

Executive Committee Annual Report for Information

Presented by: Vicki Squires
Date of meeting: June 11, 2026

BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

MEMBERSHIP

THE CHAIR OF COUNCIL, WHO SHALL BE CHAIR, THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL, ALL COUNCIL COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND THE UNIVERSITY SECRETARY

Members:

Vicki Squires	Education	Chair of Council
Eric Lamb	Agriculture and Bioresources	Chair of RSAW
Paul Jones	Environment and Sustainability	Chair of APC
Susan Detmer	Veterinary Medicine	Chair of Governance
Christian Willenborg	Agriculture and Bioresources	Chair of PPC
Reza Fotouhi	Engineering	Chair of Nominations
Jason Perepelkin	Pharmacy and Nutrition	Chair of Scholarships and Awards
Ralph Deters	Arts and Science	Chair of TLARC

In memoriam of Gordon Zello, Vice-Chair of Council, July 1, 2025- March 17, 2026

Ex-Officio:

Julian Demkiw	University Secretary
---------------	----------------------

Governance Office:

Danielle Rudulier	Council Coordinator
-------------------	---------------------

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

1. Setting the agenda for Council meetings.
2. Receiving and determining the disposition of written motions from individual members of Council. The Executive Committee will either include the motion on the Council agenda or refer the matter to a standing committee(s), which will then report back on the matter to the Executive Committee and Council.
3. Facilitating the flow of information between Council committees and the Administration, and between Council committees and the Senate.
4. Coordinating the work of Council committees.
5. Advising the Chair of Council on matters relating to the work of Council.
6. 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.

Facilitation and Coordination

The Executive Committee met monthly to set the University Council agendas as well as engaged in many discussions focusing on academic and strategic matters throughout the year. University Council saw a year of leadership transition as USask welcomed President Vince Bruni-Bossio in January 2026 and Patti McDougall was named as Interim Provost.

University Council and its committees approved new academic programs, faculty council bylaws, nominations to committees, adopted new rules of order and much more. In addition, Council brought forward changes to the Eligibility to Apply for, Hold and Administer Research Funding Policy Changes, adopted the recording of meetings for minute taking, produced two new issues of the *Council Gazette* as well as received regular reports from the President, Provost, and student societies.

The Executive Committee of Council and the President's Executive Committee also met monthly where discussions focused on enhancing governance structures, strengthening financial sustainability, and advancing strategic priorities. Key updates included progress on the Joint Governance Council to improve collaboration across Health Sciences, and the benefits of a new three-year provincial funding agreement that provides greater financial predictability. Leadership collaboration was reinforced through jointly chaired meetings between the President and University Council Chair. President Bruni-Bossio initiated engagement on the next university strategic plan, encouraging broad participation. Additional discussions covered ongoing consultations on the School of Public Health and continued expansion of health programs, including new occupational therapy and speech-language pathology initiatives.

Overall, it was a productive year for University Council, marked by leadership changes, thoughtful discussion, and progress on important priorities while Council and its committees continued to advance important work.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank University Secretary and Chief Governance Officer, Julian Demkiw, for his tremendous support over the past year. I am also grateful to the Council Coordinating team: Lissa de Freitas, Jordan Sherbino, Danny Freire, Carly Mysko, Alex Beldan, and Danielle Rudulier for all that they do behind the scenes. Danielle was an especially critical support to my role as University Council Chair, keeping me on top of everything. Thanks also to other members of the Governance Office with whom I have the pleasure of working with including Dr. Anna Okapiec who was one of my doctoral students.

I further want to thank the members of Council committees and all Council members. Your commitment to USask governance plays a crucial role in its success. All the best to the incoming council chairs and the incoming University Council Chair, Dr. Ralph Deters.

It has been an honour serving as the Chair of University Council these past two years and I value my experience helping navigate through some unsettling geopolitical tensions.

Sincerely,
Vicki Squires, Council Chair