

# MINUTES OF UNIVERSITY COUNCIL 2:30 p.m. Thursday, December 17, 2020 Via WebEx

#### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:30pm.

#### 2. Tributes

None.

### 3. Adoption of the agenda

(Smith/Bell): That the agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED.

# 4. Chair's Opening remarks

The Chair of Council, Dr. Jay Wilson, acknowledged that Council meets on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis, paying respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of our gathering place and reaffirming our relationship with one another. He also noted that given the remote meeting modality, that members may be connecting from other locations and that we acknowledge our shared relations with the Indigenous peoples of this land.

The chair informed Council members of the protocols for the synchronous remote meeting.

Dr. Wilson reported on the regular monthly meeting between Council chairs and the President's Executive Committee (PEC). He reported that the discussion topics were the pandemic response, labour relations, and Emma Lake Kenderdine Campus.

Dr. Wilson thanked members of Council for their participation in Council during these challenging times, and wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Dr. Wilson asked that if there were any media present that they please identify themselves. Amanda Short with the Star Phoenix identified herself as a journalist. He reminded those present that no video or audio recordings of the Council meeting are permitted.

# 5. Approval of Minutes of the meeting of November 19, 2020

(Risling/Urquhart): That the minutes be approved with minor amendments as noted.

CARRIED.

#### 6. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

#### 7. Report of the President

President Stoicheff expressed thanks to Council members for their contributions this calendar year, particularly during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic. He recognized the significant efforts of the campus community in moving to remote program delivery, to working from home, for pausing research, and for other accommodations.

The President noted the recent announcement of Hon. Gene Makowsky as the new Minister of Advanced Education. He reported that following the provincial election, post-secondary sector-wide meetings for COVID-19 preparation had also resumed.

The President remarked on the performance of the University of Saskatchewan (USask) recently reported by Research Infosource's *Canada's Top 50 Research Universities*. USask moved up four places in the overall ranking from 15<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>. Highlights of USask's performance also included research intensity per graduate student, and total sponsored research income, among others.

The President reported briefly on other items not noted in his written report: the Post-Pandemic Shift Project; the delay of classes starting for most programs to January 11, 2021; and developments in the Emma Lake Kenderdine Campus project.

The President conveyed to Council that former University Secretary, Dr. Beth Bilson, who is currently serving as Executive Advisor for Legal Services, would be retiring at the end of this calendar year. He recognized her significant contributions as a faculty member, having also served as the dean of the College of Law three times. He recognized that Dr. Bilson is a highly regarded scholar, and that she was a recipient of the YWCA's Women of Distinction Award, and the 2015 Louis St. John Award of Excellence.

The President relayed that VIDO-InterVac is awaiting approval from the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) to begin clinical trials in early January 2021 for a COVID-19 vaccine. With federal funding support, work is also underway at USask to help increase Canada's vaccine manufacturing capacity through the current construction of a new pilot manufacturing facility, which could be operating by 2022.

The President noted that later on in this Council meeting, Associate Vice-President Research and Special Advisor on Sustainability, Dr. Irena Creed, would be presenting a request for input on the university's draft Sustainability Strategy. He recalled that at one of his first meetings as President with the General Academic Assembly, he had identified the critical importance of sustainability for this university, and any other future-oriented university. He stated that the draft plan was developed in collaboration with the President's Advisory Circle on Sustainability, and in consultation with students, faculty, staff, and the campus community.

There was a round of Q & A.

There was a question about the potential outcomes of Dr. Bilson's review of the university's legal services, and whether it could result in any efficiencies. The President responded in the affirmative, and added that the recommendations are in keeping with good financial governance. Two of the main recommendations were that we should have a position of "General Counsel." Also, that a "Legal Hub" should be established and should be overseen by the General Counsel to coordinate legal expertise across campus. There was a request that this report be brought forward to a future Council meeting [Table 1 action item no.1].

