



UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
 Thursday, October 20, 2022
 2:30-4:30pm
 Neatby-Timlin, Arts 241 and Zoom

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:33 pm when quorum was reached.

Dr. Susan Detmer, Council Chair, welcomed Council members and guests, acknowledging that Council meets on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis, paying respect to the First Nations and Métis of our gathering place and reaffirming our relationship with one another.

No members of the media identified themselves.

2. Tributes

- 2.1 Tribute to Professor Ha Hoang Nguyen from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering presented by Professor Robert Johanson.

3. Adoption of the agenda

(Urquhart/de Boer): *That the agenda be approved as circulated.*

CARRIED.

4. Council Meeting Modality and Protocols

Julian Demkiw, University Secretary & Chief Governance Officer, provided details about the hybrid meeting modality and protocols for this meeting of University Council. He noted that those who registered for the Zoom option would be counted in the quorum, and that they would be given the opportunity to participate following in person discussion.

5. Chair's Opening remarks

The Chair welcomed Council members and reported that the Council chairs met with the President's Executive Committee (PEC) on October 11th. Members and PEC discussed the September and October Council meetings, Access, and Equity Services' plans to meet increasing student enrolment, and the University's current fiscal situation.

6. Approval of Minutes of the meeting of September 29, 2022

(Rayan/Deters): *That the minutes be approved.*

CARRIED.

There was no business arising from the minutes.

7. Report of the President

President Stoicheff provided highlights from his report. He welcomed Julian Demkiw to the role of University Secretary & Chief Governance Officer.

The President acknowledged the receipt of the open letter submitted at the September 29, 2022 meeting of Council and referred to his response in the written report.

He noted two recent events that highlighted USask's contributions. Saskatchewan's trade and economic development overseas representatives recently visited Saskatchewan and USask. The profile for USask through these events is significant.

Two researchers in Physics & Engineering Physics are contributors to technology on a Canadian Space Agency and NASA joint mission called the HAWC, which stands for High-altitude Aerosols Water Vapour and Clouds. The data collected will assist in predicting extreme weather in Canada.

The President commented on the U15's position on tri-council scholarship levels. Four specific actions were requested in the pre-budget submission: 100 new research chairs and a 25% increase in funding; increased student participation and increased opportunities for students to develop talent in high quality research project, increase in current Grad award programs by 45%; and increase international student recruitment by streamlining visa process.

The President noted a few upcoming events. John Ibbitson, a Globe and Mail author of several biographies and children's books will be visiting Saskatchewan to discuss his upcoming publication. Johnson Shoyama Graduate School will host his Saskatoon visit at the Diefenbaker Centre on October 21.

The President commented on the Amati Concert series highlighting the four Amati string instruments. He offered some of the history behind the instruments and encouraged Council members to attend upcoming performances of the Amati quartet, including a full concert with the Regina Symphony Orchestra.

Convocation will take place on Wednesday, November 9th at Merlis Belsher Place. The university will celebrate the academic achievements of approximately one thousand students and will also award an honorary doctor of letters. The President encouraged all faculty to attend convocation ceremonies. Students and their families appreciate having faculty in attendance as they walk across the stage.

The President invited Alix Hayden to speak to the Innovate Canmore initiative, a request made by Council at the September meeting. The question was about the Innovate Canmore Centre and specifically wanting more information on the initiative itself. There are two parts to the answer – one related to the inclusion of USask as a tenant in the centre, and one related to a memorandum of partnership with Innovate Canmore.

Ms. Hayden addressed the infrastructure of the centre, sharing that in 2020 there was consideration for USask to become a tenant in a technology innovation development to be located in Canmore, Alberta. This would be an expansion of USask's footprint with a focus on climate change adaptation. VPR Singh undertook meetings to assess the prospect of this concept with deans and water researchers. A consensus was reached quickly that that the current research at the cold water laboratory through the hydrology institute is vital and important and should be continued, however, if new infrastructure should be required it should be in Saskatchewan and focus on climate change adaptation here. The VPR brought the discussion to PEC in December 2021 and the decision was made not to move forward with a development in Canmore. In 2022 the VPR informed the developer of the same.

