

USask Board of Governors Public Minutes December 16 & 17, 2024

Emmett Hall Boardroom – PMB 238

- Members:** Keith Martell (Chair), Peter Stoicheff, Shelley Brown, Marty Seymour, Mike Marsh, Krunal Chavda, Grant Devine, Nadeem Jamali, Grit McCreath (Virtual), Corinna Stevenson
- Regrets:** Herb McFaull
- Present:** Greg Fowler, Deidre (Dee) Henne, Baljit Singh, Vince Bruni-Bossio, Alex Foster, Cheryl Hamelin, David Stack, Julian Demkiw (University Secretary), Anna Okapiec (Recording)
- Guests:** Janelle Hutchinson, Chief Sustainability Officer; Nancy Turner, Interim Associate Provost, Teaching Innovation and Strategic Initiatives

1. Board Only with the President (in-camera)

2. Outgoing Chair's and Incoming Chair's remarks

The December board meeting marks Keith Martell's first time as Chair of the USask Board. Shelley Brown, who previously held the position, transitioned to the role of Vice-Chair effective December 1, 2024.

3. President's Statement

The President thanked Shelley for her service as board chair and welcomed Keith. He highlighted recent achievements, including convocation and the alumni event at Agribition. USask excelled in the Shanghai rankings, though it dropped slightly in research funding rankings. Two students received Rhodes Scholar awards, and the university is pursuing nuclear energy partnerships. The President will speak at conferences in Sydney and Singapore on university challenges; he also emphasized the importance of positive government relations and USask's provincial recognition.

The board chair stressed the importance of collaboration between the board and management for the university's success.

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Nadeem Jamali declared a conflict with anything faculty related.

5. Approval of the Agenda

That the Agenda be approved as circulated.

Board Adjourns – Standing Committees Commence

6. Audit and Finance Committee
7. Human Resources Committee
8. Land and Facilities Committee
9. Governance and Executive Committee

*Separate sets of meeting minutes are provided for each committee.

Board Meeting Reconvened at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, December 17.

10. Chair's Remarks

The Chair thanked Shelley for her leadership as past chair and provided a land acknowledgement, sharing his Indigenous and French family history. He emphasized the importance of representing Indigenous communities in all areas of life and acknowledged the ongoing work needed. Keith encouraged the board to reflect on their role in reconciliation and ensure equal opportunities for Indigenous people, highlighting USask's key role in this effort.

11. Approval of Board Minutes - October 2024 (regular & public)

The regular and public minutes were approved as presented.

12. Approval of Consent Agenda

12.1. Committees' Decision Items

Audit & Finance Committee

6.3 Provincial Auditor of Saskatchewan Audit Plan

Motion: *On the recommendation of the Audit and Finance Committee, the Board of Governors approve the Annual Audit Plan of University of Saskatchewan for the year ending April 30, 2025, and its Pension Plans for the year ending December 31, 2024.*

6.10 Banking Resolution

Motion: *On recommendation from the Chief Financial Officer and the Vice-President, Administration & Chief Operating Officer, the Board of Governors approves the Banking Resolution and authorizes the University Secretary and Chief Governance Officer to sign the resolution effective December 17, 2024.*

Human Resources Committee

7.3 Associate Provost (Interim appointment)

Motion: *On the recommendation of the Human Resources committee, the Board of Governors approve the appointment of Nancy Turner as Interim Associate Provost Teaching Innovation and Strategic Initiatives for a two-year term beginning December 1st, 2024.*

7.4 Vice-President Research Extension

Motion: *On the recommendation of the Human Resources committee, the Board of Governors approves the extension of Dr. Baljit Singh's appointment as Vice-President Research to June 30, 2027.*



7.5 Reappointment of Dr. Angela Bedard-Haughn

Motion: *On the recommendation of the Human Resources Committee, the Board of Governors approve the re-appointment of Dr. Angela Bedard-Haughn as Dean, College of Agriculture and Bioresources for a five-year term effective July 1, 2025.*

7.7 Exempt Total Rewards

Motion: *On recommendation of the Human Resources committee, the Board of Governors approves the proposed changes to Exempt Total Rewards, effective May 1, 2025:*

- *2.0% general market adjustment*
- *0.5% targeted market adjustment pool*
- *2.0% increase to salary range minimums and maximums*
- *3.0% one-time performance bonus pool*

Land and Facilities Committee

8.7 Clinical Psychology - Qu'Appelle Hall & Arts Building project

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 \$3.848 million for the Health Human Resources – Clinical Psychology Expansion project, subject to the confirmation from the province of the redirection of unspent 2024-25 Clinical Psychology expansion operating funding to capital costs.*