A Council member recalled that Dr. Volker Gerdts, CEO of VIDO-InterVac, recently gave two interviews where he reported that VIDO-InterVac is looking to increase its biosafety capacity from containment level three (CL3) to level four (CL4). Also, that VIDO-InterVac is planning to build more vaccine manufacturing capacity to meet Canada's need. She noted that CL3 and CL4 are very different: CL3 clearance is required to deal with pathogens at the same level as COVID-19 and HIV, for example;

whereas CL4 is different and potentially more dangerous. She suggested that to move such an initiative forward that consultation would be required with the province, with the city, and Indigenous communities. She stated that the United States has 14 CL4 labs, and that only four are functioning. Japan took 15 years to certify its labs. She inquired as to what USask's approach would be.

The President responded that this would mean a new animal testing facility and that it would come at a significant cost. Planning and funding would need to be explored with all levels of government. He suggested that Council might invite Dr. Gerdts to speak about it in more detail at a future meeting. He reiterated USask's goal of establishing VIDO-InterVac as Canada's leading centre for vaccine research.

There was another question about the plan and timeframe for Emma Lake Kenderdine Campus – how long until it might be fully operational? The President responded that it is a top priority for USask, but that there are also many variables to consider. The vision and the architectural plan are in place. The implementation depends on the ability to make it financially sustainability. It also depends on academic engagement from many parts of the campus.

## 8. Report of the Provost

Dr. Melissa Just, Interim Provost thanked Council members, faculty, staff and students for their efforts during these challenging times. She remarked on the successful transition in moving to remote delivery instruction this past year. She took the opportunity to celebrate the positive feedback on remote-delivery instruction received from students since the last Council meeting. Feedback was collected from individual students, instructors, by using the SLEQ tool midstream, and through a "Student Pulse" survey. She summarized the learnings: that students are rating their learning experiences positively; and that students recognize the significant efforts of instructors to facilitate online learning and student success in this environment.

Dr. Just also reported that with regard to financial sustainability across campus in the next few years, it will mean managing the budget impacts of COVID-19 and setting aside funds to deal with our fiscal realities. She reported that she recently met with colleges, schools, and support centres to assist in planning and decision-making for Resource Allocation for 2021/22. All colleges and units are operating with multi-year financial and strategic plans. Preliminary allocations will be shared with colleges and units in the New Year so that they can begin their budget development. Following that, the information will be collected for the development of the university budget, which will be presented to the Board in March.

There was a round of Q&A.

There was a question about how structural deficits in colleges and units will be dealt with going forward. Dr. Just responded that this was part of her recent discussions with college and unit leaders. It is also part of a broader conversation taking place with PEC and the Senior Leadership Forum (SLF). When a full strategy has been developed a report will be provided to Council [Table 1 action item 2].

There was a follow-up question about whether the implication is that we need to gradually decrease research faculty and increase teaching faculty (i.e., Academic Programming Appointments), as this would allow the university to handle higher teaching loads, larger student numbers, and more classes. The Provost responded that this is not a strategy being contemplated at SLF, but that colleges could consider it if they wish.

## 9. PRT (Pandemic Response and Recovery Team) Report

Dr. Darcy Marciniuk, chair of the PRT, gave a verbal update on the COVID-19 situation at USask. He reported on:

- The number of positive COVID-19 rates and case prevalence rates on- and off-campus at USask.
- Forthcoming announcements on the mode of delivery for the Spring and Summer sessions, and Fall of 2020/21, which will occur in coordination with the Saskatchewan Health Authority's (SHA) sector-wide plan.
- The potential use of Merlis Belscher Place to assist with the SHA's vaccine delivery plan.
- The distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine to the campus community, which will be determined and administered by the SHA.
- The extended closure of campus starting on December 19, 2020 which will provide faculty, students and staff with a well-deserved break over the holidays.

He noted that the PRT would still be on call during the holiday break. On behalf of the PRT, he thanked faculty, staff and students for their efforts since March.

There was a question about deadlines for applications for on-campus activities, and the potentially negative impacts on graduate students. Dr. Marciniuk responded that there are currently 9 requests in the queue which would not be approved until after the holiday break. Time-sensitive and urgent requests are still being considered as needed. He invited the GSA President to bring those forward to the PRT if necessary.

There was another question about the timeline for returning to campus. Dr. Marciniuk replied that this is an ongoing discussion, and these conversations are occurring across the country. The timing will depend on the vaccine roll-out, uptake, and the realities of the pandemic. It will also depend on the discussions with the Ministry of Advanced Education and the SHA.

