

USask Board of Governors Public Minutes**October 6 & 7, 2025****Prince Albert Campus – Room 246**

Members: Keith Martell (Chair), Shelley Brown (Vice-Chair), Corinna Stevenson, Mike Marsh, Emma Wintermute, Ryan Walker, Peter Stoicheff, Herb McFaull, Marty Seymour, Grant Devine, Scott Banda

Regrets: None

Present: Greg Fowler, Deidre (Dee) Henne, Patti McDougall, Vince Bruni-Bossio, Cheryl Hamelin, Heather Persson, Alex Foster (Virtual), David Stack (Virtual), Julian Demkiw (University Secretary), Anna Okapiec (Recording), Carly Mysko (Staff support)

Guests: Jay Wilson (Agenda Item 2 – 4), Grant Kook (Agenda Item 20), Brad Zurevinski (Agenda Item 20)

Call to Order – 9:30 am**1. Board Only with the President (In-Camera)****2. Chair's Remarks**

The board chair, Keith Martell, welcomed everyone and acknowledged the significance of meeting at the Prince Albert Campus and highlighted community member and Indigenous leader, Lawrence Joseph who passed in early 2025. He emphasized the importance of strategic governance and community engagement from the Board of Governors.

3. President's Statement

President Stoicheff thanked the Prince Albert Campus Principal, Jay Wilson, for welcoming the board. He noted the strategic importance of the Prince Albert campus and the broader role the university plays in shaping the province's future. Peter highlighted several institutional achievements including USask's ranking as first in Canada for research income growth, and the elevation of VIDO to a Level 4 containment facility. The president discussed the university's engagement with federal priorities and emphasized the importance of aligning USask's research and innovation efforts with national goals. He also addressed the challenges posed by declining international student enrollment, noting that the university is actively working to reverse this trend. Peter also noted university's commitment to financial sustainability, strategic investment, and maintaining strong relationships with government stakeholders.

4. Remarks and Welcome to Prince Albert Campus

Jay Wilson, Principal of the Prince Albert campus, spoke to the importance of USask in Prince Albert and the history of the PA Campus over the last 30 years. He presented a strategic vision for the campus, emphasizing its evolution from a gateway to a hub for northern education. He outlined current programs such as Nursing, Dentistry, Arts and Science, and spoke about future program expansions, with the goal of introducing Engineering and Veterinary Medicine. He noted that students are connected to USSU network, participating with Saskatoon students, and highlighted the campus's strong Indigenous representation and community partnerships.

5. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Ryan Walker declared a conflict for any faculty-related matters and Emma Wintermute declared a conflict for any student-related matters.

6. Approval of the October Agenda

That the Agenda be approved as circulated.

7. Approval of Board Minutes from September 2025

That the minutes be approved as circulated.

Land and Facilities Committee Report

8. Reporting from Chair, L&F Committee

The Land and Facilities Chair, Marty Seymour, presented the report. He summarized the committee's recent meeting, which focused on strategic infrastructure, land use, and governance. He emphasized the importance of aligning capital projects with institutional priorities and ensuring transparent decision-making.

9. L&F Items Recommended for Full Board Discussion

9.1. Seminary Crescent Update

The VP Administration and COO, Greg Fowler, reported that demolition of 113 Seminary Crescent was complete, while 114 Seminary Crescent faced delays due to unexpected asbestos. Historical elements such as a cross and stonework were salvaged for preservation, and there are commemoration plans for the land where the buildings were located.

9.2. Stone Barn Restoration Update

The VP Administration and COO provided an update on the next steps. Emergency repairs are imminent, including the reconstruction of the barn's foundation to ensure structural integrity. The conversation emphasized the need for strategic vision and stakeholder engagement. The board will revisit the conversation in December when further analysis and recommendations regarding the site's future use will be presented.



9.3. Changes to Capital Approvals over \$500k Progress Update

The VP Administration and COO spoke about the proposal to raise the board's capital project approval threshold from \$500,000 to \$10 million. He presented new reporting tools to improve transparency and project tracking, including status updates, continuity schedules, and variance reports. The board would like to see a more robust reporting system prior to approving the change.

9.4. USask Calgary Hub Closure

VP University Relations, Cheryl Hamelin, presented a recommendation to close the Calgary Hub by May 31, 2026. Despite some usage, the hub was not meeting strategic goals, and its \$250,000 annual cost could be better allocated. The board approved the closure, supported by a comprehensive communications plan.

