

**USask Board of Governors Public Minutes****December 15 & 16, 2025****Peter MacKinnon Building, Room 238**

**Members:** Keith Martell (Chair), Shelley Brown (Vice-Chair), Corinna Stevenson, Mike Marsh, Emma Wintermute, Ryan Walker, Peter Stoicheff, Herb McFaull, Marty Seymour, Grant Devine, Scott Banda

**Regrets:** None

**Present:** Greg Fowler, Deidre (Dee) Henne, Patti McDougall, Baljit Singh, Cheryl Hamelin, Heather Persson, Alex Foster, David Stack, Julian Demkiw (University Secretary), Anna Okapiec (Recording), Jordan Sherbino (Staff support)

**Guests:** Janelle Hutchinson (Agenda Item 19)

**Call to Order – 1:00 pm****1. Board Only with the President (In-Camera)****2. Approval of the December Agenda**

*That the Agenda be approved as circulated.*

**3. Approval of Board Minutes from October 2025**

*That the minutes be approved as circulated.*

**4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

Ryan Walker declared a conflict for any faculty-related matters and Emma Wintermute declared a conflict for any student-related matters.

**5. Chair's Remarks**

The Chair called the meeting to order and welcomed members. He noted that this was President Stoicheff's final board meeting and expressed the Board's gratitude for his many contributions to the University of Saskatchewan throughout his tenure. The Chair also commented on the 60th Vanier Cup game held in November, observing that it was an excellent and hard-fought match, even though the Huskies ultimately did not secure the title.

**6. President's Statement**

The President acknowledged the executive team for their support throughout his tenure and noted the importance of the province's four-year sectoral funding agreement, which provides predictable annual increases not seen elsewhere in Canada. He observed that the provincial tuition cap creates planning challenges but reflects government priorities. He reported that the

federal budget introduced a major international talent attraction initiative and that the Tri-Councils avoided substantial reductions, with only a minimal decrease to their budgets.

The President outlined recent international engagement, including meetings in India to advance research collaborations aligned with Saskatchewan's agri-food sector, and he highlighted strong alumni events in Ottawa and Calgary. He reported that USask now ranks among the top ten Canadian universities for research income and leads nationally in several measures of research income growth. He congratulated Emma Wintermute who received Rhodes Scholarships this year and concluded by thanking the Board for its support.

## Land and Facilities Committee

### 7. L&F Chair's Report

The Land and Facilities Chair, Marty Seymour, noted that administration has been asked to refine proposals to streamline approval limits and align them with the annual budget cycle. He observed that the Poultry Research and Teaching Unit adult barn project prompts a broader review of long-term plans for the forty-acre farmstead. He added that aligning with the proposed Meewasin National Urban Park boundary appears to be a low-risk, low-cost commitment.

### 8. Report for Board Discussion

#### 8.1. Stone Barn Update

Administration reported that the Board-approved stabilization of the Stone Barn was completed. The work provided structural reinforcement and related repairs, and the building is now stable for the near term, though the longevity of that stability remains uncertain and the space will remain unoccupied.

The Land Trust presented an interim report outlining a range of future options, all of which would require significant capital investment and a broader strategy for the adjacent farmstead lands. During discussion, members emphasized the barn's heritage value while noting competing institutional priorities. They expressed interest in exploring the site as part of a long-term mixed use vision and requested further analysis.

### 9. L&F Decision Items for Board Approval

The L&F Chair invited a single motion to approve the following Land & Facilities items as a package. A motion to approve was moved and seconded. The motion carried.

#### 9.1. Rugby Chapel Relocation

Motion: *On recommendation of the Land and Facilities Committee, the Board of Governors approves the project program, relocation strategy, and capital cost of \$775,000 for the repositioning of Rugby Chapel.*



## **9.2. Proposed Meewasin National Urban Park Boundary**

Motion: *On recommendation of the Land and Facilities Committee, the Board of Governors endorses the inclusion of specific USask lands currently under authority of the Meewasin Valley Authority (as outlined in attached map #1) as able to be designated within a National Urban Park boundary.*

## **9.3. Silverspring Landfill Decommissioning and Reclamation Implementation**

Motion: *On recommendation of the Land and Facilities Committee, the Board of Governors approves proceeding with the Silverspring Landfill Decommissioning Project at an estimated capital cost of \$837,000, funded from the Silverspring Environmental Trust Fund.*