#### 10. Student Societies

#### 10.1 Report from the USSU

The report of the USSU was provided in the materials.

There were no questions on the report.

# 10.2 Report from the GSA

Humaira Inam, President of the GSA, presented the report from the GSA as provided in the materials.

There were no questions on the report.

#### 11. Academic Programs Committee (APC)

Dr. Pamela Down, Vice Chair of Council, took over chairing the Council meeting given a conflict of interest declared by Dr. Wilson.

Dr. Susan Detmer, Chair of APC, presented items for decision and information as provided in the materials.

11.1 Request for Decision: Admissions Qualification Change – Post-degree certificate in English as an Additional Language (PDCEAL) program

(Detmer/Brook): It is recommended that Council approve the proposed changes to the admissions qualifications for the Post-degree certificate in English as an Additional Language (PDCEAL) program to remove the requirement of one full year of teaching experience or equivalent, effective the 2022-23 admissions cycle.

CARRIED.

11.2 Request for Decision: Admissions Qualification Change – for graduate degree-level certificates in 1) Quality Health Professions Education and 2) Improving Teaching and Learning in Health Professions Education

(Detmer/Brook): It is recommended that Council approve changes to the admissions qualifications for the graduate degree-level certificates in Improving Teaching and Learning in Health Professions Education and Quality Teaching in Health Professions education to reduce the admissions average from 70% to 65%, effective for the 2022-23 admission cycle

CARRIED.

Dr. Wilson resumed chairing the meeting.

# 11.3 Request for Decision: Changes to the Academic Courses Policy

(Detmer/Brook): It is recommended that Council approve the proposed addition to Clause 1.2 of the Academic Courses Policy to ensure appropriate flexibility and oversight over changes to syllabi, effective January 1, 2021.

There was a question from a Council member about whether changes made to syllabi during the term provides students with the ability to say which syllabus will determine the weighting of their grades. Dr. McDougall, Vice Provost, Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources responded that yes, this is in keeping with the original policy and will still be the case.

There was another question about whether there will be a JIRA form for this process. Dr. McDougall responded that no, such changes should be communicated by email in order to keep appropriate records. Too many resources and too much time would be required to develop and administer a JIRA form at this time.

A Council member asked whether it would be possible to approve the motion "in principle," but that the grammatical errors be addressed? Dr. Detmer agreed.

CARRIED.

# 11.4 Report for Information: Program Changes – Postgraduate Diploma in Food and Bioproduct Science

There were no questions related to this report.

### 11.5 Report for Information: Change to the 2020-21 Academic Calendar

There were no questions related to this report.

#### 12. Nominations Committee

Dr. Paul Jones, Chair of the Nominations Committee, presented one request for decision.

# 12.1 Request for Decision: Conflict of Interest Procedures Advisory Committee Nomination

(Jones/Lamb): It is recommended that Council approve the nomination of Jaswant Singh to the Conflict of Interest Procedures Advisory Committee effective January 4, 2021 until the completion of the project.

The Chair of Council called for nominations from the floor three times. There were none.

CARRIED.

#### 13. Governance Committee

Dr. Terry Wotherspoon, the Chair of the committee, presented one notice of motion.

### 13.1 Request for Decision: SENS Faculty Council Membership

Dr. Wotherspoon highlighted the changes in membership noted in the agenda package. He reported that the proposed changes were well-received by the Governance Committee. The revised membership will provide a clear and strong role for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows in the governance of the School.

# 14. Planning and Priorities Committee (PPC)

Dr. David Burgess, Vice Chair of PPC, presented one request for input.

# 14.1 Request for Input: USask Sustainability Strategy

Dr. Irena Creed, Associate Vice President Research and Special Advisor to the President on Sustainability, gave a presentation on the draft Sustainability Strategy as provided in the materials (attachment 2).

There was a question about the impact of COVID-19 travel restrictions on USask's carbon footprint and whether this is part of the normal measurement of the university's carbon footprint. Dr. Creed responded that indeed it is part of emissions calculations, but acknowledged that these activities are more difficult to measure. Connection Point's data collection has improved tracking in this area. There was another question about the amount of lab disposables at USask and those impacts on our carbon footprint. Dr. Creed responded that the university would need to work in close partnership with the City of Saskatoon, the Province of Saskatchewan, and surrounding communities to develop better waste management strategies.

