Hello Council Chair, members, and visitors. Bonjour à tous.
tânsi. hau koda. ëdƚanet’e? hau kola. taanishi. hau kona. anin

Thank you for this opportunity to provide my May 2021 report to Council, with general remarks, information about tuition, and updates specific to our University 2025 five Aspirations. The breadth and depth of our initiatives and accomplishments as a university far exceed what is possible to cover in this report. My scope therefore is narrowed to areas directly involving the Office of the Provost, and even then this report falls short of reflecting the innovation, intelligences, and energy of colleagues in teaching, research, scholarship and creative works, and service. I do encourage colleagues to visit our University of Saskatchewan news page to read to keep up to date with announcements and articles about our bold ambitions at USask.

GENERAL REMARKS

USask Teaching awards event

Every educator matters and makes a difference here in our USask community. The 2021 teaching award recipients were announced on Friday, April 30th at the Celebration of Teaching ceremony where the recipients of the 2020-21 Master Teacher Awards, the Provost's College and Themed Teaching Awards, and the CGPS Distinguished Graduate Mentor Award were celebrated. Two Master Teacher Awards were recognised: Dr Lee Swanson (Edwards School of Business), Dr Loleen Berdahl, Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Policy.

Congratulations to each of the 19 recipients of awards in the April 30 ceremony. Thank you to all university educators for striving for excellence in teaching. Thank you to nominators, and family and friends for the incredible celebration of teaching at the awards ceremony. Thank you to the Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching and Learning for hosting the awards, along with our Vice Provost Teaching, Learning and Student Experience Dr Patti McDougall, and her team.

Signature Research Areas Engagement

The university community has been taking part in a series of discussion sessions on each of USask's six signature areas of research. Thank you so much to the Vice President Research, Dr Baljit Singh, and the OVPR for the leadership of this key consultation. As the Vice-President, Research and Provost and Vice President Academic are working together to support the University 2025 plan and the work of our scholars, I have greatly appreciated the opportunity to join several of the discussions. Members of the campus community have repeatedly credited the signature areas as being critical to elevating USask’s success as a research-intensive university. This includes research, scholarship and creative works. The areas have been in place since 2010, and it is time to reflect on their strengths, as well as areas for enhancement. These sessions are building community, generating discussion, and informing future directions in each of these areas.

Strategic Priorities

In my April 2021 report to Council I outlined why the provincial government’s budget approach is significant, actions underway, and how Council involvement will be vital to our work together to achieve our priorities and aspirations at
USask. In my May report I will outline planning underway to ensure the university is best positioned to advance the priorities and aspirations of our university, within our means.

**The University 2025 plan:** Council’s approval of the University Plan 2025, along with the approval of the Board and Senate sets the direction for planning: “We believe that the University of Saskatchewan has much to offer its communities, and through this plan, we are dedicated to delivering on our promise. The plan requires movement, new ideas, growth and change. It commits us to communicate and celebrate our successes, and ensures that our diverse community will seek solutions with the bold creativity that has long characterized the University of Saskatchewan. Through this plan, we will be the university we must be for the future—the university the world needs” (UPlan 2025). With the four-year stable budget from government coupled with incremental funding for two years only, the university is uniquely positioned to face the challenges to fulfil our UPlan 2025 goals and aspirations.

**Actions and involvement:** Planning is being advanced to ensure the university is best placed to fulfil its priorities and aspirations. The VP Finance and Resources, Greg Fowler, and I presented to PPC (5 May) on the scope and implications of the provincial budget. This presentation referred to the university’s financial sustainability plan (comprising 49 projects) and introduced the six investment areas in the associated MoU between the government and USask:

<table>
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<th>From the funding letter, priority areas for investment:</th>
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<td>• Institutional recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic</td>
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<td>• Institutional transition post-COVID-19 Pandemic</td>
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<td>• Academic and administrative innovation</td>
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<td>• Revenue generation and expense reduction initiatives</td>
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<td>• Efficiency through collaboration among institutions</td>
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<td>• Other government priorities including those in the SK Growth Plan</td>
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Our next presentation to PPC (19 May) will seek advice on budget scenarios, and the process and outcomes associated with strategic priorities. A recent discussion with the Leadership Network of department heads and leaders across USask has been very helpful in shaping this planning.

In addition, a process is now in place for the first phase of allocation of funds from the one-time provincial strategic grant. For information please contact your administration and academic leaders after May 12. The PPC presentation (19 May) will include process and intended outcomes information.

Consistent with our academic governance processes, university-wide planning and reports will be brought to Council and its Committees, the Board of Governors, and Senate. Materials are coming through Council Committees. Engagement with Council and its Committees will be ongoing in two planning phases: Phase 1: April 2021-April 2023; and Phase 2: May 2023-April 2026. Council’s academic governance role is critically significant as we move forward.

