

**USask Board of Governors Public Minutes****June 23 & 24, 2025****Emmett Hall Boardroom – PMB 238**

<b>Members:</b>	Keith Martell (Chair), Shelley Brown (Vice-Chair), Peter Stoicheff, Mike Marsh, Marty Seymour, Emma Wintermute, Grant Devine, Nadeem Jamali, Grit McCreath, Corinna Stevenson, Herb McFaull
<b>Regrets:</b>	No Regrets
<b>Present:</b>	Greg Fowler, Deidre (Dee) Henne, Baljit Singh, Vince Bruni-Bossio, Cheryl Hamelin, Alex Foster, David Stack, Julian Demkiw (University Secretary), Anna Okapiec (Recording), Carly Mysko (Staff support)
<b>Guests:</b>	Sara Daniels, Associate Vice-President, Government Relations (agenda item 8), Nancy Turner, Interim Associate Provost, Teaching Innovation & Strategic Initiatives; Michael Barr, Associate Vice-President and Chief Information Officer and Chris Gaschler, Director and Chief Enterprise Architect (agenda item 20)

**Call to Order – 11:00 am****1. Board only with the President (in-camera)****2. Chair's Remarks**

The Board Chair opened the meeting with a land acknowledgement in recognition of Indigenous Peoples Day, reflecting on Canada's progress toward reconciliation. He expressed pride in USask's meaningful impact on Indigenous communities and emphasized the importance of early education and the transformative role of post-secondary learning.

He welcomed Emma Wintermute to her first board meeting as USSU President, and acknowledged the final meeting for Grit McCreath and Nadeem Jamali, thanking them for their valuable contributions.

**3. President's Statement**

The President highlighted the success of the recent convocation, noting increased graduate numbers and recognition of outstanding Honorary Degree recipients. He also spoke to strong alumni engagement leading up to the campaign's conclusion and celebrated the campaign's exceptional fundraising results. Additional updates included a trip to Germany, renewal of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine's interprovincial agreement, and continued collaboration with the University of Regina through the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy.

As part of his broader responsibilities, the President also serves on the Saskatchewan Order of Merit selection committee and noted that eight residents were honoured this year.

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

Nadeem Jamali declared a conflict for any faculty-related matters.

#### **5. Approval of the Agenda**

*That the Agenda be approved as circulated.*

#### **6. Approval of Board Minutes from April 2025**

*That the minutes be approved as circulated.*

### **Governance and Executive Committee Report**

#### **7. Reporting from Chair, G&E Committee**

The Governance and Executive Chair reported on the June 11<sup>th</sup> meeting and provided highlights from the written report.

#### **8. Future Board Meeting Locations**

Sara Daniels, AVP Government Relations, emphasized the value of off-site board meetings for strengthening political relationships, citing positive feedback from the April 2025 meeting in Regina.

Board members supported continued travel for meetings, suggesting locations with strong USask ties, including Swift Current, Lloydminster, Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, and Yorkton. The Vice-Chair highlighted the board's commitment to community engagement.

The President requested a provincial engagement strategy aligned with his travel schedule and recommended limiting off-site meetings to once per year.

#### **9. Evergreen List**

The Governance and Executive Committee Chair presented an updated Evergreen list, noting upcoming retirements and skill gaps. The board discussed desired attributes for new members, including diversity and the possibility of appointing someone from outside Saskatchewan, though eligibility for government-appointed positions remains uncertain.

The committee recommended two candidates, and follow-up steps are underway to confirm interest and explore out-of-province eligibility.

#### **10. Items for Approval**

##### **10.1 Appointment of Standing Board Committees**

The board discussed and adjusted the board committee memberships.

