



Board of Governors meeting highlights

Issued December 17, 2014

The University of Saskatchewan Board of Governors held its regularly scheduled board meeting on December 16, 2014. The following is an update on the highlights of this meeting.

New board member

Joy Crawford, a new member of the board who was elected by Senate this fall, was named to the human resources and audit committees of the Board of Governors. Joy is a CPA, CMA currently employed at Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan. In June 2014, Joy completed her second and final three-year term as a University of Saskatchewan Senator. Prior to that she served on the Alumni Association Board of Directors for six years, one of which was president of the association. Joy has experience leading board efforts in the areas of audit, policy and governance, strategic planning and communications, and the members of the board feel she will be a valuable addition to the board and these committees.

President's report on visit to China

President Gordon Barnhart provided a report on his recent 12-day trip to China that included stops in Hong Kong, Shantou and Beijing. The purpose of the trip was three-fold:

- 1) to build partnerships with four universities in China to facilitate the exchange of students, faculty and researchers;
- 2) to engage with alumni who live in China; and
- 3) to meet with potential donors.

The trip was successful on all three fronts. Two written and two verbal partnerships were confirmed with the universities that were met with and two alumni receptions were held. The dinner in Beijing had 70 people in attendance, mostly young graduates of the University of Saskatchewan. Four attendees flew three hours or more to attend the dinner. Lastly, meetings with potential donors resulted in two new donations and the further building of several more relationships.

Update from the College of Medicine

Dean of the College of Medicine, Preston Smith, provided the board with a comprehensive update on progress towards [The Way Forward](#), the implementation plan for the restructure of the College of Medicine. The dean, who began his term on June 1, 2014, also provided an assessment of his early days in the college.



Temporary STARS helicopter landing site

The university is working with the Ministry of Health, Saskatoon Health Region and STARS on a temporary helicopter landing site that will result in better accessibility to Royal University Hospital for STARS air ambulance. Two potential locations are being considered. A final site selection will be made based on technical assessments of the sites. The site will be used until the completion of the Children's Hospital of Saskatchewan at which time the landing site will be on the roof of the hospital.

Visibility of Aboriginal culture

As part of the university's third integrated plan, the university is working to increase the visibility of Aboriginal culture and symbols on campus. As part of this initiative, Arts Court, a parking loop off of Campus Drive, will be renamed Elders Court. This will be the primary access point to the Gordon Oakes-Red Bear Student Centre once open in 2015.

Related entities

New board members were appointed to the Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation, the Canadian Light Source Inc. and the Prairie Swine Centre Inc.

Additional items receiving board approval

Additional items approved by the board that may be of interest are as follows:

- The Biology 106 lecture theatre will undergo renewal to ensure the space better serves the needs of current students.
- Staff in Advancement and Community Engagement currently located in leased office space at Innovation Place will be relocated back to the core campus.
- Funding was identified and secured for a new Facility for Applied Avian Research. This facility will be one of only two facilities in Canada capable of advanced research on birds, as well as the only facility of its kind dedicated to studies of avian wildlife ecotoxicology and medicine.
- Two new research policies were approved: 1) research administration policy and 2) eligibility to apply for, hold and administer research funding policy. These policies will ensure alignment with Tri-Agency requirements and ensure standardized administrative practices and internal controls.

More information will be shared on these initiatives as plans move forward.



Upcoming announcements

There were other matters considered by the board that will be shared through other communication avenues in the coming weeks. The board is currently working to finalize 2015-16 tuition rates and fees, and an official announcement is expected in mid-January. Two new chair positions were approved by the board, and the relevant departments will be announcing these shortly.

The next scheduled Board of Governors meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2015.