Innovate Canmore is an independent organization and USask does have a memorandum of partnership with them, struck in 2021. The partnership is focused on technology commercialization and explores opportunities for technologies and innovations taking place at USask to be further developed in partnership with Innovate

Canmore. USask has participated in several meetings and provided insight to the organization since putting the agreement in place.

8. Report of the Provost

Dr. Airini, Provost and Vice President Academic, presented her report as distributed and highlighted a few of its elements.

The Provost acknowledged the ICT team moving forward on USask's technology plan.

She thanked Dr. Jay Wilson for his service as the interim vice provost, teaching, learning and student experience, and welcomed the new dean of dentistry, Dr. Walter Siqueira.

A Council member asked the Provost if she was aware of the negative impact that IT policies are having on students and researchers? He expressed discontent with some of the solutions that have been proposed to the Department of Computer Science. Dr. Airini acknowledged that there are some challenges, and that progress continues to be made.

9. Student Societies

9.1 Report from the USSU

Abhineet Goswami, USSU President, highlighted elements of the USSU report as provided in the materials. He also noted the recent experience of the USSU working with Elder Joseph Naytowhow on how to introduce themselves and pronounce their names in Cree, as well as writing their own land acknowledgments.

9.2 Report from the GSA

Mostafa Kamal, President of the GSA, presented the report of the GSA as provided in the materials. He highlighted work being done by the GSA Executive on student advocacy, increasing the number of bursaries available to graduate students, and working in collaboration with many committees of the University.

10. Nominations Committee

Scott Bell, Vice Chair of the Nominations Committee, presented the items.

10.1 Request for Decision: Council and Collective Agreement Committee Vacancies

Scott Bell noted that Yvonne Shevchuk nominated Brenda Mishak, College of Nursing, to the one-year term vacancy on the University Review Committee. The Governance Office confirmed that she met the eligibility criteria and that she accepted the nomination. The Chair asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. There were none. The committee will continue to seek members to fill remaining vacancies in the coming weeks.

(Bell/Shevchuk): As recommended by the Nominations Committee of Council, that the nominations to committee vacancies be approved, as attached, and amended, effective immediately.

CARRIED.

10.2 Request for Decision: Senior Leader Searches

(Bell/Shevchuk): As recommended by the Nominations Committee of Council, that the senior leadership search committee nominations be approved, as attached, effective immediately.

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

CARRIED.

11. Governance Committee

Dr. Roy Dobson, Chair of Governance, presented the item via Zoom.

11.1 Notice of Motion: Academic Programs Committee Terms of Reference

It is recommended that Council approve the changes to University Council bylaws to create the standing subcommittee (as attached) of APC to coordinate academic programs approval processes, effective immediately.

There were no questions.

11.2 Report for Information: Policy Oversight Committee: Annual Report 2021-22

No questions.

12. Planning and Priorities Committee

Dr. Darrell Mousseau, Vice Chair of PPC, introduced the report.

12.1 Report for information: USask Performance Framework: Annual Report

Dr. Airini, Provost & VP Academic and Troy Harkot, Senior Director, Assessment & Analytics, provided a brief presentation (attached).

There was a question about the accessibility metric and the services and resources that are available to support student success and well-being. Troy Harkot responded that there is a need for a more composite metric of other supports available and that his office will be working through which supports should be tracked, and the impact. Airini added that once the data has been collected it will inform as to where services should be expanded. The Council member noted the importance of reporting on access to services, not just “grit” of students in overcoming their own challenges.

A Council member commented that meaningful impact doesn't align with government indicators. However, they are highly important in the TABBS model. Are they becoming obsolete? If so, will TABBS be revised? Mr. Harkot responded that the goal will be to finesse how we measure progress on the plan but may not always align with the government reporting and performance framework interests. The Provost offered that operating grants are aligned with research. The university's five aspirations express who we are as a university. “Be the university that sets the standard” so it is aligned.

