


 BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

Provost's Report to Council

June 2022

Hello Council Chair, members, and visitors. Bonjour.

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[English. French. Cree. Dakota/Lakota/Nakota. Dene. Michif. Saulteaux]

GENERAL REMARKS

This report provides updates as well as indications of our progress towards achieving the five aspirations in our University Plan 2025.

USask Spring Convocation returns to in-person celebration

For the first time in more than two years, the University of Saskatchewan (USask) will celebrate convocation ceremonies in-person this month. After holding online graduation celebrations for the past four spring and fall convocations as the pandemic dragged on, USask is finally returning to Merlis Belsher Place to hold 2022 Spring Convocation in-person from June 6-10. For University Registrar Russ Isinger and his planning team organizing this year's convocation ceremonies, it has been a long time coming. "The planning team is very excited about returning to in-person convocation," said Isinger, who has been involved in nearly individual 150 ceremonies spanning two decades through his work with the Teaching, Learning and Student Experience portfolio. "Convocation is the university's most important public event, and the culmination of all we work toward at the institution. We know the absence of in-person ceremonies was deeply felt by the campus community. Although the team enjoyed the challenge of planning the online convocation celebrations over the past two years, the in-person convocation ceremonies are where we all want to be, especially since the 2019 return of convocation to campus to the wonderful facility we have at Merlis Belsher Place." A total of 3,269 graduates are scheduled to receive degrees in this year's Spring Convocation celebration, which will feature eight ceremonies over five days at Merlis Belsher Place. To all graduands, staff, faculty, department heads, College and School leaders, senior administrators, family and friends, a sincere congratulations and thank you for the inspiration that you are. Thank you to the teams that organise convocation ceremonies and make the events so special.

Indigenous Graduation Celebration

The University of Saskatchewan (USask) held the second [Indigenous Graduation Celebration— and the first to be held in-person—on Friday, June 3.](#) The last in-person event was held in the spring of 2019 when the former Graduation Powwow was held, an event that has transitioned into the new Indigenous Graduation Celebration format.

“We are looking forward to finally be returning to Merlis Belsher Place to honour the university’s graduating Indigenous students in-person again, in the traditional way and with an eye to the future,” Graeme Joseph said ahead of the event as Team Leader, First Nations, Métis and Inuit Student Success in the Teaching, Learning and Student Experience portfolio at USask. “We have missed gathering in-person to honour these remarkable students, and to celebrate their accomplishments with their friends and families, in a good way.”

Close to 180 graduating Indigenous students were expected to take part in the event, with a mixture of fall 2021 graduates and students graduating in the 2022 spring semester. With students’ family and friends, university faculty and senior leaders, along with performers and honored guests, the event was expected to draw about 300 in attendance. The event was also [livestreamed](#) for those who are unable to attend in person.

ASCR Update

Allocating Support Centre Resources (ASCR) seeks to provide the academic side of the institution with an enhanced voice in the services and service levels at USASK, as well as provide a forum for support centre portfolio leaders to communicate their unit’s value proposition, increase engagement, and gain support on service prioritization and use of resources.

A process to further strengthen engagement for ASCR was introduced to Council last May. The launch of the pilot was deferred until Spring 2022 to inform 2023/24 resource allocation decisions. The ASCR pilot year is now well underway, with each of 20 support centres submitting a planning template response in late April. The ASCR Committee is now logging dozens of hours over May and June to review, discuss, and provide inquiries and feedback on the planning submissions, as well as to review financial and position complement data on each of the 20 support centres. The two units selected for a more in-depth review in the pilot year are Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and University Relations. For these two units, the engagement and feedback process will continue through to the Fall when resource allocation decisions are made. The ASCR committee, chaired by the deputy provost, is made up of academic leaders, representation from the Office of the Vice-President Research, support centre leaders, and resource members from IPA and Financial Strategy. For questions about ASCR please feel free to contact the deputy provost (patti.mcdougall@usask.ca) or IPA team (integrated-planning@usask.ca)