**Fall 2021 Planning**

President Stoicheff recently shared information about Fall 2021 planning, and the transition to on-campus activity. We remain confident that, with the rapid deployment of vaccines and the support of the Ministry of Health and the Chief Medical Health Officer, our continued planning for a more open Fall Term can proceed. Thank you to the Pandemic Response Team for your continued leadership through COVID. Thank you to every colleague and student in our USask community for the part you are playing in our transition planning and in preventing COVID-19.

As indicated in President Stoicheff’s announcement, we are preparing to have many programs, classes and labs return to in-person delivery in September, and much more than we had in this past term, the Fall Term should be considered “transitional” as we will continue to offer some classes remotely. We will likely not complete our full transition out of pandemic operations until at least January 2022, at the beginning of Winter Term:
It is the expectation of the University that everyone in the USask community will do everything possible to protect themselves and each other now, and in the Fall, fulfilling your public responsibilities by following all public health orders and occupational health and safety guidelines.

*It is important to stress that the surest step you can take to prevent COVID-19 and keep the campus safe is through vaccination.* The University strongly urges all staff and students get their COVID-19 vaccinations as soon as they are eligible and ask that you encourage your friends and family members to do the same. In case you have questions about getting vaccinated, be sure to have a look at the information we are regularly updating on the [vaccination website](https://vaccinationwebsite.com).

**St. Thomas More College (STM)**

STM is a Catholic undergraduate liberal arts college, founded by the Congregation of Saint Basil in 1936, and that is federated with USask. Any USask student can select from over 250 Arts and Science courses offered through STM. I was delighted to meet with Dr Carl Still, President of STM, with President Stoicheff in late April. The relationship between STM and USask is greatly valued. Congratulations to all those recently named as STM teaching [award](award.com) winners, including Saeed Moshiri the winner of this year’s STM Teaching Excellence Award.


**Update on University rankings**

As part of the regular updates on our placement in global rankings, IPA reviewed information on the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings that were released on April 21, 2021. Like all university ranking initiatives, the THE Impact Rankings use a set of criteria to provide a world ranking of universities. However, it differs from other rankings in that it evaluates university performance based on the United Nations’ 17 Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs). For the second year in a row, the University of Saskatchewan placed in the top 100 in the world with an overall rank of 96 (tie). Noteworthy is that THE added roughly 350 universities to their overall ranking this year (1,115 universities in total) and USask maintained our place as a top 100 university.

In addition to our overall ranking, THE also provides rankings in each of the 17 SDGs. Universities have the option of participating in any of the SDGs and be ranked in those specific areas as well as in the overall ranking. USask participated in nine SDGs in total and performed well in each area. Globally, there were two top 50 rankings: 23rd in SDG 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing) and a tie for 34th in SDG 2 (Zero Hunger). There were three other outcomes in the top 100 including a tie for 61st in SDG 17 (Partnership for the Goals), a tie for 67th in SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and a tie for 81st in SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation). In addition, placements in the tier 101-200 were received in SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institution). USask also ranks in the 301-400 category for SDG 4 (Quality Education). Given that sustainability is one of the four principles of our strategic plan, we will continue to strive for improvements in these rankings while taking pride

Thank you to the Office of University Relations for stewarding USask’s rankings initiatives while awaiting the new Vice President Academic and Provost, and Vice President Research. The Vice Presidents are collaborating in a transition of the stewardship to a partnership between the Office of the Provost and the Office of the Vice President Research.

**Buffalo Circle**

On 5 April the Buffalo Circle was held, recognising the allies for reconciliation at USask. This grassroots initiative focuses on increasing the visibility of allies, encouraging ally networking, and building stronger capacity for reconciliation. The idea for this campaign was formed through many discussions with Elders and the Indigenous faculty and staff on campus. **Buffalo Circle** members are asked to wear the Buffalo Circle regalia as a sign of respect for the Buffalo teachings, to be seen and known on campus as an active ally, and to promote to others the benefits and support offered in allyship.

**Supporting support services**

USask benefits from exceptional support services. Thank you immensely for the professionalism, care, devotion, and skills provided by all those in our university’s support services. All programs and units across the university depend on these outstanding services. To help us understand more about the services and resourcing, an initiative conceived at the time of introducing our current Resource Allocation model will be piloted this year. A process to further strengthen engagement for Allocating Support Centre Resources (ASCR) is underway with a pilot program beginning right away for 2022/23 resource allocation decisions.

The ASCR process aims to create an enhanced and shared understanding of current resourcing levels and future needs as well as provide greater transparency into the indirect cost component of TABBSS and an enhanced voice in the services and service levels provided at the institution. On a rotating basis, support centre leaders will have an opportunity to engage with and obtain feedback from both academic and administrative leaders to aid in the prioritization of services within our budgets, and to best align with and serve the academic mission of the university. For questions about ASCR please feel free to contact our IPA team.

