

## USask Board of Governors Public Minutes

April 14 & 15, 2025

Regina General Hospital, College of Medicine, 1440 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue

**Members:** Keith Martell (Chair), Shelley Brown (Vice-Chair), Peter Stoicheff, Mike Marsh, Marty Seymour, Krunal Chavda, Grant Devine, Nadeem Jamali, Grit McCreath, Corinna Stevenson, Herb McFaull

**Regrets:** No Regrets

**Present:** Greg Fowler, Deidre (Dee) Henne, Baljit Singh, Vince Bruni-Bossio, Cheryl Hamelin, Alex Foster (Virtual), Patti McDougall (Virtual), David Stack (Virtual), Wade Epp, Julian Demkiw (University Secretary), Anna Okapiec (Recording), Carly Mysko (staff support)

### Call to Order – 1:00 pm

#### 1. Board only with the President (in-camera)

#### 2. Chair's Remarks

The chair welcomed everyone, and Herb McFaull provided a land acknowledgement to start the meeting in a good way.

#### 3. President's Statement

The president talked about the many successful alumni events that have been happening through the end of the comprehensive campaign, which has been very rewarding. He also acknowledged the very successful season for the Huskies.

The President provided an overview of his recent address to the GAA, which was shared with the Board. He acknowledged the Zoom bombing incident and highlighted key themes from his remarks, including Canada's leadership in various fields and the strength of its knowledge-based economy.

#### 4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Nadeem Jamali declared a conflict for any faculty-related matters.

## 5. Approval of the Agenda

That the Agenda be approved as circulated.

## 6. Approval of Board Minutes from December 2024

That the minutes from the December 2024 Board Meeting be approved as circulated.

## Human Resource Committee Report

### 7. Reporting from Chair, HR Committee

HR Committee Chair Herb McFaull provided an overview of the March 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, noting that a full summary is included in the board package. The committee discussed the April 4<sup>th</sup> Zoom bombing at the GAA meeting.

### 8. Items for Approval

#### 8.1 Renewal, Tenure, and Promotion Recommendations

This was discussed at the committee level.

Motion: *On the recommendation of the Human Resources Committee, the Board of Governors approves the award of Renewal of Probation, Tenure, and Promotion to faculty who received positive recommendations as outlined in Attachment 1, effective July 1, 2025.*

#### 8.2 Dean, CGPS Reappointment Approval

The VP Research spoke about the extensive work and accomplishments Dr. Burshytn has completed in her first term.

Motion: *On the recommendation of the Human Resources committee, the Board of Governors approve the renewal of Dr. Deborah Burshtyn as Dean, College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies for a 5-year term, effective July 1, 2025.*

## Land and Facilities Committee Report

### 9. Reporting from Chair, L&F Committee

The Land and Facilities Chair, Marty Seymour, thanked the staff for the work leading up to the committee meetings. He spoke about the March 31<sup>st</sup> committee meeting and acknowledged the report within the package that summarizes all discussions.

### 10. Seminary Crescent Update

The AVP Operations provided an overview of the Expression of Interest (EOI) process, the current condition of the buildings, and recent fire marshal orders and engineering reports, all included in the board package.

Committee Chair Marty Seymour noted that the Land and Facilities Committee has extensively reviewed the matter. The buildings have been vacant for several years.

The board discussed the feasibility of the EOIs received; however, none included viable funding. A motion will be brought forward on the second day of the board meeting.