Another member noted that a recent press release from the office of the vice president research indicated improved rankings for the university from Maclean's, yet there is a gap between expenses and rankings. The Provost responded that the team is looking at the rankings project, to ensure excellence is reflected in the rankings, adding that this university belongs in the Top 10 in Macleans and belongs in the top 1% in the world. The university has a great team in the rankings project and the momentum to move forward is positive. The project team is involved in looking at all data and intends to continue to move up in the rankings.

A Council member raised a concern that the meaningful impact statement has nothing to do with the fine art programming on campus. The Provost committed to exploring the interdisciplinary reach further.

13. Other business

There was no other business.

14. Question period

A Council member thanked the President for his report and stated his concerns with the emerging public threat of long COVID and the need for consideration of vulnerable members of the community. Since submitting the letter on behalf of signatories he has received many positive comments from members of the university community. Many by virtue of their position or role were not willing to sign or felt they were unable to. There has been overwhelming support from the campus community for increased pandemic protections.

There is a collective disappointment of how parts of the open letter were summarized. Masks protect the individuals rather than the community and signatories felt this undermined the commitment to equity and inclusion. The Council member added that it is time for a frank discussion on the quality of the metrics available to the administration and the disconnect between the experience of those in the classroom and the pandemic decision makers.

The community feels that the university should do more, including highlight empathy, and communicate more persuasively to encourage vaccination and mask use in classrooms, protect the pack.

The President thanked the member and noted that there was no disrespect intended in terms of inequities in our communities and the impact of COVID. He will take the comments regarding empathy and impact back to his administration. Mandatory masking at other institutions has not been necessarily effective. On the human behaviour side, if the university were to impose masking, which is difficult to invigilate, should evidence suggest that situation is more urgent, the university will have nothing left to impose. The President commented that he appreciated feedback on raising the bar on communication.

A Council member referred to the increases requested in funding for scholarships for masters and doctoral students and asked about increasing the number of those scholarships to international students. The President responded that there are many discussions taking place at the coordinating committee of the tri-councils. The committee is looking into a more attractive scholarship package for international students, but the current focus and more pressing issue is on VISA barriers. It is a federal government imperative to improve the talent pool in Canada, and it is understood that this cannot be done solely with domestic talent.

A Council member has been asked often by students about access and equity services and why students who are requiring these accommodations are not able to access them. There are very long wait times, and the member is concerned about the university's duty to accommodate. Dr. Wilson acknowledged that there is a capacity issue for students to receive the first assessment and the university is in the process of adding advisors and putting great efforts in to address the concerns.

The GSA president commented that he has received complaints from students that have requested referrals for access and equity services from supervisors, and supervisors have denied their requests. Are students able to apply for the services on their own? Dr. Wilson responded that the supervisor's referral and agreement is a critical first step. There are responsibilities on both parts. If students have specific accommodation needs, a committee will be struck for the student and the membership will include the supervisor. An opportunity to discuss concerns and responsibilities will be addressed.

A member of Council joining online raised concerns about university rankings. There is quite a gap in the ranking of efficient use of funds between USask and the next institution, and it is possible that others including the province could interpret that the university is the most inefficient user of its funds. He would like to see the gap between the University of Saskatchewan and the next institution addressed.

The Provost responded that this gap is being tracked. Two rounds of data collection from the Cubane information initiative have been received. As the university looks at efficiency, we also want to ensure that our academic values lead in all our decision making and budget realities. She added that the university is a university of distinction when it comes to a combination of both liberal arts components and professional schools, along with the sciences. To be this kind of institution there are greater costs than universities that do not have the commitment to advance education in the way we do. We will continue to track the data with the assistance of CUBANE and continue to update you on the progress.

Question period closed.

