

AGENDA

University Council

Date: June 11, 2026

Time: 2:30-4:30 pm

Location: Convocation Hall (PMB 120) and Zoom

CALL TO ORDER

1. Agenda

- 1.1. Adoption of the Agenda
- 1.2. Council Motions

2. Chair's Opening Remarks- Dr. Vicki Squires, Council Chair, College of Education

3. Minutes

- 3.1. Approval of Minutes – May 14, 2026

4. Business Arising

- 4.1. Academic Programs Committee CASPer Review Response

5. Executive Committee

- 5.1. Item for Information: 2025/26 Executive Committee Annual Report

6. Academic Programs Committee

- 6.1. Request for Decision: Doctor of Pharmacy Admission Qualification Changes
- 6.2. Item for Information: 2025/26 Academic Programs Committee Annual Report

7. Governance Committee

- 7.1. Request for Decision: Amendments to the Academic Programs Committee Terms of Reference
- 7.2. Request for Decision: Amendments to the Research, Scholarly and Artistic Works Committee Terms of Reference
- 7.3. Request for Decision: Nominations to the Nominations Committee of Council
- 7.4. Item for Information: Student Appeal and Misconduct Report 2025-2026
- 7.5. Item for Information: Editorial Changes to Council Bylaws
- 7.6. Item for Information: Faculty Council Bylaws Template
- 7.7. Item for Information: 2025/26 Governance Committee Annual Report

8. Planning and Priorities Committee

- 8.1. Request for Decision: Change of Name for Department of Academic Family Medicine
- 8.2. Item for Information: Provisional Centre for Canada-India Pulse Protein Centre of Excellence
- 8.3. Item for Information: 2025/26 Annual Enrolment Report- *presentation*
- 8.4. Item for Information: 2025/26 Planning and Priorities Committee Annual Report

9. Nominations Committee

- 9.1. Request for Decision: Omnibus Council Committee Nominees
- 9.2. Request for Decision: Council Committee Chair Nominees
- 9.3. Request for Decision: Council Vice-Chair Nominee
- 9.4. Request for Decision: Omnibus Collective Agreement Committee Nominees
- 9.5. Item for Information: 2025/26 Nominations Annual Report

10. Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee

- 10.1. Item for Information: Vice-President Research Annual Report

- 10.2. Item for Information: College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies Annual Report
- 10.3. Item for Information: RSAW Infrastructure Update
- 10.4. Item for Information: 2025/26 Research Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee Annual Report

11. Scholarships and Awards Committee

- 11.1. Item for Information: 2025/26 Scholarships and Awards Committee Annual Report

12. Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources Committee

- 12.1. Item for Information: 2025/26 Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources Committee Annual Report

13. Reports

- 13.1. President
- 13.2. Interim Provost and Vice-President Academic
- 13.3. Graduate Students Association (GSA)
- 13.4. University of Saskatchewan Student's Union (USSU)

14. Other Business

15. Question Period

In addition to bringing forward questions during the course of a meeting, council members are encouraged to submit questions on agenda items or matters relevant to council in advance of a meeting. These questions can be sent to the Chair of Council directly or via the Governance Office (vicki.squires@usask.ca; governance.office@usask.ca). Whenever possible, the questions will be forwarded to the appropriate individual. Members submitting questions in advance will be invited to pose their questions during the course of the meeting. Questions from the floor are also welcomed and encouraged.

16. Adjournment

Thank you for your participation in 2025-2026!

ZOOM LINK:

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://usask-ca.zoom.us/j/93361421438?pwd=vref7FXEXI2GU6bjccsPtiDv3mXbFz.1>

Join by Telephone:

Local Saskatoon Zoom Dial-in Number: (639) 638-7474

Other Zoom Dial-in Numbers: <https://usask-ca.zoom.us/j/93361421438?pwd=vref7FXEXI2GU6bjccsPtiDv3mXbFz.1>

Join by Video Conferencing Device (SIP):

93361421438@zoomcrc.com

Meeting ID: 933 6142 1438

Passcode: 23688231

Telephone Passcode: 23688231

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL AGENDA MOTIONS

Date: June 11, 2026

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

6.1 Request for Decision: Doctor of Pharmacy Admission Qualification Changes

Motion: It is recommended by the Academic Programs Committee that Council approve the admission qualification changes to the Doctor of Pharmacy program effective for the 2028-2029 application cycle.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

7.1 Request for Decision: Amendments to the Academic Programs Committee Terms of Reference

Motion: It is recommended by the Governance Committee that Council approve the terms of reference for the Academic Programs Committee in the Council Bylaws and Regulations as described in this report, effective July 1, 2026.