There was a question about potential investments in solar energy at USask and the potential costbenefit trade-offs. Dr. Creed replied that there are three areas where the use of solar energy could be considered: retro-commissioning of buildings; retro-fitting of buildings; and new facilities, which could potentially even be carbon neutral. She indicated that the work of the President's Advisory Circle did not involve doing the financial analysis, but that this will be part of the work that follows the adoption of the Sustainability Plan. Mr. Greg Fowler, Vice President Finance and Resources, added that orders of magnitude should be considered in such analyses, e.g., by examining total capital replacement value of buildings, in addition to the immediate one-time costs, and that this is work that his team will take on.

There was a comment about the potential impacts of central funding for improving energy efficiency at the local level for smaller-scale changes. Dr. Creed agreed, and added that incentives like carbon-accounting systems could also help.

There was a question about the potential engagement of the Province in implementing the Sustainability Strategy. Dr. Melissa Just, Interim Provost, replied that she is aware of the Ministry's interest in moving to an outcomes- or performance-based budget, more so than in investing in infrastructure at this point.

# 15. Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Works Committee (RSAW)

Dr. Marjorie Delbaere, Chair of RSAW, presented a report for information.

# 15.1 Report for Information: Annual Reports from the Research Ethics Boards

There were no questions related to this report.

#### 16. Other business

None.

# 17. Question period

None.

#### 18. Adjournment

(Flynn): Adjourned.

**Table 1. Action Items** 

Pg. and no.	Action item	Responsibility	Timeline
p.2 s.7	1. Legal Services Review Report	President	TBD
p.3 s.8	2. Financial sustainability report	Provost	TBD

Appendix A: Listing of members in attendance Appendix B: Sustainability Strategy Presentation

Next Council meeting is January 28, 2021 – Please send regrets to Michelle.Kjargaard@usask.ca

# **Attendance Summary - Voting Participants**

Add		Voting Participants  held via Webex and attenda		er the particip	ant list while r	neeting is on.						
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Detmer         Susan         A         P         P         P           Dick         Rainer         P         A         A         P           Downe         Pamela         P         P         P         P           Flynn         Kevin         A         A         P         P         P         P         P         P         P         P         P         P         P         P         P         P         P         P         P         A	aere	Majorie	Р	Р	Р	Р						
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London	Chad	Р	Р	Р	Α						
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Manley-Tannis	Richard	R	Α	Α	Α						
Marquez	Carmen	Р	Р	Р	Р						
Mousseau	Darrell	Р	Р	Р	Α						
Muir	Gillian	R	Α	Α	R						
Murphy	JoAnn	Р	Р	Р	Р						
Neufeld	Matthew	Р	Р	Р	Р						
O'Connell	Ryan	Р	Р	Α	р						
Palmer	Sue	n/a	n/a	Α	A						
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Phillipson	Martin	Р	Р	Α	Р						
Pocha	Sheila	А	Р	Α	Α						
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Prytula	Michelle	Р	Р	Р	Р						
Racine	Louise	А	Α	Α	Α						
Rayan	Steven	Р	Р	Р	Р						
Ripley	Laura	n/a	n/a	Р	Р						
Risling	Tracie	Р	P	Р	Р						
Sarjeant-Jenkins	Rachel	Р	Р	Р	Р						
Sarty	Gordon	Р	Р	Р	Р						
Shevchuk	Yvonne	Р	Р	Р	Р						
Shin	Hyunjung	R	R	R	Р						
Singh	Jaswant	Р	Α	Р	Р						
Smith	Martha	Р	Р	Р	Р						
Smith	Preston	Р	Р	Р	Α						
Smyth	Stuart	Р	Р	Р	Α						
Somerville	Kara	Р	Р	Α	Α						
Sorensen	Charlene	Р	Р	Р	Р						
Spurr	Shelley	Р	Р	Р	Р						
Squires	Vicki	Р	Р	Р	Р						
Steele	Tom	Р	Р	Р	Α						
Stoicheff	Peter	Р	Р	Р	Р						
Stuart	Glenn	А	Р	Р	Р						
Urquhart	Stephen	Р	Р	Р	Р						
Waldner	Cheryl	Р	Р	Р	Р						
Walker	Keith	Р	Р	Р	Р						
Wallace	Alexa	n/a	n/a	Α	Α						
Willenborg	Christian	Р	Р	Р	Р						
Willoughby	Keith	R	Α	Р	Р						
Wilson	Jay	Р	Р	Р	Р						
Woods	Phil	Α	R	Р	Α						
Wotherspoon	Terry	Р	Р	Р	Р						
Xiao	Jing	Р	Р	Р	Р						
Yao	Yansun	Р	Α	Α	Α						
Zhang	Chris	А	Р	Р	Α						