15. Adjournment

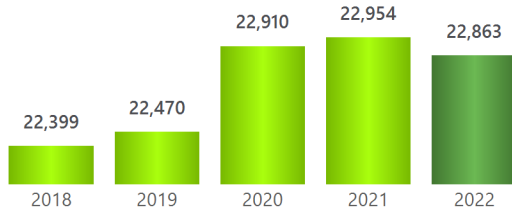
WALKER: The meeting was properly adjourned at 4:19 pm. The next meeting of Council will be held on Thursday, November 17, 2022.

Attachments

1. Enrolment Snapshot Fall 2022 from the Provost
2. USask Performance Framework: Annual Report Presentation
3. Listing of members in attendance

TOTAL ENROLMENT

22,863

↓ 0.4%


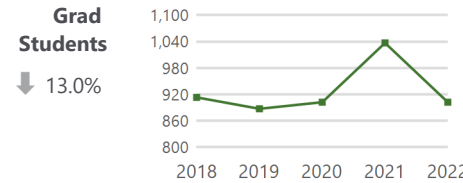
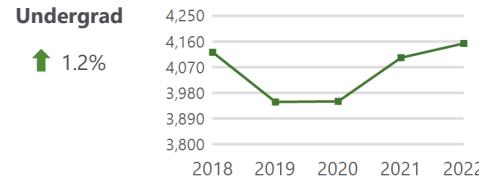
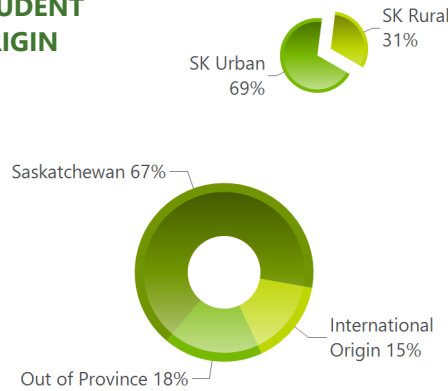
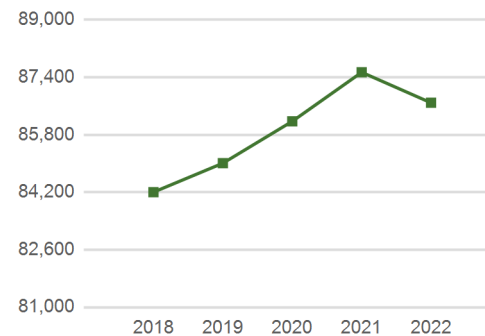
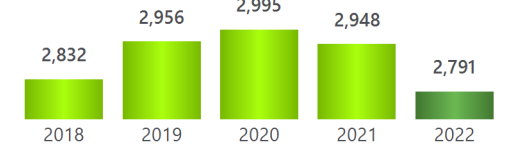
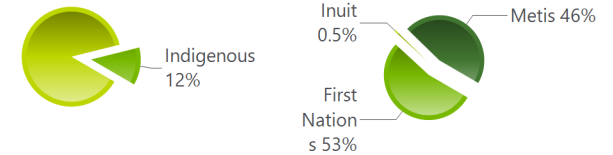
Undergrad 18,656 ↓ 0.3% **Grad Students** 3,563 ↓ 1.1%
Non-degree 163 ↓ 6.3% **Med Residents** 481 ↑ 4.3%