Motion: *On the recommendation of the Governance and Executive Committee, the Board of Governors approves the appointment of members to the standing Board committees as outlined effective July 1, 2025.*



- **Audit and Finance:**  
*Shelley Brown (Chair), Corinna Stevenson, Mike Marsh, Emma Wintermute, Ryan Walker, Keith Martell*
- **Land and Facilities:**  
*Marty Seymour (Chair), Grant Devine, Emma Wintermute, Herb McFaull, Mike Marsh, Keith Martell*
- **Human Resources:**  
*Herb McFaull (Chair), Corinna Stevenson, Grant Devine, Scott Banda, Peter Stoicheff, Keith Martell*
- **Governance and Executive:**  
*Shelley Brown (Chair), Peter Stoicheff, Herb McFaull, Marty Seymour, Keith Martell*

## 10.2 Centres Policy Amendment

The University Secretary presented the changes to the policy.

Motion: *On recommendation of the Governance and Executive committee and of University Council, the Board of Governors approves the changes to the Centres Policy as described in this report, effective June 25, 2025.*

## Human Resource Committee Report

### 11. Reporting from Chair, HR Committee

The HR Chair presented the report. He highlighted that the committee has an education opportunity within the meeting. He noted that any of the ongoing senior leadership searches are now complete. No major updates on labour relations and bargaining.

### 12. Items for Approval

#### 12.1 SERP Plan: Changes to Terms of Reference

The Senior Executive Retirement Plans (SERP) have been updated to include the CFO position, with the terms retroactively effective as of July 1, 2024, the start date of the role.

Motion: *On recommendation of the Human Resources committee, the Board of Governors approves the addition of the Chief Financial Officer position to the SERP Terms of Reference, retroactive to the hire date of the incumbent, July 1, 2024.*

#### 12.2 Promotion Recommendations

Five appeals were submitted, with four decisions overturned. The board asked about the appeal process and reviewed information.

Motion: *On the recommendation of the Human Resources committee, the Board of Governors approves the following promotions, effective July 1, 2025:*

- *Banani Roy to the rank of Associate Professor (Department of Computer Science, College of Arts and Science);*
- *Colin Sproat to the rank of Associate Professor (Department of Geological*



Sciences, College of Arts and Science);

- Holly Graham to the rank of Professor (Department of Psychiatry, College of Medicine); and
- Joseph Blondeau to the rank of Professor (Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, College of Medicine).

### **12.3 Senior Administration Total Rewards**

Motion: *On the recommendation of the Human Resources Committee, the Board of Governors approves the proposed changes to senior administration total rewards, effective July 1, 2025.*

## **Land and Facilities Committee Report**

### **13. Reporting from Chair, L&F Committee**

The Land and Facilities Chair presented the report. He thanked the staff and management for the collaborative work with the committee. He noted that they are working on enhanced reporting for capital projects and deferred building renewals.

### **14. Stone Barn Preservation Intervention**

Wade Epp, AVP Campus Operations, engaged firms to complete a structural report on the Stone Barn, expected in August. Once finalized, the Land and Facilities Committee will review the findings, followed by board discussion on options, financial feasibility, and next steps. The goal is to reclassify the barn as a landmark.

Motion: *On recommendation for the Land and Facilities Committee, the Board of Governors provides preliminary approval to move forward with engaging a consultant to determine preliminary engineering estimates for restoration of the stone barn as a landmark that will include structural reinforcement, new roofing, and renewal of the exterior finishes for the Stone Barn; AND that approval of the preliminary funding requirements of 100,000 be granted.*

### **~~15. Core Area Master Plan and Heritage Plan Update – Item Removed from Agenda~~**

### **16. Items for Approval**

#### **16.1 HHR: OT/SLP Expansion**

Motion: *On recommendation of the Land and Facilities Committee, the Board of Governors provides preliminary approval of the project program, design, and capital cost of \$20.180 million for Priority 1-A and Priority 1-B of the Health Human Resources – Health Sciences Building Optimization project.*

#### **16.2 PA Parking Lot Acquisition**

Motion: *On recommendation of the Land and Facilities Committee, the Board of Governors approves the purchase of a 0.36 acre gravel parking lot near the Prince Albert Campus for a purchase price of \$90,000 plus taxes.*



### **16.3 Geology Ventilation Upgrade**

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 \$840,000 for the Geology Building Ventilation Upgrades.*

