



## Board of Governors meeting highlights

*The University of Saskatchewan Board of Governors held its regularly scheduled board meeting on March 21, 2017. The following is an update on the highlights of the meeting.*

### **Board public session**

On March 20, the board hosted its annual public reception at Louis' Loft for members of the university community and would like to thank everyone who attended. The board appreciates the opportunity to interact with the university community in an informal way, and learn what is on the minds of faculty, staff and students.

### **Senior administrative appointments**

The board approved the appointment of Dr. Keith Willoughby as dean of the Edwards School of Business effective July 1, 2017, for a five-year term. Dr. Willoughby is currently serving as interim dean of the school.

The board also approved the recommendation to appoint Dr. Beth Bilson as University Secretary for a period of two years, effective Feb. 13, 2017.

Updates were provided to the board on senior academic and administrative extensions and appointments.

### **Human resources**

The board received information regarding the draft *Policy for Medical Faculty* to allow for discussion about the policy and its intent. A formal request to the board for approval of this policy will follow consultation with University Council.

The board approved the award of renewal of probation, tenure (continuing status) and promotion as per the collective agreement with the University of Saskatchewan Faculty Association. Award letters will be forthcoming to successful candidates. These approvals arise from the review of candidate's case files by the appropriate department, college and university committees, and the subsequent recommendations of these committees to the president. Renewal means an extension of a probationary appointment, promotion means the appointment to higher professorial rank and tenure (continuing status) means the appointment of an employee to a permanent position on the academic staff of the university.



The board received an update on labour relations, including the current status of agreements between the university and the employee unions and associations.

## **Tuition**

The 2017-18 standard tuition rates were approved by the board in December 2016 and announced to the campus community in January 2017. At the March board meeting, the board considered and approved tuition rates for new or revised programs that have received academic approval by University Council since December 2016. All tuition and student fee rates can be found [online](#).

Looking forward to tuition setting for 2018-19, the board will address requests from students and academic leaders to review the university's tuition policy. Last revised in 2004, the policy will undergo significant consultation until it is submitted for approval at the June 2017 Board of Governors' meeting. Consultations will focus on the issues of predictability, student consultation, accessibility and affordability, international differential fees and contract rates.

## **Finance and investment**

The board received a financial report covering the first nine months of the fiscal year. Consolidated revenues, across all funds, are up over the same period last year due to positive investment returns, support from the federal government's postsecondary institutes' strategic infrastructure fund and a delay in the timing of the 2016-17 provincial budget (the latter was partly offset by a mid-year provincial funding reduction). Consolidated expenses experienced a decrease over the same time period last year due to one-time expenses incurred in 2015-16 for College of Medicine restructuring. These improvements will assist the university in adjusting to the budget reductions anticipated for the next fiscal year.

Planned spending activity, including board-approved internal financing to critical capital projects, will result in the university reporting an approximately \$30 million reduction in general fund balances for the current fiscal year, which was largely accounted for by the major faculty restructuring plan in the College of Medicine.

The board received a briefing from senior administration on Government of Saskatchewan budget predictions. The university's 2017-18 operating budget allocation was announced following the board meeting, on March 22. A special board meeting will be held before the next regular meeting in June to debrief on the government operating grant allocation.



The board received a proposed format for the university's first comprehensive (all funds) budget for 2017-18. The university's 2017-18 budget will be presented for board approval at the June 2017 meeting.

The board also provided direction on the strategy to be incorporated into the annual provincial government funding request for 2018-19, also known as the Operations Forecast.

### **Merlis Belsher Place**

The board approved the naming of spaces and assets within Merlis Belsher place for donations over \$500,000. The board also received an update on the naming of spaces and assets for donations under \$500,000.

### **Research policies**

Revisions to the following research policies were received and approved by the board, effective immediately:

- Eligibility to Apply for, Hold, and Administer Research Funding Policy
- Institutional Costs of Research Policy: and
- Research Administration Policy

The policies were reviewed as part of the process for University-wide Service Delivery and Design Project, and the revisions incorporate changes to make the policies clearer, consistent and in alignment with Tri-Agency standards, and to more accurately reflect current research practice and administration.

### **Data Management policy**

The board approved the *Data Management* policy effective March 31, 2017, which is a revision to the existing *Data Management, Data Access and Data Use* policy. As part of this, the board also approved changing the name of the *Data Management, Data Access and Data Use* policy to the *Data Management* policy. The updated policy is based on a new data governance framework that will better reflect where data decisions need to be made, and will allow for greater flexibility to better support the full diversity of the university's data. As well, the current policy excludes research data, which is now included in the scope of the updated policy.

The board also discussed the implementation steps, timeline and communication process.



### **Additional items**

Additional items discussed and/or approved by the board that may be of interest are outlined below.

The board approved:

- the 2017-18 residence and meal plan rates.

The board received a report/update on:

- institutional planning in the current economic environment.
- the Financial Authority policy.

Where relevant, more information will be shared on the foregoing approvals and initiatives in future university communications.

The next scheduled Board of Governors meeting will be held June 20, 2017.

