



## Board of Governors meeting highlights

*Issued June 25, 2015*

*The University of Saskatchewan Board of Governors held its regularly scheduled board meeting on June 23, 2015. The following is an update on the highlights of this meeting.*

### **Appointment of members and chairs to standing and ad hoc board committees**

Board members were assigned the following committee appointments effective July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016:

- **Audit committee:** Joy Crawford (chair), Lee Ahenakew, Daphne Arnason, Linda Ferguson, Greg Smith
- **Finance and investment committee:** Grant Isaac (chair), David Dubé, Blaine Flavel, Jack Saddleback, Greg Smith
- **Governance and executive committee:** Lee Ahenakew (chair), Gordon Barnhart, David Dubé, Kathryn Ford, Greg Smith
- **Human resources committee:** Kathryn Ford (chair), Daphne Arnason, Gordon Barnhart, Joy Crawford, Blaine Flavel
- **Land and facilities committee:** Linda Ferguson (chair), Lee Ahenakew, David Dubé, Grant Isaac, Jack Saddleback

### **Honorary ambassadorial appointment**

Grit McCreath has been named by the board as an honorary university ambassador. Grit completes her second three-year term on the board as the University Senate-elected representative on June 30, 2015. Prior to her board appointment, Grit was on Senate for three years. In this honorary position, Grit will assist the university in recruiting students, and engaging alumni and donors.

### **Senior administration annual total rewards review**

The board carried out its annual review of senior administration total rewards, which includes analysis of compensation, pension, benefits, perquisites and recognition programs versus the market strategy for these employees. Approved changes considered the university's total rewards principles and market strategy, along with the ability to pay based on budget situations that exist in any given review year. Senior administration includes approximately 70 positions, including vice-president, dean, executive director, associate dean, vice-provost, associate vice-president, university secretary and university auditor.





An annual overview of salary, benefits and reimbursements to the vice-presidents and of the compensation and expenses of the president was reviewed by the board in accordance with the provincial auditor's recommendation and best practice as part of the board's oversight and responsibility for senior management compensation. The board was satisfied with its review.

### **Faculty and senior academic and administrative appointment updates**

As the board approves the award of renewal of probation, tenure (continuing status) and promotion as per *The University of Saskatchewan Act, 1995* and the collective agreement with the University of Saskatchewan Faculty Association, information was received regarding the financial implications of tenure to ensure the board's understanding of the commitment when approving tenure awards.

### **Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence**

As part of the establishment of the Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence, the board approved the relocation and development of the Beef Cattle Research and Teaching Unit from the main campus in Saskatoon to the Clavet Farm located approximately 32 km southeast of the main campus. The new upgraded Beef Cattle Research and Teaching Unit facility is directly linked to the research and teaching mandate of the university, and addresses key regulatory requirements from the Canadian Council on Animal Care. In addition, conditional approval for full development of the Goodale Farm (approximately 15 km southeast of the main campus) to consolidate the Western Beef Development Centre facilities and research program with the research program of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) was provided, subject to the final confirmation of funding sources.

### **2015-16 annual capital plan**

The Board of Governors approved the 2015-16 annual capital plan and the distribution of the 2015-16 preventative maintenance and renewal fund. The annual capital plan, as a supplement to the multi-year capital plan (2012-2016), is developed each year and provides a refreshed synopsis of capital needs, capital funding, priorities, projects and activities for the upcoming year. The preventative maintenance and renewal fund is used to address the university's needs for capital renewal and replacement, deferred maintenance, and information and communications technology. In 2015-16, the provincial government allocated \$13.2 million for preventative maintenance and renewal, and allocations will be distributed as follows:

- Capital renewal: \$8.5M
- Strategic renewal: \$1.7M





- PCIP adaptation fund: \$1.2M
- University-wide ICT: \$1M
- University-wide multi-media: \$0.8

The annual capital plan can be viewed [online](#).

### **Operations forecast**

The board discussed the 2016-17 operations forecast in preparation for submission by the June 30 deadline. The operations forecast outlines the university's funding request of the Government of Saskatchewan for the upcoming year, and gives the Ministry of Advanced Education information about the university's operating, research operating, capital and targeted funding requirements. As part of this process, an economic impact study is being undertaken to determine the university's value to the provincial economy. More information will be shared with the campus community in the fall.

### **2015-16 detailed operating budget**

The board approved the 2015-16 operating budget with projected revenues of \$489.4 million and expenses of \$509 million. This budget is projected to result in an annual deficit of \$19.6 million. The largest factor contributing to the projected deficit is a one-time hold back of \$20 million from the provincial operating grant, net of which the university would have a projected balanced budget. The university has adequate funds to bridge this single year deficit and is working with its key partner, the provincial government, to ensure adequate funding into the future. The university continues to strive toward a balanced budget and to take steps to manage expenditure growth while supporting the academic mission. The projected expense growth rate of 2.43 per cent is down significantly from past years as expense management is a key contributor to our budget strategy. The board believes the overall financial health of the University of Saskatchewan will remain sound for the foreseeable future.

### **Additional items**

In addition to the items outlined above, the board reviewed and approved the pension plan financial statements and long term disability financial statements, and approved the Fedoruk Chair in Animal Imaging and the Industry Chair in Agri-Food Innovation.

The board also attended the annual general meetings of the university subsidiaries, Canadian Light Source Inc. and the Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation Inc., completed a scheduled annual review of the president's performance, and received an update on the composition of the presidential transition advisory committee and approved its budget.





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 July 27, 2015.