

ITEM FOR INFORMATION

Committee Name: Planning and Priorities Committee, University Council

Date: May 14, 2026

Presented by: Christian Willenborg, Chair, Planning and Priorities Committee

Subject: Access to Information and Privacy Policy

SUMMARY

By way of background, USask continues to work on policy review and updates where the Planning and Priorities Committee (PPC) has become the Council touch point for consultation. At its March 4, 2026, meeting, PPC reviewed and provided input on the proposed updates to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Policy. Final approval of this policy is within the Board of Governors (BoG) purview and was approved at the April BoG meeting. Given the significant impact of this policy on the entire campus community, PPC is bringing this item forward for information.

The revisions to the policy were prompted from internal audit recommendations to clarify roles, responsibilities, and modernize the document. The revisions focused on making the policy more concise, principles-based, and aligned with current legislation. Key changes include renaming the policy, shifting administrative responsibility to the Legal Office, expanding the purpose statement, emphasizing four core privacy principles, simplifying the policy statement, revising the scope to focus on records of information, and updating roles and responsibilities—particularly for senior administrators and FOIP liaisons.

PPC members expressed appreciation for the opportunity to review the revisions on behalf of University Council and provided recommendations to the Legal Office. The general themes of the recommendations were a need for greater clarity on processes as well as more external facing resources and procedural documentation. In response to these recommendations, the Legal Office made a commitment to providing support, enhancing the distinction between access and privacy (and the prominence of access to information), which was addressed in the policy by clarifying roles and responsibilities as well as stressing transparency and routine access to information.

The revised policy can be found online: [Access to Information and Privacy Policy](#)