**International Student Visas**

We continue to advocate for our international students and access to studies and opportunities at USask. International students are 16 per cent of our overall student population. We were delighted to note the recent decision that international students who submitted a completed application by May 15 will receive their visa by August 6 – in time for the start of the Fall term.

**Rhodes Scholarships for Canada**

Our University 2025 plan includes the aspiration of Distinguished Learners. Each year three Rhodes scholarships are available to be awarded to the Prairie Region of Canada. The Rhodes Scholarship programme is the oldest (established 1903) international scholarship programme in the world, and one of the most prestigious. Administered by the Rhodes Trust in Oxford, the programme offers 100 fully-funded Scholarships each year for postgraduate study at the University
of Oxford in the United Kingdom - one of the world’s leading universities. Rhodes Scholarships are for young leaders of outstanding intellect and character who are motivated to engage with global challenges, committed to the service of others and show promise of becoming value-driven, principled leaders for the world’s future. This past month included a meeting with John McCall MacBain O.C. the partner sponsor with Rhodes Scholarships for Canada. Among the Rhodes scholars have been some exceptional alumni from USask. Please do consider this opportunity for our current students. Information can be found here.

**Appointments**

- **Dr. Joel Lanovaz** has been appointed associate dean, academic, College of Kinesiology for a five-year term effective July 1, 2021
- **Dr. Doug Clark** has been appointed acting assistant director, academic, School of Environment and Sustainability for a one-year term effective July 1, 2021
- **Professor Cindy Peternelj-Taylor** has been extended as interim dean, College of Nursing for a period of up to six months
- **Dr. Peter Doig** has been appointed interim assistant dean, clinics, College of Dentistry for a six-month term effective July 1, 2021
- **Tim Hutchinson** has been appointed assistant dean, university archives & special collections division, University Library for a three-year term effective May 1, 2021
- **Jo Anne Murphy** has been appointed assistant dean, learning & curriculum support division, University Library for a three-year term effective May 1, 2021
- **Dr. Anas El-need** has been appointed assistant dean, pharmacy, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition for a three-year term effective July 1, 2021
- **Dr. Brian Bandy** has been appointed assistant dean, nutrition and dietetics, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition for a three-year term effective July 1, 2021

**Searches/ renewals in-progress**

- Dean, College of Nursing
- Dean, Western College of Veterinary Medicine
- Executive Director, School of Environment and Sustainability
- Deputy Provost
- Dean, Edwards School of Business (renewal)

**Academic reviews W2021**

- College of Agriculture and Bioresources (Departments of Agriculture and Resource Economics, Animal and Poultry Science, Food and Bioproduct Sciences, Plant Sciences, Soil Science)
- College of Law

**TUITION**

Our university attracts revenue from a number of key sources, including tuition. Tuition is vital to the ongoing operations of the University of Saskatchewan (USask), being about one-third of the university’s operating budget. The balance of the operating budget comes from the provincial operating grant, interprovincial funding, and investment income. Tuition rates for the 2021-22 school year (beginning in the Fall 2021 Term) have been finalized and are now available on the tuition and fees website. Following a tuition freeze for most programs last year (other than for some undergraduate programs in Western College of Veterinary Medicine, College of Dentistry, and College of Law), the coming year’s rates ensure students continue to receive a rich and rigorous education that will set them up for success following graduation. We are confident that Fall 2021 term will see a significant increase to in-person, on-campus
instruction, with Winter 2022 seeing a return to pre-COVID-19 modes of instruction. To learn more about the critical role of tuition for USask, please see my recent posting.

Tuition rates are reviewed annually by the USask Board of Governors. Tuition-setting follows the principles and process described in Board policy. Although tuition rate changes vary by program, the university has set tuition with an overall weighted average increase of 3.9 per cent—3.8 per cent for undergraduate students, and 5 per cent for graduate students. The undergraduate international differential multiplier will increase from 2.73 to 3.00 and the graduate international differential multiplier will increase from 1.58 to 1.81, continuing to remain below most U15 comparators and matching the University of Regina.

A tuition offset will be applied to continuing international graduate students’ tuition to offset the increase to the international differential. The total support provided to the international students through these mechanisms is approximately $1.61M (or 13 per cent of the total incremental tuition revenue). To assist with affordability and accessibility, USask provides over $67 million annually in financial aid, through scholarships, bursaries, and other financial awards. As a further response to support students during the COVID-19 pandemic, the university deployed almost $300,000 in operating monies to create an internal employment program for graduate students (mainly international graduate students). CGPS is also providing up to $300,000 support to students who have had a significant disruption to their research, thereby extending their program this term.

