

Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships Committee 2024- 2025 Annual Report for Information

Presented by: Dr. Dawn Wallin and Dr. Scott Walsworth
Date of meeting: October 23, 2025

SUMMARY

The University of Saskatchewan Act, 1995, Section 61.1 states that Council may "... where it considers it appropriate on academic grounds, authorize the Board to provide for (i) the establishment of any college, school, department, chair, endowed chair or institute." As the establishment of a Chair or Professorship has a financial consequence, the board's role in approving the establishment of a Chair is required. The Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships (JCCP) between the Board/Council was established to bring both approving bodies to the table, thus ensuring that academic and financial concerns are considered in conjunction with one another.

The Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships (JCCP) met on 3 occasions throughout 2024-25.

MEMBERSHIP

EIGHT MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE. CO-CHAIRS ARE DESIGNATED FROM THE PROOSTS OFFICE AND FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT, RESEARCH OFFICE. AT LEAST ONE MEMBER OF COUNCIL AND ONE MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS. AT LEAST ONE MEMBER OF RSAW. AT LEAST ONE MEMBER EACH FROM UNIVERSITY SECRETARY, VICE-PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY RELATIONS, AND VICE-PRESIDENT, ADMINISTRATION

Committee Members

Scott Walsworth	Vice-Provost, Faculty Relations
Dawn Wallin	Associate Vice-President, Research
Lori Bradford	Member of Council
Grant Devine	Member of the Board of Governors
Steve Milosavljevic	Member of RSAW
Julian Demkiw	University Secretary
Shandi Thompson	Manager, Donations and Trusts, University Relations
Trevor Batters	Controller and Director, Financial Operations

NEW CHAIRS:

Four new Chairs were recommended for approval:

- Chair in Swine Welfare – Western College of Veterinary Medicine;

- Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission Applied Genomics and Pre-Breeding Cereals Chair – College of Agriculture and Bioresources;
- Chair in Beef Cattle - Western College of Veterinary Medicine; and
- Buckwold Milani Chair in Commercial Law – College of Law

RENEWALS:

No renewals took place in the 2024-2025 year.

APPOINTMENTS:

- Dr. Flavia van Cleet - Beef Industry Integrated Forage Management and Utilization Chair – College of Agriculture and Bioresources – appointed March 1, 2025 for a 5 year term;
- Professor Dino Kritsiotis - Ariel Sallows Chair in Human Rights – College of Law – appointed January 1, 2025 for a 6 month term;
- Professor Kerri Froc - Law Foundation of Saskatchewan H. Robert Arscott Chair – College of Law – appointed January 1, 2025 for a 1 year term;
- Dr. Camille Partin - Shklanka Chair in Precambrian Critical Mineral Systems – College of Arts and Science – appointed January 1, 2025 for a 5 year term;
- Dr. Yalonde Seddon - Chair in Swine Welfare – Western College of Veterinary Medicine – appointed November 1, 2024 for a 5 year term;
- Dr. Kaidi Wang - Agricultural Microbiology and Bioproducts – College of Agriculture and Bioresources – appointed September 1, 2024 for a 5 year term;
- Dr. Regan Schmidt - Chartered Professional Accountants (CPA) Chair in Accounting – Edwards School of Business – appointed July 1, 2024 for a 3 year term; and
- Dr. Craig Wilson - Sutherland Scholar in International Business - Edwards School of Business – appointed July 1, 2024 for a 3 year term

COMPLETED TERMS:

- Dr. Stuart Smyth - Agri-Food Innovation and Sustainability Enhancement Chair – College of Agriculture and Bioresources – term ended April 30, 2025;
- Dr. David Blackburn - Chair in Patient Adherence to Drug Therapy – College of Pharmacy and Nutrition – term ended April 15, 2025;
- Dr. Virginia Torrie - Estey Chair in Business Law – College of Law – term ended December 31, 2024;

- Dr. Aaron White - Jarislowsky Chair in Biotechnology Management – VIDO – term ended December 30, 2024;
- Dr. Ron Geyer – Nutrien Chair in Clinical Research – College of Medicine – term ended September 30, 2024; and
- Professor Glen Gardener - Law Foundation of Saskatchewan H. Robert Arscott Chair – College of Law – term ended August 31, 2024;

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORS:

- Dr. Nazeem Muhajarine – College of Medicine;
- Dr. Julita Vassileva – College of Arts and Science;
- Dr. Valerie Verge – College of Medicine;
- Dr. Lorne Babiuk (Emeritus) – Western College of Veterinary Medicine; and
- Dr. Verna St. Denis (Emeritus) – College of Education

EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE JCCP PROCESSES:

- Having set meetings throughout the year for the JCCP Committee
 - This allows for University Relations to be better able to plan drafts and for the Committee to better plan
 - Held the meetings based around the UC and BoG meetings.
- Communications to Chair, Dean's, and ADR's six months prior to the end of the term
 - This helps to ensure the Chair and Management Committees can meet and discuss renewal, if possible, or having a final report done for the end of the term of the Chair
- Continuation of the use of the shared digital space for research chairs records
 - This has been integral in ensuring we have all the documentation
- Creation of a shared email address specific to research chairs – research.chairs@usask.ca

FOCUS FOR 2025-2026:

- Continued communication between internal units to ensure timelines can be met with a realistic sense of time of working through all unit needs;
- Continued communication to research chairs, unit leaders and Management Committee chairs;

- Improve submission of reports to JCCP.
- Work with governance office on appropriate processes for creation of honorary chairs.
- Working on reviewing and updating the terms of reference to ensure alignment with the collective agreement and chairholder and funder expectations.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Members of the Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships included Scott Walsworth, Dawn Wallin, Lori Bradford, Steve Milosavljevic, Shandi Boser, Trevor Batters, Julian Demkiw and Grant Devine. Appreciation is noted for the critical reviews of documents, and for attending to committee requests in a timely and detailed manner.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Wallin and Scott Walsworth