MyCreds network

MyCreds.ca is the official online credential wallet for Canada’s post-secondary students and graduates. Developed through the initiative of the Association of Registrars of Universities and Colleges of Canada, the MyCreds network enables students to access and share their secure, verifiable, and official transcripts, parchments, badges, micro-credentials, and official letters. The universities of Alberta, Calgary, Regina, Western, York, and 17 other Canadian post-secondary institutions have joined MyCreds so far, and it is anticipated that all other post-secondary institutions, application services, admission and transfer councils, governments, and non-governmental organizations across Canada and around the world will join. The University of Saskatchewan is in the pilot group of schools implementing MyCreds, and the university registrar’s office anticipates considerable service improvement and administrative efficiency from joining. The university registrar’s office is planning to begin sending and receiving

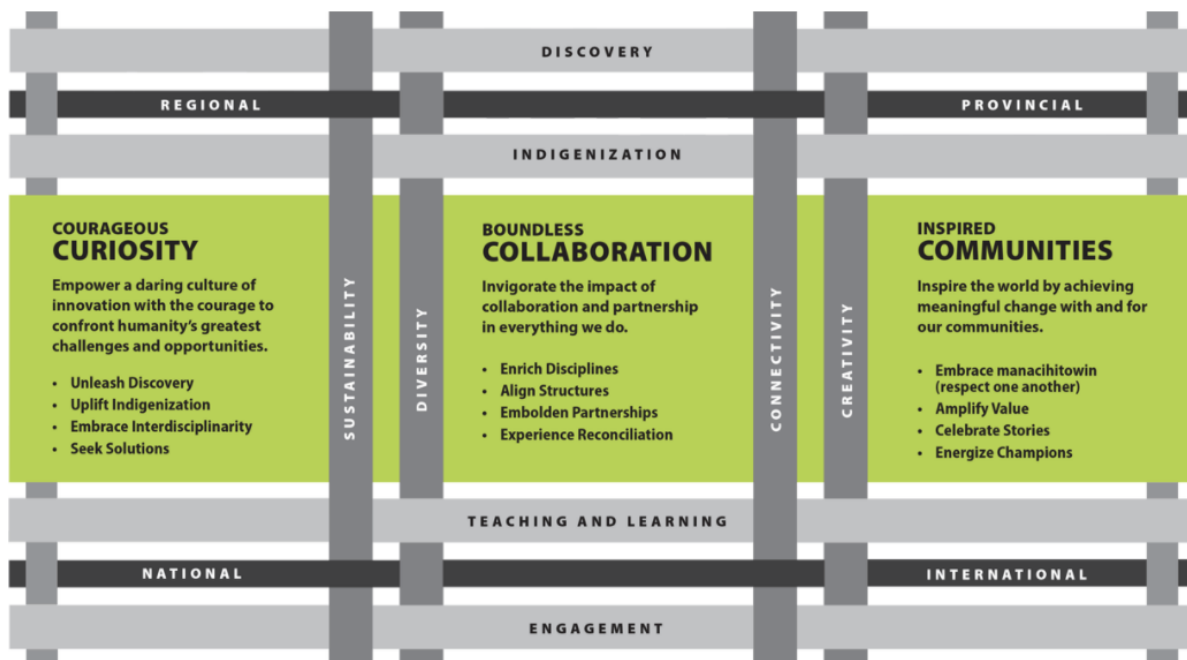
transcripts, confirmation of graduation and enrolment letters, and digital parchments through the network in late July.