7.2 Request for Decision: Amendments to the Research, Scholarly and Artistic Works Committee Terms of Reference

Motion: It is recommended by the Governance Committee that Council approve the terms of reference for the Research, Scholarly and Artistic Works Committee in the Council Bylaws and Regulations as described in this report, effective July 1, 2026.

7.3 Request for Decision: Nominations to the Nominations Committee of Council

Motion: It is recommended by the Governance Committee that Council approve the appointments to the Nominations Committee of Council and the chair of the Nominations Committee as outlined in this report.

PLANNING AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE

8.1 Item for Decision: Change of Name for the Department of Academic Family Medicine

Motion: It is recommended by the Planning and Priorities Committee that Council approve the name change for the Department of Academic Family Medicine as outlined below.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

9.1 Request for Decision: Omnibus Council Committee Nominees

Motion: It is recommended by the Nominations Committee that Council approve the nominees for the council committees as outlined below.

9.2 Request for Decision: Council Committee Chair Nominees

Motion: It is recommended by the Nominations Committee that Council approve the nominees for the council committee chairs as outlined below.

9.3 Request for Decision: Council Vice-Chair Nominee

Motion: It is recommended by the Nominations Committee that Council approve Jason Perepelkin as the Vice Chair of Council effective July 1, 2026.

9.4 Request for Decision: Omnibus Collective Agreement Committee Nominees

Motion: It is recommended by the Nominations Committee that Council approve the nominees for the collective agreement committee as outlined below.

MINUTES

University Council

Date: May 14, 2026

Time: 2:30–4:30 pm

Location: Convocation Hall (PMB 120) and Zoom

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. Tribute

A tribute took place for Professor Gordon Zello from the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition, presented by Jane Alcorn, Dean, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition.

2. Agenda

Motion: (Jones/Augusta): That the agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. Chair's Opening Remarks

Dr. Squires welcomed members and highlighted the recent widespread cyberattack on the Canvas learning platform reminding members that universities are vulnerable and the need for continued diligence in the online environment. The Chair emphasized the critical governance role of University Council, thanking members for their significant behind-the-scenes work in committees and welcomed Ralph Deters as the incoming chair starting July 2026.

4. Minutes

Motion: (Sarjeant-Jenkins/Walsworth): That the minutes of April 16, 2026 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

Abstention: Compton

5. Business Arising

A follow up to a question brought forward from March Council was addressed.

Does USask have a consistent, proactive framework for communicating the full scope of what students lose at the point of graduation — and a plan for helping them transition to alternatives? If so, how can that framework be made more visible, so that future policy changes don't arrive as surprises

Dr. Marjorie Delbaere, Interim Vice-Provost Students and Learning explained that the university is implementing an automated, multi-stage communication plan developed collaboratively across campus—to provide graduating students with timely information and resources (such as email migration, ORCID ID setup, and continued service access) to support their transition after losing institutional email access, while also exploring additional supports for those needing longer-term academic continuity.

6. Academic Programs Committee

Paul Jones, Chair of the Academic Programs Committee, presented the committee’s items as outlined in the agenda package.

6.1. Request for Decision: Master of Business Administration Admission Qualification Changes

The full report is in the agenda package.

There were no questions.

Motion: (Jones/Vandenberg): It is recommended by the Academic Programs Committee that Council approve the admission qualification changes to the Master of Business Administration program effective for the 2028-2029 application cycle.

CARRIED

Abstention: Compton

6.2. Item for Information: Revisions to Bachelor of Science in Dental Therapy from Senate Education Committee

The full report is in the agenda package.

There were no questions.

7. Governance Committee

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

7.1. Request for Decision: University Council Rules of Order

The full report is in the agenda package.