ENROLMENT BY COLLEGE/SCHOOL

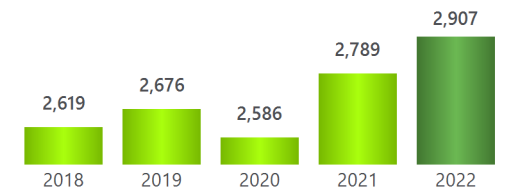
	Undergrad	Grad Students
Arts & Science	8,083 ↓ 1.1%	828 ↑ 0.4%
Edwards School of Business	2,222 ↓ 1.9%	72 ↑ 2.9%
Education	2,026 ↑ 2.4%	532 ↓ 2.2%
Engineering	1,642 ↑ 1.1%	366 ↓ 7.6%
Agriculture & Bioresources	1,253 ↓ 2.0%	283 ↓ 6.9%
Nursing	980 ↑ 1.4%	212 ↑ 7.6%
Kinesiology	726 ↑ 0.8%	39 ↓ 9.3%
Pharmacy & Nutrition	450 → 0.0%	63 ↑ 8.6%
Medicine	410 ↓ 0.7%	334 ↑ 7.4%
Law	364 ↓ 1.4%	22 ↓ 8.3%
Veterinary Medicine	353 ↑ 4.1%	146 ↓ 4.6%
Dentistry	144 ↑ 0.7%	6 ↑ 50.0%
Environment & Sustainability	<5	156 ↑ 0.6%
Public Policy	-	218 ↓ 8.4%
Public Health	-	171 ↑ 6.9%
Interdisciplinary/Grad Other	-	115 ↓ 4.2%

RETENTION


Retention rate for first to second year students in direct entry programs.

NEW STUDENTS 5,231
↓ 4.1%

STUDENT ORIGIN

TEACHING ACTIVITY (3 Credit Unit Equivalent)
↓ 1.0%

INDIGENOUS STUDENTS 2,791
↓ 5.3%


Undergrad 2,446 ↓ 6.7% **Grad Students** 303 ↑ 4.8%
Non-degree 17 ↓ 5.6% **Med Residents** 25 ↑ 25%

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS 2,907
↑ 4.2%


Undergrad 1,572 ↑ 10.2% **Grad Students** 1,288 ↓ 3.1%
ESL 34 ↑ 3% **Med Residents** 13 ↑ 1200%

TOP FIVE COUNTRIES

Undergraduate			Graduate Students			
India	338	22%	1	Iran	261	20%
China	268	17%	2	China	150	12%
Nigeria	254	16%	3	India	123	10%
Bangladesh	107	7%	4	Nigeria	114	9%
Vietnam	76	5%	5	Bangladesh	94	7%

Total Enrolment

Description A headcount metric that measures the distinct number of students registered in at least one class in the fall term on census day. The percentage shown measures the change of enrolment from the previous year to current year.

Purpose To inform on the levels and trends of enrolment on fall census day.

Fall Census Day Five weeks after the first day of fall term classes when student headcount peaks.

Enrolment By College/School

Description Headcount broken out by colleges and schools for undergraduate and graduate students. The percentage measures the change of enrolment from the previous year to current year.

Purpose To inform on enrolment headcounts and trends for colleges and schools.

Retention

Description First to second year retentions measures the percentage of first time, full time, direct entry undergraduates who were enrolled on fall census day in the previous year and are still enrolled on this fall census day.

Purpose This metric measures the success of the university in retaining students from one academic year to the next.

New Students

Description New students include first time students, transfers from other posted secondary institutions and graduate students who recently completed an undergraduate degree at the UofS.

Purpose New student enrolment is a leading indicator of future total enrolment as well as a metric of sustainability.

Student Origin

Description Student origin shows the percentage of students who came from Saskatchewan, other Canadian provinces or international countries based on students high school, post-secondary or admission addresses.

Purpose To inform on the diversity of the student population based on origin

SK Rural The percentage of students from rural Saskatchewan determined by their initial address postal code.

Teaching Activity

Description Teaching activity measures the number of students in classes in the fall term. Students who withdraw from class after the last day to drop are included in the count. The percentage shown measures the change of teaching activity from the previous year to the current year fall term.

Purpose To inform on teaching activity trends as an indicator of sustainability.

Indigenous Students

Description The information on Indigenous students was developed using voluntary student self-declaration data. Self-declaration data is based on an individual's own determination of Indigenous membership to their Indigenous community which has not been verified as part of the self-declaration process. A new university policy has been approved which will address Indigenous verification of membership/citizenship with documentation.

Purpose To inform on the enrolment trends of Indigenous students and the diversity of the student population.

