

University Board Public Minutes – June 2023

June 19 & 20, 2023

Emmett Hall Boardroom – PMB 238

- Present:** Joy Crawford (acting chair) Shelley Brown (via zoom), Grant Devine, Nadeem Jamail, Ishita Mann (via zoom), Ritu Malhotra, Marty Seymour, Louise Simard, Grit McCreath, Peter Stoicheff, Keith Martell
- Regrets:** None
- Also in Attendance:** Airini, Greg Fowler, Devan Mescal, David Stack, Cheryl Hamelin, Baljit Singh, Wade Epp, Dara Hrytzak, Julian Demkiw (secretary), Anna Okapiec (recording secretary)
- Guests:** Honorable Gordon Wyant, Minister of Advanced Education and Michelle Lang, Chief of Staff (agenda item 2), Sara Daniels, Associate Vice-President of Government Relations (agenda items 1 & 2), Preston Smith, Dean of College of Medicine (Item 19), Kelly McInness, Director, People and Resources (Item 21)

1. Briefing for Minister's visit

The acting chair called the meeting to order at 8:15 am.

The president provided a short brief ahead of the minister's visit.

Sara Daniels spoke about several matters the government relations office is currently working on and actively engaging with the province.

2. Minister Wyant and Chief of Staff, Michelle Lang

The Minister and his Chief of Staff joined the meeting at 9:00 am.

The president did introductions, welcomed the Minister, and thanked him and his Chief of Staff for coming and meeting with the board.

The Minister noted that he was happy to be here and that the USask is important to him and his family. He spoke about the comprehensive campaign and congratulated Cheryl Hamelin and her team. The Minister also noted that the relationship USask and his ministry have built creates a great environment for collaboration and allows us to work together on our priorities as the province and the USask.

3. Board only with the president (in-camera)

4. Chair's remarks

The acting chair started off with the land acknowledgment, she welcomed everyone keeping remarks very brief to stay on track with timing.

5. President's statement

The president acknowledged that this was Ritu's last meeting. He thanked Ritu for all her contributions to the board over the years. He also noted that this is the first meeting for Ishita, the new USSU president; he welcomed Ishita and expressed his enthusiasm to have her on the board.

The president also spoke about the recent spring convocation, as well as the CUBA conference that took place in May. He briefly talked about university rankings, the comprehensive campaign, the upcoming Stone Barn community visioning event and the huge turnout at the Pride parade last Saturday. He also invited the board members to the employee picnic happening tomorrow.

6. Declaration of conflict of interest

Nadeem Jamali declared a conflict with anything faculty related.

7. Approval of the agenda

The agenda is approved as distributed.

Board Adjourned – Standing Committees Commenced

8. Audit and Finance Committee

9. Governance and Executive Committee

10. Human Resources Committee

11. Land and Facilities Committee

Separate sets of meeting minutes are provided for each committee.

Board Meeting Reconvened on Tuesday, June 20th at 10:00 am

12. Chair's remarks

The acting chair thanked Ritu for all her contributions as this was Ritu's last meeting. She welcomed everyone and noted a couple of amendments to the agenda following yesterday's meeting.

13. Approval of Board minutes from April 2023 (regular & public)

The public minutes were approved as presented.

One of the board members noted that his comments regarding tuition were not correctly reflected, he will be sending language that should be included in the April minutes and then they can be approved at the following meeting.



14. Business arising

- 14.1 Update on graduate student population – the provost briefly spoke about this item, and a written report was provided to members as part of the package.
- 14.2 Update on off-campus practicum and internship activity – the provost presented this item, and a written report was included in the package.
- 14.3 Reputation Management & Board – information on process (this item was postponed)
- 14.4 New item on tuition – the provost provided information on what financial implications can be expected from increased tuition rates. An additional document was provided to board members on Tuesday morning.

15. Approval of the consent agenda

15.1 Committee decision items

Committee decision items were presented via consent agenda.

The Board of Governors approved the agenda as distributed.

Governance and Executive Committee

9.5 Smudging Policy

Motion: *On the recommendation of the Governance & Executive Committee, the Board of Governors approves the Smudging and Ceremonies policy, thereby replacing the Smudging and Pipe Ceremonies policy, effective immediately.*

9.6. Review of committee membership

Motion: *On the recommendation of the Governance and Executive Committee, the Board of Governors approves the appointment of members and chairs to the standing and ad hoc Board committees as set out in the attached schedule, effective July 1, 2023.*

Governance and Executive Committee:

Keith Martell (chair), Shelley Brown, Peter Stoicheff, Joy Crawford, Louise Simard

Audit and Finance Committee:

Joy Crawford (chair), Keith Martell, Shelley Brown, Ishita Mann, Nadeem Jamali, Marty Seymour

Human Resources Committee:

Louise Simard (chair), Grant Devine, Grit McCreath, Joy Crawford, Peter Stoicheff

Land and Facilities:

Marty Seymour (chair), Grant Devine, Ishita Mann, Nadeem Jamali, Keith Martell

Dean of Engineering search:

Grant Devine replaces Ritu Malhotra on this search committee.



