secretary, prepare a draft agenda for each meeting of Faculty Council and present it for approval.

c) In accordance with the University Council bylaws, transmit to University Council for consideration and review all matters which belong to the care of University Council or which, by their nature, concern more than one college or school.

d) Ensure that an archive of Faculty Council proceedings, including all approved minutes, is maintained. The Dean shall provide administrative support for this task.

e) Act as the spokesperson for Faculty Council and explain its decisions, activities, and procedures.

f) Encourage and facilitate broad participation of Council members in the business of Faculty Council.

g) Monitor the work of Faculty Council committees and ensure that decisions are made in accordance with Faculty Council bylaws and procedures.

h) Seek the guidance and assistance of the Dean, and the University Secretary, or the Bylaws Committee with respect to matters of Faculty Council procedure.

6.2 Vice-Chair

a) Chair the Bylaws Committee.

b) The Vice-Chair shall perform the duties of the Chair when the Chair is absent, unavailable, or declares a conflict of interest.

c) Serve until the Chair resumes duties or until an election or appointment is made in accordance with these bylaws.

6.3 Secretary

a) The Secretary shall represent the University Secretary and keep Faculty Council informed of policies and procedures as set out in University Council bylaws.

b) Serve as parliamentarian for Faculty Council meetings.

c) Facilitate the election of the Chair and the members of the Nominations and Bylaws Committees.

d) Oversee the election of Faculty Council members as described in Section 5 - v, w, x.

e) Facilitate the appointment of Faculty Council members in accordance with these bylaws.

7. Appointment and Election of Members

7.1 *It is important that members of the Council and each Standing Committee reflect whenever possible the diversity of the College, not only in roles, geography, disciplines, and academic ranks, but also in line with the four federally-defined equity-seeking groups (women, racialized people, Indigenous persons, and persons with a disability), as well as those who may experience disadvantages under the prohibited grounds of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Code (including religion, creed, marital status, family status [including parent-child relationship and pregnancy], sex, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, age [18 or more], colour, ancestry, nationality, place of origin, race or perceived race, receipt of public assistance, and gender identity). The College of Medicine believes equity, diversity, inclusion, and a sense of belonging strengthen the community and enhance excellence, innovation, and creativity in all domains.*

7.2 Secretary

The Council will elect one of their members as Secretary for a term of three years. The Chair will inform University Council that this person is the assigned deputy referred to in the University Council By-Laws (Part Three, Section V.1.C).

7.3 Chair

a) The Chair will be elected from among members of Council for a term of 2 years as hereinafter provided.

b) An election will be held no later than May 31st of the year that the incumbent chair's term expires. Term of office will begin July 1st of the year of the member's election.

c) Thirty days prior to the deadline for receipt of nominations, the Secretary will inform all members of Council that nominations for the position of Chair are being requested and will provide a nomination form for this purpose. The nomination form will request a brief description of the nominee stating the nominee's qualifications for the position of Chair.

d) A Council member is nominated for the position of Chair when the nomination form referred to in (c) containing the consent of the nominee, is endorsed by three members of the Council and returned to the Secretary on or before the date specified by the Secretary

e) Ten working days prior to the date of the election, the Secretary will provide to all members of the Council an electronic ballot setting out the names of the nominees and a brief description of each nominee referred to in (d). Information accompanying the ballot will indicate that the ballot is to be completed electronically on or before the specified date.

f) All ballots received by the Secretary on or before the date referred to in (e) will be counted and reported by the Secretary to the next meeting of the Council. The Chair of the Nominations Committee will adjudicate any election irregularities. The decision of the Chair of the Nominations Committee will be final.

g) In the event that the two or more nominees with the most votes receive the same number of votes, the Chair of the Nominations Committee will select the Chair by lot.

h) The Chair will normally hold office for a period of 2 years unless removed by a vote of 2/3 of the members of the Council.

i) If the Chair is absent or is incapable of acting for any reason, the Vice-Chair will perform the duties of the Chairperson. The Vice-Chair will also chair the Governance Committee.

j) The Chair of Council will be a non-voting, ex officio member of all Standing Committees of Council.

7.4 Vice-Chair

a) The Vice-Chair will be elected from among members of Council for a term of 2 years as hereinafter provided.

b) An election will be held by May 31st. Term of office will begin July 1st of the year of the member's election.

c) Thirty days prior to the deadline for receipt of nominations, the Secretary will inform all members of Council that nominations for the position of Vice-Chair are being requested and will provide a nomination form for this purpose. The nomination form will request a brief description of the nominee stating the nominee's qualifications for the position of Vice-Chair.

d) A Council member is nominated for the position of Vice-Chair when the nomination form referred to in (c) containing the consent of the nominee, is endorsed by three members of the Council and returned to the Secretary on or before the date specified by the Secretary.

e) Ten working days prior to the date of the election, the Secretary will provide to all members of the Council an electronic ballot setting out the names of the nominees and a brief description of each nominee referred to in (d). Information accompanying the ballot will indicate that the ballot is to be completed electronically on or before the specified date.

f) All ballots received by the Secretary on or before the date referred to in (e) will be counted and reported by the Secretary to the next meeting of the Council. The Chair of the Nominations Committee will adjudicate any election irregularities. The decision of the Chair of the Nominations Committee will be final.

g) In the event that the two or more nominees with the most votes receive the same number of votes, the Chair of the Nominations Committee will select the Vice-Chair by lot.

h) The Vice-Chair will normally hold office for a period of 2 years unless removed by a vote of 2/3 of the members of the Council.

Elections

7.5 The Secretary shall oversee the election of members of the Council.

7.6 Nominations will be made using the electronic form provided by the Secretary, who will confirm the eligibility and willingness of the nominee to stand for election.

7.7 Once the deadline for nominations has passed, the Secretary will conduct elections by making voting available to all eligible voters of Council.

7.8 The election of student and post-doctoral Council members will be overseen by the relevant student association (s) designate.

7.9 If insufficient numbers of nominations are received to fill the vacant positions, those nominated by the deadline will be considered elected by acclamation, and a second call for nominations will be sent out for any remaining vacant positions.

8. Term of Office

8.1 Elected Council members who are faculty will hold office for a term of three years (36 months).

8.2 Elected Council members who are students, graduate students or post-doctoral fellows will hold office for a term of one year (12 months).

9. Vacancies

9.1 If a vacancy occurs among the elected faculty members of Council, on or before the end of the 27th month following the month of election, the body that elected the member shall elect another person to fill the vacancy.

9.2 If a vacancy occurs due to an approved leave (e.g., sabbatical), the body that elected the member shall elect another person to fill the vacancy for the duration of the leave.

9.3 If a vacancy occurs among student members of Council on or before the end of 90 days following the date of election, the body that elected the member shall elect another person to fill the vacancy.

9.4 An election pursuant to this section must be held within 90 days of the vacancy.

9.5 A person elected to fill the vacancy of a member, holds office for the remainder of the term of the member who vacated their office.

MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

10. Quorum

10.1. The quorum of Council shall be 30% of the voting members of the Council as identified in Section 5. In calculating this number, only voting members will be counted.

10.2. If quorum is not reached at a properly constituted (bi-monthly) meeting, the meeting shall be rescheduled for the same time, one week hence. At that meeting the quorum shall be the number of members attending.

10.3. In selecting dates for Council meetings, the Secretary will ensure that 10.2. can be followed.

11. Meetings

11.1 Council shall meet at least five times during the academic year (September-June). Meetings are usually held on the last Wednesday of September, November, January, March, and May. The Chair may call meetings at other times.

11.2 Council meetings shall be open to the public except when Council decides to restrict the meeting to only members of council.

11.3 Special meetings of Council can be called by the Chair or by petition of 30% of the membership of Council. The meeting should be held within 3 weeks.

11.4 The meetings of Council shall be conducted in accordance with the following rules:

11.4.1 Rules of order to be used at meetings of Council and of all committees of Council, shall be those contained in *Procedures for Meetings and Organizations*. (Third Edition by Kerr and King).

11.4.2 Except as hereinafter provided, the powers and duties of the Chair are those expressly or implicitly contained in the rules referred to in 11.4.1.

11.4.3 The Chair shall set the agenda for each meeting of Council and shall present the draft agenda to the meeting for approval.

11.4.4 The Chair shall preside over all meetings of the Council. The Chair's duty is to preserve order and decorum and, subject to appeal, to decide all questions of order. The chair reserves the right to limit discussions in a reasonable matter.

11.4.5 The Chair has no vote except when there has been an equality of votes.

11.5. Conflict of Interest

A conflict of interest exists for a member of Council or a member of a Council committee when, with respect to a matter being considered by Council or the committee:

> The decision being made is such that the member could not reasonably be expected to exercise independent judgment because of the effect the decision would have, or would be likely to have, on the member or a person closely related to or closely associated with the member; or as a result of occupying a position or holding an office in an organization, the person is legally obligated to subordinate the interests of the University to the interests of the organization when dealing with the matter

11.6. The following conflict of interest rules shall apply to members of the Council and members of committees of the Council:

11.6.1 Conflict of interest at Faculty Council Level:

a) Members of Council will exercise independent judgment and may not act as agents of any person or organization. A member of Council will conduct themselves so as to avoid a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest.

b) There are no restrictions on the rights of a council member to participate in a debate on any matter that comes before council. However, a Council member who has a conflict of interest will disclose the conflict when speaking on the matter in council proceedings. A member with a conflict of interest shall abstain from voting.

11.6.2 Conflict of interest at Standing Committee Level:

a) The Committee chair or a member of a committee is entitled to address concerns regarding a perceived conflict of interest of any member who serves on the committee.

b) The Committee chair or a member of a committee is entitled to ask another member who has or is perceived to have a conflict of interest to withdraw from the deliberations of the committee or to refrain from voting on a matter before the committee.

c) A standing committee member will abstain from voting on matters which they have a conflict of interest. When appropriate, the member will withdraw from all committee deliberations with respect to the matter.

If a request referred to in (b) to withdraw from the deliberations of the committee or to refrain from voting on a matter before the committee is denied by the member to whom the request is directed, the fact that the request was made and was denied will be recorded in that portion of the committee's report relating to the matter.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND POWERS OF THE COUNCIL

12. Responsibilities of the Council

As indicated in the University Council By-Laws and Regulations (March 2012) Part 3 Section V. 2. A., the Faculty Council of the College of Medicine, subject to the provisions of the University Act of 1995, the Bylaws of the University Council, and the general control of the University Council, shall have charge of matters of research, scholarship and discipline within the College.

13. Powers of the Council:

13.1 Among other duties delegated by the University Council to Faculty Council are the following:

a) To make recommendations to the University Council concerning the requirements for admission to programs offered by the College or the School;

b) To establish and report to the University Council the number of students who may be admitted to the College or program of study, and to report to the University Council the number of students admitted each year;

c) To make recommendations to the University Council concerning the addition, deletion or modification of courses and programs of study, and concerning the requirements for successful completion of such programs;

d) To establish and publish rules and methods for the progression and graduation of students and for their suspension or requirement to withdraw permanently for failure to meet the requirements for progression;

e) Subject to the University Council's examination regulations, to establish and publish rules and standards with respect to the assessment and examination of students in courses and programs offered by the College or the School;

f) To make decisions concerning the progression of students, and concerning their suspension or requirement to withdraw, in accordance with the rules approved by the Council, and to hear appeals of such decisions;

g) To approve candidates for degrees, diplomas and certificates;

h) To approve candidates for scholarships, prizes, other awards and honors;

i) To establish a mechanism for appointing hearing boards to hear allegations of academic misconduct as provided for under the University Council's regulations governing academic misconduct;

j) To consider appeals from students in accordance with the University Council's regulations governing student appeals in academic matters.

Any of the above duties may be delegated by Council to the appropriate standing committee.

13.2 The Chair or the Secretary shall transmit to the University Council for consideration and review all matters which belong to the care of the University Council or which from their nature concern more than one college or school.

13.3 The Council shall establish bylaws for the purpose of regulating the conduct of its meetings and proceedings and may establish standing committees and their terms of reference. Authority that has been delegated by the University Council to the Council, either in accordance with the University Council Bylaws or through policies approved by University Council, may not be further delegated without the permission of the University Council.

13.4 The Council shall keep a record of its proceedings, and this record shall be open to any member of the faculty of the College. A copy of the proceedings shall, upon request, be furnished by the Secretary to the Chair of the University Council and/or to the President.