Motion: *On recommendation of the Land and Facilities Committee, the Board of Governors approves the closure of the USask Calgary Hub effective May 31, 2026.*

10. L&F Decision Items for Approval

10.1. Naming: Slogotski Hunt Centre for Entrepreneurship

Motion: *On the recommendation of the President's Advisory Committee on Naming University Assets and the Land and Facilities Committee, the Board of Governors approves the naming of a space within the Edwards School of Business as "The Slogotski Hunt Centre for Entrepreneurship." The naming will take effect upon the commencement of the Centre and will remain in place in perpetuity.*

10.2. Health and Human Resources – OT/SLP Expansion Phase 1

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 \$15,730Mmillion for Priority 1-A and Priority 1-B of the Health Human Resources – Health Sciences Building Optimization project.*

10.3. SRS/Physical Therapy Clinic: Field House

Motion: *On recommendation of the Land and Facilities Committee, the Board of Governors provides approval to move forward with a 10-year lease of clinic space for the School of Rehabilitation Science (SRS) in the Saskatoon Field House with a total potential lease cost of \$26,200 annually (\$262,200 over the ten-year term) and construction cost of \$750,000, subject to confirmation of final funding.*

10.4. SaskBuilds/SK Polytechnic proposed building approval process

Motion: *On recommendation of the Land and Facilities Committee, the Board of Governors approves the oversight framework for the Saskatchewan Polytechnic Skills, Trades, and Technology Building development review process, including the role of the Development Review Committee and the schedule of Board engagement through informational updates at key design milestones.*



10.5. Murray Building Renewal Project

Motion: *On recommendation of the Land and Facilities Committee, the Board of Governors provides final approval of the updated capital cost of \$23.517 million for the Murray Building Renewal project.*

10.6. Land Donation: McAllister Estate

Motion: *On recommendation of the Land and Facilities Committee, the Board of Governors approves the transfer of approximately 320 acres in the Rural Municipality (RM) of North Battleford by way of gift, contingent upon approval of the Farm Land Security Board.*

10.7. Termuende Farm Sale

Motion: *On the recommendation of the Land and Facilities Committee, the Board of Governors approves the sale of the Termuende property at a price between \$4.0 million and \$5.0million (~10% range of the appraised value), subject to other conditions of the sale being satisfied including approval by the province by way of an Order in Council. The proceeds will be reinvested in land in support of livestock and forage research.*

10.8. Rugby Chapel Relocation

Motion: *On recommendation of the Land and Facilities Committee, the Board of Governors provides preliminary approval of the project program, relocation strategy, and capital cost of \$775,000 for the repositioning of Rugby Chapel, contingent upon receiving a substantial contribution from the City of Saskatoon.*

10.9. IntegrOmes: Reprotech Facility at Goodale Farm

Motion: *On recommendation of the Land and Facilities Committee, the Board of Governors provides final approval of the project program, design, and capital construction cost of \$6,865,453 for the Beef ReproTech Facility at Goodale Research Farm (Phase 3 of the Integrated Genomics for Sustainable Animal Agriculture and Environmental Stewardship Project (IntegrOmes) project).*

10.10. ATRF - Immediate Upgrades Plus Redundancy

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 \$680,000 for the immediate repairs and redundancy scope for the Aquatic Toxicology Research Facility.*

That the Board of Governors approve all motions within Item 10 as presented.



Audit and Finance Committee Report

11. Report from Chair, A&F Committee

The incoming Audit and Finance Chair, Corinna Stevenson, provided an overview of the committee's activities, including financial oversight, strategic planning, and compliance. She thanked Shelley Brown for her work as Committee Chair.

12. A&F Items Recommended for Full Board Discussion

12.1. MOU 2.0 Accountability Framework

The CFO, Deidre (Dee) Henne, and Interim Provost, Patti McDougall, presented the updated accountability framework, which aligns with the Ministry's goals and expectations. The submission deadline was set for November 15, and the framework will guide future funding and performance metrics.

12.2. Financial Sustainability Strategy

The CFO presented the sustainability strategy. She spoke about the creation of a Strategic Investment Fund to support long-term financial health, and proposed releasing \$5 million to provide to colleges, such as Arts & Science, which are most affected by the international student decrease.

Motion: On recommendation of the Audit and Finance Committee, the Board of Governors approves the Financial Sustainability Strategy to move \$5 million in central reserves to the Strategic Investment Fund effective October 7, 2025.

12.3. Summary of Financial Results Fiscal 2026 Q1

The CFO provided a Q1 update. She spoke to the lost revenue from a decrease in international student enrollments. She discussed working with Deans to increase revenue and better budgeting of investment income.

13. International Student Update

The Interim Provost, Patti McDougall, shared that the university lost approximately 500 international students in 2023, primarily undergraduates. The drop was attributed to federal policy changes, but she noted that strategic recruitment efforts are underway to reverse the trend. She also highlighted that domestic enrolments are increasing in addition to Indigenous student enrollments.