Pride Month

June is Pride Month at the University of Saskatchewan (USask), across Canada and in a number of countries around the world, and a recent USask [news item](#) shares how for student Kseniah Pidskalny, celebrating who you are is core to Pride. Creating and, when necessary, pushing harder for safe spaces that 2SLGBTQIA+ students, faculty and staff feel comfortable in is something that USask Deputy Provost Patti McDougall feels very passionate about. She sees June as a time to refocus on those priorities and to learn. To plan for Pride month, a multidisciplinary team of people come together to offer their skills, competencies and perspectives, while taking direction from, in this case, the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. Two Pride-themed crosswalks will be painted on the Saskatoon campus during Pride month this year. New USask Pride-themed merchandise launched in June at Shop USask, with some of the proceeds going to the Queer Housing initiative. Another new addition to USask Pride initiatives this year is an Instagram event hosted by USask EDI Project Specialist Tasnim Jaisee, which will focus on the College of Arts and [Science certificate in Queer Theory, Gender Diversity and Sexualities Studies](#). Learn more about Pride at USask [here](#).

THE UNIVERSITY THE WORLD NEEDS

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The following events and initiatives, of the many across our university, featured during the past recent months. News items from our colleges and schools, related to each of our University Plan 2025 aspirations, are included.

Transformative decolonization leading to reconciliation

The USask verification task force focused on Indigenous membership/citizenship nears completion of new policy development. The USask, along with external Indigenous partners, launched a task force to create a policy for Indigenous Membership/Citizenship Verification with Documentation. The [task force, comprised of Indigenous members](#), has focused on ensuring Indigenous peoples are hired for positions created for Indigenous peoples and for Indigenous programming, funding, and scholarships at the university. Planning for the task force began in 2021 with focused work commencing in January 2022. It has been led by USask's Office of the Vice-Provost, Indigenous Engagement. There is also an advisory circle that sits on the outside of the task force. This advisory circle is a non-voting group and is comprised of representatives from across the university. Their role is to advise the task force on how the policy might impact existing university processes.

“Having a formal dialogue around Indigenous membership/citizenship verification with documentation is complex, but it is vitally important,” said Dr. Angela Jaime, Interim Vice-Provost, Indigenous Engagement, and chair of the task force.

The end goal of this task force is to create an accessible policy and guidelines for the university to follow when it comes to Indigenous membership/citizenship verification with documentation. For more information see this [news release](#), and [terms of reference](#).

Productive collaboration

The College of Education, along with the International Research and Partnerships Office and the Language Centre, hosted 21 English as a Second Language teachers from the Universidad Católica Del Maule in Chile from May 1 – 30. Coordinated by the Saskatchewan Educational Leadership Unit and the Language Centre, the month-long program included instruction in English as a Second Language pedagogy training (ECUR 498.3 *Trends and Issues: Current Methods in English as a Global Language Instruction*), time spent observing primary and secondary classrooms in Saskatoon and area K-12 schools, and intensive English-language instruction and participation in cultural activities around Saskatoon.

Distinguished Learners

On May 5 and 6, 2022, the Edwards School of Business was proud to host the Saskatchewan Business Teachers' Association (SBTA)'s ninth annual student case competition. The competition, modeled after JDC West, provides an annual opportunity for high-school business students and teachers to come together to discuss, learn, and compete in the areas of financial literacy and entrepreneurship. Participants from across Saskatchewan and Alberta came to USask to compete around the theme of technology and start-up companies. Notably, Lee Evans, Co-Founder and Chief Growth Officer, of myComply (also an Edwards graduate) was the keynote speaker.

Meaningful impact

The Government of Saskatchewan [has announced](#) that pharmacists are now able to prescribe Paxlovid, a medication that can be used to treat early COVID. This is part of a larger initiative involving community prescribing for Paxlovid to increase access to COVID therapies. This

announcement comes after several months of meetings, planning, and collaboration between many partner organizations, including medSask and USask’s own Continuing Professional Development for Pharmacy Professionals. CPDPP is based out of USask’s College of Pharmacy and Nutrition. medSask has played a critical role throughout the planning process, and the resources and prescribing guides created by the medSask team will be used by all prescribers, including physicians, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, and the Saskatchewan Health Authority COVID Assessment team. medSask and CPDPP provided training on Paxlovid prescribing for over 1000 registrants, and medSask will be the ongoing central support for prescribers in the province. To support these efforts, medSask received \$400,000 in additional funding from the Government of Saskatchewan.

