



## Board of Governors meeting highlights

*Issued June 1, 2015*

*The University of Saskatchewan Board of Governors held its regularly scheduled board meeting on May 26, 2015. The following is an update on the highlights of this meeting.*

### **New board members**

Jack Saddleback joined the board effective May 1, a position he holds as president of the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU). Jack was named to the land and facilities committee and the finance and investment committee until June 30, 2015, at which time all board committee appointments will be reviewed for the upcoming year. Jack will play a crucial role on the board—bringing the voice of students to the table.

Jack was elected president of the USSU for the 2015-2016 term. A proud member of the Samson Cree Nation in Maskwacis, Alberta, he is currently studying sociology in the College of Arts and Science. As the former USSU vice-president of student affairs and, prior to that, the USSU Pride Centre coordinator, Jack has been heavily involved on campus through collaborative leadership. Jack has a passion for mental health and has been able to reach a wide audience through his role as a member on the Mental Health Commission of Canada's Youth Council. For more on Jack, please view a recent story in [On Campus News](#).

Daphne Arnason will join the board effective July 1, 2015 as the new senate-elected member to the board. Daphne recently retired from PotashCorp after 27 years with the company. Most recently she served as vice-president, Global Risk Management, heading a team directing the strategic risk management program. Prior to this she held various positions in the tax department, including senior director, Taxation and vice-president, Internal Audit, where she was responsible for developing, coordinating and delivering the company's worldwide internal audit program.

Daphne holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Saskatchewan and is a Fellow Chartered Accountant (FCA) of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Saskatchewan. She has served on several CA Saskatchewan committees, was a university senator from 2001 to 2007, on the board of directors of the Saskatoon Airport Authority from 2005 to 2014 and is on the board of directors of the United Way of Saskatoon and Area.



### **Undergraduate student assistant hourly rates of pay**

The board approved changes to undergraduate student assistant hourly rates of pay effective September 1, 2015. This approval will impact over 1,000 student assistants who are employed over the course of the year in roles of academic support for faculty or in support of the student's individual academic programming. Human Resources will communicate with relevant employees and managers in July/August 2015.

### **Faculty and senior administrative staff updates**

The board approved the award of renewal of probation, tenure (continuing status) and promotion as per *The University of Saskatchewan Act, 1995* and the collective agreement with the University of Saskatchewan Faculty Association. One outstanding award for tenure and three promotion appeals were approved by the board. The board also reviewed senior administrative and academic appointments, and the faculty sabbatical list for 2015-2016.

### **2015-16 tuition rates – new programs**

The board approved 2015-16 tuition rates for new programs approved by University Council since December 2014. Rates approved include:

- Bachelor of Education – Sequential Music in Education: \$575.28 per course
- Indigenous Language Certificate in Education: \$575.28 per course
- Master of Arts – Applied Linguistics in College of Graduate Studies and Research: \$1,268 per term or \$615 per course
- Joint Master's Degree in Governance and Entrepreneurship in Northern and Indigenous Areas: \$1,268 per term or \$615 per course

### **Operations forecast 2016-17**

Annually, the university submits an operations forecast to the Ministry of Advanced Education outlining the university's funding request for the upcoming year and giving the Ministry information about the university's operating, targeted, capital and other funding requirements. This information is used by government to inform funding allocations for the upcoming year. The board was advised the Ministry of Advanced Education has implemented changes to the submission deadline for 2016-17 and requires the university to provide the Ministry of Advanced Education with our operations forecast by June 30, 2015, one month earlier than in the past. The 2017-18 operations forecast will be due by April 30, 2016.



### **Servicing for hotel in College Quarter**

The board approved changes to sanitary sewer, water, roadway, sidewalks, street lighting, pedestrian lighting and landscaping required to accommodate the development of a hotel by P.R. Hotels Ltd. in College Quarter on two acres directly east of the existing Stadium Parkade. It is expected the sanitary sewer and water lines will be the first to be installed and that work will be completed with necessary repairs to roadwork by fall 2015. Other work will take place prior to hotel opening, which is expected to be in late 2017.

### **Secondary logo scheme**

The board approved a new secondary logo scheme that allows the university to highlight elements of our primary university logo to tie university entities together visually, while still having the flexibility to clearly identify the respective department, unit, college or centre that is using the logo to brand their materials.

### **Presidential transition advisory committee**

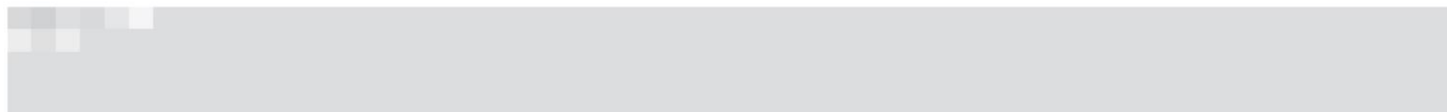
A [presidential transition advisory committee](#) has been formed to assist the Board of Governors in supporting the next president in assuming the role at the University of Saskatchewan. The committee will support the new president by:

- providing appropriate information and advice;
- assisting in building, retaining and enhancing appropriate relationships; and
- facilitating appropriate activities during the transition and first year in office.

The board approved the chair and proposed committee composition. This committee will be chaired by Dr. Michael Atkinson and the board appointee to the committee is board Vice-Chair Lee Ahenakew. This committee is expected to support the transition of the next president from the date of announcement through the first year in office.

### **Financial reserves policy**

The board approved a new financial reserves policy effective immediately to aid in the ongoing financial management of colleges and support units. The purpose of this policy is to promote the long-term financial sustainability of the university through the effective use and deployment of financial resources, in alignment with academic/administrative unit and university strategic directions. It will also provide a





valuable financial management and planning tool for academic and administrative unit leaders and senior management.

As a starting point, the policy indicates an expected range for the combined risk reserve and academic opportunity reserve of 1.5 per cent to six per cent of total university expenditures. These ranges are based on current board approved guidelines for the operating budget. Moving forward, Financial Services will work with colleges, schools and units to identify appropriate levels of reserve funds required to mitigate unplanned operational risks and academic opportunities. Upon completion of an initial risk and opportunity assessment, a specific target range will be established for individual units. Once the process is complete, the lower and upper limits for the university as a whole will be reviewed.

### **Year-end financial projections**

The board received an update on 2014-15 year-end financial projections. Positive investment returns (\$28 million more than budgeted), as well as lower than expected expenses in the past year, contribute to a projected operating surplus of approximately \$39 million. A portion of these funds will remain in the operating reserve to bring the reserve to the board approved limit. The board is currently in discussions regarding the allocation of funds that exceed the reserve amount. Further details will be provided subsequent to the completion of the year-end audited financial statements, expected to be published this fall.

### **Additional items**

In addition to the items outlined above, the establishment of the Fedoruk Chair in Radiopharmacy was approved, Professor Fran Walley was appointed to the Meewasin Valley Authority Board of Governors and the board received an update on 2015-16 provincial and federal government funding.

Where relevant, more information will be shared on the outlined approvals and initiatives in future communications. The next scheduled Board of Governors meeting will be held on June 23, 2015.