## **11. Items for Approval**

### **11.1 Steam Capacity Replacement**

Motion: *On the recommendation of the Land and Facilities Committee, the Board of Governors provides final approval for the design and installation of a high-pressure boiler unit to replace the nameplate steam capacity of Boilers 3 & 4 in the Central Heating and Cooling Plant at an estimated capital cost of \$17.3 million.*

### **11.2 Spinks 404 Renovation**

Motion: *On recommendation of the Land and Facilities Committee, the Board of Governors provides final approval of the project program, design, and capital cost of \$960,000 for the renewal of Spinks 404 Data Centre.*

### **11.3 Health Sciences Parking Lot #7 Upgrade**

Motion: *On recommendation of the Land and Facilities Committee, the Board of Governors provides final approval of the program, design, and capital cost of \$891,813 for Conversion of Health Sciences Parking Lot #7 to paid visitor parking lot.*

### **11.4 Engineering Design Hub Approval**

Motion: *On the recommendation of the Land and Facilities Committee, the Board of Governors provides approval of the following for the IDEAS (Engineering Building – Hardy Lab Renovation) project:*

- 1. Proceed with the development and design of the project program, including design, schedule, capital (currently pending), and operating (under review) budgets.*
- 2. Approve the preliminary funding requirements of \$2.5 million to advance to the next stage of project development, considering we have pledged funds of \$7.5 million and of this, \$3.5 million is received.*

### **11.5 Naming: Cenovus Energy Makerspace**

Motion: *On recommendation of the President's Advisory Committee on Naming University Assets and Land Facilities Committee, the Board of Governors approves the naming of the Makerspace in the College of Engineering to be referred to as "Cenovus Energy Makerspace" effective upon the completion of the College of Engineering Design Hub.*

### **11.6 Decision-Making Framework for Land Purchases**

The vice-chair presented this item. She spoke about the importance of being strategic with the land bank. The land is an appreciating asset, and it would be prudent to monetize the land.



Motion:     *On recommendation of the Land and Facilities Committee, the Board of Governors approves the Decision-Making Framework for Land Purchases effective April 15, 2025.*

The Board of Governors approve the consent agenda as distributed.

## **12. Approval of Consent Agenda (A&F and G&E items)**

### **12.1 Audit Services Charter**

Motion:     *On recommendation of the Audit and Finance Committee, the Board of Governors approves the Audit Services Charter as presented effective April 15, 2025.*

Motion:     *On recommendation of the Audit and Finance Committee, the Board of Governors approves the Audit and Finance Committee Terms of Reference as presented effective April 15, 2025.*

### **12.2 Proposed 2025-2026 Internal Audit Plan**

Motion:     *On recommendation of the Audit and Finance Committee, the Board of Governors approves the 2025-2026 Internal Audit Plan and budget as presented effective April 14, 2025.*

### **12.3 2025-26 Comprehensive Budget**

Motion:     *On recommendation of the Audit and Finance Committee, the Board of Governors approves the 2025/26 comprehensive budget with a \$12.1 million adjusted surplus.*

### **12.4 Delegation of Authority: Search and Review Procedures**

Motion:     *On the recommendation of the Governance and Executive Committee, the Board of Governors delegates to the President the authority to approve appointments and reappointments as described in the Policy for Search and Review for Senior Administrators for:*

- *Deans;*
- *Executive Directors and Executive Directors and CEOs of institutes and schools;*
- *The Director of VIDO-Intervac;*
- *Vice-Provosts, Associate Vice-Provosts, and Assistant Vice-Provosts;*
- *Associate Vice-Presidents*

*and that these appointments and reappointments shall be reported to the Board for information at the next available meeting.*

### **12.5 CLSI New Board Member Approval**

Motion:     *That the Board of Governors approve the appointment of Martha Crago (Quebec) to the Canadian Light Source Inc. (CLSI) Board of Directors, effective immediately.*



The Board of Governors approve the consent agenda as distributed.

**13. Briefing for Minister Kaeding's and Minister Cheveldayoff's Visit**

The AVP, Government Relations, Sara Daniels, spoke about the relationships between USask and the Ministry of Innovation and Ministry of Advanced Education. Both ministers are USask supporters and are very keen to work together.