Human Resources Committee

10.7 PSAC Post-Doctoral Fellows Tentative Collective Agreement

Motion: *On the recommendation of the Human Resources committee, the Board of Governors approves the tentative collective agreement between the University of Saskatchewan and the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) representing Postdoctoral Fellows, covering the period from November 1, 2020, to October 31, 2024, contingent on PSAC membership ratifying these terms.*

10.8 Promotion Recommendations

Motion: *On the recommendation of the Human Resources Committee, the Board of Governors approves the following, effective July 1, 2023:*

The award of promotion to associate professor to Dr. Tony Ruzzini, Department of Veterinary Microbiology, Western College of Veterinary Medicine and the award of full professor to Dr. Jill Blakley, Department of Geography and Planning, College of Arts and Science and Dr. Niels Koehncke, Department of Medicine, College of Medicine.

Land and Facilities Committee

11.2.2 Leasing principles

Motion: *On the recommendation of the Land and Facilities Committee, the Board of Governors approves the Leasing Principles which will help guide decisions around leasing University of Saskatchewan (USask) land or space to external parties.*

11.9 Annual capital plan

Motion: *On the recommendation of the Land and Facilities Committee, the Board of Governors accepts the 2023-24 Annual Capital Projection.*

11.10 Removal of Former Dairy Barn and Silos

Motion: *On the recommendation of the Land and Facilities Committee, the Board of Governors approves the divestment of the former dairy barn and two silos.*

11.13 CFI Proposals Exceeding \$500,000 – EPPI centre phase 2

Motion: *On the recommendation of the Land and Facilities Committee, that the Board of Governors grants final approval of the program, capital (\$1,992,303) and operating (\$61,970) budgets for the Environmental Plant-Pathogen Interaction Centre (EPPIcentre) Phase 2 CFI proposal.*

11.14 CFI – VIDO Large Animal CL3/CL4 Enhancement

Motion: *On the recommendation of the Land and Facilities Committee, the Board of Governors provides preliminary approval and acceptance of the CFI award for the VIDO Large Animal CL3-Ag to CL4 Enhancement and Upgrade (CFI Biosciences Research Infrastructure Fund (BRIF)) project which has an estimated total capital cost of \$ 13.505 million and an operating budget of \$1.97 million.*



11.16 IDEAS – Initiative 1 & 2

11.16.1 Motion: *On the recommendation of the Land and Facilities Committee, the Board of Governors provides preliminary approval of the project program, design, and capital cost of \$2.048 million for the IDEAS - Engineering Computer Lab 2B04-2B08 Conversion project.*

11.16.2 Motion: *On the recommendation of the Land and Facilities Committee, the Board of Governors provides preliminary approval of the project program, design, and capital cost of \$2.419 million for the IDEAS - Engineering Lecture Theatre Rejuvenation project.*

11.17 Innovation Place Lease Amendment

Motion: *On the recommendation of the Land and Facilities Committee, the Board of Governors approves negotiating an amendment to the use and density clauses as well as any other clauses in the Innovation Place lease required to allow for the development of a polytechnic campus within the lease boundaries of the existing research and technology park using market-based principles.*

11.18 VIDO animal care facility and VIDO renovation

Motion: *On the recommendation of the Land and Facilities Committee, the Board of Governors provided approval to proceed with the construction of Early Works for the VIDO Animal Care Facility and Renovations Project with an estimated expenditure of \$1.76 million prior to requesting final approval from the Board of Governors in October 2023.*

15.2 Bus Rapid Transit – City of Saskatoon (this item was taken off the consent agenda for further discussion)

On the recommendation of the Land and Facilities Committee, the Board of Governors approves the exchange of land along College Drive and Cumberland Avenue to accommodate the development of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) subject to (a) final confirmation of a net surplus of land to USask confirmed at the time of survey and subdivision and (b) final approval by USask for an acceptable scope of tree planting in the City of Saskatoon boulevard and right of way.

Ishita Mann was opposed to this motion.

16. UPlan update (this item was deferred to October due to time limitations)

17. University Relations report

The vice president of university relations went over a presentation providing an update on the comprehensive campaign since April.



18. Economic and Social Impact Assessment update (this item was deferred)

19. Occupational Therapy (OT) & Speech and Language Pathology (SLP)

The provost briefly introduced Preston Smith, who then spoke about this item noting that this is a huge accomplishment and great addition to the College of Medicine. He noted that these occupations are the two hardest to recruit for, with lots of shortages in the province. There is great excitement in the professional community about this.

20. Government MOU Renewal

The provost spoke about this item noting that this is a unique initiative across the country. A written report was also provided to members.

21. EDI Strategy & Framework for Action

The Board of Governors endorse the USask EDI Framework for Action.

The president briefly spoke about this item. Kelly McInnes joined the meeting in anticipation of any questions members might have. Peter thanked Kelly for all her work on this initiative and congratulated her on her upcoming retirement at the end of this month.

22. Items approved since April 2023 meeting

22.1 Special meeting to appoint the Chair and Vice-Chair – May 26, 2023

The university secretary spoke to this and asked members for feedback on this process.

- Shelley Brown was appointed as Chair for a two-year term starting July 1, 2023
- Keith Martell was appointed as Vice-Chair for a two-year term starting July 1, 2023.

The Board adjourned at 11:30 am and moved to in-camera.

23. Board-only session - including the president

Outcome: Approve the recommended changes to the financial authority policy as provided in the board document.

24. In-camera session - without the president

