



## Board of Governors meeting highlights

*Issued March 26, 2015*

*The University of Saskatchewan Board of Governors held its regularly scheduled board meeting on March 24, 2015. The following is an update on the highlights of this meeting.*

### Board public session

On March 23, the board hosted a reception at Louis' Loft that was open to members of the campus community. This reception provided an opportunity for board members to engage directly with guests to address their questions or concerns. The board feels this is a good way to provide an opportunity for the campus community to interact with board members in an informal format and would like to thank everyone who attended.

### Staffing updates

The board approved the appointment of Dr. Jeremy Rayner as the director of the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy Saskatoon campus for a five year term effective July 1, 2015. Dr. Rayner is currently a professor and Centennial Research Chair in the school.

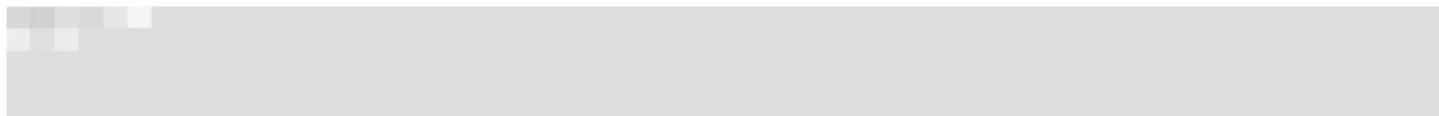
The term of the vice-provost faculty relations is set to expire on June 30, 2016 and a review of this position will begin shortly. As outlined in the [Search and Review Procedures for Senior Administrators](#), one member of this committee is a representative of the board and the board has appointed Grit McCreath.

The board approves the award of renewal of probation, tenure (continuing status) and promotion as per the collective agreement with the University of Saskatchewan Faculty Association. The University Review Committee, a group responsible for making recommendations to the board in these areas, provided their recommendations for 2014-2015. Award letters will be forthcoming to successful candidates.

The board also reviewed senior administrative and academic appointments.

### Re-location of Advancement and Community Engagement (ACE) from Innovation Place to Thorvaldson Building

The board approved the relocation of remaining university ACE staff currently located at Innovation Place to vacated space in the Thorvaldson Building. Relocating these staff and functions will reduce lease





costs paid by the university, increase productivity of units and increase the connection of alumni to campus.

### **Mine Overlay Site Testing (MOST) Facility**

The board approved the Mine Overlay Site Testing Facility (MOST). Led by Global Institute for Water Security (GIWS), the MOST facility will be unique in the world, promoting innovation and setting-up international standards in cover-system design. The initiative will involve work with industry partners and provide a place for companies to test soil cover materials, models and new cover system designs to assess performance prior to mine site reclamation. The project will be located at the north end of the existing compound containing the Crop Science Field Lab.

### **Edwards School of Business renovations**

The board approved the renovation of space within the Edwards School of Business to support the reintegration of the Master of Business Administration (MBA) program to the main campus. These renovations will be undertaken in two phases:

- 1) Classroom 243 and create breakout rooms 247/251
- 2) Rooms 244/245 (reading room and student lounge)

Renovations will provide the teaching and learning space and student support areas required for the reintegration of the MBA program from Nasser Building downtown campus to the Edwards School of Business at the main campus. Moving forward, the Nasser Building downtown campus will focus on the presentation of executive and public programming.

### **R.J.F. Smith Centre for Aquatic Ecology - building renewal**

The board approved the building renewal of the R.J.F. Smith Centre for Aquatic Ecology (R.J.F. Smith Centre). This renewal is essential to ensure the ongoing support of existing and future research programs, and also to address regulatory requirements from the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC), which are essential to allow continued research.

### **University of Saskatchewan Health Sciences – E wing, Physical Therapy fit-up**

When E Wing was constructed from 2009 to 2012, space above the Leslie and Irene Dubé Health Sciences Library on the third floor was included to address possible future needs, including the potential consolidation of the School of Physical Therapy (Physical Therapy) within the Health Sciences. Physical Therapy was identified as the first priority in the list of items within the final components of the Health



Sciences project. The board approved the fit-up of the space on the third floor of E Wing for the relocation of Physical Therapy, which will provide the space required to effectively deliver the program.

### **WCVM paddock drainage project – phase 1**

The board approved renovations at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine to address critical items related to the drainage of the paddocks that are impacting animal care and causing biosecurity issues. The renovations are required to ensure compliance with Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) regulations and to protect the teaching practices and research programs which utilize the animals. In addition, the college must ensure it meets facility and research related accreditation standards as required by the American Veterinary Medical Association.

The proposed design involves re-grading to ensure the runoff from the area is self-contained and drains to a centrally located storage tank. Due to the age of the fencing and shelters, the board determined it would be prudent to construct new fencing and shelters at the same time as resolving the drainage issue.

### **Finance and investment**

The board approved a new long term diversified investment pool policy and a revised internal loan impairment policy defining delinquency, recovery actions and escalation. The quarterly financial report was presented to the board forecasting a balanced central operating budget and a surplus in the overall operating fund due to higher than expected investment returns and lower than anticipated college expenses.

An alternative funding proposal for campus-wide capital renewal was reviewed, and further investigation and consultation will be pursued before the board determines how best to proceed.

### **Smudging and pipe ceremonies policy**

The smudging and pipe ceremonies policy was reviewed with the board. The policy was developed to protect, promote and facilitate the practice of time honoured indigenous traditions and ceremonies, including smudging and pipe ceremonies. The intent is to support the university's commitment to indigenized practices and to provide guidance in undertaking these traditions while respecting all campus members.





### **Additional items**

In addition to the approvals outlined above, the board approved 2015-16 residence and meal plan rates. The board also received updates on activities in advancement, research funding, greenhouse gas emissions and initiatives outlined in the third integrated plan.

Where relevant, more information will be shared on the outlined approvals and initiatives in future communications. The next scheduled Board of Governors meeting will be held on May 26, 2015.