Student fees are assessed to maintain important services and supports. USask also collects fees on behalf of third parties including the USSU and GSA for which decisions have been made to increase some fees to ensure long term sustainability of operations and services provided to students. These third party and mandatory institutional fee increases are $136.47 for each full-time undergrad student and $83.56 for a full-time graduate student.

University education is a significant investment for our students and their families. We are focused on programs and research-related experiences that ensure USask students receive a high quality and rigorous education that sets graduates up for success in wider life.

**UNIVERSITY 2025 PLAN ASPIRATIONS**

The following events and initiatives, of the many across our university, featured during the past month. News items related to each of our University 2025 Aspirations is included, noting highlights submitted by Colleges and Schools.

**Transformative decolonization leading to reconciliation**

**Video Launch – acimowin: College of Education:**

On April 30, the Department of Curriculum Studies in the College of Education hosted a video presentation and discussion with PhD candidate Linda Young based on her Master of Education project, completed in the fall of 2020. Young shared a 16 min shortened clip of her film titled acimowin: Telling and Retelling My Residential School Story: What was lost? What replaced it? What is needed to heal, reconcile, and reclaim Indigenous education for the benefit of students, families and communities? Knowledge Keeper Lyndon Linklater shared an opening prayer, Dr. Marguerite Koole provided the video response and Dr. Debbie Pushor delivered opening and closing remarks.

Student achievements: Edwards School of Business: In April 2021, Edwards celebrated the academic achievements of graduating First Nation, Metis and Inuit students. 14 students attended the virtual event which included alumni guest
speaker Lyle Acoose (B.Comm. 2011). Parents, families, friends, alumni, post-secondary coordinators, and community members showed their support as the students were welcomed into the USask alumni family.

**Anti-Racist Education activities in the College of Nursing**

Dr. Holly Graham (PhD), the Indigenous Research Chair in Nursing, partnered with the Saskatoon Anti-Racism Network to offer six days of anti-racism education for our college staff and faculty. The first cohort have completed their training, and the second cohort will undertake their training in May and June. The college is grateful to Dr. Graham for making this opportunity possible as part of the work of her research chair.

**Distinguished Learners**

*Edwards School of Business:* Beginning in the 2021-22 academic year, the Edwards School of Business (Edwards) will introduce the International Business Minor (IBM). It is the first recognized minor Edwards students can pursue. IBM will give students an opportunity to increase their awareness of the international business environment and better prepare them for a career in global business. It also allows for a deeper immersion into international business environments, policy, and development. Students who, in conjunction with a Bachelor of Commerce degree in a different subject, take 18 credit units or more of the course requirements, will receive a minor in International Business.

**National recognition: College of Engineering**

Samia Sami, set to graduate this spring from the University of Saskatchewan (USask) College of Engineering, is the recipient of a 3M National Student Fellowship.

**Meaningful impact**

*College of Nursing: Student, Faculty and Staff Covid Contributions:* Each College of Nursing student spends more than 1000 hours in clinical settings providing care as part of their training. The care they provide covers many aspects of a registered nurse’s scope of practice. Notably, in the pandemic, some senior nursing students are involved with the care of COVID-19 positive and/or symptomatic patients, and others provide much-needed extra emotional support for patients whose family support people are limited in the clinical setting. Additionally, many College of Nursing students are enthusiastic members of the Saskatchewan Health Authority temporary workforce. They fulfill numerous roles at the immunization clinics working as immunizers, registration workers, and crowd management/flow-staff at the clinics.

**EDI and the public sector: Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy**


**Productive collaboration**

*Vaccination efforts and our College of Nursing* staff, faculty, and academic leaders who are Registered Nurses have been working at the SHA vaccine clinics. Some faculty are also providing intermuscular injection training to pharmacists and medical students so they can give COVID-19 vaccinations at clinics and pharmacies.
Engineering at USask heading into orbit: College of Engineering:

A group of University of Saskatchewan (USask) students developing the province’s first cube satellite (RADSAT-SK) is getting closer to sending their project into orbit.

Global Recognition

Life & Health Sciences Research Expo: The USask Health Sciences coordinated the 28th Annual Life & Health Sciences Research Expo celebrating outstanding research, collaboration, and mentorship within the health sciences on May 6, 2021. After being cancelled last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event returned in a virtual format to showcase interdisciplinary health science research throughout the province and across both basic and clinical sciences. This year, 85 research abstracts were received as well as 14 submissions for the Best Paper Award and 10 nominations for the Best Supervisor Award.

The Health Sciences would like to thank this year’s academic co-chairs — Dr. David Blackburn (PharmD) from the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition and Dr. Petros Papagerakis (DDS, PhD) from the College of Dentistry — as well as the 29 members of the USask community who volunteered to adjudicate the 10 livestreamed sessions in the research presentation competition. See the expo website at https://healthsciences.usask.ca/expo.