UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

ITEM FOR INFORMATION

Committee Name: Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee, University Council
Date: June 11, 2026
Presented by: Eric Lamb, Chair, Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee

Subject: RSAW Infrastructure Update

SUMMARY

Early in the 2025–2026 academic year, members of the Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work (RSAW) Committee heard a range of concerns related to research infrastructure across the USask, including facility capacity, maintenance issues, and the responsiveness of Facilities Services. The same issues were identified by the College Associate Deans Research (ADRs); therefore, in response a meeting was held between the ADRs and representatives from the Vice-President Administration and Vice-President Research portfolios.

At its May 7, 2026, meeting, RSAW received an update on this meeting. It should be noted that this was an initial, listening-focused conversation in which ADRs had the opportunity to share extensive feedback on challenges affecting research infrastructure. The VP Administration and VP Research will be reporting back to the ADRs on potential solutions.

Key themes included aging infrastructure, reduced facilities staffing, and resulting impacts on research productivity and safety. Members highlighted unclear roles and responsibilities for maintenance and associated costs, particularly in the context of full cost recovery expectations. Broader concerns were also raised about funding models, policy gaps, and the increasing operational burden on faculty and staff to manage infrastructure-related issues. Challenges in coordination, communication, and long-term planning were noted, with a tendency toward reactive solutions and emerging workarounds across units.

The meeting was viewed as a constructive first step. The RSAW Committee views this as an institution-wide issue and has requested ongoing updates that will be communicated to Council to support awareness, transparency, and ongoing monitoring. Faculty concerns should be directed to their respective ADR.