

USask Board of Governors Public Minutes – July 2024

July 24, 2024

Via Zoom

Present: Shelley Brown (chair), Keith Martell (vice-chair), Corinna Stevenson, Nadeem Jamali, Krunal Chavda, Grant Devine, Herb McFaul, Grit McCreath, Peter Stoicheff, Mike Marsh

Regrets: Marty Seymour (partial attendance, joined at item 10)

Also in Attendance: Airini, Greg Fowler, Deidre (Dee) Henne, David Stack, Scott Walsworth, Julian Demkiw (secretary), and Anna Okapiec (recording secretary)

Call to Order

1. Board only with the president

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 am to meet in-camera with the president.

2. Chair's remarks

The Chair started with a land acknowledgement and welcomed everyone especially the two new board members Mike Marsh and Corinna Stevenson as well as the new CFO, Dee Henne.

3. President's statement

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting, he provided brief remarks about the following topics:

- Recent alumni event in Calgary, which were very successful.
- A glowing new assessment report of the Crop Development Centre (CDC) highlighting the centre's tremendous economic impact, including thousands of jobs and billions of dollars for Canada.
- Pro-Palestinian supporters' enactments on campuses around North American universities.
- Upcoming leadership forum at the end of August focusing on priorities the President presented to the board in June.

4. Declaration of conflict of interest

Nadeem Jamali declared a conflict with anything faculty-related.

5. Approval of the agenda

Motion: That the agenda be approved as circulated.

Board Adjourned – Standing Committees Commenced

6. Audit and Finance Committee

Separate sets of meeting minutes are provided for each committee.

7. Approval of Board minutes (regular and public) from June 2024

Motion: That the minutes be approved as circulated.

8. Approval of Audit and Finance decision items

8.1. Approval of draft response to Provincial Auditor letter of University of Saskatchewan Pension Plans – Results of December 31, 2023 - Annual Integrated Audit

Motion: *On recommendation of the Audit committee, the Board of Governors approves the draft response to the Provincial Auditor letter of University of Saskatchewan Pension Plans— Results of December 31, 2023, Annual Integrated Audit and that management be authorized to forward the response to the Provincial Auditor, with the condition that the final letter does not contain any significant changes.*

8.2. Approval of draft response to Provincial Auditor letter regarding University of Saskatchewan Annual Integrated Audit Results

Motion: *On recommendation of the Audit & Finance committee, the Board of Governors approves the draft response to the Provincial Auditor letter regarding University of Saskatchewan Annual Integrated Audit Results and that management be authorized to forward the response to the Provincial Auditor, with the condition that the final memorandum does not contain any significant changes.*

8.3. Approval of Defined Benefit Pension Plan Financial Statements

Motion: *On recommendation from the Audit & Finance Committee, that the Board of Governors approves the following draft financial statements (attached), as distributed and presented for the year ended December 31, 2023, subject to completion of the audit and receipt of the Auditor's final report from the Provincial Auditor:*

- *University of Saskatchewan 1999 Academic Pension Plan;*
- *University of Saskatchewan and Federated Colleges Non-Academic Pension Plan;*
- *University of Saskatchewan Academic Employees' Pension Plan (Retirees Plan).*



8.4. Approval of Defined Contribution Pension Plan Financial Statements

Motion: *On recommendation from the Audit & Finance Committee, that the Board of Governors approves the following draft financial statements (attached), as distributed and presented for the year ended December 31, 2023, subject to completion of the audit and receipt of the Provincial Auditor's final report:*

- *the University of Saskatchewan 2000 Academic Money Purchase Pension Plan (MPP Plan);*
- *the Pension Plan for the Eligible Employees at the University of Saskatchewan (Research Plan);*

8.5. Approval of the University of Saskatchewan audited year-end financial statements

Motion: *On recommendation of the Audit & Finance committee, the Board of Governors approves:*

- a) That the draft financial statements, as distributed and presented for the year ended April 30, 2024 be approved subject to completion of the audit, and subject to approval of the financial statement format by Treasury Board and receipt of the Auditor's Report from the Provincial Auditor; and*
- b) That upon receipt of the Auditor's Report, the financial statements be signed on behalf of the Board, and that the Provincial Auditor be authorized to forward a copy of the signed financial statements to the Minister of Advanced Education for presentation to the Legislature.*

8.6. Approval of 2023-24 annual financial report including year in review

Motion: *On recommendation of the Audit & Finance Committee, the Board of Governors approves the 2023-24 Annual Financial Report with the condition that the final report does not contain any significant changes.*

9. USFA Collective Agreement

The Provost provided background information regarding faculty as an employee group at USask. The Vice-Provost Faculty Relations along with the General Counsel shared the highlights of the new USFA collective agreement.

Motion: *On recommendation of the Human Resources committee, the Board of Governors approves implementation of the collective agreement between the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Saskatchewan Faculty Association (USFA), covering the period from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2027.*



10. 113 Seminary Crescent (CLS Users Residence)

The VP Administration & COO reported on the response from the government regarding the proposed lease conditions on 113 Seminary Cres.

11. Land Trust update

The Board Chair noted that the land trust board has been meeting regularly. She also noted that the CEO position was filed, and the new hire is very excited about joining as CEO.

12. New student housing

The VP Administration & COO Greg provided an update on the student housing situation at USask. He indicated that in September he will be going to PEC to propose a plan for the McEown Park renewal.

13. Appointment of Principal, Prince Albert Campus

The Provost spoke about the proposed appointment and about the objectives for this position being located at the Prince Albert Campus.

Motion: That the Board of Governors approve the appointment of Jay Wilson as Principal, Prince Albert Campus for a two-year term no later than September 1st, 2024, subject to the successful completion of reference checks and completion of a contract negotiation.

The Board adjourned at 1:15 pm and moved to In-camera session