



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

The University of Saskatchewan Board of Governors held its regularly scheduled board meeting on March 18 and 19, 2019. 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.

Board public session

On March 18, the board hosted its annual public reception at Louis' Loft for members of the university community. 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.

2019-20 budget

The Board approved a preliminary budget for the 2019-20 fiscal year. The budget presented was balanced. The university's 2019-20 operating budget allocation was announced by the Government of Saskatchewan following the board meeting, on March 20. The university's 2019-20 budget will be presented for board approval at a meeting after the details of the provincial grant are available.

Reducing carbon emissions

The Board approved funding that will enable USask to improve energy efficiency at its Saskatoon campus. Of the total budget of \$3.48 million, more than \$1.5 million in funding will come from the Government of Canada's Low Carbon Economy Fund. We will improve energy efficiency of 26 USask buildings through retro-commissioning, controls upgrades and energy improvement measures, which will be completed by March 31, 2022.

Real-time Aquatic Ecosystem Observation Network

The Board approved budgets totaling \$875,000 for the Real-time Aquatic Ecosystem Observation Network (RAEON). The Canada Foundation for Innovation has agreed to provide \$350,000 in funding for this project. RAEON will provide the infrastructure and data management that Canadian researchers need to carry out cutting-edge research that will enable us to track, understand and monitor freshwater ecosystem conditions and what causes them.

Information Technology Use Policy

The Board approved the revisions to the Computer Use policy and approved changing the name of this policy to Information Technology Use, effective March 31, 2019. The revised policy keeps the main concepts of the original policy intact, while updating it to include all IT services and infrastructure, regardless of who uses or maintains them, or where they are housed. The scope of the policy was expanded to include members of the public who use the university's assets or services, including wireless network and library services.

Chair approvals

Previously approved by University Council, the Board approved the establishment of the Ducks Unlimited Chair in Wetland and Waterfowl Conservation effective July 1, 2019. This chair will help address environmental issues such as industrial agriculture, urban expansion, and climate change, which have impacted waterfowl and wetland habitat and will continue to do so as the human population grows. This further heightens the need for skilled professionals to face the challenges of conserving waterfowl populations in the future.

The next scheduled Board of Governors meeting will be held on June 24 and 25, 2019.