A special acknowledgment to colleagues Danielle Larocque and Kirsten Bazylak for their leadership with this initiative, but it was (and will be in the future) truly a team effort.

Praise for the outstanding work and efforts of the medSask team has been abundant, and from all involved, including the Saskatchewan Health Authority, Saskatchewan Medical Association, College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan, College of Registered Nurses of Saskatchewan, and Saskatchewan Ministry of Health. In turn, this recognition reflects well on the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition and University of Saskatchewan, highlighting the significant contributions made to the healthcare system and community.

Global Impact

The USask community joins with Edwards School of Business to offer sincerest congratulations to associate professor, Dr. Vince Bruni-Bossio (PhD) on his 3M National Teaching Fellowship, which is the most prestigious national teaching award in Canada. Bruni-Bossio began teaching at Edwards in the Department of Management and Marketing in 2010 and quickly developed a reputation as not only an excellent teacher, but as a resourceful and innovative leader and champion for change on campus. Bruni-Bossio will be welcomed into the fellowship at the annual STLHE conference in Ottawa from June 7-10, 2022.

<p>Transformative decolonization leading to reconciliation</p>	<p>A university in which Indigenous concepts, methodologies, pedagogies, languages, and philosophies are respectfully woven into the tapestry of learning, research, scholarship, creativity, and community engagement.</p>
<p>Productive collaboration</p>	<p>A university in which research and innovation are inspired by and accountable to community partners.</p>
<p>Meaningful impact</p>	<p>A university resolutely committed to measuring its own success in terms of the aspirations of the communities it serves.</p>
<p>Distinguished Learners</p>	<p>A university whose graduates have the drive, the curiosity, and the humility to work with others in addressing the greatest challenges and opportunities the world faces.</p>
<p>Global recognition</p>	<p>A university that sets the standard in learning, research, scholarship, creativity, and community engagement.</p>

REVIEWS, SEARCHES, APPOINTMENTS

Reviews:

- Dean Suzanne Kresta, College of Engineering (fall 2022)

Searches:

- Dean, College of Dentistry (spring 2022)
- Dean, College of Education (completion fall 2022)
- Dean, College of Arts and Science (completion fall 2022)
- Executive Director, School of Public Health (fall 2022)
- Vice-Provost, Teaching, Learning and Student Experience (completion fall 2022)
- Vice-Provost Indigenous Engagement (fall 2022/winter 2023)

Appointments:

- Dr. Janet Tootoosis has been appointed as interim vice-dean, Indigenous health, College of Medicine for the period of June 1, 2022, to May 31, 2023
- Alastair MacFadden has been appointed as interim associate executive director, Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy for a period of up to one year, from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023
- Alison Oates has been appointed as acting associate dean, academic, College of Kinesiology, effective July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023
- Vicki Squires has been appointed as associate dean, research, graduate support & international initiatives, College of Education for a four-year term beginning May 1, 2022, to June 30, 2026
- Peta Bonham-Smith has been extended as dean, College of Arts & Science for a period of up to one year beginning July 1, 2022, or until a new dean is appointed, whichever occurs first
- Mary Buhr has been appointed as interim vice-provost, faculty relations for the period of May 23, 2022, to June 30, 2023
- Charity Evans has been appointment associate dean, academic, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition for a five-year term beginning July 1, 2022, up to June 30, 2027

- Professor Tim Mutsvangwa has been appointed as head, department of animal and poultry science, College of Agriculture and Bioresources for a period of up to five years effective July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2027
- Professor Egan Chernoff has been appointed as head, department of curriculum studies, College of Education for a period of up to five years effective July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2027

thank you

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