TEACHING, LEARNING AND STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Launch of Learning Modules
A recent study found that 71% of students attending post-secondary institutions experienced unwanted sexualized behaviors, and that 91% of women and 92% of men who witnessed unwanted sexualized behaviours, in at least one instance, choose not to intervene, seek help, or take action (Statistics Canada, 2019). At the University of Saskatchewan, we have long maintained that we are a campus community and environment in which sexual violence will not be tolerated. We have undertaken various prevention and response efforts with the goal of reducing incidents of sexual violence through our USASK ‘React to Sexual Violence’ approach.

As the next phase of this work, in mid-October we launched ‘Sexual Violence Prevention and Response: We are all part of the solution’ which is a set of four online learning modules designed for students, faculty and staff which serve to increase our community members sexual violence prevention literacy through education related to: sexual violence and its prevalence, sexual consent and power in relationships, bystander intervention, and how our community members can respond to disclosures of sexual violence. In the 2 weeks since the launch, 595 community members have already accessed and taken the training, which is encouraging. We have also received requests from other institutions and community partners in Saskatchewan and beyond for us to share the modules for them to use. We are pleased by this interest and will be exploring opportunities to do so.

INSTITUTIONAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT

Resource Allocation Process
The 2021-22 resource allocation process is underway. The Office of Financial Strategy and the Office of Institutional Planning and Assessment will support resource allocation conversations and decisions taking place throughout November and December. A key component of the resource allocation process is the TABBS model. While the decision has been made to not implement any changes to the model for the 2021/22 allocation year, we will consult over this year on any potential changes for the 2022/23 allocation year. The model results will be finalized in early November and will be used as an input into the resource allocation decisions for the upcoming year. These decisions will be communicated to colleges and schools in early January and will be reflected in the detailed budget submitted to the Board of Governors in March 2021.

Tuition
Discussions regarding tuition rate setting for the 2021/22 year have begun. The new dean of the College of Graduate and Post-Doctoral Studies, Debby Burshtyn, has begun conversations with associate deans academic across the colleges and conversations with deans occurred at the October 27 deans’ council meeting. Given the tuition freeze that was implemented for most of our programs for this year, in line with the provincial approach, we will be looking to implement an increase in tuition for the 2021/22 year.
Information supporting tuition rate setting and student consultations within colleges will be distributed before the end of November. USask receives data for tuition and fees from U15 institutions in order to undertake a comparator analysis on similar programs. Relevant non-U15 comparators are also included, where applicable, to present a holistic picture on rates. This process sets the stage for colleges and schools to plan discussions for the upcoming year’s tuition rates with students. The tuition rates are approved by the provost prior to reporting to the Board of Governors for information in March.

**Update on University Rankings**

Each year, national and international rankings are released that provide a perspective on our performance in various areas relative to other universities in Canada and the world. Evaluations are made at both the institutional level, as well as in various subject or program areas. Rankings can impact our ability to recruit students and faculty, create new partnerships and collaborations with other universities, and attract donor investments so it is important for us to pay attention to the results. Out of the many rankings that exist worldwide, we closely monitor Maclean’s and Research InfoSource nationally and Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings/ Impact Rankings, Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings and the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) internationally.

At this time, most of the ranking results have been released for 2020. In summary, USask moved up one position in Maclean’s (tie for 14), held its position in both ARWU (301-400 out of 2,000+ universities) and THE World University Rankings (401-500 out of 1,500+ universities), and dropped slightly in the QS World University Rankings (465 out of about 1,600 universities). USask also participated in the new THE Impact Rankings, resulting in a strong overall outcome of 96 in the world (out of 766 universities). The Research InfoSource ranking is released in November and our analysis is predicting that we will move up three positions in the overall ranking on research revenue compared to last year (from 14 to 11 out of 50). More information on our placement in university rankings can be found on Institutional Planning and Assessment’s website: [https://www.usask.ca/ipa/Assessment-and-Analytics/university-rankings.php](https://www.usask.ca/ipa/Assessment-and-Analytics/university-rankings.php)

**COLLEGE AND SCHOOL UPDATES**

*College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies*

We are pleased that the Graduate Application part of the RECRUIT system successfully launched September 30 and applications are being processed for Spring 2021 admissions onward in the new system.

- Approximately 4 years ago, USask invested in Ellucian RECRUIT, a robust relationship management system. The system manages the front end of the student lifecycle including prospective students and applicants; it includes an agent management portal and provides functionality to connect students to recruitment strategy which allows us to calculate ROI and progress toward enrolment goals.
- Undergraduate admissions functionality has been implemented for all colleges except for Medicine and WCVM. Baseline undergraduate prospect management and the agent portal have also been implemented.
- The primary benefit of the relationship management system is that it allows us to manage enrolment proactively and strategically from the point of interest, to application, to admitted application, to confirmed acceptance, through to enrolled and arrived student.
- The project is currently in Phase 4.2, which is graduate prospect and applicant management. The graduate application portion was launched (September 30, 2020) and additional admissions
management functionality and communications will be completed by approximately December. The next phase will be graduate prospect management implementation which will include the ability to identify and track highly desired prospective students, support for units that require pre-application functionality, and processes to aid in Supervisor matching and selection.

- This is currently the final planned project implementation phase, however, there may be one additional group of implementations. Discussions are underway with the College of Medicine, WCVM, and Huskie Athletics.

**College of Education**

**Educational Assistants’ Professional Learning Series**

In response to the identified needs of provincial school divisions and First Nations education authorities, the Saskatchewan Educational Leadership Unit in the Department of Educational Administration has redesigned several six-hour professional development modules in support of special education student learning needs. This work aligns with the College of Education’s strategic plan initiative to enhance structures that support the outward-focused work of teaching and learning in education and the University Plan commitment of Boundless Collaboration. To date, two modules have been offered over four sessions, with 519 registrations received.

**Edwards School of Business**

The Edwards School of Business (Edwards) partnered with Mitacs, a national not-for-profit organization that supports research and training programs across Canada, to deliver the Mitacs Business Strategy Internship (BSI) program in summer 2020. Edwards supported Canadian businesses in adapting to the new economic realities through internships focused on applied research and business skills, problem solving and innovative thinking to make a difference in business operations. As a result of the Edwards pilot project, a second round of recruitment for employer partners and students will be rolled out to all colleges and schools at the University of Saskatchewan. Watch for more information about eligibility requirements and the application process in early November.

We are also proud to announce a curriculum change as part of the undergraduate Bachelor of Commerce degree program in the Edwards School of Business. Indigenous Business in Canada (formerly Aboriginal Business in Canada) has been renamed and will become a core course beginning in the 2021-2022 academic year. Significant changes were also made to the structure of the course in a thoughtful and consultative way. The addition of the course to our core offerings and the name change reflects an approach to reconciliation in business and in the classroom.

**College of Arts & Science**

**anohc kipasikônaw / we rise / niipawi**

On October 2, 2020, the College of Arts and Science and University Galleries began the first installation of the collaborative art project **anohc kipasikônaw / we rise / niipawi** in the foyer of the Gordon Snelgrove Gallery. Honouring the lunar calendar, **anohc kipasikônaw / we rise / niipawi** will be installed over the course of 13 moons. Each installation will be marked by the placement of a reclaimed slate stair tread inscribed with the name of the current moon in Cree / Nehiyaw syllabics.

For more information visit: [https://students.usask.ca/events-calendar/2020/01/iaw_artistinresidence.php](https://students.usask.ca/events-calendar/2020/01/iaw_artistinresidence.php).