## **9.4. Canadian Feed Research Centre**

Motion: *On recommendation of the Land and Facilities Committee, the Board of Governors approves proceeding with listing the Canadian Feed Research Centre (CFRC) for sale, subject to final Board approval of sale terms and satisfaction of all conditions, including provincial approval by way of an Order in Council.*

## **9.5. Naming: Marvin and Dagmar Romanow**

Motion: *On recommendation of the Land and Facilities Committee, the Board of Governors approves the following names to remain in place in perpetuity (until the end life of each building), effective December 16, 2025:*

- *Marvin and Dagmar Romanow Meeting Room – Health Sciences Building Room 1A04.*
- *Marvin and Dagmar Romanow Graduate Student Lounge – Edwards School of Business Room 243.*
- *Marvin and Dagmar Romanow Rotating Machines Lab 2 – College of Engineering Room 2C75*

## **9.6. Poultry Research and Teaching Unit – Adult Barn**

Motion: *On recommendation of the Land and Facilities Committee, the Board of Governors provides preliminary approval to proceed with the detailed design and construction document (planning) phase of the Poultry Research and Teaching Centre, College of Agriculture and Bioresources (AgBio) at a capital cost of \$15.761 million, pending confirmation of \$216,000 in funding to proceed with design.*

## **9.7. Aquatic Toxicology Research Facility Immediate Repair and Redundancy Scope**

Motion: *On recommendation of the Land and Facilities Committee, the Board of Governors approve the capital cost of \$950,000 for the immediate repairs and redundancy scope for the Aquatic Toxicology Research Facility Immediate Repair and Redundancy Scope project, subject to the final confirmation of funding.*



### **9.8. Health Human Resources Occupational Therapy and Speech Pathology Expansion**

Motion: *On recommendation of Land and Facilities Committee, the Board of Governors approve the project program, design, and amended capital cost of \$16.717 million for Priority 1-A and Priority 1-B of the Health Human Resources – Health Sciences Building Optimization project.*

*That the Board of Governors approve all motions within Item 9 as presented.*

## **Human Resources Committee**

### **10. HR Chair's Report**

The Human Resource Chair, Herb McFaull, reported that senior leadership searches are underway, including the Dean of Pharmacy and Nutrition, Dean of Law and the Executive Director of Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy. He advised that bargaining continues at several labour tables. He provided an update on safety and wellness, including the operational implications of the limited authorities of campus peace officers. He concluded by noting improved long-term disability trends and continued workplace wellness initiatives.

### **11. HR Decision Items for Board Approval**

The Board considered two recommendations from the HR Committee as one motion.

#### **11.1. Compensation of Exempt Staff**

Motion: *On recommendation of the Human Resources Committee, the Board of Governors approve the proposed changes to Exempt Total Rewards, effective May 1, 2026:*

- *2.5% general market adjustment*
- *2.0% increase to salary range minimums and maximums*
- *3.0% one-time performance bonus pool*

#### **11.2. PSAC Collective Agreement**

Motion: *On recommendation of the Human Resources Committee, the Board of Governors approve the tentative collective agreement between the University of Saskatchewan and the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC), covering the period from November 1, 2024, to October 31, 2028, contingent on PSAC membership ratifying these terms.*

*That the Board of Governors approve all motions within Item 10 as presented.*



## Governance and Executive Committee

### 12. G&E Chair's Report

The G&E Committee Chair, Shelley Brown, reported that the review and consolidation of Board bylaws and governance standards is underway to reduce duplication and improve clarity. She noted that all committee work plans and terms of reference had been reviewed, and she recommended that health, safety and wellness reporting remain quarterly given the associated risk profile. She also reported that the nomination of Karen Stewart for Board appointment continues to progress through government processes, with confirmation anticipated in early 2026.

### 13. G&E Decision Items for Board Approval

The Board approved the annual work plans and terms of reference for all committees, with a minor text correction noted in the Audit and Finance Committee terms of reference document regarding membership wording.

#### 13.1. Annual Work Plans and Terms of Reference

*On recommendation of the Governance and Executive Committee, the Board of Governors approves the updated Board and Committee annual work plans and terms of reference for 2025/26, effective December 16, 2025.*

## Audit and Finance Committee

### 14. A&F Decision Items for Board Approval

The Board approved the updated banking resolution and the proposed amendments to the Investment Policy.