International Students

Description International students are students who are not Canadian citizens, permanent residents or refugees such as students on a visa, inbound international exchange and visiting international research students. The pie charts show the percentage of international students out of total students. The other percentages measure the change of enrolment from previous year to current year.

Purpose To inform on the enrolment trends of international students and the diversity of the student population.

ESL

English as a Second Language students did not meet the minimum language admission requirements and are enrolled in full time programs to meet these requirements.

Top Five Countries

Description A list of nations having the highest undergraduate and graduate international student enrolment as determined by the students citizenship. The percentage shown measures the number of students from a particular nation as compared to the total number of international students.

Purpose To inform on the diversity of the international student population.

USask Performance Framework Update

University Council

October 20, 2022

Today's Presentation

- Objective: to provide Council members with an overview of the Government of Saskatchewan Performance Framework initiative and insight on USask plans for further developments in this area
- Discussion Items:
 - Ministry of Advanced Education (MAE) project
 - USask Performance Framework report
 - Moving forward: alignment to USask strategic planning

The Ministry of Advanced Education Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Performance Framework

MAE Performance Framework Project

- Performance Framework project was initiated by the MAE in 2020
- Objective was to engage with post-secondary institutions in Saskatchewan to define institution-specific indicators associated with the five sector expectations identified by the MAE



ACCESSIBLE

offers qualified people the opportunity to attend and succeed



RESPONSIVE

meets the needs of students, communities and the economy



HIGH QUALITY

meets standards and builds public confidence in the programs and services provided



ACCOUNTABLE

achieves expected outcomes and is transparent



SUSTAINABLE

operates within available resources

MAE Performance Framework Project

- Performance Framework reports for each institution have been integrated into annual SK post-secondary reporting requirements (June each year)

Recent Revisions:

- Requirement to provide an assessment on the trend/activity for each indicator (e.g. red/yellow/green rubric)
 - Request for targets to be specified for each indicator
- The Performance Framework initiative continues to be an iterative process with ongoing revisions and refinements

University of Saskatchewan Performance Framework Reporting

USask Reporting

- USask reported on 14 indicators in the June 2022 report
- Identification of USask indicators has been based on:
 - Alignment to University Plan 2025
 - Connection to SK Growth Plan
 - Whether or not the indicator could be a differentiator for USask
 - Availability of peer benchmark data and/or indicator use in other external reporting initiatives
 - “SMART”: specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time-bound
- All aspects of USask’s reporting (format, content, indicators, etc.) developed and approved by the President’s Executive Committee (PEC)

USask Reporting

June 30, 2022 report:

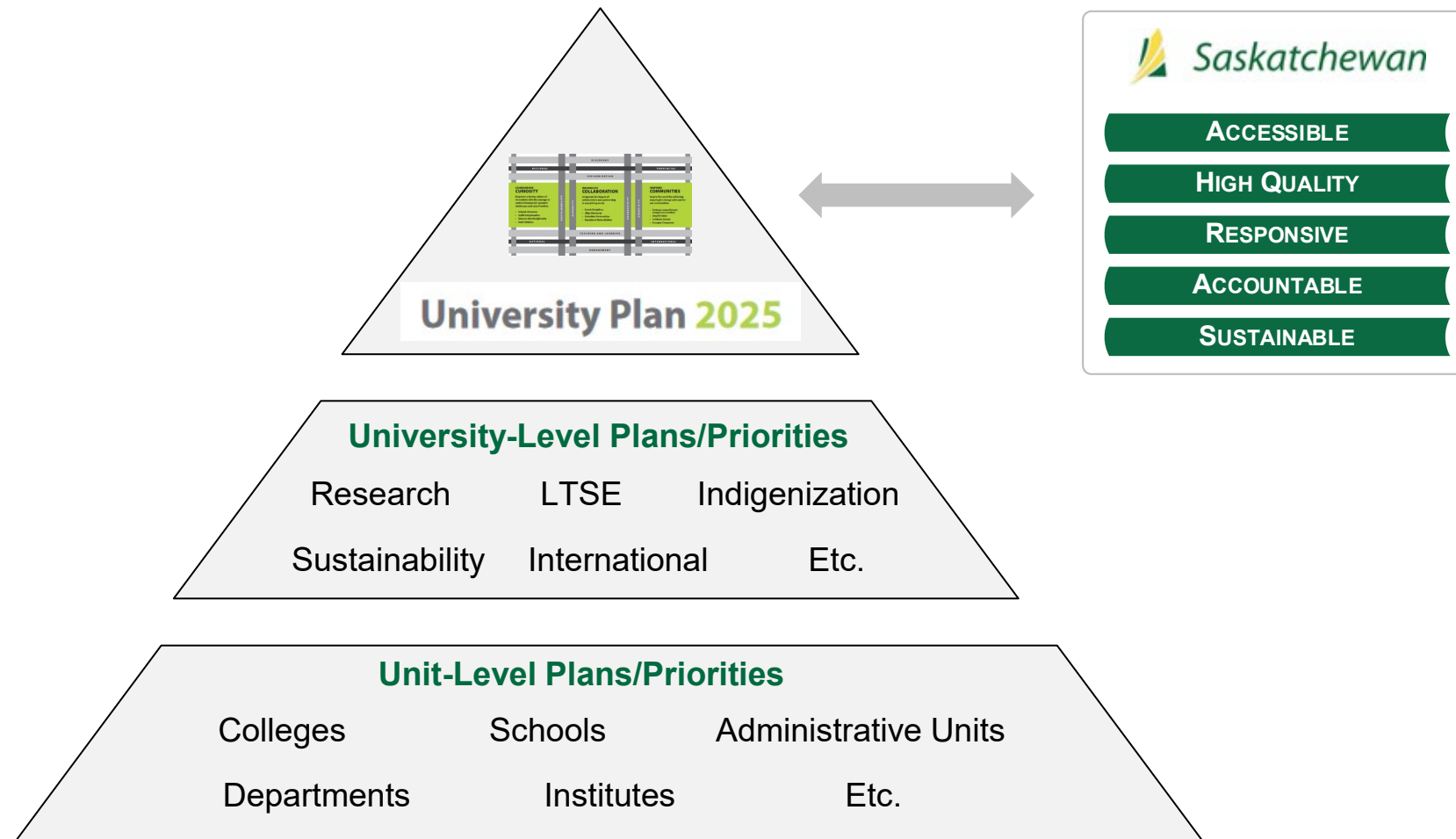
- Reviewed by PPC at the October 12, 2022 meeting
 - Content (commentary, trend lines) for 14 indicators
 - Assessment of activity for each indicator included
 - Targets/goals not included for any indicator
 - Signals where future changes are likely
-
- The MAE Performance Framework initiative continues to be an iterative process with ongoing revisions and refinements
 - The plan is for continued enhancements to USask indicators and reporting format beginning with the June 2023 report

