

## USask Board of Governors Public Minutes

October 22 and 23, 2024

Emmett Hall Boardroom – PMB 238

**Present:** Shelley Brown (Chair), Keith Martell (Vice-Chair), Corinna Stevenson, Nadeem Jamali, Krunal Chavda, Herb McFaul, Peter Stoicheff, Mike Marsh, Marty Seymour

**Regrets:** Grit McCreath, Grant Devine

**Also in Attendance:** Vince Bruni-Bossio, Greg Fowler, Deidre (Dee) Henne, Cheryl Hamelin, David Stack, Alex Foster, Julian Demkiw (University Secretary), Anna Okapiec (recording secretary)

**Guests:** Brad Zurevinski, CEO of the Land Trust, and Grant Kook, Board Chair of the Land Trust

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

### 2. **Chair's Remarks**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

The Chair started the meeting with the land acknowledgment, and she extended special welcomed to the new Acting Provost, Dr. Vince Bruni-Bossio.

### 3. **President's Statement**

The President welcomed new board members Corinna Stevenson and Mike Marsh to their first in-person meeting.

He discussed the SLF Summit, highlighting presentations on the new political era and the potential impacts of a Poilievre government. He noted the first anniversary of the Hamas attack, geopolitical issues affecting international students, and the cancellation of a trip to India. He also addressed the departure of the previous Provost and the plan to modernize the office with the Acting Provost stepping in.

The President highlighted successful fundraising events in Victoria and San Francisco, the 44th alumni event, and investments in research, particularly in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources. He also noted the success of VIDO and announced that the Fall Convocation on November 13th will feature two honorary degree recipients.

### 4. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

Nadeem Jamali declared a conflict with anything faculty related.

**5. Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda to be approved as circulated.

**Board Adjourned – Standing Committee Commenced**

**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 9:00 am**

**10. Chair’s remarks**

The Chair called the meeting to order. The Chair welcomed everyone and did a brief round of introductions ahead of the next item on the agenda.

**11. Brad Zurevinski, New CEO of the Land Trust, and Grant Kook, Board Chair of the Land Trust – Meet and Greet**

Grant Kook provided an update on the land trust, highlighting foundational work and the hiring of Brad as CEO. Brad, an alumnus of USask, shared his background and outlined the lands under the land trust. Brad will report to the board regularly, and the land trust aims to generate long-term leases. The first neighborhood development is expected to begin in 2026.

**12. Approval of Board Minutes from July 2024 (Regular & Public)**

The regular and public minutes were approved as presented.

**13. Proposed Board Bylaws Revision**

This item was discussed at the Governance and Executive portion of the October board meeting.

Motion: *On the recommendation of the Governance and Executive Committee, the Board of Governors approves the proposed changes to the Board Governance Standards, effective immediately.*

**14. Recommendation for the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board**

This item was discussed at the Governance and Executive portion of the October board meeting.

Motion: *On the recommendation of the Governance and Executive Committee, the Board of Governors approve the following appointment for the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board.*

- *Keith Martell as Chair for a two-year term starting December 1, 2024.*
- *Shelley Brown as Vice-Chair for a two-year term starting December 1, 2024*



## 15. Approval of Consent Agenda

### 15.1 Committees' Decision Items

#### Audit and Finance Committee

##### **6.13 A&F Terms of Reference and Work Plan Review**

Motion: *On the recommendation of the Audit and Finance Committee, the changes to the Terms of Reference and the work plan for the Audit and Finance Committee be accepted as presented.*

#### Human Resources Committee

##### **7.7 Renewal of Dr. Terry Fonstad**

Motion: *On the recommendation of the Human Resources Committee, the Board of Governors approve the renewal of Dr. Terry Fonstad as Associate Vice-President, OVPR for a 5-year term, effective January 1, 2025.*

##### **7.8 Renewal of Dr. Dawn Wallin**

Motion: *On the recommendation of the Human Resources committee, the Board of Governors approve the renewal of Dr. Dawn Wallin as Associate Vice-President, OVPR for a 5-year term, effective January 1, 2025.*

##### **7.9 HR Terms of Reference and Work Plan review**

Motion: *On the recommendation of the Human Resources Committee, the changes to the Terms of Reference and the work plan for the Human Resources Committee be accepted as presented.*

