

# Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee (RSAW) Annual Report for Information

Presented by: Eric Lamb  
Date of meeting: June 11, 2026



## TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

1. Recommending to Council on issues and strategies to support research, scholarly, and artistic work.
2. Recommending to Council on policies and issues related to research integrity and ethics in the conduct of research, scholarly, and artistic work.
3. Recommending to Council and providing advice to the Vice-President, Research on community engagement and knowledge translation activities related to research, scholarly, and artistic work.
4. Providing advice to the Vice-President, Research and reporting to Council on issues relating to the granting agencies that provide funding to the University.
5. Providing advice to the Vice-President, Research, the Vice-Provost, Teaching, Learning, and Student Experience, and the Dean of the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies on the contributions of undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to the research activity of the University.
6. Examining proposals for the establishment of any institute or centre engaged in research, scholarly, or artistic work at the University, and providing advice to the Planning and Priorities Committee of Council.
7. Receiving annual reports from the Vice-President, Research and the Dean of College of Graduate and Post-Doctoral Studies.
8. Receiving and reporting to Council the University's research ethics boards' annual reports.
9. Designating individuals to act as representatives of the Committee on any other bodies, when requested, where such representation is deemed by the Committee to be beneficial.
10. Considering the priorities of the University community, such as Indigenization and internationalization, when assessing current and new research, scholarly, and artistic work activities.

## Advancing Discovery and Innovation

The Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee engaged in many thoughtful discussions throughout the year, supporting research policy reviews and revisions, receiving reports, securing research data when travelling as well taking action on concerns surrounding research infrastructure.

### Updated University Standards

This year marked the completion of a refreshed set of University Standards from the Vice-Provost Faculty Relations, which was developed through extensive consultation with RSAW, colleges, departments, Indigenous partners, faculty groups, and unions. The updated standards introduce clearer and more consistent language around teaching, research, and service expectations, with a strong emphasis on fairness, flexibility, and transparency. Key updates include a reframing of student input as feedback rather than formal evaluation, explicit recognition of often-invisible academic contributions such as peer review, and clearer articulation of teaching expectations across academic ranks. New pathways have been

introduced for teaching-intensive faculty, and departments now have greater flexibility to define discipline-appropriate scholarly outlets. A coordinated communication plan, including town halls, was developed to support the campus community in understanding and applying these changes.

### **Ethics Oversight**

Ethics remained a significant area of focus throughout the year. Annual reports from both the Human Ethics Board and the Animal Care and Use Committee were reviewed and broadly circulated. Revisions to the Animal Care and Use Policy, as well as a new USask Standard of Care document, were brought forward to Council for approval.

### **Undergraduate Research: Growth and Capacity**

Undergraduate research programming continues to expand, with strong participation in initiatives such as FYRE, SURE, and national award programs. Alongside this growth, challenges related to funding, supervisory capacity, and equitable access were identified. Work is underway to improve data transparency, expand opportunities, and elevate the visibility of student research outcomes. Future efforts will focus on clearer communication for students and more strategic, feedback-driven planning across campus. RSAW will continue to engage with the team moving this initiative forward.

### **Modernizing Research Systems**

Preparations are underway to replace an aging research administration system with a more integrated, modern platform. The new system is intended to streamline approvals, reduce administrative burden, and improve tracking and reporting for researchers. Implementation will begin with animal management and ethics modules, supported by phased communication and training to ensure a smooth transition. RSAW will continue to engage as this project unfolds.

### **Arts Research and Creative Futures**

The School for the Arts made notable progress in expanding research activity and building new partnerships while advancing plans to modernize graduate programming. Priorities include strengthening MFA programs and laying the groundwork for a future practice-based PhD aligned with international standards. These initiatives aim to better connect Saskatchewan's arts sector with research, innovation, and graduate-level training.

### **Travel Security and Research Protection**

Research security during travel received increased attention at the RSAW table, with a focus on protecting data, devices, and intellectual property. Guidance emphasized practical risk-reduction strategies such as minimizing data stored on devices, using secure cloud storage, and exercising caution on public networks. Exploration began into a potential loaner-device program to further support secure travel. Additional centralized resources and awareness-building activities are planned.

## **Infrastructure and Facilities Concerns**

RSAW raised concerns about research infrastructure and response times of facilities maintenance which surfaced from several different areas across campus. A meeting took place with the Associate Deans of Research (ADRs), Vice President Administration and Vice-President Research portfolios which was intentionally structured as an initial, listening-centered conversation, providing ADRs with an opportunity to share concerns and experiences from across colleges. Participants broadly viewed the discussion as a constructive first step, with senior administration listening and committing to continued dialogue.

Common themes emerging from the discussion included aging and inadequate infrastructure, reduced technical and operational staffing, and unclear delineation of responsibilities for facilities management which were identified as having direct impacts on research productivity, safety, and compliance. RSAW established that the issues raised at this meeting warrant ongoing attention and should continue to be addressed through ADR forums.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

It has been a pleasure to chair the RSAW committee for the past two years. I appreciate the time and dedication put in by every member of the committee; and their commitment to promoting and enhancing the scholarly work of all of our colleagues. I would like to thank the Governance Office staff, particularly Danielle Rudulier. They do an enormous amount of work behind the scenes to ensure that the committee is efficient and productive.

Respectfully,  
Eric Lamb, Chair, Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee