

Minutes of a meeting of the USask Board of Governors

December 14, 2020

Via Zoom

Present: Shelley Brown (Chair), Allan Adam, Joy Crawford, Grant Devine, Jay Kalra, Ritu Malhotra, Grit McCreath, Darrel Monette, Autumn LaRose-Smith, Peter Stoicheff

Resource Officers: Karen Chad, Greg Fowler, Melissa Just, Debra Pozega Osburn, Chelsea Willness (University Secretary and Chief Governance Officer)

Guests: Cheryl Carver, Irena Creed, Julian Demkiw, Dara Hrytzak, Janelle Hutchinson, Terry Summers, Dailene Kells, Danielle Dunbar, Jamie Houdek, Colleen Macdonald, Sheena Tait-Rowan, Jacquie Thomarat, Trevor St. John (Deloitte), Jason Wandy (Deloitte)

1. Roll Call

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:20 am for an in-camera session.

2. Chair's Remarks

The Chair declared the meeting properly constituted for the transaction of business, with herself as Chair and the University Secretary and Chief Governance Officer as secretary, and she noted the Indigenous Land Acknowledgement. The Chair observed that the Board is meeting virtually again, but noted that there is hope with the release of a vaccine. There was an appointment of a new Minister of Advanced Education. We will look to having him join us at a meeting in the spring. There is also a new Provost, Dr. Airini. The chair acknowledged the work of Interim Provost, Dr. Melissa Just. She noted there is a new Vice President Research, Dr. Singh, and acknowledged the contributions of Dr. Karen Chad.

The Chair noted the format for the meeting, with the committee items coming forward on a consent agenda.

3. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

The Chair called on members to identify any conflicts of interest. None were declared.

4. President's remarks

President Stoicheff began by noting a new Minister had been appointed for the sector. There has been much positive feedback on the appointment of the new Provost, Dr. Airini. The President acknowledged the work of Dr. Melissa Just, who has done superb work as Interim Provost during an incredibly challenging time. The president provided an update on the university's pandemic response and planning and noted that VIDO's critically important vaccine development work continues. The president also highlighted the recently released Top 50 Research Universities publication, where USask is ranked first for research income, and moved up several places from 14th to 11th for Research University of the Year (research intensity, total publications in leading journals, impact, etc.).

The Board adjourned and Committee meetings commenced at 9:10 am.

Board Meeting reconvenes

The Board reconvened at 3:12 pm with the approval of the agenda.

The following resolution was moved and seconded.

That the Board of Governors approves the agenda as distributed.

CARRIED

There was no additional business identified as arising from the minutes.

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

| # | Consent Agenda Items |
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| 5.1 Audit and Finance Committee | |
| 5.1.14 | Institutional Matching Funds for Canada Research Chairs That the Board of Governors approves the use of the unspent 2020/21 balance in the Centennial Chair Enhancement Fund (up to \$1 million) towards institutional matching funds for the Canada Research Chair program. |
| 5.2 Land and Facilities Committee | |
| 5.2.4 | W.P. Thompson Building Renewal That the Board of Governors provides preliminary approval to proceed with continued development of the W.P. Thompson Building Renewal project. |
| 5.2.5 | Electronic Door Access Controls Program That the Board of Governors provides preliminary approval to proceed with development of the Electronic Door Access Controls – Phase 1 project. |
| 5.2.6 | VIDO Storage Addition Project That the Board of Governors provides preliminary approval to proceed with continued development of the VIDO Storage Addition project. |
| 5.3 Governance and Executive Committee | |
| 5.3.3 | Dissolution of the Amati Committee That the Board of Governors approve the dissolution of the Amati committee as per the material provided effective December 15, 2020. |
| 5.3.4 | Centres Policy |

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| | That the Board of Governors approve revisions to the Centres Policy (2004), with changes to take effect immediately. |
| 5.3.5 | Appointment to William Shurniak Art Gallery, Inc. That the Board of Governors appoint Jake Moore, Director, University Art Galleries and Collections, as the USask regular member of the Shurniak Gallery Inc., while continuing as a director, designated by President Stoicheff, on the Board effective December 18, 2020. |
| 5.3.10 | Approval of Board and Committee work plans and terms of reference That the Board of Governors approve the Board and committee work plans with the addition of annual information updates on the Amati Instruments and the Shurniak Gallery board appointments. |
| 5.4 Human Resources Committee | |
| 5.4.3 | Deletion of Gender Neutral policy That the Board of Governors approves the deletion of the Gender Neutral Language Policy, effective immediately. |
| 5.4.4 | Exempt Total Rewards That the Board of Governors approves the proposed changes to the Exempt Total Rewards effective March 1, 2020. |

The following resolution was moved and seconded.

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

CARRIED

8. Comprehensive Campaign update

Debra Pozega Osburn, VP University Relations was invited to provide an update. She first provided the quarterly University Relations report, and presented on the Comprehensive Campaign.

9. Sustainability Strategy

President Stoicheff provided opening remarks and introduced Dr. Irena Creed, who is stewarding the development of the strategy document. He noted that a motion to adopt will come forward in the spring. Sustainability has been at the forefront of the President's priorities, and is also a core principle of the UPlan 2025. Dr. Creed was appointed a Special Advisor on Sustainability, and she established an Advisory Circle to assist with the creation of this plan. There have been consultations among the campus community and beyond throughout the Fall; it will be presented to Council for input on Thursday, December 17th. Dr. Creed presented the Sustainability Strategy including its five commitments containing several goals and actions within each.

10. Electronic approvals

The following motions were **CARRIED** via electronic means (i.e., email vote) prior to the Board of Governors meeting, and are thus included here as record. There was no further discussion.

That the Board of Governors approves the publishing of the following Board minutes to the Board website effective immediately: December 16 & 17, 2019, March 23 & 30, 2020, April 29, 2020, June 3, 2020, July 6, 2020, and July 29, 2020.

That the Board of Governors approves the Global Institute for Food Security's purchase of the CropTraits Field Explorer (Digital In-Field Phenotyping Vehicle) subject to the finalization of the required funding agreements.

11. Expenditure from the Greystone Heritage Trust

Debra Pozega Osburn, VP University Relations, provided an overview. The following resolution was moved and seconded.

That the Board of Governors approve a conditional expenditure of from the Greystone Heritage Trust, as per the Trust's terms (1989), to match a gift from a donor.

CARRIED

12. Other business

Joy Crawford noted the upcoming dates of the CUBA Conference 9:30 am – 12:30 pm, April 30th (Keynote Peter McKinnon), May 7th (EDI from a Board Perspective), May 14th (Post-COVID World). There are also PD sessions that USask will be hosting prior to our hosting the full conference in 2023.

The board adjourned to in-camera at 4:33 pm.

13. In-camera session – with the President

14. In-camera session – Board only