14. Decisions of the Council

14.1 Within 10 working days of every meeting of Council, the Secretary shall provide to the Council, by the means normally used by Council to distribute information to its members, an electronic copy of the minutes of that meeting.

14.2 At the same time, an electronic copy of the minutes will be made available to all student and faculty members of the College by the means normally used by the College to distribute information.

14.3 Notwithstanding any other provision of these By-Laws and Regulations, the following decisions of Council are not to be implemented until they are approved by University Council or until 12 months have passed following the end of the University fiscal year in which the decision was made:

14.3.1 a decision to change academic and other qualifications required for admission as a student in the College;

14.3.2 a decision to change the number of undergraduate students who may be admitted to a program of study in the College;

14.3.3 a decision concerning addition, deletion or modification of courses and programs of study, and concerning the requirements for successful completion of such programs;

14.3.4 a decision to authorize the establishment of any department, school, division, chair, institute or endowed chair;

14.3.5 a decision to authorize the disestablishment of any department, school, division, chair, institute or endowed chair;

14.3.6 a decision to authorize any educational affiliation or federation; and a decision to authorize the dissolution of any educational affiliation or federation.

PART IV

Standing Committees of Council

15. General Rules

The following general rules will apply to all standing committees of Council:

15.1. Council has the power to establish committees to facilitate its work. There is no requirement that these committees be composed entirely of Council members. All voting faculty members of Council committees must be Faculty in the College of Medicine. Faculty Council Standing Committees ideally should have broad representation from College distributed sites and campuses. All voting student members of Council and/or Council committees must be students of the College of Medicine or the College of Graduate Studies.

15.2. The committees specified in this section of the Bylaws are created as standing committees.

15.3. The Governance Committee will nominate to Council the members and the chair of the Nominations Committee.

15.4. The Nominations Committee will nominate the members and the chairs of Council committees as part of their annual list of appointments, with the exception of those committees where the incumbent of a specific office is assigned the chair position. The term of a committee chair nominated by the nominations committee is up to two years, renewable once.

15.5. The Nominations Committee will present its nominations to the Council at the May meeting and otherwise as required when vacancies occur, as per the terms of reference of the Nominations Committee.

15.6. The Nominations Committee will present the slate to Council with sufficient names to fill the available positions. The Chair of Council will call for any further nominations from the floor. If there are none, the slate will be elected. If there are nominations from the floor, an election will be held within two weeks for only those committees that have received nominations exceeding the available positions. A ballot will be prepared and distributed by the Secretary. The ballots will include the names of the slate presented by the Nominations Committee and of the nominations from the floor indicating the Council status of each. It will indicate the positions to be filled and the eligibility requirements for the positions. Voters will indicate choices up to the number of positions available. Eligible candidates with the greatest number of votes will be declared elected.

15.7. Resource personnel and offices providing administrative support are non-voting members of the committees and are not counted when determining the quorum of a committee meeting. Each committee has the power to recruit non-voting resource members as deemed necessary.

15.8. Terms of office for Council committee members will begin July 1 unless otherwise provided by the Nominations Committee.

15.9. The term of office on a standing committee is normally three years for faculty members and two years for undergraduate, postgraduate, and graduate students. Generally, faculty members may be reappointed but cannot serve more than two consecutive terms. Student members may serve one term only except where indicated. No faculty or student should normally be on more than two standing committees. Student members must be in current good academic standing in their program. The college considers a student to be in good academic standing if they:

1. are registered in a University program;
2. are not experiencing academic difficulty in their course work; and
3. have not had any major professionalism or academic misconduct concerns.

15.10. Administrative officers (i.e., the Dean, vice deans, associate deans, assistant deans and directors) will remain on standing committees where their membership is required while they hold office.

15.11. Unless otherwise specified, meetings of standing committees of Council shall be held at the call of the Committee chair as often as required to conduct the business of the committee during each academic year.

15.12. Standing committees should meet at least twice per year unless otherwise specified.

15.13. Unless otherwise stated the quorum for standing committee meetings is a majority of the voting members (50% + 1). The quorum for Bylaws and Nominations Committee is two-thirds of the voting members.

15.14. The procedural guidelines for meetings of a standing committee shall be identical to those for Council meetings unless otherwise specified in the committee's terms of reference.

15.15 All committees of Council must report to Council through their chairs on the recommendations and outcomes of committee decisions, at least once per year.

15.16 Members of standing committees are expected to commit to attend meetings to ensure that the work of the committee can proceed and that quorum requirements are met. Members who miss three consecutive meetings may be requested to resign by the Chair of the committee after consultation with the Chair of Council.

15.17 Proxy votes or alternate members are not allowed on any committee or sub-committee of council.

15.18 Sub-Committees may be created with the understanding that membership must include at least two committee members.

STANDING COMMITTEES TERMS OF REFERENCE

16. Undergraduate Academic Appeals Committee

The purpose of the Academic Appeals Committee is to hear and decide upon biomedical or medical undergraduate student appeals concerning all academic matters.

16.1 Membership

- Committee chair
- One faculty member from the College.
- One student member from the same program (Medical or Biomedical), who shall be in a higher year than the student appealing, except in the case of a final year student, where the student member shall be from a different year or program.

16.1.1. Other than the Committee chair, the two members will be appointed on an ad-hoc basis by the Dean or designate.

The appellant will be notified of the membership of the committee and may inform the Dean of any member believed to be in conflict.

16.1.2. The following shall be excluded from committee membership:

- Members of the Student Academic Management Committee;
- Members of the Phase Committee appropriate to the appellant's student year;

- The Dean, or any Vice, Associate, Assistant Dean or Director of the College; and
- The course chair, instructor, coordinator, or department head whose evaluation is under appeal.

16.2. Terms of Reference

16.2.1. The Academic Appeals Committee shall hear and decide upon biomedical or medical undergraduate student appeals concerning all academic matters.

16.2.2. The chair of the Student Academic Management Committee or Undergraduate Biomedical Sciences Committee as appropriate, shall provide the chair of the Academic Appeals Committee and the appellant student with a written summary of the reasons for the unfavorable recommendation.

16.2.3. Appeal action shall be initiated within 30 days from the date that a final decision by the Student Academic Management Committee or Undergraduate Biomedical Sciences Committee as appropriate, has been communicated to the student.

16.2.4. Members of the Academic Appeals Committee shall be guided by the University document ‘Procedures for Student Appeals in Academic Matters’ and also make that document available to all appellants.

16.2.5. In reaching its decision, the Academic Appeals Committee shall limit itself to consideration of the information available at the time of the decision under appeal. However, should new information, which the Academic Appeals Committee deems relevant, emerge during the course of the appeal, the Academic Appeals Committee may recommend that the Student Academic Management Committee or Undergraduate Biomedical Sciences Committee as appropriate, reconsider the matter.

16.2.6. Recommendations by the Academic Appeals Committee shall be of the same nature as those made by the Student Academic Management Committee or Undergraduate Biomedical Sciences Committee as appropriate, ranging from unconditional promotion to dismissal and including the requirement to pursue remedial study. If remedial study is recommended, then such study should be administered through the Student Academic Management Committee or Undergraduate Biomedical Sciences Committee as appropriate, unless otherwise stated.

16.2.7. In recognition that the timing of decisions may be a consideration, the Academic Appeals Committee shall make reasonable effort to accommodate the University and College schedule, but not to the detriment of a fair judgment.

16.2.8. Decisions shall be by a simple majority vote.

16.2.9. The Academic Appeals Committee shall report its findings to the appellant, the Dean, and the chair of the Student Academic Management Committee or Undergraduate Biomedical Sciences Committee as appropriate, in writing.

16.2.10. The Academic Appeals Committee will note the number of appeals and their outcomes in their annual report to Faculty Council, ensuring that student anonymity is maintained.

17. Admissions Committee

The purpose of the Admissions Committee (AC) is to oversee all aspects of, and to recommend policies and procedures regarding, the admission of students to the Undergraduate Medical Education (UGME) program, leading to the Medical Doctor (MD) degree in the College of Medicine.

17.1 <u>Membership</u>

a) Voting members:

- Committee chair, Director of Admissions
- The Dean or designate
- Director of Northern Medical Services
- Site Director from a Distributed Campus
- Rural Physician Representative
- Seven College of Medicine Faculty (including at least one from Regina)
- University of Regina Faculty of Science Representative
- Senior Lead, Indigenous Initiatives and Programming
- Three undergraduate medical students
- Saskatchewan Associate of Rural Municipalities (SARM) Director
- Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities (SUMA) Director

b) Ex-Officio/Non-Voting Members:

- UGME Manager
- Student Enrolment Services Division Designate
- Admissions Coordinator
- The Chairperson may invite non-AC members (staff, student, faculty, community, expert) to address specific issues, or act as a resource as required.

17.2 <u>Terms of Reference</u>

17.2.1. The AC is responsible to develop criteria for student selection and to develop and implement effective policies and procedures, and make decisions about medical student application, selection and admission.

17.2.2. Using the admission requirements and selection criteria approved by the Faculty Council of the College, the AC will independently select students to offer admission to the MD program.

17.2.3. The AC will regularly evaluate the admission process and outcomes for students in the program to ensure success and to eliminate real and potential barriers to the admission process, to ensure that the strategic goals of the College, USask and the needs of the diverse resident population of the province of Saskatchewan are being addressed.

17.2.4. The AC is responsible to make informed and data driven recommendations for admission requirements to Faculty Council of the College.

17.2.5. Final approval of any policy changes concerning admission requirements is the responsibility of Faculty Council.

17.2.6. The AC will perform an annual review and update of the Applicant Information document (*Admission Policy*) and present to the Faculty Council of the College for approval prior to July 1st of each year.

18. Budget, Planning, and Priorities Committee

The purpose of this committee is to coordinate recommendations referred to it from committees of Council, taking into account academic, fiscal, and other factors in forming recommendations to Council.

18.1 Membership

a) Voting members:

- Committee chair – An elected University Faculty member of Council
- The Dean (or designate)
- Three University Faculty Members of the College, at least 2 of whom shall be elected members of Council

- Three Medical Faculty Members
- One Undergraduate Student (Medical or Biomedical Sciences)
- One Graduate Student or Postdoctoral fellow
- One Post-Graduate resident trainee (PGME trainee)

b) Ex-Officio/Non-Voting Members:

- Others at the discretion of the Committee chair

18.2. Terms of Reference

18.2.1. To consider the main elements of the operating budget and to make recommendations to the Dean and inform Council, on budgetary policies and decisions.

18.2.2. To consider long-term budgetary matters and to advise the Dean and inform Council, on measures to ensure the long-term fiscal integrity of the College.

18.2.3. To consider long-term budgetary matters and to advise the Dean and inform Council, on measures to ensure the long-term fiscal integrity of the College.

18.2.4. To make recommendations to the Dean regarding the priorities of the College and to inform Council of those recommendations.

18.2.5. To make recommendations to the Dean for College-wide planning activities and studies and to inform Council of those recommendations.

18.2.6. To integrate recommendations referred to it from other Council committees, taking into account academic, fiscal, and other factors in forming recommendations to Council.

18.2.7. This committee shall meet at least four times per year.

19. Governance Committee

The purpose of the Governance Committee is to review the Bylaws of Council and to provide recommendations to Council of revisions to the Bylaws and other governance issues/aspects.

19.1 Membership

a) Voting members:

- Committee Chair – (Vice Chair of Council)
- Five members of the College, of whom at least, one will be an elected member of Council: two members from biomedical sciences: and at least one medical faculty member of the College.

19.2 Terms of Reference

19.2.1. To review the Bylaws of Council and recommend to Council revisions to the Bylaws and other governance aspects within the College; to review the membership, powers and duties of committees of Council and to recommend to Council revisions to the membership, powers and duties of committees.

19.2.2. To ensure the activities of Council and its committees are in accord with its Bylaws, and in accord with its responsibilities and powers under the University Council Bylaws and Regulations and under the University of Saskatchewan Act 1995.

19.2.3. To nominate members of the Nominations Committee.

20. Continuing Medical Education Committee

The purpose of this committee is to provide advice to the Associate Dean, Continuing Medical Education for program planning, delivery and evaluation of the Continuing Medical Education Program

20.1 <u>Membership</u>

a) Voting members:

- Committee chair (Associate Dean, Continuing Medical Education)
- The Dean (or designate)
- Continuing Education Lead, Rehabilitation Sciences
- Three faculty members

b) Ex-Officio/Non-Voting Members:

- Patient Family Partner
- Indigenous Representative

20.2 <u>Terms of Reference</u>

20.2.1. To advise the Associate Dean of Continuing Medical Education with respect to the needs of Saskatchewan physicians relative to Continuing Professional Learning.

20.2.2. To provide guidelines to the Associate Dean of Continuing Medical Education for program planning, delivery and evaluation.

21. Curriculum Committee

The purpose of the Curriculum Committee is to oversee the medical education program as a whole and to be responsible for the overall design, management, integration, evaluation, and enhancement of a coherent and coordinated medical curriculum.

21.1 <u>Membership</u>

a) Voting Members:

- Committee chair (Assistant Dean, Curriculum)
- The Dean (or designate)
- Associate Dean, Undergraduate Medical Education

- Director, Academic UGME
- Chairs of the UGME Years 1 and 2 Committees (One voting member per year)
- Co-Chairs of Clerkship Committees (Year 3 and Year 4/5 Chairs; one voting member each)
- The Senior Vice-President Academic, Student Medical Society of Saskatchewan
- The Junior Vice-President Academic, Student Medical Society of Saskatchewan
- One (1) student representative appointed by the Student Curriculum Review Committee

Members-at-large: Up to 7 additional faculty members to ensure the curriculum committee voting membership includes: 1 member each of generalist, medical and surgical disciplines; and 1 member from the biomedical sciences faculty; 2 members from Regina; and, one 1 representative from another distributed site

b) Elected Members:

- A Curriculum Committee Vice-Chair and a Secretary will be elected by majority vote of the committee membership, for a two-year term, renewable once.

c) Ex-Officio/Non-Voting Members:

- ICT Manager, College of Medicine Information Systems
- Clinical Medicine Liaison, Health Sciences Library
  Manager, Undergraduate Medical Education
- Assessment Specialist(s)
- Curriculum Specialist(s)
- Academic Support Specialist
- Representative, Indigenous Health Committee
- Representative from the Academic Support Team

- Other identified administrative support personnel as determined by consensuses of the committee

21.2 Terms of Reference

This committee will provide reports and/or advice related to the UGME Curriculum to Faculty Council. This Committee's functions and responsibilities are to:

21.2.1. Ensure that the UGME curriculum uses formally adopted medical education program objectives to guide the selection of curriculum content, to review and revise the curriculum, and to establish the basis for evaluating programmatic effectiveness. The learning objectives of each required course and clerkship are linked to medical education program objectives;

21.2.2. Be responsible for the detailed development, design, and implementation of all components of the medical education program, including the medical education program objectives, the learning objectives for each required curricular segment, instructional and assessment methods appropriate for the achievement of those objectives, content and content sequencing, ongoing review and updating of content, and evaluation of course, clerkship, and teacher quality;

21.2.3. Provide ongoing monitoring, review and revision of the program objectives, learning objectives, content, and instructional and assessment methods to ensure that the curriculum functions effectively as a whole to achieve medical education program objectives;

21.2.4. Use a variety of outcome data, including national norms of accomplishment, to demonstrate the extent to which medical students are achieving medical education program objectives and to enhance medical education program quality. These data are collected during program enrolment and after program completion;

21.2.5. Monitor and ensure completion by all medical students of required clinical experiences in the medical education program and identify remedies for any existing shortcomings; and

21.2.6. Ensure that the medical curriculum includes comparable educational experiences and equivalent methods of assessment across all locations within a given course and clerkship to ensure that all medical students achieve the same medical education program objectives.

21.2.7. In conjunction with the College administration and leadership, ensure the development and implementation of effective policies and procedures regarding the amount of time medical students spend in required activities, including the total number of hours medical students are required to spend in clinical and educational activities during clerkships.

22. Nominations Committee

The purpose of the Nominations Committee is to make recommendations to Faculty Council for the members and the chairs of all standing committees of Council and committees of the Dean.

22.1 Membership

a) Voting Members:

- Committee chair (Normally the past chair of Faculty Council)
- Seven Faculty Members to be appointed by the Governance Committee

22.2 Terms of Reference

22.2.1 To make recommendations to Faculty Council for the members and the chairs of all standing committees of Council and members of committees of the Dean at the last Council meeting in each academic year.

22.2.2 In those standing committees where student/trainee representation is indicated, the selection shall be made on the following basis:

22.2.2.1. Where more than one trainee is indicated, they are to be from different programs unless otherwise noted in the committee's membership.

22.2.2.2 Candidates are normally suggested to the Nominations Committee by their respective student/trainee society/association.

23. Postgraduate Medical Education Committee

The purpose of the Postgraduate Medical Education (PGME) Committee is to support the Postgraduate Associate Dean and PGME office in planning, organizing, and evaluating all aspects of residency education to meet accreditation standards and continuous quality improvement, as per the national accreditation standards for PGME (Std 1.3.2)

23.1 Membership

(a) Voting Members

- Committee chair (Associate Dean, PGME)
- Dean (or designate)
- All Program Directors, but at least one designated Director from each of the following groups, ideally chosen to have representation from across the province
- Medical Specialties (Internal Medicine, General Internal Medicine, Nephrology, Rheumatology, Respirology, Cardiology and Medical Oncology)

- Surgical Specialties (General Surgery, Neurosurgery, Orthopedic Surgery and Surgical Foundations)
- Family Medicine overall program director (or one of the Site representatives)
- Psychiatry Subspecialties (Psychiatry, Child & Adolescent Psychiatry and Forensic Psychiatry)
- Any other 5 program directors
- Anesthesiology, Clinician Investigator Program, Dermatology, Diagnostic Radiology, Emergency Medicine, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Ophthalmology, Neurology, Diagnostic & Clinical Pathology, Pediatrics, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Public Health and Preventative Medicine and Area of focused Competence Program Director(s)
- Residents (two RDoS representatives)

b) Ex-Officio/Non-Voting Members:

- Associate Dean, Continuing Medical Education
- SMSS Representative (Normally the President of SMSS)
- Regina Faculty Member
- SMA representative
- Ministry of Health representative
- CPSS Registrar or Delegate
- SMA representative eg. Ministry of Health (x2)
- Public Member
- Program Administrator
- Resource Personnel
- HR Manager, College of Medicine
- Director, Administration and Finance or Delegate
- Administrative support

23.3 Terms of Reference

The terms of reference for this committee will be subject to the accreditation policies and criteria of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, and of the College of Family Physicians of Canada. Consequently, the terms of reference for this committee are subject to the general requirements issued from time to time by the respective accreditation bodies.

23.3.1 To maintain, review and promulgate, where necessary, the requirements of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, and the administrative guidelines and rules for the operation of postgraduate medical training programs introduced by the College of Family Physicians of Canada.

23.3.2 To advise the PGME Office on the allocation of training positions to the approved PGME programs.

23.3.3 To facilitate appropriate agreements between the USask and the appropriate district health boards.

23.3.4 To assist in the accreditation process for the approved PGME programs.

23.3.5 To deal with other postgraduate medical education matters that arise from time to time which are related to the College.

23.3.6 To facilitate licensure and practice opportunities for graduates of our postgraduate medical programs.

24. Postgraduate Appeals Adjudication Committee (PAAC)`

The Associated Dean PGME will establish a standing larger pool (Appeal Adjudication Pool; AAP) of PGME Program Directors, Faculty and Residents from which can be drawn 4-person PGME Appeals Adjudication Boards (AAB), each selected as needed to hear appeals launched by aggrieved individuals within the College's PGME programs.

24.1 <u>Membership</u>**:**

- Two (2) Co-Chairs: The Associate Dean PGME will appoint two University faculty members of the College as Co-Chairs to the PAAC. One Co-Chair must be a Family Medicine faculty member and the other a Royal College faculty member.

24.2 <u>Appeal Adjudication Pool (AAP) Membership</u>**:**

- All current PGME Program Directors
- 5 College of Medicine Faculty members. Term of three years.
- 5 Residents representing Resident Doctors of Saskatchewan (RDoS) from different programs will be selected by RDoS. Minimum one-year term, maximum of three years.
- An AAP member may only serve on one AAB per year

24.3 <u>Appeals Adjudication Board (AAB) Membership:</u>

- Committee chair (non-voting): One of the two Co-Chairs of the PAAC, selected by the Associate Dean PGME as having no conflict of interest with respect to the appeal.
- Two (2) faculty members: including one of whom is a program director and one who is not.
- One (1) resident
- To avoid conflict of interest, members selected to serve on an AAB may not be based in the same residency training program as the appellant.

24.4 Terms of Reference

24.4.1 Upon receipt of the notice of appeal, the PGME Office will notify the Co-Chairs of the PAAC of the notice of appeal.

24.4.2 The Co-Chair of the PAAC selected to hear the appeal shall independently constitute the AAB for each appeal to avoid a conflict of interest.

24.4.3 Postgraduate appeals will be heard by the AAB.

24.4.4 Members of the PAAC and all convened AABs shall be guided by the PGME policy, 'Resident Appeals'.

25. Research Committee

The purpose of this committee is to provide council with input into the strategic research plans and priorities of the college.

25.1 Membership

a) Voting members:

- Committee chair
- The Dean (or designate)
- Assistant Dean Graduate Studies
- Six faculty members of the College, at least 3 of whom shall be University Faculty
- One graduate student
- One postdoctoral fellow
- One UGME program student representative
- One PGME program representative

b) Ex-Officio/Non-Voting Members:

- Others at the discretion of the Committee chair

25.2 Terms of Reference

25.2.1 To work in coordination with the Office of the Vice Dean Research (OVDR) to generate a strategic and integrated plan for developing research programs and priorities for the College.

25.2.2 To recommend resource allocation for designated research needs to Faculty Council and the Budget Planning and Priorities Committee of Council.

25.2.3 To recommend communication strategies for research initiatives within and outside the College.

25.2.4 To examine proposals for the establishment of any research institute or core facility, or similar unit, in the College, and to make appropriate recommendations to Faculty Council and the Budget, Planning and Priorities Committee of Council.

26. Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies Committee

The purpose of this committee is to review and make recommendations on processes related to graduate and postdoctoral matters within the College of Medicine.

26.1 Membership

a) Voting Members:

- Committee chair (Assistant Dean, Graduate Studies)
- Chairs (or where appropriate a representative) of all Graduate Programs
- One postdoctoral fellow
- Two graduate students

b) Ex-Officio/Non-Voting Members:

- Grad Program Coordinator

26.2 Terms of Reference

26.2.1 Devise a graduate education and postdoctoral strategy to guide the College in expanding graduate education and postdoctoral productivity.

26.2.2 Align the College's graduate education and postdoctoral strategy policies and procedures with USask policies for graduate and postdoctoral studies.

26.2.3 Develop graduate education and postdoctoral studies processes that contribute to the mandate of the College.

26.2.4 Review and approve recommendations for internal College graduate awards and scholarships.

26.2.5 Ensure timely and robust graduate education and postdoctoral communications (activities and impacts) – internally with the College and externally with various College stakeholders.

26.2.6 Advise College Senior Leadership regarding the resource needs of the College's Graduate Education and Postdoctoral portfolio.

27 Social Accountability Committee

The purpose of this committee is to assist the College in addressing health disparities among underserved and disadvantaged groups and advising the College in directing educational, research and service activities toward priority health concerns of individuals, communities, and regions.

27.1 Membership

a) Voting members:

- Committee chair
- The Dean (or designate)
- Department Head, Community Health and Epidemiology
- Division of Social Accountability Designate (Relevant Physician Lead or other representative)

- At least three faculty members
- At least one student member
- At least one resident member

b) Ex-Officio/Non-Voting Members:

- Additional members-at-large representing specific relevant College subcommittees
- OVDIH Administrative Coordinator
- One to three Division of Social Accountability Staff Members

27.2. Terms of Reference

27.2.1. To advocate for and promote social accountability within the College of Medicine.

27.2.2 To advise on and support the development of social accountability curricula for undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate students and continuing professional learners.

27.2.3 To support and encourage students and faculty in understanding and applying social accountability principles and practice in their education, research, and service undertakings.

27.2.4 To support and advocate for the participation and engagement of communities in the initiatives of the College in a manner that is respectful and mutually beneficial.