# COUNCIL ATTENDANCE 2020-2021

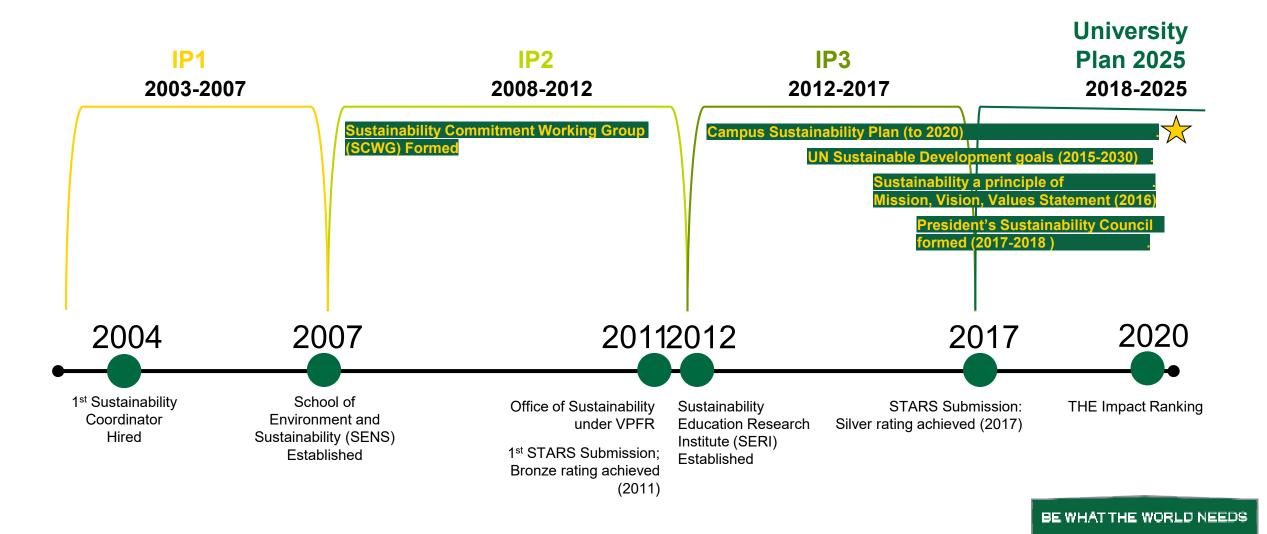
Attendance Summary - Non-voting participants

Sep 17, 2020 - meetings are being held via Webex and attendance is taken as per the participant list while meeting is on.											
Last Name	First Name	Sep 17	Oct 15	Nov 19	Dec 17	Jan 28	No Mtng	Mar 18	Apr 15	May 20	Jun 17
Baljit	Singh	Dr. Singh to beg	in as VP Rese	arch Feb 1, 2	2021						
Chad	Karen	Р	Р	Р	Р		Dr. Chad ha	s completed	her VP Rese	earch as of Jan	31, 2021
Fowler	Greg	Р	Р	Р	Р						
Gill	Qasim	Α	Α	Α	Α						
Inam	Humaira	Р	Р	Р	Р						
Isinger	Russell	Р	Р	Р	Α						
Kaminski	Nicholas	Р	Р	Р	Р						
LaRose-Smith	Autumn	Р	Р	Р	Α						
McDougall	Patricia	Р	Р	Р	Р						
Osburn	Debra Pozega	Р	Р	Р	р						
Ottmann	Jacqueline	Α	Α	Α	Р						
Roberts	Kiefer	Р	R	Р	Р						
Still	Carl	Р	Р	Р	Р						
Thronberg	John	Р	Р	Α	Р						
Willness	Chelsea	Р	Р	Р	р						





# Sustainability@USask





Critical Path to Sustainability 2021-2030

645

Appointed 1 Special Advisor on Sustainability who worked with1 Senior Strategist on Institutional initiatives

Formed the President Sustainability Advisory Circle **21**,

Supported the formation of a 15 Student Sustainability Coalition.