Moving Forward: Alignment to USask Strategic Planning

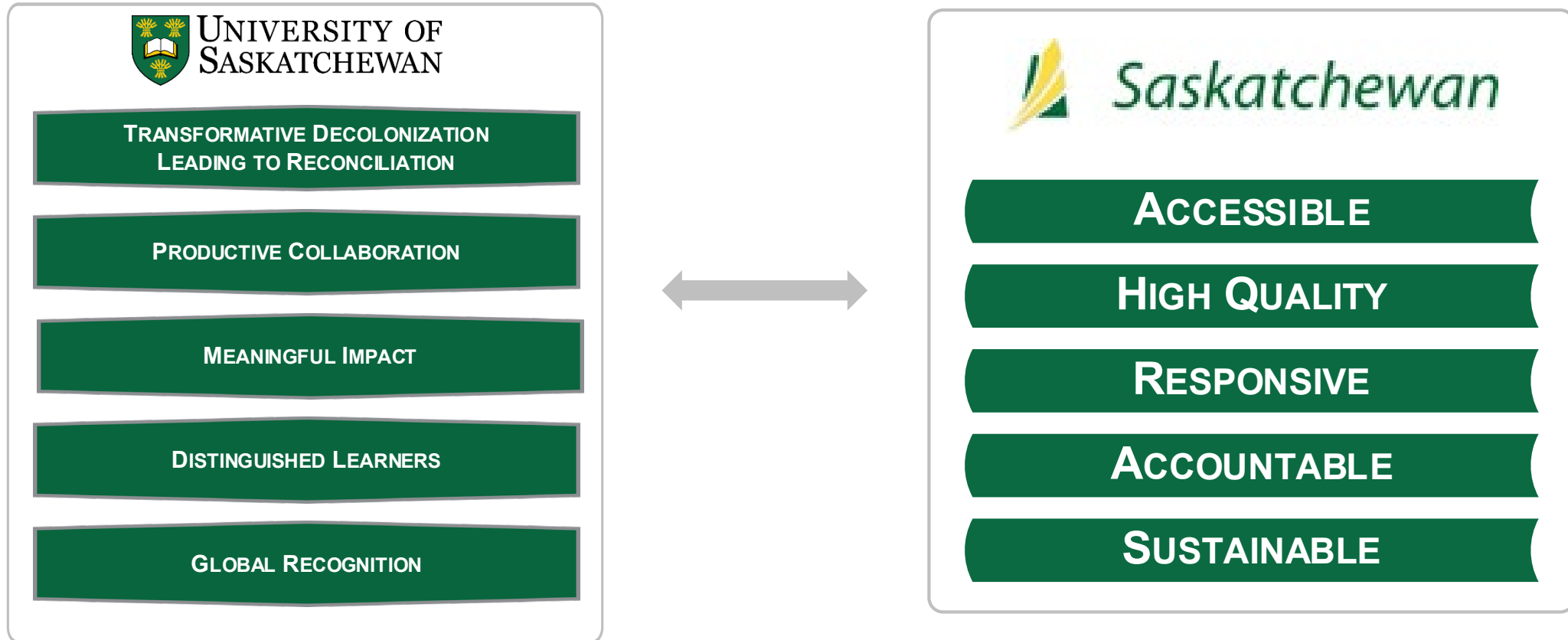
Alignment to USask Strategic Planning

- Work currently underway to enhance how we measure and report on progress towards USask strategic planning initiatives
- Initial focus is based on five aspirations in the University Plan 2025 (but with future focus on alignment of various USask strategic plans/initiatives)
- Opportunity for USask to create clear and meaningful alignment between indicators used in the Performance Framework and indicators used to measure progress on our University Plan 2025

Alignment to USask Strategic Planning



Alignment to USask Strategic Planning



**** Not alignment of priorities...alignment of indicators*

UPlan Aspiration Indicators (from 2021-22 report)

Transformative Decolonization Leading to Reconciliation:

- Indigenous Students Earning a Credential (Indigenous Student Parity in 2022) **[ACCESSIBLE]**
- Research Projects with Indigenous Peoples Component

Productive Collaboration:

- Percentage of Publications with International Co-Authorship **[HIGH QUALITY]**
- Percentage of Research Revenue from Non-Government Grants **[SUSTAINABLE]**

Meaningful Impact:

- Average Publications Per Faculty
- Percentage of Faculty Holding Tri-Agency Funding

Distinguished Learners:

- Percentage of Graduating Students with Experiential Learning Opportunity **[RESPONSIVE]**
- Number of Credentials (Degrees) Awarded **[ACCOUNTABLE]**

Global Recognition:

- Subject/Discipline Rankings Where Top 10 in Canada/Top 100 in World **[HIGH QUALITY]**
- USask Placement Among Top Universities in the World **[HIGH QUALITY]**

Questions/Comments

- Questions about the Performance Framework initiative or our approach to aligning USask strategic planning with the framework?
- Thoughts, ideas, issues, or concerns for PEC and/or the project team to consider as this work continues?