27.2.5. To promote strategies to ensure equitable access to the educational programs of the College, and to direct the College's education, research and service activities towards unmet health concerns.

27.2.6. To share information and to obtain feedback about the College's social accountability initiatives through communication with key stakeholders.

27.2.7 Participate in the development and endorsement of a social accountability strategic plan.

27.2.8 Help in meeting accreditation requirements of the College related to social accountability.

27.2.9 Monitor and report on social accountability metrics within the College.

28 Student Academic Management Committee

The purpose of this committee is to make decisions on UGME student progress, promotions, supplementary examinations, and graduation within the MD program; on non-curricular program policies; and on student awards.

28.1 Membership

a) Voting Members:

- Committee chair (Director, Academic UGME)
- Associate Dean, UGME
- Chairs, UGME Years 1 – 4
- Site Coordinators, UGME Years 1-4
- Director, Student Services
- Assistant Dean, Curriculum
- Vice President Academic, Student Medical Society of Saskatchewan (SMSS)
- One student appointed by the SMSS in Year 1 for a 2-year term
- One student appointed by the SMSS in Year 3 for a 2-year term
- Up to three faculty members of the College, normally chosen to ensure geographic representation of major program sites.

b) Ex-Officio/Non-Voting Members:

- Manager, Undergraduate Medical Education
- Assessment Specialist
- Others at the discretion of the Committee chair
- One representative from the College of Dentistry (typically the Associate Dean, College of Dentistry)

28.2 Terms of Reference

28.2.1 To make decisions on student promotions, supplementary examinations, and graduation within the MD program, in accordance with the promotion standards of the undergraduate program, and to provide information on student promotion and graduation to the University via the Teaching, Learning and Student Experience

28.2.2 To make decisions on requests for leave of absence and withdrawal from the MD program, and decisions related to re-entry to the MD program for students who have been on leave or away from the program after withdrawal or any other reason.

28.2.3 In the context of urgent need(s), to avoid unnecessary delays in a student's academic program, the Committee grants the Academic Director, in consultation with the appropriate Year Chair/Site Coordinator and the Associate Dean UGME, the authority to approve student leaves, withdrawals, and student requests for re-entry into the program after brief absences or leaves.

28.2.4 To approve program policies directly related to management and operation of the undergraduate program. Policies which may impact curricular content or processes would need to be approved by the Curriculum Committee.

28.2.5 When uncertainty exists regarding whether a policy should be approved by the Student Academic Management Committee or the Curriculum Committee, the Associate Dean, UGME shall determine the appropriate Committee to approve the policy.

28.2.6 To award scholarships. Unless otherwise directed by the Committee, decisions on awarding scholarships will be delegated to the Undergraduate Awards Committee which will report to the Student Academic Management Committee.

28.2.7 To make decisions about applications from students for advanced standing.

28.2.8 To review and put forward the Technical Standards for the MD Program

29. Biomedical Sciences Committee

To report updates regarding undergraduate courses and programs offered by the Biomedical Sciences through the College of Arts and Sciences.

29.1. Membership

a) Voting Members:

- Committee chair (A faculty member from one of the biomedical sciences departments)
- Dean (or designate)
- Department Head, Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology and Immunology
- Department Head, Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology
- Undergraduate Chair, Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology and Immunology
- Undergraduate Chair, Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology
- One faculty member from each of the biomedical science departments

29.2 Terms of Reference

29.2.1 To report new, and revisions to, undergraduate course offerings and programs offered by the Biomedical Sciences through the College of Arts and Sciences.

30. Professional Conduct Committee

The Professional Conduct Committee shall provide advice to the Associate Dean

UGME and the Director, School of Rehabilitation Sciences, regarding concerns with medical or School of Rehabilitation Sciences student professional behavior.

30.1. Membership

a) Voting members:

- Two physician faculty, ideally with at least one having experience in the assessment of professionalism through prior or current participation in relevant activities of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan or similar regulatory bodies or through educational program leadership.
- One Biomedical Science faculty member and Director (or designate) Master of Physician Assistant Program (MPAS) from the College of Medicine.
- Two representatives from the School of Rehabilitation Sciences ()
- The chair shall be selected from among the Committee membership with input from the Associate Dean UGME and the Director (or designate), School of Rehabilitation Sciences.

30.2. Terms of Reference

30.2.1. The Professional Conduct Committee shall provide advice and recommendations to the Associate Dean UGME and the Director School of Rehabilitation Sciences, regarding concerns with medical or School of Rehabilitation Sciences students professional behavior.

30.2.2. The Professional Conduct Committee functions and responsibilities shall be to:

30.2.2.1 Review instances of alleged unprofessional behavior by medical students as described in the *Procedures for Concerns with Medical Student Professional Behavior* and by School of Rehabilitation Science students as described in the Procedure for Concerns with Rehabilitation Sciences Student Professional Behaviour.

30.2.2.2 Determine whether a formal hearing of the Professional Conduct Committee is required when there are allegations of unprofessional behavior by a student.

30.2.2.3 Where required convene a formal Professionalism Hearing Board to adjudicate concerns of alleged unprofessional behavior by medical or School of Rehabilitation Science students and recommend remediation if unprofessional behavior is determined.

30.2.2.4 In cases where a critical incident of academic misconduct is reported, the Professional Conduct Committee shall serve as the College's Professionalism Hearing Board as designated by the Dean.

PART V

Non-Council College Committees with Council Participation

The Nominations Committee will nominate individuals for memberships on Non-Council College Committees.

31. Faculty and Staff Award Nomination Committee

The Committee considers all matters related to the nomination of faculty and staff awards.

31.1 Membership

(a) Voting Members:

- Committee chair (Dean or designate)

- Five to seven members of the College with faculty that shall represent a distribution of rank and discipline.

(b) Ex-Officio/Non-Voting:

- Others at the discretion of the Committee chair

31.2 Terms of Reference

The Committee considers all matters related to the nomination of faculty and staff for awards including those of College, University, provincial, national and international scope.

32. College Review Committee

To consider all matters related to faculty tenure, promotion, merit awards and other matters specifically assigned to this committee as outlined within the University of Saskatchewan Faculty Association (USFA) Collective Agreement

31.1 Membership

- Committee chair: Dean (or designate)
- A minimum of six and a maximum of twelve tenured University faculty with current appointments in the College: The faculty shall represent a distribution of rank and discipline.

31.2 Term of Office

Faculty will serve a maximum of a three-year term, with an understanding that faculty may serve again after a three-year absence.

31.3 Terms of Reference

Terms of reference and of quorum are identified in the current Collective Agreement between USask and USFA, in the article entitled ‘Tenure’.

Agenda Item: 5.2

University of Saskatchewan

REQUEST FOR DECISION

Committee Name: Governance Committee, University Council
Date: October 23, 2025
Presented by: Susan Detmer, Chair, Governance Committee

Subject: Nomination to the Nominations Committee of Council

MOTION

It is recommended by the Governance Committee that Council appoint Lori Bradford, College of Engineering, to the Nominations Committee for a term beginning immediately and lasting until June 30, 2028.

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

The Nominations Committee of Council requires one additional member due to the expansion of this committee from nine members to 10 that was adopted by Council at its meeting on June 12, 2025. As such, this nomination is not for a replacement of a member, but is for an entirely new position. The *Council Bylaws and Regulations* task the Governance Committee with "Nominating the members and chair of the Nominations Committee of Council to University Council."

The *Council Bylaws and Regulations* say the Nominations Committee is composed of "Ten elected members of Council, not more than three members from Arts and Science and not more than two members from each of the other colleges."

The current membership of the Nominations Committee is as follows:

Name	College / School	Term Ending
Reza Fotouhi (Chair)	Engineering	June 30, 2026
Jason Perepelkin	Pharmacy and Nutrition	June 30, 2028
Marcella Ogenchuck	Nursing	June 30, 2027
Carolyn Augusta	Edwards School of Business	June 30, 2027
Rachel Engler-Stringer	Medicine	June 30, 2026
Pierre-François Noppen	Arts and Science	June 30, 2026
Jamesy Patrick	Law	June 30, 2028
Keith Walker	Education	June 30, 2026
Craig Wilson	Edwards School of Business	June 30, 2026

CONSULTATION

The Governance Committee discussed this matter at its meeting on October 14, 2025, and recommends that the position be filled by Lori Bradford of the Ron and Jane Graham School of Professional Development in the College of Engineering.

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

REQUEST FOR DECISION

Committee Name: Nominations Committee, University Council
Date: October 23, 2025
Presented by: Reza Fotouhi, Chair, Nominations Committee

Subject: Council Committee Vacancies

MOTION

That Council approve the nominations described in the attached report, effective October 23, 2025.

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

The Nominations Committee is tasked with putting forward nominations for Council's approval to fill vacancies that arise throughout the year on Council committees and for vacancies in the position of chair on Council committees. The terms of reference (as articulated in the *Council Bylaws*) for these committees set forth various requirements for membership, such as having a certain number of Council members on a committee.

The Nominations Committee has reviewed the membership of Council committees and is submitting a list of nominees to Council for approval to fill the various vacancies.

Through the Governance Office, the Nomination Committee issued a call-for-interest to the General Academic Assembly, inviting volunteers to serve on these committees. Volunteers are considered first in determining the list of nominees. The Nominations Committee attempts to include individuals who are broadly representative of disciplines across the university, and prioritizes equity, diversity, and inclusion in representation. This prioritization is in line with the terms of reference for the Nominations Committee as set out in the *Council Bylaws*.

ATTACHMENTS

List of Council Committees and Nominees (with new nominees highlighted in yellow)

List of Council Committees and Nominees

Academic Programs Committee

Eleven members of the General Academic Assembly, at least five of whom will be elected members of Council, normally one of whom will be chair. One sessional lecturer.

Voting Members of the Committee

General Academic Assembly Members

Jennifer Lang	Arts and Science
Jan Gelech	Arts and Science
Lori McKee	Education
Yannick Tremblay	Medicine
Regina Taylor-Gjevre	Medicine
Valerie Caron	School of Rehabilitation Sciences

Council Members

Carolyn Augusta	Edwards
Helen Vandenberg	Nursing
Paul Jones (Chair)	SENS
Janet Luimes	Nursing
Roy Dobson	Pharmacy and Nutrition

Sessional Lecturer

Pearson Ahiahonu	Sessional Lecturer	Until June 30, 2026

Ex Officio and other members

Marjorie Delbaere	Acting Vice-Provost, Students & Learning
Salome Ries	Acting Associate Vice-Provost & University Registrar
Norah Jacob	USSU (VP Academic Affairs)
Mandela Alema	GSA (VP Academic & Student Affairs)

Planning and Priorities Committee

Eleven members of the General Academic Assembly, at least six of whom will be elected members of Council, normally one of whom will be chair. One sessional lecturer. One dean appointed by Council.

Voting Members of the Committee

General Academic Assembly Members

Brooke Milne	Dean, Arts & Science
David Williams	Edwards School of Business
Kerry Mansell	Pharmacy and Nutrition
Volker Gerdts	WCVM/ VIDO
Stella Spriet	Arts and Science
Venkatesh Meda	Engineering

Council Members

Claire Card	WCVM
Rainer Dick	Arts and Science
Jay Kalra	Medicine
Angela Lieverse (Vice-Chair)	Arts and Science
Jaswant Singh	WCVM
Christian Willenborg (Chair)	Agriculture and Bioresources

Sessional Lecturer

Anne Sloboda	Sessional Lecturer	Until June 30, 2026

Ex Officio and other members

Patti McDougall	Interim Provost and Vice-President Academic
Terry Fonstad	Designate for VP Research
Greg Fowler	Vice-President, Administration & Chief Operating Officer
Angela Jaime	Vice-Provost, Indigenous Engagement
Owen Deis	GSA (VP Finance & Operations)
Lindsay Carlson	USSU (VP Operations & Finance)

Teaching, Learning, and Academic Resources Committee

Eleven members of the General Academic Assembly, at least five of whom will be elected members of Council, normally one of whom will be chair. One sessional lecturer.

Voting Members of the Committee

General Academic Assembly Members

Natacha Hogan (Vice-Chair)	Agriculture and Bioresources
Gurpreet Kaur Aulakh	WCVM
Melanie Hamilton	Education
Maha Kumaran	Library
Ken MacKenzie	Arts and Science
Greg Malin	Medicine

Council Members

Ralph Deters (Chair)	Arts and Science
Kate Congreves	Agriculture and Bioresources
John Gjevre	Medicine
Natasha Hubbard Murdoch	Nursing
Marguerite Koole	Education

Sessional Lecturer

Corinne Bar Gar	Sessional Lecturer	Until June 30, 2026

Ex Officio and other members

Marjorie Delbaere	Acting Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning
Norah Jacob	USSU (VP Academic Affairs)
Biraj Saha	GSA (VP External Affairs)

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

REQUEST FOR DECISION

Committee Name: Nominations Committee, University Council
Date: October 23, 2025
Presented by: Reza Fotouhi, Chair, Nominations Committee

Subject: Nomination to the Review Committee for the Dean of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine

MOTION

That Council approve the nomination of Trever Crowe to the review committee for the Dean of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine.

SUMMARY

The *Procedures for Search and Review for Senior Administrators* require that decanal reviews have a member of the General Academic Assembly selected by Council who holds a senior administrative position in the university and who is not a member of the college where the review is taking place. The Nominations Committee is tasked with putting forward a name for consideration by Council.

After reviewing the list of eligible persons to be nominated for this position, the Nominations Committee is recommending the following person serve on the Review Committee for the Dean of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine as this senior administrator:

- Trever Crowe (Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Studies, College of Agriculture and Bioresources)

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

REQUEST FOR DECISION

Committee Name: Nominations Committee, University Council
Date: October 23, 2025
Presented by: Reza Fotouhi, Chair, Nominations Committee

Subject: Nomination to the Review Committee of the Dean of the College of Nursing

MOTION

That Council approve the nomination of Joel Lanovaz to the review committee for the Dean of the College of Nursing.

SUMMARY

The *Procedures for Search and Review for Senior Administrators* require that decanal reviews have a member of the General Academic Assembly selected by Council who holds a senior administrative position in the university and who is not a member of the college where the review is taking place. The Nominations Committee is tasked with putting forward a name for consideration by Council.

After reviewing the list of eligible persons to be nominated for this position, the Nominations Committee is recommending the following person serve on the Review Committee for the Dean of the College of Nursing as this senior administrator:

- Joel Lanovaz (Associate Dean, Academic, College of Kinesiology)

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO COUNCIL
October 2025

USASK LAUNCHES TWO FIRST-IN-SASKATCHEWAN REHABILITATION SCIENCE TRAINING PROGRAMS

Two new programs have been launched in the School of Rehabilitation Science in the University of Saskatchewan's College of Medicine. Learners can now apply to be part of the province's first occupational therapy and speech-language pathology training programs. USask plays a vital role in educating the health-care professionals needed by the people of Saskatchewan. This new programming reflects our commitment to advancing health education to address the evolving challenges faced by communities throughout the province. The Government of Saskatchewan committed approximately $17.8 million to develop the Master of Occupational Therapy and the Master of Speech-Language Pathology programs.

The School of Rehabilitation Science will be the first in Canada to have occupational therapy, speech-language pathology and physical therapy programs housed together with harmonized programs. Twelve faculty members, including inaugural program chairs, have been recruited to lead curriculum development and initiate research programs this fall.

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION FORUM REFLECTS ON THE PAST DECADE

Ten years ago, USask hosted Building Reconciliation: Universities Answering the TRC's Calls to Action, a first-of-its-kind national forum.

In 2017, we launched the Internal Truth and Reconciliation Forum to provide an opportunity for students, staff, and faculty to come together, reflect, and move forward in advancing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. Later gifted the name māmowi āsohtētān ("Let's Cross this Together"), the forum has continued annually as an open gathering for the entire USask community, with this year's event held on Sept. 26. This year's forum aligned with the International Decade of Indigenous Languages, focusing on the role USask plays in the revitalization of Indigenous languages in Saskatchewan and Canada. Knowledge and language keeper Dr. Kevin wâsakâyâsiw Lewis (ipkDoc), assistant professor in the Department of Curriculum Studies in the College of Education, shared his expertise and experience at the forum, championing immersion school and culture camps as having a critical role in language revitalization.

Thank you to everyone who takes part in these annual forums and engages in this critical work.

WCVM CELEBRATES OPENING OF VITAL ANIMAL HEALTH CARE TOOLS

USask's Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) is celebrating the opening of a new magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machine and a linear accelerator—part of a vital animal health care and education project that wouldn't have been possible without significant support from donors. Western Canadian animal owners and referring veterinarians now have access to a 3 Tesla MRI unit that produces highly detailed images for diagnosing animal patients and developing treatment plans. The new linear accelerator, a vital tool for treating pets with cancer, optimizes image-guided radiotherapy and provides high-speed radiation treatment.

The new MRI machine and linear accelerator will modernize animal health in Saskatchewan and beyond and help provide our students with the education and training needed to become the veterinarians of the future.

USASK HUSKIES CELEBRATE 2024-25 ACADEMIC ALL-CANADIANS

On Oct. 8, 124 USask student-athletes were named Academic All-Canadians for the 2024-25 season after achieving an average of 80% or higher. Out of 450 student-athletes who competed at the Canada West or U SPORTS level during the 2024-25 season, 124 were able to reach the 80% plateau, or higher, in their academic pursuits. As a result, Huskie varsity athletes have successfully maintained an impressive ratio of 1-in-3.5 earning the title of Academic All-Canadian. Congratulations to our successful student-athletes on this accomplishment.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

People Around the World (PAW) international congress

Now in its seventh year, USask's People Around the World (PAW) international congress will bring together community members, researchers, industry partners and students for data-driven discussions about global challenges. This year's theme, *Healthy people, healthy planet: driving innovation with data*, highlights creative collaboration, data-informed decision making, and accessible solutions for a healthier world. The 2025 PAW Congress runs October 22-24 and features well-known Canadian health and policy experts who will come together to discuss topics ranging from artificial intelligence for health, to air quality and the importance of healthy communities. Learn more about the PAW congress and register to attend here.

USask researchers receive $1.5 million for rapid response wildfire research

Each year, wildfires present significant challenges for Canadian communities, forcing individuals from their homes, impacting their livelihoods and posing a risk to their health. For First Nations and Métis communities the damage from wildfires has been experienced year after year and has left lasting impacts. Researchers from the nātawihowin First Nations Research Network/mamawiikikayaahk Métis Research Network (SK-NEIHR) and USask are leading a community-focused research initiative that examines the impacts of wildfire evacuations on Indigenous communities. The National Coordinating Centre of the Network Environments of Indigenous Health Research recently received a $1.5 million investment from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the Institute of Indigenous Peoples Health to begin this rapid response research. This grant will help Dr. Bobby Henry (PhD), associate professor in the Department of Indigenous Studies in the College of Arts and Science and USask's Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Justice and Wellbeing, and his team work with First Nations and Métis communities to develop research projects that evaluate the impacts of wildfires, evacuations, and develop rapid research approaches to address future disasters, emergencies and pandemics.

USask researchers publish first Canadian guidelines for Spinal Bulbar Muscular Atrophy

USask researchers have published the first Canadian clinical guidelines for Spinal Bulbar Muscular Atrophy (SBMA), a rare hereditary neuromuscular disorder. The guidelines, titled *Best Practice Recommendations for the Clinical Care of Spinal Bulbar Muscular Atrophy*, were published on September 22 in the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*. Led by Dr. Kerri Schellenberg (MD), associate professor, neurology, in the Department of Medicine, the project represents a landmark in improving care for SBMA patients across Canada. Until now, the only existing guidelines for SBMA were published in France and did not address symptoms for female carriers or cultural responsiveness which is a need in Canada. The new Canadian guidelines address these gaps and offer additional recommendations for the multidisciplinary nature of the disease including managing cardiac, endocrine, sensory and speech-related complications.

USask scholars receive prestigious Fulbright Canada research placements

Two USask researchers have received special positions from Fulbright Canada, an organization dedicated to fostering academic connections between Canada and the United States. Designed to create "exchange opportunities for exceptional students, scholars and researchers in the two countries", these opportunities allow USask scholars to shine on an international stage and exchange important knowledge for future research. Dr. Clinton Westman (PhD), a professor in the Department of Anthropology in the College of Arts and Science, was recently named a Fulbright Canada Special Foundation Fellow.

Westman's Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council-funded research focuses on natural resource development and its impact on Indigenous communities. Dr. Matthew Neufeld (PhD), a professor in the Department of History in the College of Arts and Science, will also be travelling to a prestigious university in the United States to pursue his research into military history. Dr. Neufeld holds the Fulbright Canada Research Chair in Humanities and Social Sciences.

USask researcher honoured with top pulse crop award

USask) researcher Dr. Tom Warkentin (PhD) has been awarded the Canadian Pulse and Special Crops Trade Association Industry Appreciation Award for his significant contribution to Canada's pulse and special crops industry. The award is presented annually to an individual, company or organization that has made significant contribution to Canada's pulse and special crops industry. Dr. Warkentin is a renowned plant breeder at the Crop Development Centre within the USask's College of Agriculture and Bioresources and leads the Field Pea and Soybean Crop Breeding and Genetics program as the Ministry of Agriculture Strategic Research Program Chair. His research is centered on developing high-performing pea and soybean cultivars tailored for Western Canada and northern U.S. regions.

Provost's Report to Council

October 2025

GENERAL REMARKS AND CURRENT ISSUES

This is my first report to University Council as Interim Provost and Vice-President Academic (PVPA). I am both honoured and energized to be serving in this role and grateful to work with and through University Council and its committees. Each report that comes to University Council highlights activities and accomplishments from across academic and support centres within the PVPA portfolio.

As was the case last year, USask continues to experience the negative impact of policy changes made by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). We are projecting the loss of an additional 500 international students in 2025-26. This now includes both the loss of undergraduate students and graduate students. These enrolment changes directly impact the financial picture and represent a loss of opportunity for the university and the province in the areas of research and student experience. Wherever it is possible to have these conversations, I will continue to be very clear about the fulsome contributions that international students and their families make to USask and why it is imperative that Canada rebuild its reputation as a desirable study destination.

In the months ahead, the CFO Deidre Henne and I will attend town halls hosted by deans and executive directors within colleges and schools so that we can connect directly with people about leading through a changing financial landscape. As one element of the financial picture, anyone interested in more detailed information on enrolment can access the enrolment dashboard. The most recent snapshot highlighting fall census data can be found here. Despite the loss of international students, domestic enrolment at USask remains strong. Work is underway by the Strategic Enrolment Management (SEM) Steering Committee, now chaired by Acting Deputy Provost Loleen Berdahl, to develop the next SEM Plan. Members of University Council and members of council committees can anticipate being engaged in this development in the new year.

USASK UPDATES

USASK DEPUTY PROVOST AND JSGS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROLES

The University of Saskatchewan is pleased to share two important leadership updates. Dr. Loleen Berdahl (PhD) has been appointed acting deputy provost, effective October 1, 2025. This appointment reflects her outstanding record of scholarship, leadership, and service. Dr. Berdahl most recently served as Executive Director of the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy (JSGS) and Director of the Diefenbaker Canada Centre. She is a nationally recognized educator and leader, known for her work in teaching, academic leadership, and equity, diversity and inclusion and her deep commitment to advancing Canadian higher education. Her accolades include the 3M National Teaching Fellowship and the Lieutenant Governor's Award for Outstanding Teaching.

As Dr. Berdahl transitions to the role of acting deputy provost, Dr. Martha Smith (PhD) will step into the role of acting executive director of JSGS for a nine-month term. A professor of history at USask, Dr. Smith brings extensive leadership experience from previous roles as interim and acting associate dean in the USask College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and is a respected scholar of American foreign policy and Cold War history. She has contributed greatly to graduate education through policy development, supervision, and mentorship, and to the city of Saskatoon through volunteer roles with community outreach organization, OUTSaskatoon. Please join the USask community in congratulating Dr. Berdahl and Dr. Smith on their new roles.

COLLEGE UPDATES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND MILESTONES

A selection of recent accomplishments, achievements and milestones for USask's college and school community are shared below.