We worked with the **607** members of university community to develop the Sustainability Strategy.



We framed our sustainability strategy around the United Nations Agenda 2030.





# We propose 5 commitments, 5 goals and 17 actions

# LEVERAGE OUR PLACE

Be responsive to our social, economic, environmental and cultural settings, and to influence and be influenced by them as solutions to our sustainability challenges are created, mobilized, and shared.

# **MODEL THE WAY**

Foster an entrepreneurial campus spirit and utilize the campus operations and community as a living laboratory to pilot and then diffuse and scale sustainability solutions.

# **EMPOWER ACTION**

Support a generation of learners and achievers to shift mindsets and expand skillsets to accelerate action to achieve the SDGs.

# **CAPITALIZE ON STRENGTHS**

Bring together the campus community to create knowledges focused on designing and implementing innovative and workable solutions to sustainability challenges.

# CATALYZE SOCIAL CHANGE

Promote, engage, and support shared knowledges, expertise, and experiences to affect the change needed.



# **Leverage Our Place**

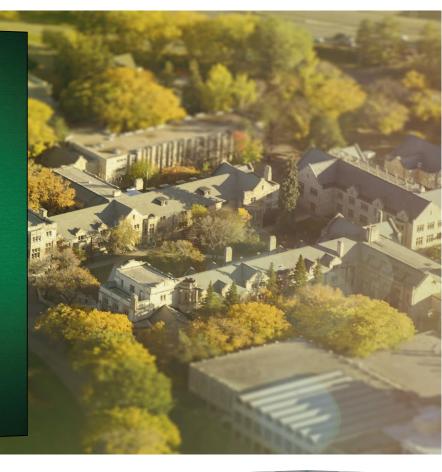
Be responsive to our social, economic, environmental and cultural settings, and to influence and be influenced by them as solutions are created, mobilized and shared.



# GOAL 1

To be an engaged university that works in a coordinated and innovative way with communities to achieve the SDGs.

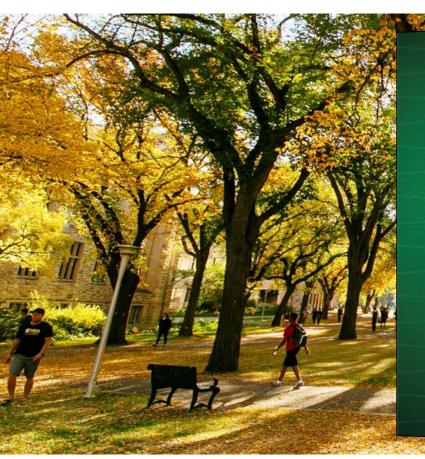
- 1. Establish a university-community joint advisory table.
- 2. Nurture and convene public discourse.
- 3. Build bridges and create new portals.





# **Model the Way**

Foster an entrepreneurial campus spirit and utilize the campus operations and community as a living laboratory to pilot and then diffuse and scale sustainability solutions.

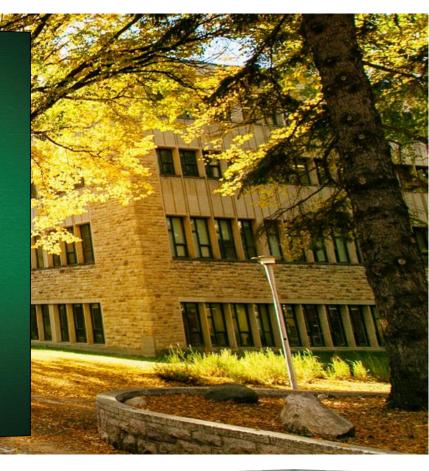


# GOAL 2

To reduce USask's greenhouse gas emissions 45% from their 2010 levels by 2030, and to achieve net zero emissions by 2050

(Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change)

- 4. Invest in sustainability solutions.
- 5. Bolster action and remove barriers.
- 6. Align finance and accounting structures, norms, and practices with emissions goals.
- 7. Share widely our progress







Support a generation of learners and achievers to shift mindsets and expand skillsets to accelerate action to achieve the SDGs.