Chair Susan Detmer, presented a motion to amend the University Council’s rules of order by replacing the current Kerr and King procedures with the Standard Code. The motion had been brought forward as a notice in March. Since that notice, consultation including an open forum for members and responses to email questions provided more information.

The main question raised during consultation concerned whether faculty councils would be required to adopt the new rules of order. It was clarified that adoption would be at the discretion of each faculty council; they may choose to align with the new Standard Code or retain their existing procedures. Faculty Councils will be contacted to see if those that currently use Kerr and King wish to switch, and the Governance Office is prepared to provide support in this process

Chair Detmer summarized that the Standard Code was selected after extensive review due to its clearer language, flexibility, and better accommodation of modern practices such as virtual and hybrid meetings, compared to limitations and ambiguities in the existing rules. Questions from members focused on consultation, transparency, evidentiary support, accessibility, and inclusion of Indigenous governance

perspectives. Concerns were raised that council members had not had sufficient time or access to a full record of analysis prior to the meeting. In response, the committee outlined past procedural challenges under Kerr and King—particularly around voting and hybrid participation, emphasizing the need for updated guidance.

A motion was then introduced by a member to defer the decision and refer it back to the Governance Committee for further review, including more comprehensive evidence-based data with potential external research support. Debate on this procedural motion was limited, though some clarification and additional context regarding the rationale for change was permitted by Chair Squires.

The Governance Committee committed to reviewing the rules of order change annually with other bylaw reviews, ensuring the Standard Code is meeting the needs of Council.

Concerns were also expressed about the lack of a formal mechanism for ongoing discussion between notice and decision stages.

The member indicated a willingness to withdraw their motion if improved consultation mechanisms were established. Chair Squires explained that this type of commitment could not be formally guaranteed, and the motion to defer proceeded to a vote.

Motion (Bradford/Card): That the motion proposed in 7.1 be referred back to the Governance Committee.

DEFEATED

Council then voted on the original motion to adopt the new rules of order.

Motion: (Detmer/ Sarjeant-Jenkins): It is recommended by the Governance Committee to amend the Council Bylaws and Regulations such that the most recent edition of the American Institute of Parliamentarians Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure replaces Procedures for Meetings and Organizations, Third Edition by Kerr and King as the parliamentary authority and that various other consequential amendments be made as described in this report, effective July 1, 2026.

CARRIED

Abstention: Compton

7.2 Request for Decision: Western College of Veterinary Medicine Faculty Council Bylaws

The full report is in the agenda package.

There were no questions at this time.

Motion: (Jones/ Sarjeant-Jenkins): It is recommended by the Governance Committee that Council approve the Western College of Veterinary Medicine Faculty Council Bylaws, effective immediately.

CARRIED

Abstentions: Compton and Hunter

7.3 Notice of Motion: Amendments to the Academic Programs Committee Terms of Reference

The full report is in the agenda package.

There were no questions.

7.4 Notice of Motion: Amendments to the Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee Terms of Reference

The full report is in the agenda package.

There were no questions.

8. Planning and Priorities Committee

Dr. Christian Willenborg, Chair of PPC, presented the committee's item as outlined in the agenda package.

8.1 Item for Information: Revisions to Access to Information and Privacy Policy

The full report is in the agenda package.

There were no questions.

9. Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee

Dr. Eric Lamb, Chair of the RSAW Committee, presented the committee's items as outlined in the agenda package.

9.1 Request for Decision: Care and Use of Animals in Science at the University of Saskatchewan (USask) Policy

The full report is in the agenda package.

A member expressed support for the proposed change while highlighting broader ethical and practical tensions related to animal care policies. The member emphasized the importance of fostering a "culture of care" on campus but noted that external frameworks, such as those from the Canadian Council on Animal Care, which prioritize reducing, refining, and replacing animal use, can create challenges for disciplines like veterinary medicine. The member explained that these requirements can impose significant administrative burdens, even for activities that may benefit animal welfare and the human-animal bond. The member also pointed out inconsistencies in how animals are treated on campus, citing examples such as pest control practices that would not meet institutional research standards. The member concluded by raising awareness of the growing pressure toward eliminating animal use altogether and the resulting difficulties for programs that rely on animals for teaching, research, and therapeutic purposes. Chair Squires acknowledged these concerns as an awareness item and Chair Lamb appreciated the identified inconsistencies.

