



## Board of Governors meeting highlights

Issued October 21, 2016

*The University of Saskatchewan Board of Governors held its regularly scheduled board meeting on October 6, 2016. The following is an update on the highlights of this meeting.*

### Senior administrative and academic appointments

The board approved the recommendation to appoint Ms. Shari Baraniuk as chief information officer and associate vice-president, Information and Communications Technology, for a two year term, effective October 7, 2016.

In addition, updates were provided to the board on senior academic and administrative extensions and appointments.

### Policies, procedures and guidelines

The board approved a new enterprise risk management policy for the university and the incorporation of language acknowledging Treaty Six Territory and the Homeland of the Métis at all board meetings. The board will use the same language adopted by University Council, as follows:

*“As we gather here **today**, we acknowledge we are on Treaty Six Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respects to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.”*

In addition, amendments to the signing authority policy were approved.

### Collaborative Science Research Building

In August, the federal government announced a \$30.1 million investment at the U of S for the construction of a Collaborative Science Research Building. The board approved matching university funding for the building. The building will support collaborative and team-based research in the areas of life and natural sciences, with a goal of promoting and developing global food security from basic research, through to public policy and commercialization. Bringing together experts from diverse fields such as biology, bioinformatics, the chemistry of natural products, nutrition, environmental science and crop science is needed to address complex issues in a modern context. This building will be a catalyst for intensive collaboration, innovation and development of partnerships.



### **Preston Substation T3 transformer upgrade**

The board approved the replacement of one of the transformers at the Preston Substation to accommodate SaskPower's increase to the Preston Substation incoming voltage from 72,000 volts to 138,000 volts. An upgraded T3 transformer will support a reliable power supply to U of S research functions, Royal University Hospital and the Children's Hospital of Saskatchewan.

### **University Livestock Facility**

The board provided approval to commence work on the initial phases of the University Livestock Facility. The University Livestock Facility will streamline and co-ordinate assets in support of the beef cattle and forage research undertaken as part of the Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence (LFCE).

### **Quarterly financial report**

The board received an update on the university's quarterly financials. A projected decrease to the general fund balance is expected due to planned spending by colleges, schools and units. On a consolidated basis, total revenues are higher than the same period last year due to stronger investment returns and the recognition of provincial government revenue following the budget announcement in June 2016, which was later than usual due to the timing of the election. Consolidated expenses are showing a modest increase compared to the same period last year due to increases in salaries and benefits, and the cost of interest rate swaps. These increases are partially offset by a decrease in other operating costs.

### **IT security**

The board received an update on security initiatives being worked on by Information and Communications Technology (ICT). There was also a discussion on the IT security policy that is planned to be brought to the board for approval in December 2016.

### **New vision, mission and values statement for the university**

The board has deferred its review of the new vision, mission and values statement for the university until late October. There is a desire from the board to be the final approval to confirm the statement is met with approval from Senate and University Council first.





### **Items from University Council**

The board provided support for recent decisions from University Council to disestablish the Divisions of Fine Arts and Humanities, Social Sciences and Science – all in the College of Arts and Science.

### **Additional items**

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

- The board has asked to receive an update report from a college or school at each meeting. At this meeting, the board heard from Dr. Doug Freeman, dean of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine.
- The board received a presentation on the Industry Liaison Office from its managing director, Johannes Dyring, on how the university supports, invests in and manages the commercialization of innovation.

The annual Board of Governors' strategy session that traditionally coincides with the October board meeting was moved to the December meeting to allow for the attendance of our two new vice-presidents, Interim Provost and Vice-President Academic Michael Atkinson and Vice-President University Relations Debra Pozega Osburn, and to accommodate the guest speaker's schedule. This year's guest speaker will be Paul Davidson, president of Universities Canada.

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 December 13-14, 2016.