**Board adjourns & will reconvene on Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am**

**Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Board Meeting Reconvenes**

**8:00 am – 2:00 pm**

**Call to Order – 8:00 am**

**14. Honourable Warren Kaeding, Minister of Trade and Export Development, Minister Responsible for Innovation**

The board chair welcomed Minister Kaeding. The minister spoke about the Ministry's priorities including food security, energy security, and health security. He acknowledged the importance of promoting Saskatchewan and working with USask. He noted his office will be working on a research strategy for the province.

The board chair added the following items to the agenda:

**I. Seminary Crescent**

The board discussed the following motion:

**Whereas:**

- The buildings at 113 and 114 Seminary Crescent are unoccupied and have been unused for years; and
- These buildings pose a significant and ongoing health and safety risk to the community; and
- The university does not have the tens of millions of dollars required to bring these buildings up to modern standards, and
- The university has not received any viable proposals for future use.

**Motion:** *Be it resolved, the Board of Governors approves the demolition of the buildings located at 113 and 114 Seminary Crescent at a cost of up to \$3 million. As part of the demolition plans, the board requests management to explore any demolition options that would also allow for commemoration of the heritage significance of the buildings.*



## **II. Meeting with the Premier**

The chair provided an update to the board on the meeting with Premier and board member, Marty Seymour, that took place on April 14<sup>th</sup>. They discussed priorities of USask, board renewal, and spoke about the importance of government support for the new president.

### **15. Land Trust Update**

The Chair provided an update on the initial development of two land parcels, with construction expected to begin within a year. Discussions are underway with the city to designate the land trust as the preferred developer. An MOU is being developed to allow USask-branded street naming and signage.

### **16. JCCP: Chair in Beef Cattle Health**

The Acting Provost presented this item and explained process to establish a chair over a 5-year term. The VP Research spoke about the research being done in this area.

*Motion: It is recommended by the Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships that the Board of Governors approve the Beef Cattle Health Chair in the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, approved by the University Council on March 20, 2025.*

### **17. Update on Health Human Resource Expansion**

Deputy Provost, Patti McDougall, provided an update on this item. She noted that a table included within the board package helps illustrate the expansion.

### **18. Comprehensive Campaign Update**

The VP University Relations provided an update on the campaign. She reported that \$492 million has been raised to date, with an additional \$42 million in commitments being finalized. A final report detailing fund allocation will be presented at the end of the campaign. The board acknowledged the achievement of surpassing the \$500 million goal. A celebration is scheduled for June 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **19. Fund Terms Revisions**

The VP University Relations presented the item. The purpose of the revisions is to release the funds from a previously established donor agreement. The new terms and principles are being used for all current agreements.

*Motion: That the Board of Governors approves the proposed Fund Term Revisions effective April 15, 2025.*

### **20. Correspondence Since the February 2025 Board Retreat**

The University Secretary presented this report and noted that all correspondence addressed to the Board of Governors is presented to all board members as per policy.



## **21. Electronic Approvals Since the December 2024 Meeting**

- 21.1** Appointment of AVP Alumni and Strategic Engagement, University Relations
- 21.2** Incorporation of the Global Institute for Energy Minerals and Society (GIEMS)
- 21.3** Naming: Grit and Scott McCreath Library Commons

The Board Chair briefly spoke about the electronic approvals since the December 2024 Meeting.

## **22. Honorable Ken Cheveldayoff, Minister of Advanced Education**

The Chair welcomed Minister Cheveldayoff and thanked him for attending the previous evening's reception. The Minister expressed support for the board's engagement across the province and emphasized his commitment to continued partnership with USask.

The Chair provided an update on the meeting with the Premier and the Presidential Search, highlighting the importance of government support for the incoming president. The Minister confirmed his full support for the process.

The Chair also briefed the Minister on the Seminary Crescent decision made during the meeting. The board thanked the Minister for his time and ongoing support.

## **23. Board-Only Session (includes the president)**

## **24. In-Camera Session (without the president)**

**Board Adjourned 2:15 p.m.**

