

ITEM FOR INFORMATION

Committee Name: Planning and Priorities Committee, University Council

Date: September 25, 2025

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

Subject: Disestablishment of the Centre for the Study of Science and Innovation Policy (CSIP)

MOTION

At its meeting on June 11, 2025, the Planning and Priorities committee passed the following motion: That the Centre for the Study of Science and Innovation Policy be formally disestablished, effective immediately.

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

CSIP was established in 2016 as a unique platform to bridge the gap between scientific research and innovation as well as policy and governance. The Centre's mission was to bring together researchers, experts, and stakeholders from diverse sectors – public, private, and civil society – to advance their understanding of the policy dimensions surrounding science and innovation.

The co-proponent and founding Director of CSIP, Dr. Peter Phillips, retired in 2023. JSGS's academic capacity to lead CSIP significantly diminished when Dr. Phillips and other recently retired colleagues were replaced with junior faculty at JSGS's USask campus. CSIP was approved as a centre across both of JSGS's campuses. Through a discussion with all JSGS faculty at both campuses, it was confirmed that there was no one willing to take on the leadership role. The JSGS Joint Faculty Council voted unanimously to close the Centre.

CONSULTATION

The proposal for the Disestablishment of CSIP was brought to the PPC Centres Subcommittee on May 29, 2025, by Dr. Loleen Berdahl, Executive Director of the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy. PPC reviewed the proposal on June 11, 2025, and voted in favour of the requested closure of the centre.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Disestablishment of the Centre for the Study of Science and Innovation Policy Proposal

FOR DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: June 11, 2025

SUBJECT: Disestablishment of the Centre for the Study and Science and Innovation Policy

DECISION REQUESTED: That the Centre for the Study of Science and Innovation Policy be formally disestablished, effective immediately.

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY:

At its meeting on May 29, 2025, the Centres Subcommittee passed the following motion:

That the Centres Subcommittee recommends to the Planning and Priorities Committee that the Centre for the Study of Science and Innovation Policy be formally disestablished as a centre, effective immediately.

At this meeting, the Subcommittee received correspondence from Dr. Loleen Berdahl, Executive Director of the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, requesting the formal disestablishment of this centre. This correspondence is appended to this report for the committee's information.

The decision before the Planning and Priorities Committee is to formally disestablish the Centre for the Study of Science and Innovation Policy as a centre of the University of Saskatchewan. The centre reports to the Executive Director of the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, and as such the administrative recommendation was initiated through this office.

Note that the USask [Centres Policy](#) states that "The decision to close a centre will be reported to Council, or as appropriate the Board, for information only" (section 10.4). As such, the decision of the Planning and Priorities Committee is the ultimate decision maker on this matter and the results of the committee's decision will be reported for information as necessary.

ATTACHMENT:

- Memorandum from the Executive Director of the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy

MEMO

To: Planning and Priorities Committee
University Council

From: Dr. Loleen Berdahl, Executive Director
Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy

Date: May 20, 2025

Subject: Closure of the Centre for the Study of Science and Innovation Policy

I am writing to request that the Centre for the Study of Science and Innovation Policy (CSIP), a type A centre within the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, be closed.

Date of Closure

The activities within CSIP concluded June 30, 2023. As such, it is recommended that the Centre be closed effective immediately.

Rationale for Closure

CSIP was established in 2016 as a unique platform to bridge the gap between scientific research and innovation on one hand and policy and governance considerations on the other. The Centre's mission was to bring together researchers, experts, and stakeholders from diverse sectors – public, private, and civil society – to advance our understanding of the policy dimensions surrounding science and innovation.

The co-proponent and founding Director of CSIP, Dr. Peter Phillips, retired in 2023. We recognized that JSGS's academic capacity to lead CSIP significantly diminished when Dr. Phillips and other recently retired colleagues were replaced with junior faculty at JSGS's USask campus. CSIP was approved as a centre across both of JSGS's campuses. Through a discussion with all JSGS faculty at both campuses, it was confirmed that there was no one willing to take on the leadership role. The JSGS Joint Faculty Council voted unanimously to close the Centre.

CSIP is in the process of being closed at the JSGS-University of Regina campus.

Additionally and most importantly, CSIP had met the objectives of grants from its two primary funders, and it was confirmed that there were no additional funds forthcoming. If CSIP were to continue, grant applications would need to be developed and/or a fundraising campaign launched; without dedicated academic leadership, this would not be possible.

Team Overseeing Closure Activities

- Loleen Berdahl, Executive Director, JSGS
- Jim Farney, Director, JSGS-U of R campus
- Amber McCuaig, Executive Officer, JSGS
- Charvee Sharma, Communications and Marketing Specialist, JSGS

Finances

CSIP received some funding initially from the University of Saskatchewan Office of the Vice-President Research. Its primary sources of operating and grant funding were from the Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS) and the Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation. CSIP also received donor funding from the late Dr. Bev Robertson. All funds were spent, funds closed, and reporting requirements met. No financial liabilities remain.

Human Resources

CSIP employed one staff member and one professional research associate. Both incumbents resigned prior to the wind-up of the Centre's activities. Faculty associated with CSIP, including the Centre's Associate Director, were JSGS faculty members, and their employment is not affected. The Director was also a JSGS faculty member who received an administrative stipend; this payment ceased at the time of Dr. Phillips' retirement.

Space and Physical Resources

CSIP did not have dedicated physical space; members of the Centre used offices at JSGS. The only physical resources owned by the Centre were computers, and they were redeployed within JSGS.

Communications and Stakeholder Relations

Internal stakeholders include JSGS faculty and staff at both campuses and other USask faculty with whom the Centre worked. No formal communication has been sent to these groups.

A key external stakeholder is the CSIP Advisory Board. Members were aware that the Centre's activities may be paused due to the wrap up of partnership funding from GIFS and the Fedoruk Centre. The two other external stakeholders are GIFS and the Fedoruk Centre; each organization received a full report on the use of their funds and impacts of their investment.

Once this request to close CSIP is approved by the Planning and Priorities Committee and University Council, a communication from Dr. Loleen Berdahl will be issued to all stakeholders informing them of the decision and highlighting some of CSIP's accomplishments and impacts. The Centre's website will also be updated to reflect its closure but retain information that may be helpful on an ongoing basis.

Thank you for considering this request. I would be pleased to provide additional information if required and to answer any questions.

Sincerely,



Loleen Berdahl, PhD

c: Amber McCuaig, Executive Officer, JSGS