



Board of Governors meeting highlights

Issued October 25, 2017

The University of Saskatchewan Board of Governors held its regularly scheduled board meeting on October 11 and 12, 2017. The following is an update on the highlights of the meeting. This summary is intended to identify significant items on which the Board has taken positive action. The Board agenda may also include proposals that have not reached completion, items covered by confidentiality and privacy policies or legal privilege, and information items that are reported or announced elsewhere. These are not normally included in the Board Highlights summary.

Vice-chair appointed

Shelley Brown was selected to serve as vice-chair of the board effective October 11. A U of S commerce grad, Brown has more than 30 years of experience in accounting public practice. She was appointed to the board by the Government of Saskatchewan on July 27, 2017.

Finance and investment

The Board approved revised timelines for setting tuition rates. Tuition rates for 2018-19 will now be approved by the Board of Governors at its March meeting instead of its December meeting, which has been the practice for the past few years. The extra months will allow for more meaningful consultation with students, while also allowing for better alignment with the university's annual planning processes. Tuition is reviewed annually by the Board of Governors and is set according to three principles: comparability to similar programs at other Canadian U15 medical-doctoral universities; accessibility and affordability for the majority of potential students; and the quality of programs and the need to ensure students receive a high-quality education.

Human resources

The board ratified the Graduate Student Employee Collective Agreement between the university and the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC). PSAC represents approximately 800 U of S graduate students who are employed as teaching and research assistants.

Senior administrative and academic appointments

The Board approved the appointment of Dr. Darcy Marciniuk as associate vice-president research beginning October 1, 2017 to September 22, 2022.

The Board approved (electronically) the appointment of Gord Hunchak as associate vice-president strategic communications and chief communications officer beginning September 18, 2017.



In addition, updates were provided to the board on senior academic and administrative extensions and appointments.

Additional items

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

- The Board approved two research infrastructure proposals (exceeding \$500,000) to Western Economic Diversification (WD): Autonomous Airborne Cold Regions Innovation Facility has made a proposal (\$1.37 million in WD funding) that will enable the purchase of large drones with a variety of sensors; and Omics and Precision Laboratory (\$1.35 million in WD funding) to support equipment purchases including aerial and in-field imaging and analysis instruments, unmanned aerial vehicles and laser interferometers.
- The Board approved the Allard Foundation Chair in Veterinary Oncology. The Allard Foundation will provide \$500,000 for a five-year term. This chair has also been approved by University Council.

The next scheduled Board of Governors meeting will be held December 7 and 8, 2017.

