

Minutes of a meeting of the USask Board of Governors

Tuesday, June 21, 2022

Emmett Hall Boardroom - PMB 238

Present: Shelley Brown (Chair), Joy Crawford (via Zoom), Grant Devine (June 21), Abhineet Goswami, Jay Kalra, Ritu Malhotra, Grit McCreath, Keith Martell, Louise Simard, Peter Stoicheff

Resource Officers: Greg Fowler, Airini, Baljit Singh, David Stack, Dailene Kells, Trevor Batters, Julian Demkiw (secretary), Sheena Tait-Rowan (recording secretary)

Guests: Office of the Provincial Auditor - Jennifer Robertson, Trevor St. John, Nicole Dressler, Victor Schwab

1. Roll Call

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:12 am on Monday, June 20, 2022, noting the Indigenous Land acknowledgement. and declaring the meeting properly constituted for the transaction of business, with herself as chair and the university secretary and chief governance officer as secretary.

2. Board only session

Management joined the meeting at 8:35 am.

3. Chair's remarks

The Chair and Board members welcomed Abhineet Goswami to his first Board meeting as USSU president. The meeting marked the last for Chelsea Willness, university secretary and chief governance officer, and for Jay Kalra, faculty representative to the Board. The Chair and members thanked Dr. Willness and Dr. Kalra for their contributions and guidance over the last years and wished them both the very best.

Also welcomed were Cheryl Hamelin, vice president university relations; and Julian Demkiw, incoming university secretary and chief governance officer.

The Chair stated that she and the president had been officially informed of the order in council appointment of Marty Seymour, effective immediately. Members can look forward to meeting Mr. Seymour at the July meeting. The Chair summarized the meeting activities and added that Minister Wyant would be joining the Board on Tuesday. She then invited the President to provide his remarks to the Board.

4. President's statement

The President reported on a number of items to the board, including:

- The campus-wide mask mandate would be paused as of July 1. The Pandemic Response and Recovery Team (PRT) will continue to monitor the situation over the summer and determine how the university will proceed in August.
- The success and excitement of convocation and thanked the Chancellor, the convocation team, and the governance office for their work.
- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s recent visit to campus. While here he visited with Indigenous students at the Gordon Oakes Red Bear student centre, followed by a visit with Agriculture Bioresources and the Crop Development Centre faculty and students, and then visited the Vaccine Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO).
- The Times Higher Education (THE) university impact rankings, which rank universities in terms of their work on united nations sustainable development goals.
- USask continues to do what it can to support students and faculty from the Ukraine. USask has been working with other U15 universities, including the University of Toronto, to coordinate a virtual Q & A session for students with President Zelensky.
- The university is working on a Scholars at Risk bursary program. The purpose of the fund is to assist in providing a haven for international students facing challenges to enter or remain at USask.

5. Identification of Conflicts of Interest related to the business of the meeting

None identified

The Board adjourned and the standing committees commenced. Following the adjournment of the standing committee meetings at 4:55 pm, the Board was provided with a tour of the Edwards School of Business.

6. Board meeting reconvened on Tuesday, June 21, 2022.

The Board Chair welcomed members back to the meeting and thanked the President for the Board dinner and entertainment provided by Veronique Mathieu, chair in the Music Department on violin (an amati instrument), accompanied by Bonnie Nicholson on piano. She also expressed the Board’s appreciation of the tour of the Edwards School of Business.

The Chair invited the Provost to share her plans to embark on an adventure known as the Yukon 1000, the world’s longest paddle race. Members viewed the race’s website and wished the Provost a safe journey as she and her group paddle for 10 days from Whitehorse to the Dalton Highway Bridge. The Board is looking forward to hearing more about the adventure upon the Provost’s return.

At the March Board retreat, members touched briefly on revisiting the university’s Mission, Vision, Values (MVV) on a regular basis. The Chair commented that it is a good exercise for the Board to ensure that its work is being carried out with the MVV in mind. The President provided a description of the process through which the MVV was developed.

7. Briefing – Government Relations

Sara Daniels, associate vice president government relations joined the meeting at 8:45 am and provided a briefing prior to arrival of Minister Wyant. She noted that Minister Wyant is one of the most experienced cabinet ministers and a great supporter of USask and an alumnus.

8. Minister's visit

Minister Wyant and Chief of Staff, Angela Currie were welcomed at 9 am and a roundtable of introductions was carried out. Topics of discussion include the innovation corridor, philosophy for government appointments to the Board such as the skills matrix, experience the Board might need to carry out its oversight, graduate retention, and the Canadian Foundation for Innovation's (CFI) major science initiatives and recent funding success.

The Chair thanked the Minister and Ms. Currie for the visit and expressed that the Board is looking forward to working with them.

Upon the Minister's departure, the Board proceeded to its business beginning with the approval of the consent agenda.

9. Approval of agenda

That the Board of Governors approved the agenda as distributed.

CARRIED

Committee and Board proper decision items were presented via consent agenda.

