



Board of Governors meeting highlights

Issued June 23, 2016

The University of Saskatchewan Board of Governors held its regularly scheduled board meeting on June 21, 2016. The following is an update on the highlights of this meeting.

New board members

Kehan Fu joined the board effective May 1, by virtue of his election as president of the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU). Kehan was named to the finance and investment committee and the land and facilities committee. Kehan will play a crucial role on the board—bringing the voice of students to the table.

Dr. Jay Kalra joins the board effective July 1, 2016 as the elected faculty member to the board, replacing Linda Ferguson. A professor in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Jay is currently chair of University Council, a position from which he will step down on June 30, 2016. Jay was named to the finance and investment, governance and executive, and land and facilities committees.

Appointment of members and chairs to standing and ad hoc board committees

Board members were assigned the following committee appointments effective July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017:

- **Audit committee:** Joy Crawford (chair), Lee Ahenakew, Daphne Arnason, Grant Isaac, Greg Smith
- **Finance and investment committee:** Grant Isaac (chair), David Dubé, Kehan Fu, Jay Kalra, Greg Smith
- **Governance and executive committee:** David Dubé (chair), Lee Ahenakew, Kathryn Ford, Jay Kalra, Peter Stoicheff
- **Human resources committee:** Kathryn Ford (chair), Lee Ahenakew, Joy Crawford, Blaine Favel, Peter Stoicheff
- **Land and facilities committee:** Daphne Arnason (chair), David Dubé, Blaine Favel, Kehan Fu, Jay Kalra

Senior administration annual total rewards review

The board carried out its annual review of senior administration total rewards, which includes analysis of compensation, pension, benefits, perquisites and recognition programs. Approved changes



considered the university's total rewards principles and market strategy, along with the current fiscal realities. Senior administration includes approximately 70 positions, including vice-presidents, deans, executive directors, associate deans, vice-provosts, associate vice-presidents, university secretary and university auditor.

An annual overview of salary, benefits and reimbursements to the vice-presidents and a review of the compensation and expenses of the president was undertaken by the board as part of the board's oversight and responsibility for senior management compensation.

Faculty and senior academic and administrative appointment updates

Updates were provided to the board on senior academic and administrative appointments. Faculty taking sabbatical leave for the 2016-2017 academic year were outlined for the board's information. Two promotion appeals were also approved by the board, following review of those cases. As outlined in the *University Act*, the university's decisions on appointments, tenure, continuing status, promotions, suspension or removal of employees are to be considered by the board.

Physical Activity Centre (PAC) video scoreboard/clock

The installation of a new scoreboard/video display clock in the PAC was approved. Huskie Athletics is an integral component of the University of Saskatchewan and plays an important role in alumni and community linkages, as well as the reputation of the institution. One of the key opportunities to enhance the university's reputation and linkages is through the "game experience."

Operations forecast

The board discussed the 2017-18 operations forecast in preparation for submission by the end of June 2016 deadline. The operations forecast outlines the university's funding request of the Government of Saskatchewan for the upcoming year, and gives the Ministry of Advanced Education information about the university's operating, research operating, capital and targeted funding requirements. More information will be shared with the campus community after it is shared with the Government of Saskatchewan.

2016-17 detailed operating budget

The board approved the [2016-17 operating budget](#) with projected revenues of \$483.2 million and expenses of \$500.5 million. This budget is projected to result in a deficit of \$17.3 million. The largest factor contributing to the projected deficit is a one-time hold back of \$20 million from the College of



Medicine targeted grant. The university has adequate funds to bridge this deficit and is continuing to work with its key partner, the provincial government, to ensure adequate funding into the future.

While the provincial funding was announced as substantially unchanged from last year, there are some significant points to consider:

- The U of S will receive \$312.9 million in 2016-17, a zero per cent funding increase from last year.
- The \$20 million holdback from the 2015-16 general university operating grant was reinstated, however, targeted funding to the College of Medicine was reduced by \$20 million.
- Funding requested for Aboriginal and internationalization initiatives was not granted.
- Funding for the health sciences capital project and the Canada Excellence Research Chair in Water Security was deferred.

In the funding letter this year, the Ministry of Advanced Education outlined five expectations of all post-secondary institutions in Saskatchewan:

1. Accessible: offers qualified persons the opportunity to attend and succeed
2. Responsive: meets the needs of students, communities and the economy
3. Sustainable: operates within available resources
4. Accountable: achieves expected outcomes and is transparent
5. Quality: meets standards and builds public confidence in the programs and services provided

The university continues to strive toward a balanced budget and to take steps to manage expenditure growth while supporting the academic mission. We are working with the ministry to understand these expectations and determine how they will impact our operations going forward.

Draft vision, mission and values statement

Based on consultation activities from January to May 2016, including online surveys (February and April), in-person meetings, emails and a review of institutional documents, the visioning committee prepared a draft document for input by the university governing bodies and the university community. The board discussed this draft statement and provided feedback for the visioning committee to consider as they finalize the document.

Presidential Transition Advisory Committee

The board received an update on transition activities since March 2016. Presidential transition activities have included meetings with colleges/schools (3) and administrative units (6), two faculty dinners and two external receptions. In total, these events reached over 700 people.





As we approach the one year anniversary of Peter Stoicheff being named the 11th president and vice-chancellor of the University of Saskatchewan, transition activities are in the process of being incorporated into the regular business of the president's office. As a consequence, the board approved the dissolution of the presidential transition advisory committee effective June 30, 2016.

Additional items

Additional items discussed and/or approved by the board that may be of interest are as follows:

- The renovation of the heating system in the Williams Building was approved. The replacement of the underground heating lines is critical to ensure the integrity of the Williams Building operations.
- The board reviewed the annual investment report, outlining investment returns were below the 10-year average. Average returns are anticipated going forward.
- Honorary Ambassador Grit McCreath provided a report on her activities over the past year.
- The board reviewed and approved a revised conflict of interest form that captures the various types of conflicts that can arise for board members.
- The board approved a change in reporting to have Audit Services Division report to the board through the vice-president finance and resources.
- The board approved the appointment of Greg Smith, Beth Bilson and Cheryl Carver to the Joint Committee to Review the Search and Review Procedures for Senior Administrators.
- The board approved the appointment of a board representative to the dean's search committees for the Colleges of Dentistry, Engineering and Nursing, and the executive director of the School of Environment and Sustainability.

The board also attended the annual general meeting of the university subsidiary, Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation Inc., the National Aboriginal Day celebrations at the Gordon Oakes Red Bear Centre and a reception with the University of Saskatchewan Alumni Association.

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 July 25, 2016.