#### 14.1. Banking Resolution

Motion: *On recommendation of the Audit and Finance Committee, the Board of Governors approves the Banking Resolution and authorizes the University Secretary and Chief Governance Officer to sign the resolution, effective December 15, 2025.*

#### 14.2. Investment Policy Update

Motion: *On recommendation of the Audit and Finance Committee, the Board of Governors approves the updates to the Investment Policy, effective December 15, 2025.*

*That the Board of Governors approve all motions within Item 14 as presented.*

## Board Matters

### 15. University Governance Update

The University Secretary provided an overview of current University Council and Senate activities and explained how key Council committees to inform the Board's work. He noted



increased engagement from Senate, including its support for the enrolment strategy led by the Provost. He also highlighted that a joint reception with Council and Senate leadership was being held alongside the Board meeting, marking a meaningful step toward more integrated shared governance.

**16. EDI Framework for Action**

The Provost presented progress update on the EDI Framework for Action. She reported that the framework is structured across six strategic areas and that the initial reporting cycle focuses on central units, with college level reporting to follow.

She highlighted ongoing work in curriculum and assessment, recruitment and workplace inclusion, governance practices that embed EDI responsibilities, and improvements to physical and digital accessibility.

**17. Accessibility Plan**

The Provost presented the university's Accessibility Plan developed under Saskatchewan's Accessibility Act. She noted that the plan was published on December 3, 2025, and builds on the six strategic areas of the EDI Framework for Action, with a focus on universal design, multi-year goals, stakeholder engagement, and public reporting. She reported that extensive student consultation informed the plan and that annual funds have been allocated to support practical accessibility improvements in the built environment.

**18. University Rankings Update**

The Vice-President Research reported that USask continues to strengthen its position in global rankings, with particularly strong results in water, agriculture, and environmental sciences, as well as continued recognition in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings and the QS Sustainability Rankings. He noted that reputational factors remain a challenge in some domestic rankings and encouraged broader advocacy from alumni and partners. He emphasized that recent gains reflect long-term investments in research intensity, strategic partnerships, and communications focused on demonstrating impact.

**19. Sustainability Plan Update**

The Chief Sustainability Officer reported that the university's greenhouse gas emissions are now twenty-one per cent below the 2010 baseline, with a target of forty-five per cent by 2030. She highlighted operational progress such as fleet electrification and e-waste recycling, which has diverted forty thousand pounds and generated a financial return.

**20. Be What The World Needs Campaign Final Report**

The Vice-President University Relations presented the final report for the \$572 million campaign. She noted that the campaign engaged twenty-seven thousand donors, including more than ten thousand first-time donors, with strong participation from alumni and current and former faculty and staff.



She summarized key lessons learned, including the importance of early priority setting, securing transformational gifts in the quiet phase, and sustained presidential and chancellor engagement. She confirmed that stewardship capacity has been expanded and that post-campaign momentum remains strong.

#### **21. Economic and Social Impact Study**

The Vice-President University Relations presented the key findings of the new economic and social impact study. She reported that USask contributes approximately \$2.0 billion to Saskatchewan's GDP and \$2.4 billion nationally each year, supports more than thirteen thousand jobs, and increases graduates' annual earnings by over \$13,000 per degree.

She noted that each provincial dollar invested generates \$3.64 in provincial GDP and attracts \$1.48 from non-provincial sources. She added that USask's activities align with the majority of Saskatchewan Growth Plan priorities and confirmed that the report will be used widely in communications and government relations.

#### **22. Campaign Q2 Fundraising Totals**

The Vice-President University Relations reported that year-to-date fundraising through Q2 totaled approximately \$53 million, increasing to about \$63 million following the announcement of a recent \$10 million gift. She anticipated year-end results of roughly \$80 million based on the current pipeline.

#### **23. Board Correspondence Since October Meeting**

The University Secretary summarized recent external correspondence, including a letter regarding the university's banking vendor, communications related to building naming and a notification issued under the University of Saskatchewan Act concerning a faculty suspension. No follow-up action was required from the Board.

#### **In-Camera Session:**

The following motions were passed in the in-camera session:

#### **24. President's Emeritus Status**

Motion: *The Board of Governors approve President Emeritus status for Peter Stoicheff, effective January 1, 2026.*

#### **25. President's Administrative Leave Plan**

Motion: *The Board of Governors approves the administrative leave and corresponding plan for Dr. Peter Stoicheff, effective January 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027, under the terms outlined in his appointment agreement.*

**Board Adjourned 12:15 p.m.**