INTRODUCTORY AGRICULTURE CERTIFICATE

The USask College of Agriculture and Bioresources has announced the **Introductory Agriculture certificate**. This certificate program can be taken concurrently with a degree or diploma program or taken as a standalone program. The certificate provides a base knowledge of agriculture in the Canadian Prairie region. Students will learn key competencies in the field of agriculture, diverse ways of knowing, agrology and professional practice in agriculture, the scientific principles that govern agriculture and the environment, and the socio-economic impacts of agriculture. The target audience for the new certificate includes educators who want to deliver science-based agriculture programs in primary and secondary schools, individuals seeking entry-level, non-professional agriculture employment, and new and current USask undergraduate students. It provides students from different academic disciplines, such as business or engineering, a competitive edge by expanding their scope for future careers.

EDWARDS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS UPDATE

Edwards Executive Education was once again **recognized by the *Financial Times*** as one of the world's top executive education providers, marking its second consecutive year on the prestigious list and solidifying its place among the global elite in professional development and leadership training. This recognition reflects Edwards commitment to delivering relevant, high-impact learning experiences that meet the evolving needs of professionals and organizations. Looking ahead, **Edwards Executive Education** is excited to continue expanding offerings, developing new programs, and strengthening partnerships. Congratulations to the Edwards School of Business on this achievement!

Jack Vicq, professor emeritus and distinguished University of Saskatchewan alumnus, has been inducted as one of the **2025 Leaders of the Profession from the Canadian Accounting Hall of Fame (CAHF)**. This prestigious honour celebrates individuals whose work has significantly shaped the accounting profession in Canada or advanced its development internationally. **CAHF recognizes excellence** across a wide spectrum of practice, including assurance, financial reporting, management accounting, taxation, corporate governance and consultancy, as well as through leadership in professional organizations, regulatory bodies and academic contributions. Vicq's career reflects visionary leadership, civic responsibility and a deep belief in inclusive education. His legacy continues to shape the accounting profession and inspire future generations. Congratulations to Jack Vicq on this outstanding achievement!

DIEFENBAKER CANADA CENTRE CELEBRATES CANADIAN CO-OPERATIVES

The Diefenbaker Canada Centre in partnership with the Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives at USask are marking the United Nations International Year of Co-operatives 2025 with an original exhibition, *Community Powered: Celebrating Canadian Co-operatives.* Designed in collaboration with the vibrant co-op sector, the exhibition invites visitors to explore co-operative values and principles, co-operatives in action, Indigenous co-operatives and decolonization, and co-operative history through art, research, education, and archives—encouraging them to reflect on the impact of co-operatives across Canada and around the world. **Learn more.**

USASK LIBRARY INDIGENOUS STORYTELLER IN RESIDENCE

This Indigenous Storyteller in Residence program began in 2021 to support the University Library's goal to be an open and inclusive environment that respects and uplifts Indigenous voices and perspectives. Each year, the Indigenous Storyteller in Residence is a member of the University Library and is involved in creating and participating in opportunities to promote intercultural understanding and story-sharing between and among Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. The residency culminates in a presentation of a project during the university's Indigenous Achievement Week. The Library is now seeking **expressions of interest for the 2026 storyteller.**

USASK LIBRARY JOURNAL HOSTING SERVICE

The University Library now offers a journal hosting service for diamond open access journals affiliated with USask, using the Open Journal Systems (OJS) platform. Current hosted journals include the ***University of Saskatchewan Undergraduate Research Journal***, the ***John Donne Journal***, and the ***Engaged Scholar Journal***.

SASKATCHEWAN BUILDS FUTURE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT WORKFORCE

USask is taking another step forward in strengthening its health-care workforce with the launch of a new training program for Physician Assistants (PAs). Twenty new students have joined the USask College of Medicine as the first cohort of the new Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) program. This milestone is a bold step in Saskatchewan's plan to recruit and retain PAs right here at home with USask taking the lead on the training element of the plan. PAs are health professionals who have taken advanced training to practise medicine under the supervision of a licensed physician, often within a multidisciplinary health team. The Government of Saskatchewan is making a significant financial investment into the two-year MPAS program. Admissions to USask's MPAS program were competitive, with 340 applicants for 20 available seats. Fifteen students are from Saskatchewan, representing 75 per cent of the class.

RECENT APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Gill White has been appointed interim Vice-Dean, Education, College of Medicine, for a term of up to one year, beginning September 1, 2025.

Dr. Sven Achenbach has been extended as interim Associate Dean, Faculty Relations, College of Engineering, for a term of up to ten months beginning September 1, 2025.

Dr. Michael Szafron has been appointed acting Assistant Executive Director, School of Public Health, for a term of up to six months beginning September 1, 2025 and up to February 28, 2026.

Dr. Steven Rayan has been appointed interim vice-dean, Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work, College of Arts & Science, for a term of up to one-year effective July 1, 2025.

Dr. David Blackburn has been appointed a second term as Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Affairs, College of Pharmacy & Nutrition, for a term of up to five years beginning July 1, 2025 and up to June 30, 2030.

Dr. George Keyworth has been appointed as Department Head, History, College of Arts & Science, for a term of up to three years effective July 1, 2025 and up to June 30, 2028.

Dr. Meredith McKague has been appointed as Associate Dean, UGME, College of Medicine, for a term of up to five years beginning July 1, 2025 and up to June 30, 2030.

Active Searches & Reviews

We are in the early stages of the following searches and reviews (full committees still being populated):

Searches:
- Executive Director, Johnson Shoyama
- Dean, College Pharmacy and Nutrition
- Dean, College of Law

Reviews:
- Dean, College of Nursing
- Dean, Western College of Veterinary Medicine

Please see here for information on searches and reviews.

Graduate Students' Association

October 2025

Council Report

Prepared For :
University of Saskatchewan Council

Prepared By :
Graduate Students Association

gsa.usask.ca

Dear University Council Members,

On behalf of the Graduate Students' Association (GSA), I am pleased to present highlights of our recent activities, advocacy efforts, and upcoming initiatives for October 2025. These initiatives reflect our ongoing commitment to supporting graduate student success, fostering community engagement, and collaborating with university partners to enhance the overall graduate experience.

GSA Transit Pass

This month, the GSA met with representatives from Saskatoon Transit to discuss potential updates to the Graduate Student U-Pass (transit pass).

The discussion focused on exploring the introduction of spring and summer U-Pass options for graduate students. Saskatoon Transit indicated that implementing a spring/summer pass would likely be feasible, though it would require adjustments to the graduate student fee submission process.

A preliminary analysis suggested that if spring/summer passes are added, the overall annual U-Pass cost for graduate students may decrease compared to the current fee structure. Saskatoon Transit will provide the GSA with detailed information on the potential fee changes associated with introducing these seasonal passes.

Once this information is received, the GSA plans to consult graduate students through a referendum to determine their preferences before proceeding with an agreed approach.

GRADUATE VOICES INITIATIVE

The GSA continues to advance the Graduate Voices Initiative, a storytelling project that highlights the diverse experiences and journeys of graduate students at the University of Saskatchewan.

This month, we featured our first story, *"From Farm Fields to Research Fields – Jeremy Irvine's Journey,"* which received positive engagement from the graduate community. (You can read the article at the provided link.)

Graduate Voices serves as a platform for students to share both their successes and challenges, offering an authentic look into the realities of graduate life. It helps foster empathy, connection, and pride within the graduate community by amplifying diverse perspectives.

Moving forward, the GSA will continue to feature stories regularly, showcasing graduate students across disciplines and backgrounds to strengthen belonging and understanding within the university.

Financial Literacy Series (Budgeting 101)

In collaboration with Student Finance and Awards, the GSA is launching a new Financial Literacy Series to support graduate students in developing practical financial management skills. The first session, "Budgeting 101," will be held on October 22 at the GSA Commons.

This session will cover key topics such as personal budgeting, value-based spending, and long-term financial planning. The series aims to enhance financial literacy and confidence among graduate students, contributing to their overall well-being and academic success.

Through this initiative, the GSA continues to promote holistic student support by addressing areas of financial wellness essential to graduate student success.

Halloween Costume Contest and Movie night

Following feedback from graduate students indicating a need for more social and family-oriented programming, the GSA will host a Halloween Costume Competition and Movie Night on October 29 at the GSA Commons.

Graduate students noted that most events focus on academic or professional development, with limited opportunities for relaxation and family participation. In response, this event was designed to provide a fun, inclusive, and family-friendly environment where students and their children can engage with the campus community.

The evening will feature a costume competition for both adults and children, followed by a family-friendly movie screening. Through this initiative, the GSA aims to strengthen community connections, promote student well-being, and ensure that graduate student parents and their families feel welcomed and supported within the university environment.

Engagement with the President's Executive Council on EDI

Earlier in October, the GSA participated in a meeting with the President's Executive Council to discuss ongoing efforts related to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) at the University of Saskatchewan.

The GSA used this opportunity to share the graduate student perspective, emphasizing the importance of ensuring that EDI initiatives meaningfully include graduate student experiences. Particular attention was given to the need for equitable access to supports for international students, student parents, and students from equity-deserving groups.

In alignment with these efforts, the GSA is also in the process of organizing anti-racism training for the GSA Executive members and the Diversity Standing Committee. This initiative aims to strengthen our collective understanding and capacity to address racism and promote equity within the graduate student community.

The GSA appreciates the continued collaboration with university leadership and looks forward to contributing to tangible progress in creating a more inclusive and supportive campus environment for all graduate students.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Council as we strengthen the graduate student experience, and I welcome your feedback as we move ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

Palash Roy

Palash R. Roy
President, Graduate Students' Association (GSA)

USSU

University of Saskatchewan Students' Union

COUNCIL REPORT

OCTOBER 2025

October continues to showcase the multifaceted and deeply engaged work of the USSU, our Student Council, and our working committees. As we transitioned from September into October, the USSU hosted an Indigenous Makers Market in the Arts Tunnel, following the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This initiative was designed to uplift and celebrate the creative contributions of Indigenous students and community members, providing a platform for local artists to share their work and stories with the campus community.

In the month of October, the USSU has continued to amplify conversations about the urgent need for institutional change, particularly regarding the University of Saskatchewan's outdated sexual violence response framework. The current policy, last updated in 2015, contains broken links and references to obsolete roles rendering it ineffective and inaccessible. The USSU is calling on the University to prioritize the revision of this document with urgency. Proactive and preventative measures are essential to dismantling the culture of sexual violence on campus and ensuring student safety and support.

The momentum behind these initiatives is driven by the dedication of student leaders across campus. In early October, student councillors met with President Peter Stoicheff and Interim Provost Patti McDougall. This dialogue offered students an opportunity to engage directly with senior university leadership, ask questions, and share perspectives. Together we discussed the ways in which universities are working against the implications of growing sentiments of autocracy as spaces intended to discuss diversity of opinion, informed speech, and expression. It is important, echoing the sentiments shared by President Stoicheff and Dr. Patti McDougall to continue to amplify a multiplicity of perspectives and remain committed to resisting a monopolization of thought and opinion.

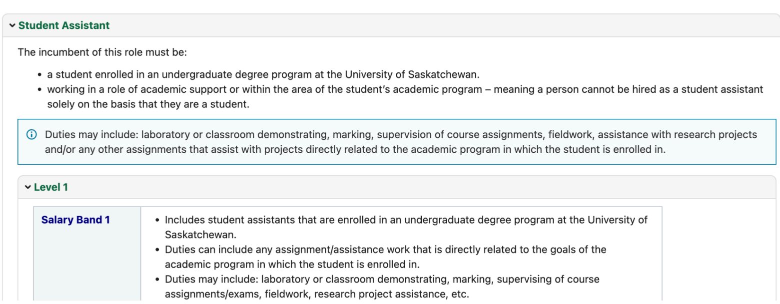
The USSU Students' Council deeply values these moments of connection, which reinforce the importance of student voices and contributions to the campus community. Such engagement strengthens the USSU's mission, vision, and values, and encourages broader participation across colleges in student governance and leadership. As midterm season intensifies, the USSU remains committed to supporting students through our academic and governance offices. Additionally, the Teaching Excellence Awards launched this month, celebrating innovative and compassionate teaching. These awards are more than recognition of individual achievement; they are a statement of institutional values. Ultimately, whether through advocacy, teaching and learning, programming, or direct support, we continue to stand alongside students amplifying their voices, addressing their concerns, and working toward a more inclusive and responsive campus environment.

On behalf of the USSU and University of Saskatchewan students, we are grateful to share with University Council our ongoing priorities, initiatives, and reflections.