# GOAL 3

To ensure every faculty, staff and student has a holistic understanding of sustainability, by promoting, enabling and engaging them to explore, discover and find ways to implement new ideas with the support of the entire institution.

- 8. Equip individuals to be sustainability champions throughout their lives.
- 9. Engage academic units in changing or modifying curricula to include sustainability principles and the SDGs.
- 10. Enable access to sustainability curricula for diverse learners and increase access and flexibility for these learners.
- 11. Enable students to work with local community leaders to create sustainability solutions.





# **Capitalize on Strengths**

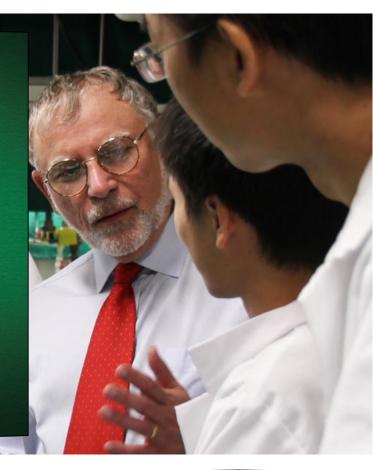
Bring together the campus community to create knowledges focused on designing and implementing innovative and workable solutions to sustainability challenges.



# GOAL 4

To seamlessly integrate learning, discovery, innovation and entrepreneurship, and thereby put our knowledges to work to achieve the SDGs.

- 12. Build leadership and capacity in social and technological innovations.
- 13. Create convergent innovation ecosystems, with the capacity to pilot and perfect innovations.
- 14. Forge and lead unique multi-community, multi-partner and multi-sector collaborations to tackle the full spectrum of sustainability challenges, from idea germination to real-life solutions.





# **Catalyze Social Change**

Promote, engage and support shared knowledges, expertise and experiences to affect the change needed.



# GOAL 5

To make sustainability personally relevant and to inspire and be agents of positive change for our local communities and the world.

- 15. Engage in dialogue to develop a shared understanding of sustainability problems and solutions.
- 16. Ensure the voices in our learning environments and the research that we undertake are grounded in the principles of equity, diversity and inclusion.
- 17. Leverage networks and partnerships to harness actions for scalable solutions, and to influence political leaders to accept and act on these solutions.



# **Critical Path to Sustainability**

We will be seeking adoption by University Council,
Senate, and the
Board of Governors

We will be encouraging the university community to develop implementation ideas for each of the 5 commitment, 5 goals, and 17 actions



# We will continue to use a whole-of-university approach.



# **2020 THE Impact**



# Institutional Cross-Cutting Priorities

#### **LEADERSHIP**

#### **INDIGENIZATION**

SDG1 No Poverty SDG10 Reduced Inequalities

# **EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION**

**SDG4 Quality Education (#101-200)** 

SDG5 Gender Equality

SDG10 Reduced Inequalities

## **INNOVATION**

SDG8 Decent Work and Economic Growth

SDG9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (#101-200)

SDG11 Sustainable Cities and Communities (#79)

SDG12 Responsible Consumption and Production

**SDG16 Peace Justice and Strong Institutions (#67)** 

SDG17 Partnerships for the goals

# Signature Research Areas

### **INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

SDG1 No Poverty SDG10 Reduced Inequalities SDG13 Climate Action (#101-200)

# ONE HEALTH

SDG3 Good Health and Well Being (#12) SDG13 Climate Action (#101-200)

#### **FOOD SECURITY**

SDG2 Zero Hunger (#4) SDG13 Climate Action (#101-200) SDG15 Life on Land

#### WATER SECURITY

SDG6 Clean Water and Sanitization (#56) SDG14 Life Below Water (#38) SDG13 Climate Action (#101-200)

# **ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES**

SDG7 Affordable and Clean Energy (#101-200) SDG13 Climate Action (#101-200)

SYNCHROTON SCIENCE