8.11 Graham Huskie Clubhouse Expansion and Renovation Project

Motion: *On recommendation of the Land and Facilities Committee, the Board of Governors provides preliminary approval to proceed with development of the Graham Football Clubhouse Expansion and Renovation, at an estimated capital cost of \$16.926 million.*

8.12 New home of the Rawlinson Centre

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 \$813,000 for the new Rawlinson Centre for Indigenous Business Students and Edward School of Business (EDWARDS) Graduate Student Lounge.*

8.13 Bond Project Reallocation

Motion: *On recommendation of the Land and Facilities Committee, the Board of Governors approves the reallocation of Bond proceeds to adjust the budget baselines for both the W.P. Thompson Building Renewal and the Murray Building Renewal to \$52.362 million and \$23.182 million respectively.*

Governance and Executive Committee

9.4 Annual work plans and terms of reference approval

Motion: *On the recommendation of the Governance and Executive Committee, the Board of Governors approves the updated to the Board and Committee annual work plans for 2024/25 and to the Committee terms of reference effective immediately.*



9.6 Board delegations on Search and Review Policy

Motion: *On the recommendation of the Governance and Executive Committee, the Board of Governors delegates to the President the authority to approve positions under the policy for the Search and Review for Senior Administrators for:*

- *Interim appointments of up to two years; and*
- *Extensions of existing appointments, already approved by the board, for up to two years.*

These appointments shall be reported to the board at the next available meeting after the appointment. Under this delegation, any interim appointments or extensions exceeding two years must be approved by the board.

The Board of Governors approve the consent agenda as distributed.

13. The Role of USask Centres in Next Stage of RSAW and Student Experience

The VP of Research presented an overview of USask's 46 centres, addressing capital project funding requests and their integration into the university structure. Baljit detailed each centre's expenditures and budget support, highlighting the impact of key centres such as VIDO, the Canadian Light Source, the Sylvia Fedoruk Centre for Nuclear Innovation, the Global Institute for Water Security, and the Canadian Centre for Research and Agriculture Health.

14. Report on Work of AI Task Force

The Acting Provost and Nancy Turner reported on AI progress at USask. Nancy outlined advancements, next steps, and timelines, discussing AI principles, guidelines, and feedback. The focus is on integrating and coordinating AI guidelines while educating staff and faculty. The next step is to ensure high AI literacy across campus.

15. Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission Applied Genomics and Pre-breeding Chair

The Acting Provost presented this item, he noted that the chair position helps elevate researchers and boosts retention.

Motion: *It is recommended by the Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships that the Board of Governors approve the Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission Applied Genomics and Pre-breeding Chair in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources within the Crop Development Centre and Department of Plant Sciences. This Chair was approved by University Council on November 21, 2024.*

16. 2023-24 Progress Toward Sustainability Plan

The Chief Sustainability Officer provided a brief overview on the sustainability plan. She noted that she collaborates with all offices across campus. She provided updates on the current sustainability commitments within USask.



17. Comprehensive Campaign Update

The VP University Relations presented a campaign update. She expressed gratitude for the support from the board and the leadership team. Cheryl outlined the current plan and next steps, noting that the comprehensive campaign will conclude in 2025. Following its conclusion, there will be a "year of gratitude" featuring numerous communications and celebrations.

18. Economic and Social Impact Assessment

The VP University Relations provided an update on this project. The Acting Provost and her are working together on reviewing the findings of the report and are aiming to present in June 2025.

19. Correspondence Since October 2024 Meeting

The board received the following correspondence since their last meeting:

- 19.1. Eight Letters of Concern Regarding Demolition of Seminary Crecent
- 19.2. Two Congratulatory Letters to the New Mayor and the Premier of Saskatchewan
- 19.3. Response From the Premier of Saskatchewan

The board discussed concerns about 114 Seminary, owned by the Lutheran Theological Seminary and abandoned since August 2020, posing safety risks. As the buildings are on USask-leased land, the university must repair or demolish them. An initial process found no proposals, and USask recommended demolition. After community feedback, the board decided to delay demolition and seek external interest. A similar process will be followed for 113 Seminary Crescent. If no viable options are found, demolition will proceed.

20. Electronic Approvals Since October 2024 Meeting

- 20.1. Approval of the PSAC USask Collective Agreement
- 20.2. Dental Clinic Building Renovation Project

The board chair proposed that email motions be minimized in the future and only used as necessary.

Board adjourned at 12:45 p.m. Moved to In-Camera:

21. Board-Only Session - Including the President

22. In-Camera Session - Without the President