President

Transitioning into October from September, student priorities are clear. USask undergraduates are concerned about the cost of living and its impact on tuition and accessibility to continuing their university education. The USSU met with MLA April Chiefcalf earlier this month to discuss the Rent Caps and issues of housing. Precarious housing situations exacerbate various student concerns, making them a primary advocacy issue for the USSU to address in support of our growing student population. Additionally, following in the motto of a university that works to “Be What the World Needs,” USask students are continuing to be globally engaged citizens, critically questioning systems of oppression, and are speaking out. These two issues highlight the broader significance of ongoing student mobilization and advocacy on key issues and priorities. Even with the busyness of the Fall Term and with midterm season well underway, students are asserting their voices in critical ways, and the USSU is working alongside students to support their various projects and initiatives.

On October 1, students gathered to participate in the USSU *Pay it Forward* forum. Here, students engaged in discussions about undergraduate student wages and salary bands. Through talking across colleges and various disciplines, students alongside the USSU were able to decipher that one of the barriers to transparent undergraduate student wages at USask is the minimal information and metrics provided in the explanations and categorization of undergraduate student positions and job opportunities. Specifically, there appears to be little ability amongst undergraduate student workers to reach a consensus in order to distinguish what constitutes the work or rationale for variation in starting salaries in relation to work profile. The Pay it Forward student forum was successful, bringing together students and encouraging discussion and openness about wage variance. Additionally, it encouraged students to feel empowered to ask their supervisors questions about their compensation. The USSU will continue to review this topic; however, it will look to the university Human Resources Strategic Business Advisor for further conversation. Additionally, the USSU encourages increased transparency and description for students so that they are able to better understand the potential of their monetary compensation as an undergraduate employee at USask.


Student Assistant

The incumbent of this role must be:

- a student enrolled in an undergraduate degree program at the University of Saskatchewan.
- working in a role of academic support or within the area of the student’s academic program – meaning a person cannot be hired as a student assistant solely on the basis that they are a student.

Duties may include: laboratory or classroom demonstrating, marking, supervision of course assignments, fieldwork, assistance with research projects and/or any other assignments that assist with projects directly related to the academic program in which the student is enrolled in.

Level 1

Salary Band 1	• Includes student assistants that are enrolled in an undergraduate degree program at the University of Saskatchewan. • Duties can include any assignment/assistance work that is directly related to the goals of the academic program in which the student is enrolled in. • Duties may include: laboratory or classroom demonstrating, marking, supervising of course assignments/exams, fieldwork, research project assistance, etc.

Screenshot dated October 13, 2025

This month, the USSU team has begun Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppressive Training with Liz Duret and her team, including Charlene Brown, John Shellings, Ida Belete, Jordan Hartshorn, Jocelyn Orb, and Isabel Bacalao Azpurua. As representatives and advocates, we provide critical support, services, and contact points for students. It is important that the USSU is best able to support and work alongside all students as well as learn more about subtle and overt racism, bias, oppression, and systemic barriers that we inevitably perpetuate in our daily lives. The USSU is grateful to this team for their dedication to starting and facilitating spaces for uncomfortable but necessary conversations and for challenging all members of the USSU to dig into white privilege and fragility, and become more engaged and aware members of the university community. I encourage all members of the USask community to explore Anti-Racism and Anti-Opressive training and to seek out opportunities to challenge their own bias.

Looking to the work of students in advancing issues of EDI, it is necessary to acknowledge that students will always be the most progressive voices in university spaces. History has shown us that it is consistently students who are making inroads in social justice movements, standing up for human rights, and protesting against oppression and violence. All of these areas are entangled in EDI work. As a result of changing societal landscapes and the increased polarization that continues to gain traction across Canada and the United States, student actions have demanded that universities commit to deeper engagements with Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, as well as Justice and Belonging. As social issues continue to become politicized and the personal inevitably remains political, universities will need to adapt and take courageous action. We are living in an increasingly polarized world where trans rights are actively being rolled back and genocides are being perpetrated. The security of international students in Canada is precarious, and sexual and gender-based violence is ongoing. Students are expected to develop their education while attending university, but are also dealing with the impacts of bias and hegemony.

USask students are pushing back against the violence being perpetrated across the world. In the process, they are demanding human rights, peace, and inclusion, as well as pushing back against all forms of discrimination, including anti-semitism, Islamophobia, and racism. On October 8, I attended the Liberation Zone. Located in the Bowl, Students for Justice and Peace hosted a series of speakers from USask to share information about the importance of human rights and social justice. Specifically, USask students gathered to speak out about what has been classified by the United Nations as a genocide occurring against Palestinians. Echoing the conversation that was written in the *SHEAF*, students are calling on the university to acknowledge the ongoing genocide in Palestine and its catastrophic human, cultural, and environmental impact. Palestine is not separate from our campus, but rather it is deeply tied to EDI principles: opposing racism, colonialism, and systemic violence. Specifically, students are calling for a commitment to institute an explicit human rights framework in our USask investment policy to prevent future investment in companies that commit human rights violations worldwide.

The USSU met with the President's Executive Council in early October for a deep and rich discussion about EDI. The executive team is grateful for the opportunity to have these conversations with various leaders around the table; active engagement with EDI continues to be a priority within my portfolio. This is because I fundamentally believe that the University of Saskatchewan should be more than just a place for students to obtain degrees. It should be a space that encourages a critical questioning of the status quo. As language shifts, understandings of legacies of oppression evolve, and the campus community continues to welcome diverse student experiences, there will need to be continuous space for growth and transformation.

This month, I had the opportunity to continue to connect with students, staff, and faculty from the Prince Albert Campus. The Board of Governors visited Prince Albert to engage with the broader community and facilities. Additionally, I was fortunate to work alongside Hanna De Peel, who has become our first USSU Member of Student Council from PA, as well as meet other student leaders at the Prince Albert Campus. Encouraging ways to connect and collaborate is necessary to student engagement and success at USask. The growing relationship between the USSU and Prince Albert Campus is something I am truly grateful for and excited to continue developing.

The University Students' Council continues to meet weekly, and our various committees are up and running. I am supporting the Governance, Advocacy, and Indigenous Student Advisory Committees. These committees are composed of both council members as well as students at large who are eager and committed to student leadership and governance. The Governance Committee is meeting to review the USSU bylaw and ensure that they are relevant and reflective of the work carried out by the USSU. In anticipation of our November 20th AGM, the USSU has opened up submissions for USask students to suggest revisions and amendments. The USSU Advocacy Committee is currently supporting the USSU x SSAIC Coalition Against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence. Eight undergraduate students are currently working with the Saskatoon Sexual Assault and Information Centre to gain educational awareness and language about sexual violence and prevention. These students report to the USSU and the USSU Advocacy Committee with their reflections and experiences to aid in strengthening the USSU's awareness of ways to best support students and continue to speak out about sexual and gender-based violence occurring across campus. Furthermore, the USSU is calling upon the University of Saskatchewan to commit to updating the Sexual Assault Prevention Policy with increased urgency. If faculty or staff are interested in learning more, and digging into the ways students feel that support and allyship can be best provided, the USSU has access to a recording of the (Re)Defining Leadership and Responses to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence lecture that was given by Morgan Price, Educational and Outreach Coordinator at SSAIC during the USSU

Women's Centre's Sexual Violence Awarness Week in late September. Additionally, the Indigenous Student Advisory Committee will meet to discuss ways to advance Indigenous Student agency and foster connections and collaboration between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students across USask. Working on ways in which to strengthen student commitments to Truth and Reconciliation, as well as promote ongoing dialogue, the USSU seeks to work alongside Indigenous student leaders to advance initiatives.

Ultimately, the USSU continues to work to amplify the voices of the students and the various issues, projects, and topics that are important to USask undergraduates.

Respectfully submitted,

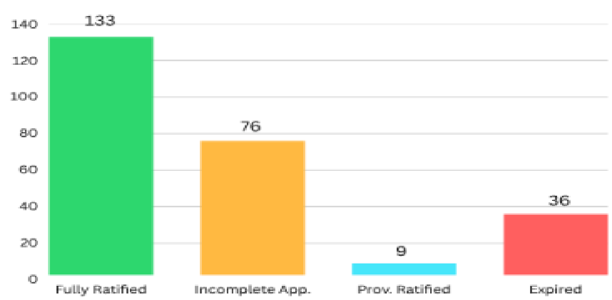
Emma Wintermute
President
University of Saskatchewan Students' Union

Vice-President Operations & Finance

Summary:

With the term now in full swing, our tenures as USSU executives are halfway complete. Although the rapid progress of my term is somewhat staggering, with campus groups, Transit, and finances and budgeting under my portfolio, I have kept rather busy. Since my last report, I have focused on supporting campus groups, reviewing upcoming Transit updates, and contributing to outreach efforts through the University Students' Council and other committees.

Campus Groups:



At the time of writing, 133 groups are fully ratified, with nine provisionally ratified, awaiting payment of their fees. These groups have fulfilled all the requirements listed in CG-2, Campus Groups Operations Policy, including writing or providing a constitution, hosting elections, opening a bank account, and explaining their group's primary purpose. A breakdown of campus group ratification applications is below:

Most of these requirements involve administrative documents and contact information, but I would like to highlight our GOALS training. GOALS stands for **G**roup **O**rientation **A**nd **L**eadership **S**essions. It is an essential orientation program for campus group executives to ensure that they respect and understand the vision, mission, and values of the USSU and the university. This year, our GOALS training is hosted on Canvas and includes the following modules:

- Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression
- 2SLGBTQQIA+ Vocabulary and Pronoun Usage
- Sexual Violence Recognition and Prevention
- Democratic Governance

Campus group executives who have commented on GOALS training have been remarkably positive regarding the content, much of which our Women's, Pride, and Help Centre Coordinators provided. I am encouraged by the widespread acceptance and acknowledgement of the value of GOALS training. I am happy that campus group executives are so willing to learn and engage with the content therein.

Overseeing campus groups also means overseeing funding requests and other benefits. I am happy to report that the USSU approved **$7,447.82** in funding for campus groups by the end of September. Most of this funding is in the form of cash sponsorships and EDI funding, with the remainder allocated to credit at USSU-owned XL Print & Design, Louis', and Louis' Loft.

An additional benefit introduced for ratified groups in September is our Campus Club Space, an exclusive room for campus groups on the second floor of Place Riel. With a TV, kitchenette, whiteboards, plenty of natural light, a conference table, and more, the space is an excellent space for small events, meetings, and presentations.

To gauge how campus groups utilize our services, we recently released a survey that allows group leaders and members to share their concerns and comments about our various services and benefits for campus groups. Based on the survey results, we will make adjustments to our service delivery to better engage with our outstanding student leaders.

Transit

As I will report for all University Council meetings, with the Link (Bus Rapid Transit, BRT) system in the early stages of construction, the USSU is closely monitoring how we can prepare students for the profound changes to College Drive, the bus system, and travel throughout and across Saskatoon. I had the opportunity to attend a Transit open house with City of Saskatoon staff, which focused on how Transit will redesign the bus system to support Link. That is, how existing, non-BRT routes will serve an ancillary function to the Link system. The City is currently conducting a survey to learn what matters most to bus riders for consideration when making alterations. You can complete the survey online here.

In addition to redesigning the routes supporting Link, City Council is reviewing bus fares. As noted in the comprehensive report delivered to Council on October 7, 2025, fares have remained frozen since 2016. As a result, Council is considering several potential changes to fare rates, while striving to support low- and middle-income users, including students. The Council invites residents to complete a short survey to provide feedback on the current fares and potential fare structures that City Council may adopt in the coming years.

Also notable with Transit is the data associated with the USSU's U-PASS. A majority of students eligible for the U-PASS, 55.98%, activated theirs in September. As the weather becomes colder in late October and early November, this number is expected to rise. We can expect a similar spike in activation during the Winter Term. With this, it is clear that students continue to use their U-PASS at high rates. In preparation for the Link program's opening in 2028, we will continue to work with the City of Saskatoon to ensure an affordable Transit pass remains available to students.

University Students' Council & USSU Operations

The start of classes brings with it the start of the USSU's University Students' Council (USC), bringing together undergraduate representatives from each college and constituency group (Indigenous and International students). This year, we are lucky to have extremely engaged and enthusiastic councillors who are representing their constituencies very well.

