UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

MEETING MINUTES

University Council
Date: October 23, 2025
Time: 2:30-4:30 pm
Location: Convocation Hall (PMB 120) and Zoom

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:32 pm.

The Chair, Dr. Vicki Squires began with a Land Acknowledgement.

No members of the media identified themselves.

The Chair reminded members there are no unauthorized recordings of Council meetings.

1. AGENDA

1.1. Adoption of the Agenda

Motion: (FitzGerald/Achenbach): *That the agenda be approved as circulated.*

CARRIED

2. CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS- Dr. Vicki Squires, Council Chair, College of Education

Chair Squires welcomed members to the October meeting noting the People Around the World (PAW) conference taking place today and tomorrow. The theme of this year's conference is about shared perspectives and data-driven solutions to support communities locally and globally.

The President's Executive Committee and Council Chairs Executive held their monthly breakfast meeting, where they discussed the Joint Governance Council (JGC) in the Academic Health Sciences. Interim Provost Dr. Patti McDougall provided an overview of the evolving governance structure, designed to promote collaboration across Health Sciences—an approach that reflects the original intent behind the Academic Health Sciences building.

3. MINUTES

Motion: (Jones/Singh): That the minutes of September 25, 2025 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING

4.1 JCCP Annual Report

Dr. Scott Walsworth presented the annual report from the Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships. Dr. Walsworth mentioned that JCCP is undergoing a process to improve the support they provide as a committee to Council and the Board.

There were no questions.

4.2 Recording Meetings for Minutes

Chair Squires noted that information was circulated in the agenda package. There were no concerns or questions brought forward from Council or the Committee Chairs; therefore, a motion was carried by the executive to endorse this practise which we will begin at today's meeting.

There were no questions.

5. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Susan Detmer, Chair of the Governance Committee presented the committee's items as outlined in the agenda package.

5.1 Request for Decision: College of Medicine Faculty Bylaws

Information is in the agenda package.

A Council member raised a concern that individuals who are not members of the General Academic Assembly (GAA) should not be granted voting rights on Faculty Councils, noting that previous interpretations of the bylaws had excluded certain categories from voting roles. It was clarified by the Vice Provost, Faculty Relations that the non-medical faculty have academic appointments; therefore, these bylaws would not be expanding the voting rights in a concerning way.

In addition, it was noted that as part of the "one faculty model", inclusion of medical faculty was deemed essential, particularly considering accreditation requirements for medical education programs. Representatives from the College of Medicine emphasized that faculty involvement in governance is critical for meeting accreditation standards and ensuring that decision-making processes reflect the expertise and contributions of all faculty.

Motion (Detmer/Bell): It is recommended by the Governance Committee that Council approve the changes to the College of Medicine Faculty Council Bylaws, effective immediately.

CARRIED

Abstentions: Zello, Mousseau, Freywald, Singh and Finnie

5.2 Request for Decision: Nomination for Nominations Committee of Council Vacancy

Information is in the agenda package.

There were no nominations from the floor or questions.

Motion (Detmer/Bell): It is recommended by the Governance Committee that Council approve the nomination to the nominations committee effective immediately.

CARRIED

6. NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Reza Fotouhi, Chair of Nominations, presented the committee's items.

6.1 Request for Decision: Council Committee Vacancies

Information is in the agenda package. There were no nominations from the floor or questions.

Motion (Fotouhi/Noppen): That Council approve the nominations described in the attached report, effective October 23, 2025.

CARRIED

6.2 Request for Decision: Nomination to the Review Committee of the Dean of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine

Information is in the agenda package. There were no nominations from the floor or questions.

Motion (Fotouhi/ Noppen) That Council approve the nomination of Trever Crowe to the review committee for the Dean of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine.

CARRIED
Abstention Nolan

6.3 Request for Decision: Nomination to the Review Committee of the Dean of the College of Nursing

Information is in the agenda package. There were no nominations from the floor or questions.

Motion (Fotouhi/ Noppen) That Council approve the nomination of Joel Lanovaz to the review committee for the Dean of the College of Nursing.

CARRIED

7. REPORTS

7.1 President

President Stoicheff began by expressing gratitude to the university community and emphasized the importance of acknowledging the contributions of students, staff, and faculty. He highlighted the induction of four faculty members into the Royal Society of Canada, with a celebratory gala planned in Montreal. The university also celebrated 124 student-athletes who achieved Academic All-Canadian status, and the women's basketball team's national championship which will be honoured with a banner-raising ceremony.

President Stoicheff mentioned the upcoming Fall Convocation on November 12th, which will include the installation of the new Chancellor and recognition of academic achievements. Lastly, he discussed the renewal of a four-year Memorandum of Understanding with the provincial government, which ensures funding stability and limits tuition increases, expressing optimism about the university's future and its commitment to public accountability and engagement.

There were no questions.

7.2 Interim Provost and Vice-President Academic

Interim Provost Patti McDougall expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to serve in this leadership role. She announced upcoming searches for three senior positions: Dean of Law, Dean of Pharmacy and Nutrition, and the Executive Director of JSGS, with council involvement in the selection process.

Dr. McDougall mentioned the anticipated loss of 500 international students, mostly graduate-level, noting the financial and academic impact on the university, as well as the diminished cultural diversity and global engagement on campus. She emphasized the importance of international students in enriching the campus experience, especially for domestic students who may not travel abroad.

Strategic enrolment planning is underway and will align with broader university planning starting in January under the incoming president. She also mentioned the upcoming town hall on November 26, led by CFO Deidre Henne, to discuss financial challenges and opportunities, and encouraged continued engagement and questions from the university community.

There were no questions.

7.3 Graduate Students Association (GSA)

GSA President Palash Roy provided an update on recent activities noting that the Graduate Voices Initiative is getting positive feedback from students. President Roy highlighted upcoming events and engagement activities aimed at increasing student involvement. He concluded by expressing the commitment to continued collaboration and improvement.

The full report can be found in the agenda package.

There were no questions

7.4 University of Saskatchewan Student's Union (USSU)

USSU President Emma Wintermute noted that the USSU focused this month on student advocacy, equity, diversity, inclusion, and campus engagement. Key efforts included pushing for updates to the sexual violence response policy, supporting student leadership development, and promoting human rights and anti-discrimination initiatives.

The USSU ratified 133 student groups, hosted collaborative events, and worked on improving academic integrity processes across colleges. The Teaching Excellence Awards were launched to celebrate outstanding instruction. Sustainability was also a major theme, with events promoting environmental awareness and access to affordable food. The USSU continued supporting identity-based advocacy, including LGBTQIA+ and pro-choice initiatives.

The full report can be found in the agenda package.

There were no questions.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

There were none.

9. Question Period

A member made a comment to Council on the importance of creating opportunities from an international perspective and acknowledged the value of learning from local cultures. Many people in the province have limited exposure beyond their communities, which makes the integration of local international perspectives particularly meaningful.

The Chair mentioned that this ties in with the Partnerships aspect of the University Priorities.

10. **Adjournment**

(Detmer): The meeting was properly adjourned at 3:32pm