### **16.4 Spinks 404 Renovation**

Motion: *On recommendation of the Land and Facilities Committee, the Board of Governors provides an updated final approval of the capital cost of \$1.04 million for the renewal of Spinks 404 Data Centre.*

### **16.5 Williams Building Boiler Replacement**

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 \$684,000 for the Williams Building Boiler Replacement.*

### **16.6 CFI Exceeding \$500k - Establishment of a Cell Sorting Hub**

Motion: *On recommendation of the Land and Facilities Committee, that the Board of Governors grant final approval of the program, capital (\$1,171,634) and operating (\$646,000) budgets for the Establishment of a Cell Sorting Hub at the University of Saskatchewan CFI proposal.*

*That the Board of Governors approve all motions within Item 16 as presented.*

## **17. Approval of Consent Agenda (A&F items)**

### **17.1 Financial Policies**

Motion: *On recommendation of the Audit and Finance committee, the Board of Governors approves the Financial Authority Policy, Debt Policy, Fraud Deterrence Policy and Guidelines, Signing Authority Policy, and Asset Management Policy, each effective June 23, 2025.*

### **17.2 Approval of Draft Response to Provincial Auditor Letter of University of Saskatchewan Pension Plans – Results of December 31, 2024 - 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, 2024, 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.*

### **17.3 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, 2024, 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).*

#### **17.4 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, 2024, 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);*

*That the Board of Governors approve the consent agenda as distributed.*

#### **Additional Item:**

##### **17.5 Appointment of Chief Audit Executive**

**Motion:** *That the Board of Governors appoint Aneesa Ruffudeen as the Chief Audit Executive effective June 23, 2025.*

##### **18. Update on the Presidential Search Process** (in-camera discussion)

##### **19. Presidential Transition Committee** (in-camera discussion)

##### **20. Report on Work of AI strategy**

Provost Vince Bruni-Bossio thanked the group and introduced presenters Nancy Turner, Michael Barr, and Chris Gaschler for a continuation of AI updates to the board.

Nancy Turner outlined USask's AI initiatives, including:

- Safe Return to Campus Tool (2021 award winner)
- Cogniti: Student chatbot simulation
- ALDA: Faculty design assistant
- PAWS Digital Assistant: Site navigation tool in testing

She also discussed plans for a Digital Learning Centre and confirmed safeguards to align with USask principles, including Indigenous knowledge integration and data use frameworks.

The board raised concerns about staying competitive in AI. Nancy noted the need for investment and shared that 86% of students use AI in their education.

Nancy invited board members to an AI workshop on September 4<sup>th</sup>.



## **21. JCCP: Buckwold/Milani Scholar in Commercial Law**

Provost Vince Bruni-Bossio introduced the item, noting it is a scholar position requiring board approval. He clarified that the Terms of Reference distinguish between a chair and a scholar position.

*Motion: On recommendation of the Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships, the Board of Governors approves the Buckwold/Milani Scholar in Commercial Law in the College of Law effective immediately.*

## **22. Comprehensive Campaign Update**

VP University Relations Cheryl Hamelin reported the successful conclusion of the comprehensive campaign, which raised \$570 million. She emphasized the importance of maintaining momentum following this achievement.

Cheryl confirmed that further reporting is underway and will be shared with the board once complete.

## **23. Economic and Social Impact**

The VP University Relations provided an update on the report, noting it will first be presented to the President's Executive Committee (PEC) before being shared with the board.

## **24. Correspondence since the April 2025 Meeting**

The Chair acknowledged receipt of correspondence regarding 113 and 114 Seminary Crescent, noting that all materials were included in the board package.

## **In-Camera Session:**

**25. President's Annual Report on Priorities 2024-2025; and Performance Assessment**

**26. Setting President's Goals for 2025-2026; Bonus Decision**

**27. Board-Only Session** (includes the President)

**28. In-Camera Session** (without the President)

**Board Adjourned at 2:15 pm**