For the first time in many years, our council is nearly at full strength. We have representatives from almost every college and constituency, many of whom will be joining us at University Council. Our councillors had the pleasure of meeting President Stoicheff and Interim Provost McDougall in early October. The USC looks forward to engaging with administrators, faculty, and staff from all colleges and departments.

Through the USC, eleven committees oversee several aspects of the USSU's governance. I chair three committees: the Campus Groups Committee, the Finance and Assessment Committee, and the Student and City Connections Committee. At the time of writing, only the Campus Groups Committee has met. This committee assists me with ratification and funding requests, and also serves as a hearing board in the event a complaint is levied against an undergraduate campus group. I will regularly share the work of this committee in my University Council reports, including details on ratification and funding. Once my other committees meet, I will be sure to provide a more fulsome report on their activities.

Meetings and Advocacy

A project our executives have worked diligently on for this academic year is ensuring our Association of Constituency Presidents (AOCP) is functional. The AOCP gathers together the president or representatives of each constituency group organised by undergraduate students. The AOCP has met twice since August to brainstorm projects and initiatives.. Our goal is to unite undergraduate student leaders in advocating for the well-being of the nearly 20,000 undergraduate students at the University of Saskatchewan. We invite members of University Council to share with us, the USSU Executive, ideas and projects for the AOCP. Ultimately, our collective goal is to support our students, and we welcome ideas and suggestions to achieve this.

Respectfully submitted,

ODeis

Owen Deis
Vice-President (Operations & Finance)
University of Saskatchewan Students' Union

Vice-President Academic Affairs

The month of October has been marked by both momentum and collaboration, a period where the groundwork laid out throughout my term has begun to materialize into visible and student-centered change. As the midterm season unfolded and the academic year reached full stride, my work's focus shifted increasingly toward ensuring that systems, policies, and supports are responsive to the evolving realities of student learning. This month has been characterized by deep engagement with students and faculty alike, helping students navigate complex academic situations, working with colleges to address course-level issues, and collaborating across committees and working groups to strengthen academic integrity, assessment, and accessibility.

One of the most consistent and meaningful dimensions of my role continues to be direct student advocacy. October saw a growing number of students reaching out with concerns spanning a range of academic issues, from appeals and grading inconsistencies to syllabus clarity and technological complications with new digital tools used in classrooms. These conversations have reminded us that while integrating new tools and systems can strengthen academic integrity and streamline assessment, we must also remain mindful of how these technologies interact with the realities of student learning. Ensuring that tools are compatible with students' existing systems, such as Chromebooks or iPads, and that contingency measures are in place when problems arise is essential to maintaining fairness and accessibility.

These cases have underscored a broader pattern, as the university adopts new technologies and course structures, students are facing new kinds of uncertainty. Many of these issues are not about misconduct or ability, but rather about communication, including unclear expectations, inconsistent course delivery, or misunderstandings about assessment design. Each student case represents a moment of vulnerability, but also an opportunity to strengthen the systems meant to support them.

What continues to stand out in these conversations is the responsiveness of college leadership and administrators. Throughout the month, I have had the privilege of meeting with faculty and deans across colleges to discuss both individual student concerns and systemic improvements. These discussions have been constructive and empathetic, grounded in a shared goal of ensuring that policy serves its intended purpose, to enable students to learn and succeed. The willingness of college leadership to collaborate on difficult cases, adapt practices, and think critically about how to make academic systems more transparent has been deeply encouraging.

A recurring theme in my advocacy this month has been the intersection between pedagogy and policy. Through the Academic Integrity Forum, co-chaired with Susan Bens, conversations have continued to evolve around the ways in which teaching design, workload, and assessment methods influence both integrity and student well-being. Rather than treating integrity as a matter of compliance, the Forum continues to situate it within the broader ecosystem of learning, one that includes clear communication, fair assessment, and shared accountability.

This month's Academic Integrity Forum meeting built on that foundation, with valuable contributions from both faculty and student members. Discussions focused on consistency in how technology-enabled learning tools are handled and the importance of proactive communication between instructors and students about course expectations. Members also reflected on how pressure builds for students, particularly early in their academic careers, when they are uncertain where to seek help. The Forum emphasized the importance of developing help-seeking skills early on, exploring models such as mandatory first-year tutorials, similar to those some departments already provide.

Other institutions, such as the University of Manitoba, have integrated academic integrity into their first-year orientation through a president's address and mandatory tutorials, initiatives that signal to students and faculty alike that integrity is a shared institutional value. Similarly, the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies' required integrity module has provided a model of consistency that could inform undergraduate practice. The Forum discussed the potential for a mandatory first-year academic integrity tutorial, providing all students with a baseline understanding of ethics, expectations, and sanctions. This establishes a foundation of knowledge and also allows the university to communicate consistent messages about integrity, fairness, and professionalism.

Discussions also highlighted the importance of connecting integrity to professional identity. For example, inviting speakers from industry to discuss ethics and accountability in fields like engineering or business could make these concepts more tangible and relevant. Integrating integrity into disciplinary contexts underscores that these principles extend beyond the classroom into professional life, where trust, once lost, can be difficult to regain.

Finally, members discussed innovative ways to help students engage with integrity as an active concept rather than a rule, such as student-led contests or creative projects that express what integrity means in their disciplines. The University of New South Wales model, where students produce short videos illustrating academic honesty, was noted as an inspiring example. As the Forum continues its work, a priority will be ensuring consistency in communication and policy across colleges while still respecting disciplinary differences.

Parallel to this, I have been closely engaged in ongoing policy and systems work through committees such as the Academic Programs Committee, Teaching, Learning, and Academic Resources Committee, Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Works, and Scholarships and Awards. Each of these spaces contributes uniquely to the shared mission of improving the academic experience. The synergy between these committees and student perspectives has been invaluable in ensuring that reforms remain grounded in lived experience rather than theoretical intent.

The topic of academic support also took on a new dimension this month, with ongoing discussions around the implementation of the new Student Intake and Navigator positions. These roles are designed to provide structured, proactive guidance for students navigating academic challenges. The enthusiasm surrounding their introduction reflects a shared recognition of how critical early intervention and coordinated communication are for student success.

I have been in close contact with administrators and staff to explore how the USSU can work alongside these roles to ensure that students are directed toward the right supports early and consistently. The creation of these positions is a tangible step toward a more compassionate and accessible academic support ecosystem, facilitating communication with different groups, teams, and departments throughout the university. This collaboration is ensuring that students receive the best possible advice and clear pathways for navigating complex academic situations.

In parallel, much of my work this month involved collaboration with the Governance Office on appeals procedures and communication. We have been working to ensure that the appeals process is communicated to students in clear, accessible language and that the policy aligns with best practices across postsecondary institutions. Strengthening the connection between governance policy and student-facing resources is an important part of ensuring procedural fairness. A significant ongoing project is creating a more equitable system for academic sanctions, as the current process can be highly variable and inequitable across colleges. The goal is to establish a framework that is transparent, fair, and consistently applied, providing students and faculty with clear expectations while maintaining flexibility for contextual factors.

Undergraduate research remains another cornerstone of my portfolio. This month, I have been developing an Undergraduate Research Report that highlights trends, barriers, and emerging opportunities across colleges. Students continue to express strong interest in research experiences, but many encounter logistical barriers such as unclear pathways, limited funding, or lack of faculty connections. I have been reviewing the University of Alberta's Undergraduate Research Initiative, which offers a centralized platform for posting opportunities, an approach that could help USask strengthen equity and visibility in research access.

October also brought continued progress on initiatives related to teaching excellence and academic recognition. The Teaching Excellence Awards launched this month, celebrating innovative and compassionate teaching. These awards are more than recognition of individual achievement; they are a statement of institutional values. This month, I received emails from retired professors who shared that they still remember receiving a Teaching Excellence Award decades ago, highlighting how these awards can have a lasting impact on faculty morale and culture. I look forward to seeing the enthusiasm students show for their professors through these nominations and the stories that will emerge from them.

The month also included several meetings and collaborations that speak to the strength of cross-campus relationships. From administrative discussions about academic processes and appeals to continued collaboration with student groups like the Visual Arts Students' Union, these engagements have underscored how student advocacy and faculty partnership intersect. It has been rewarding to see students showcasing their work and finding new ways to connect their academic experiences to the broader university community.

At the level of student governance, the University Students' Council officially began its work this month. The discussions I have brought focused on academic advocacy priorities, communication strategies, and fostering collaboration between executives and councilors. It has been inspiring to see the thoughtfulness that council members bring to understanding how policy translates into student experience and how advocacy can be made more proactive and cohesive.

Within the USSU's internal structure, the Academic Relations Committee will begin to play a key role in guiding advocacy priorities. The committee serves as a vital consultative body, a space to test ideas, share feedback, and gain perspective from students across various colleges. It has been especially valuable in shaping conversations about teaching quality and student concerns related to learning environments.

Looking ahead, several projects are gaining traction. The UBC AMS x USSU Centralized Exam Database collaboration continues to progress, with discussions focused on feasibility and student privacy. I also attended the Saskatchewan AI Community of Practice meeting, which provides a useful space for institutional collaboration on emerging pedagogical and ethical considerations related to AI in learning. Work on sanction equity and mentorship frameworks will continue, alongside efforts to further integrate the new Student Intake and Navigator positions into student support pathways.

These diverse threads, from research access and hearing reform to integrity, teaching excellence, and transparency, are united by a single goal: to make academic systems more coherent, humane, and equitable. The collaboration and goodwill that I have encountered across the university this month reflect a community committed to that same purpose.

As I reflect on October, I am struck by how much of this work depends on trust and shared intent. The progress we are making in integrity reform, research access, academic support, and student advocacy is only possible because of the openness and collaboration of faculty, administrators, and students. I am deeply grateful for the colleagues who approach these conversations with care, and for the students who continue to share their stories, often in moments of difficulty, with honesty and courage.

The rhythm of the academic year is now well established, and while challenges remain, I am confident in the direction we are heading. As we move into November, my focus will remain on sustaining this momentum, turning dialogue into policy, feedback into reform, and collaboration into tangible improvements for students. Every conversation this month, whether in a committee room, an office, or a student meeting, has reaffirmed why this work matters and why it must continue with both rigor and empathy.

Respectfully submitted,

Norah Jacob

Norah Jacob
Vice-President (Academic Affairs)
University of Saskatchewan Students’ Union

Vice-President Student Affairs

Sustainability

As October has been designated Sustainability Month by the USask Office of Sustainability, the USSU has hosted several successful events directed at promoting environmentally friendly practices on campus. These events include a free clothing swap in partnership with the USOS, where students can pick up donated clothing in Place Riel North Concourse for free. We also collaborated with the USOS and The Sheaf to host a Sustainable Craft Night, where we used old newspapers to create new and useful items.

Events

In addition to the sustainability based events, the USSU has also enjoyed hosting the Indigenous Makers Market, as well as a Wall Climbing Social. The Indigenous Makers Market showcased some of the beautiful creations crafted by the talented artists at USask and the larger community. The Wall Climbing Social offered students a free PAC rock wall orientation and provided the opportunity to get to know other students over some fun physical activity. Coming up, we have a trivia night scheduled on November 3rd, and another Wall Climbing Social on November 19th.

Security, Safety, and Sexual Violence

As universities across the country are currently in the Red Zone (the six to eight week period at the start of the fall semester with statistically heightened instances of sexual assault), safety has been a top of mind issue at the USSU. We have been in regular communication with Protective Services to understand how we may work best together to prioritize student safety. The USSU has been focusing on how we may work to prevent sexual and gender-based violence on campus and has been strongly engaged with senior leadership and community resources on this topic.

USSU Centres

The USSU Centres have been very active the last few weeks, with the Women's Centre hosting Sexual Violence Awareness Week from September 22-26, the Help Centre hosting Mental Health Awareness Week from October 6-10, and the Pride Centre hosting Queerpalooza from October 20-21. Fresh Market, an affordable produce market held by the Food Centre is in full swing and with late night study up and running, Student Crew has been busy.

University Students' Council

University Students' Council has been a fantastic opportunity to get a full picture of student life on campus and hear the important perspectives of our students. The two committees I chair, the International Student Advisory Committee and the Student Life and Sustainability Committee. Both committees will meet on October 17 to discuss ways in which we may promote student community-building, sustainability, and internationalization on campus.

Respectfully submitted,

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University of Saskatchewan Students' Union