



Board of Governors meeting highlights

Issued March 31, 2016

The University of Saskatchewan Board of Governors held its regularly scheduled board meeting on March 29, 2015. The following is an update on the highlights of the meeting.

Board public session

In 2015, the Board of Governors changed the format of its annual public meeting from a panel with question and answer format to an informal reception. On March 28, the board hosted its annual public reception at Louis' Loft for members of the campus community and would like to thank everyone who attended. The board appreciates the opportunity to interact with the campus community in an informal way and learn what is on the minds of faculty, staff and students.

Visioning document

Members of the visioning committee attended the board meeting to provide an update on progress and hear from board members on what they see for the future of the U of S. The board learned the committee, appointed by President Stoicheff in December 2015, has made significant progress in its work to develop a new vision, mission and values statement for the university. Early work has focused on process, strategy development and consultations with several audiences. Current work is focused on continued consultations, early analysis of consultation inputs and developing a first draft for release in April.

Human resources

The board approved the tentative collective agreement between the University of Saskatchewan and the Administrative and Supervisory Personnel Association (ASPA), covering the period from May 1, 2014 to April 30, 2019. This agreement represents approximately 1,100 employees (instructional, information technology, managerial, specialist professional and administrative) at the University of Saskatchewan.

The board approved the tentative collective agreement between the University of Saskatchewan and the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) 3287, covering the period from September 1, 2014 to August 31, 2019, contingent upon a positive ratification by CUPE 3287 membership. Voting by CUPE 3287 members is expected to occur in April. This agreement represents approximately 425 employees (sessional lecturers) at the university.

More information on these agreements can be found [online](#).





The board approved the award of renewal of probation, tenure (continuing status) and promotion as per the collective agreement with the University of Saskatchewan Faculty Association. Award letters will be forthcoming to successful candidates. These approvals arise from the review of candidate's case files by the appropriate department, college and university committees, and the subsequent recommendations of these committees to the president. Renewal means an extension of a probationary appointment, promotion means the appointment to higher professorial rank and tenure (continuing status) means the appointment of an employee to a permanent position on the academic staff of the university.

Presidential transition

In 2015, as part of the search process for a new president, the presidential search committee undertook a consultation process to develop a position profile for the role of the University of Saskatchewan president. The board formally approved this profile, and it can be found [online](#).

As the transition of Peter Stoicheff into the role of president continues through his first year in office, engagement in early 2016 has focused on the internal community.

Peter has visited with 14 colleges/schools as of March 30, engaging with over 700 faculty, staff and students. At each visit, Peter provides an overview of university priorities, including economic impact, research success, Indigenization and the process to renew the university's vision, mission and values. Participants have been encouraged to ask questions of the president and provide comments on what the university should consider in a new vision, mission and values statement.

A series of dinners have provided the opportunity for Peter to engage with 74 faculty to date. The purpose of these dinners is for Peter to hear what is on the minds of faculty and to learn what faculty see for the future of the university. Targeted groups have included newly tenured faculty, department heads and those that excel at the university's research and teaching mission.

In addition to students being invited to many college/school meetings, Peter met with the University Students' Council (approximately 25 student leaders). Students were highly engaged in a conversation focused on how the university can support students and be the best it can be for all students.

Presidential transition activities are currently planned until June 2016. These include meetings with colleges/schools and administrative units, and events to engage Peter primarily with the external community.





Governance policies, procedures and guidelines

The board approved updates to a number of governance policies, guidelines and procedures as follows:

- Board governance standards
- Guidelines for board member expenses
- Guidelines for governing board member responsibilities
- Guidelines for *in camera* and board only sessions
- Board chair and vice-chair position descriptions
- Board bylaws
- Flag at half-mast policy
- Use of university seal policy

These documents are in the process of being finalized and will be posted on the [Office of the University Secretary website](#) by April 8.

Relationship management system – ICT

The board approved phase 1 of the Relationship Management System (RMS). Phase 1 of the RMS is the implementation of the student recruitment module. This module will provide the ability to offer personalized, engaging interactions to assist students in the selection of degrees or programs that will help them in achieving their educational and career goals.

Finance and investment

The board received a quarterly update on university finances indicating revenues are down from last year due to lower than expected government funding and investment returns. The university anticipates volatility in revenue, however an adequate reserve is maintained to offset these financial shocks on a one-time basis.

Expenses have increased at a slower rate relative to historical trends as the university continues to manage expenses. The overall financial health of the university is stable and the board is pleased to see advancement of the university's mission.

The board approved a new policy to consolidate the university's capital debt and internal loan policies into one overarching policy. This policy introduces new measures to provide information to the board on the level of indebtedness aligned with sector best practices.





Tuition

The 2016-17 standard tuition rates were presented and approved by the board in December 2015, and were announced to the campus community in January 2016. At the March board meeting, the board considered and approved tuition rates for new or revised programs that have received academic approval by University Council since December 2015. These rates can be found [online](#).

Additional items

In addition to those matters outlined above, the board nominated representatives to three search committees: vice-provost, Indigenous engagement; associate vice-president, research; and university auditor.

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 on June 21, 2016.