14. A&F Decision Item for Approval

14.1. ERM Policy & Procedures

The board approved the updated Enterprise Risk Management policy, which aligns with ISO 31000 standards. The policy aims to embed a risk-aware culture and improve strategic decision-making.



Motion: On recommendation of the Audit and Finance Committee, the Board of Governors approves the Enterprise Risk Management Policy and Procedures effective October 7, 2025.

Human Resource Committee Report

15. Reporting from Chair, HR Committee

The HR Committee Chair, Herb McFaul reported on the committee's activities, including an educational session focused on faculty performance evaluation and the tenure process. The presentation clarified that tenure is earned through rigorous standards and includes mechanisms for ongoing performance assessment.

16. HR Items Recommended for Full Board Discussion

16.1. Safety, health and wellness update

The VP Administration and COO spoke to the safety concerns on campus and proposed improvements for the future. He outlined enhanced security measures, including improved surveillance, continued partnerships with Saskatoon Police, and the development of a campus-wide threat assessment team.

16.2. Update on In-Progress Searches for Senior Leaders

The Interim Provost provided an update on upcoming searches for senior leadership positions, including Deans for the College of Law and Pharmacy/Nutrition. Management welcomes board participation in the upcoming searches and reviews. The board has the right to appoint a member to sit on these committees. The chair suggested that the HR Committee be responsible for appointing board members to the requested search and the review committees.

Governance and Executive Committee Report

17. Reporting from Chair, G&E Committee

The Governance and Executive Chair, Shelley Brown, shared a summary of the September G&E committee meeting. The discussion focused on enhancing board engagement activities moving forward. She also highlighted the importance of evaluating board effectiveness and streamlining the board governance documents.

18. G&E Items Recommended for Full Board Discussion

18.1. Board Renewal

The Committee Chair discussed the nomination of Karen Stewart as a prospective board member, highlighting her strong qualifications and valuable connections in Calgary.

Motion: On recommendation of the Governance and Executive Committee, the Board of Governors approve Karen Stewart to be put forward for consideration as the next appointee by the Government of Saskatchewan.



19. G&E Decision Items for Approval

19.1. Chancellor Emerita Status for Grit McCreath

The USSU President, Emma Wintermute, proposed using non-gendered language for Emerit status. The board agreed that this would be done going forward.

Motion: On recommendation of the Governance and Executive Committee, the Board of Governors approve Chancellor Emerit status for Grit McCreath, effective October 7, 2025

19.2. Board Representative Appointment to Senior Leadership Search

The board discussed the appointment of Marty Seymour to the senior leadership search.

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

- *Marty Seymour to the Search Committee for the Executive Director, Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS).*

19.3. Recommendation for Chair of Audit and Finance Committee

The committee chair presented the appointment of Corinna Stevenson to Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee.

Motion: On the recommendation of the Governance and Executive Committee, the Board of Governors approves the appointment of Corinna Stevenson as Chair of Audit and Finance Committee effective October 1, 2025.

20. Land Trust Update

The land trust chair, Grant Kook, provided an overview of the land trust and its role. The land trust has expanded with a VP of Finance and will be hiring a marketing staff member. Land trust president, Brad Zurevinski, provided a comprehensive update and highlighted the trust's innovative governance structure, including a perpetual 99-year "evergreen lease" model that renews annually and mitigates long-term financial risk.

20.1. Continue Conversation regarding the Land Trust

The board discussed the revenues that are expected from the land trust developments. The CFO spoke about the possible ways to leverage these future revenues stream. The board emphasized the need for a long-term governance framework to manage these opportunities, and noted that this strategy should be discussed at the February board retreat.



21. Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships Annual Report

Interim Provost, Patti McDougall, reported on the committee's activities, highlighting the awarding of five new distinguished professorships. The committee is focused on improving communication, transparency, and expanding honorary chair status.

22. Report on AI

The Interim Provost provided an update on the university's AI strategy. She noted that providing education on how to properly use AI is very important. Over 600 educators and 2,300 students have engaged in AI training.

23. Economic and Social Impact Study

VP University Relations, Cheryl Hamelin, shared progress on the university's impact study. The study assesses USask's contributions locally and globally.

24. Campaign: Quasi Government Funding and Counting Guidelines

The Vice President University Relations clarified how quasi-government funding is counted in campaign totals. The board discussed the importance of transparency and alignment with financial reporting.

25. Q1 fundraising totals

The Vice President University Relations presented the Q1 fundraising totals and discussed future fundraising strategies including a campaign in 2030.

26. Board Correspondence since the June Board Meeting

The University Secretary presented the communications received since the June meeting.

In-Camera Session:

27. Board-Only Session (Includes the President)

28. In-Camera Session (Without the President)

Board Adjourned 12:20 p.m.

