



Board of Governors meeting highlights

Issued December 15, 2017

The University of Saskatchewan Board of Governors held its regularly scheduled board meeting on December 7 and 8, 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 the Board Highlights summary.

Cyber security

Shari Baraniuk, Chief Information Officer of Information and Communications Technology (ICT), presented an update on the university's cyber security awareness policies, performance metrics and next steps underway to ensure the U of S's IT systems are protected to the extent possible against cyber attacks. Recent efforts have been directed at improving security monitoring, as well as education and awareness for email phishing campaigns, among other items. Future work will continue in four key areas: network security, device management, safe data storage and IT security awareness.

Financial update

The board was provided with a mid-year financial update and an update on the budget planning process leading up to the release of the university's 2018-19 operating budget, expected in Spring 2018.

Endowment spending review

The Board approved a slight reduction in endowment spending (the allowable amount that can be spent each year from specific invested funds) from 4 per cent to 3.75 per cent for 2018-19, as a result of a review of the university's endowment spending policy. The reduction will allow the university to preserve the value of its endowments over the long-term, while minimizing impact on spending for the current year anticipating that original rates will be re-implemented the following year. The U of S is on par with spending ratios at other Canadian U15 universities, which range from 3 to 5 per cent with the average being 3.9 per cent.

Update on capital projects

Board 2 approval was granted for the [Science Library Lower Level project](#), which includes installation of new compact mobile shelving that will create more study and research space for students and faculty on the first floor of the Science Library, located in the Geology Building. This project is part of the long-



term, multi-stage Library Transformation project that provides holistic direction for the development of library spaces over the next 10 years. Construction of the compact shelving will be complete by June 2018.

The Board received a report on the current status of four major capital projects: the Collaborative Science Research Building, the Health Sciences Building C Wing, Merlis Belsher Place and the Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence.

The next scheduled Board of Governors meeting will be held March 19 and 20, 2018.