Consent Agenda Items
Approval of minutes of the Board of Governors meeting March 22, 2022
<i>STANDING COMMITTEES</i>
GOVERNANCE AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
GE 3 Review of committee membership
That the Board of Governors approves the appointment of members and chairs to the standing and ad hoc Board committees as distributed, effective July 1, 2022.
GE 4 Discrimination and Harassment Prevention Policy revisions
That the Board of Governors approves revisions to the Discrimination and Harassment Prevention Policy, effective immediately.
GE 5 Setting President's goals for 2022-2023
Salary decision – Board only session
AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
AF 3 21/22 One-time resource allocation adjustment to Teaching, Learning, and Student Experience (TLSE)

That the Board of Governors approves the incremental one-time resource allocation of \$700,000 to the administrative unit Teaching, Learning and Student Experience (TLSE), effective in the 2021-22 fiscal year.

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

HR 3 Renewal, Tenure, and Promotion approvals

That the Board of Governors approves the award of Renewal of Probation, Tenure, and Promotion to faculty who received positive recommendations effective July 1, 2022.

HR 4 Promotion Appeals

That the Board of Governors approves the names provided, effective July 1, 2022.

HR 5 Senior Administration Total Rewards

That the Board of Governors approves the proposed changes to senior administration total rewards, effective July 1, 2022.

HR 6 A Approval of Academic Money Purchase Pension Plan - Target Date Default Strategy

That the Board of Governors approve a custom target date fund strategy as its default fund option for the Academic Money Purchase Pension Plan, contingent on a positive ratification vote by faculty member participants in the plan.

HR 6B Approval of the Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 1975 - USask Collective Agreement

That the Board of Governors approves the tentative agreement between the University of Saskatchewan (employer) and the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE 1975), covering the period from January 1, 2021, to December 31, 2024, contingent on a positive ratification vote by CUPE membership.

LAND AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE

LF 5 Dental Clinic Building Renewal

That the Board of Governors grants preliminary approval to proceed with continued development of plans for the Dental Clinic Building Renovation project.

LF 6 Electrical Infrastructure Renewal Program

That the Board of Governors provides final approval to proceed with the Preston Substation Conversion 72Kv to 138Kv and Murray Building Power Supply and Distribution projects under the Electrical Infrastructure Renewal Program.

LF 7 Murray Building Renewal

That the Board of Governors provides final approval of the project program, design and capital cost for the Murray Building Renewal Project.

LF 8 VIDO Animal Care Facility and Renovations to Existing Building

That the Board of Governors provides preliminary approval to proceed with continued development of the VIDO Animal Care Facility and Renovations to Existing Building.

LF 9 Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) Proposals Exceeding \$500,000:

That the Board of Governors grant approval of the final program, capital, and operating budgets for the Microfluidics for the Improved Study of One Health Pathogens CFI proposal.

LF 10 2022-23 Annual Capital Projection

That the Board of Governors accepts the 2022-23 Capital Projection.

LF 11 Annual Preventative Maintenance and Renewal (PMR) Plan

That the Board of Governors approves the 2022-23 Preventative Maintenance and Renewal Plan effective May 1, 2022.

BOARD DECISIONS – ITEMS FROM COUNCIL

BOG 10 JSGS Research Chair in Métis Governance and Policy Terms of Reference

That the Board of Governors approves the establishment of the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School (JSGS) Research Chair in Métis Governance and Policy, effective July 1, 2022.

BOG 11 E.D. Tymchatyn Chair in Topology

That the Board of Governors approves the E.D. Tymchatyn Chair in Topology effective July 1, 2022.

The following resolution was moved and seconded.

That the Board of Governors approves the consent agenda items as presented.

CARRIED

ITEMS RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION

BOG 12 JCCP 2021-2022 Annual Report

BOG 13 Electronic approvals

Appointment of Strategic Communications & Chief Communications Officer

BOG 14 Correspondence

BOG 15 U15 Plan update

The university plan is a forward-thinking, strategic document that guides the university's aspirations for the through to 2025. The Provost provided a brief verbal report on the plan's progress for information. A suggestion was made to visit with the deans to ascertain 'what the world needs' from their perspectives.

The Chair thanked the Provost for the very well-done presentation.

BOG 16 University Relations report

The VPUR presented her report and thanked Danielle Dunbar for her leadership and work on the comprehensive campaign. The campaign has now reached 51% of its goal. The timing of the launch was discussed at length as were transformative gifts. Following the presentation, the Chair thanked the VPUR and welcomed her again to the university.

BOG 17 AGM – Sylvia Fedoruk Centre for Nuclear Innovation

The Chair welcomed guests Tom Kischuk (Fedoruk Centre Board Chair), John Root (Fedoruk Centre Executive Director), and Niki Schrie (via zoom). Baljit Singh chaired the AGM.

BOG 18 AGM - Canadian Light Source, Inc.

The Chair welcomed Pierre LaPointe, CLSI Board chair, Janet King, CLSI vice chair, and interim executive director, Bill Matiko and turned to Baljit Singh to introduce the CLS and guests. Baljit Singh chaired the AGM.

The guests departed and the chair thanked management for their reports and participation.

Board adjourned at 12:05 pm and moved in-camera following the lunch break.

Board only session

In-camera – without president