#### Land and Facilities Committee

##### **8.10 CLS- 480V Switchgear and Transformer Upgrade**

Motion: *On recommendation of the Land and Facilities Committee, the Board of Governors approves the Canadian Light Source – 480V Switchgear and Transformer Upgrade project at an estimated capital cost of \$1,144,698 scheduled to commence in July 2025.*

##### **8.13 Land and Facilities Terms of Reference and Work Plan Review**

Motion: *On the recommendation of the Land and Facilities Committee, the changes to the Terms of Reference and the work plan for the Land and Facilities Committee be accepted as presented.*

#### Governance and Executive Committee

##### **9.5.2 Recommendation to Board Regarding Chair of Audit and Finance Committee**

Motion: *On the recommendation of the Governance and Executive Committee, the Board of Governors approves the appointment of Shelley Brown as Chair of Audit and Finance Committee effective December 1, 2024.*



### **9.5.3 Recommendation to Board Regarding Appointment of Board Members to Search and Review Committees**

Motion: *On the recommendation of the Governance and Executive Committee, the Board of Governors approves the following appointment effective immediately:*

- **Shelley Brown and Mike Marsh** to the Presidential Search Committee.
- **Herb McFaull and Corinna Stevenson** to the Joint Nomination Committee for the Chancellor.
- **Marty Seymour** to the Review Committee for the Dean of Agriculture and Bioresources.
- **Corinna Stevenson** to the Review Committee for the Dean of College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

### **9.6 CLSI New Board Members**

Motion: *It is recommended: that the Board of Governors approve the appointments of Kate Goddard (British Columbia) and James Meddings (Ontario) to the Canadian Light Source Inc. (CLSI) Board of Directors, effective immediately.*

### **9.7 Meewasin Board Appointees**

Motion: *On recommendation of the Governance and Executive Committee, the Board of Governors approves the reappointment of Julian Demkiw and Angela Bedard-Haughn to the Meewasin Valley Authority Board of Directors as statutory representatives of the University of Saskatchewan for a three-year term, effective December 14, 2024.*

### **9.8 G&E Terms of Reference and Work Plan review**

Motion: *On the recommendation of the Governance and Executive Committee, the changes to the Terms of Reference and the work plan for the Governance and Executive Committee be accepted as presented.*

The Board of Governors approved the consent agenda as distributed.

## **16. Report on Work of AI Task Force**

The Acting Provost updated the board on the work of the AI task force, covering its history and next steps. He emphasized the importance of socializing principles, fostering a culture of continuous learning, and cross-structural collaboration. He confirmed that data from Copilot stays in-house and highlighted various AI applications in administration and research.

## **17. Comprehensive Campaign Update**

The VP University Relations reported that the campaign has reached \$455 million of its \$500 million goal, with significant contributions from alumni engagement. She thanked the board for their support and announced upcoming fundraising events. She noted that the September giving day



raised \$319,446 in 24 hours. She also emphasized the potential of naming gifts and the importance of aligning donor desires with USask needs.

#### **18. Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships Annual Report**

The Acting Provost briefly spoke to the JCCP report, which is annually provided to the board for information only. The University Secretary added that JCCP is a joint committee of Council and Board.

#### **19. Enhancement Chair in Swine Health**

The Acting Provost presented this item, he provided background information on the proposed chair and spoke about the recipient and her research program.

*Motion: It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the Chair in Swine Health in the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVN), as approved by the University Council on September 26, 2024. The Chair will be effective immediately upon board approval October 23, 2024.*

#### **20. Huskies – Equity Funding for Athletic Financial Awards**

The President briefly spoke about this item and asked the board for approval of expenditure from the Greystone Heritage to support Huskie Athletics in addressing gender equity requirements.

*Motion: That the Board of Governors approves an allocation of \$24,000 from the Greystone Heritage Trust in the 2024-25 fiscal year to Huskie Athletics to address gender equity requirements in Athletic Financial Awards for student athletes.*

#### **21. Stone Barn**

The VP University Relations provided a verbal update on the stone barn, noting that fundraising efforts have been less successful than hoped. A full report on plans will be presented in December. Discussions included potential fundraising for the roof, the barn's historical lack of utilities, and the possibility of government or heritage organizations taking ownership. The need for a decision on the building's future was emphasized.

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

#### **22. Board-Only Session - Including the President**

**22.1** Follow-up from Board Retreat Re: Presidential Search

#### **23. In-Camera Session - Without the President**