Motion (Lamb/Jones): It is recommended by the Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee that Council approve the revised Care and Use of Animals in Science Policy effective July 1, 2026.

CARRIED

Abstentions: Vandenberg, Compton, Dobson, Marche, Ruzzini

9.2 Item for Information: Device Security and Research Travel Security

The full report is in the agenda package.

There were no questions.

10. Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships

Dr. Scott Walsworth, Chair of JCCP, presented the committee's items as outlined in the agenda package.

10.1 Request for Decision: Hospitals of Regina Foundation Pediatrics Chair in the Origins of Health and Disease in the College of Medicine

The full report is in the agenda package.

The position is intended to be held by a clinician-scientist who will lead an internationally recognized research program focused on the early-life origins of chronic disease. It was noted that, at the donor's request, the role will be classified as a clinical academic position within the College of Medicine and therefore will fall outside the USFA collective agreement, with compensation provided through the Academic Clinical Funding Program. Additional funding totaling \$2 million over ten years will be contributed by the College of Medicine and the Office of the Vice-President Research to support research and scholarship activities.

While the proposed chair follows standard terms of reference, Council was advised of discussions held at the Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships (JCCP), where several concerns were raised. These included questions about equity given the comparatively large funding amount relative to other chairs, the rationale for designating the position as out-of-scope and the influence of donor conditions on that classification, and whether sufficient justification had been provided to demonstrate a distinct research gap on campus. Additional concerns related to the absence of explicit references to institutional frameworks such as EDI commitments within the terms of reference. It was emphasized that JCCP discussions reflect both administrative and faculty perspectives.

There were no questions.

Motion (Walsworth/McDougall): It is recommended by the Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships that University Council and the Board of Governors approve the Hospitals of Regina Foundation Pediatrics Chair in the Origins of Health and Disease in the College of Medicine.

CARRIED

Abstentions: Dobson and Mousseau

10.2 Request for Decision: KPMG Enhancement Chair in Environmental, Social and Governance

The full report is in the agenda package.

This chair is supported by a donation of \$60,000 over three years and is intended primarily as a retention tool to support high-performing faculty who may be at risk of leaving for other institutions. The funding structure allows up to \$15,000 annually to be used as a salary stipend, with the remaining \$5,000 allocated to research support.

Discussions at the Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships (JCCP) identified several concerns. These included the continued absence of explicit reference in the terms of reference to key institutional frameworks, such as equity, diversity, and inclusion commitments, which was noted as a broader issue with existing templates. Additionally, there were equity-related concerns regarding the use of endowed or donor-funded chairs as retention mechanisms, particularly given that the collective agreement already includes provisions for faculty retention. The committee discussed whether those existing provisions might limit or interact with the use of such additional incentives, highlighting ongoing questions about fairness and consistency in how retention supports are applied across the university.

There were no questions.

Motion (Walsworth/McDougall): It is recommended by the Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships that University Council and the Board of Governors approve the KPMG Enhancement Chair in Environmental, Social and Governance in the Edwards School of Business.

CARRIED

Abstention: Makarova

11. Reports

11.1. President

President Bruni-Bossio began by noting the search process for a new Provost will begin shortly, with a committee already established and an initial meeting expected within the next two weeks.

President Bruni-Bossio updated members that the university's strategic planning process is advancing, with approximately 3,000 internal participants engaged through campus conversations and surveys, alongside input from around 100 external stakeholders, including donors, industry leaders, and government representatives. Engagement with Indigenous communities is also set to begin over the summer.

Preliminary qualitative analysis of this input indicates emerging themes among faculty and staff related to institutional identity, shared values, a common vision, and balancing local priorities with global impact. Students have emphasized the importance of high-quality academic programming, affordability, campus accessibility, support services, and career preparedness, while external stakeholders have focused on research strength, teaching quality, student experience, and opportunities for deeper engagement.

The next phase of the process will involve advisory tables, where these insights will be refined into more focused strategic priorities. The President highlighted a key tension between internal perspectives, which emphasize institutional culture and operations, and external expectations, which prioritize outcomes such as research excellence and program quality. Addressing this tension will be a critical component of the strategy moving forward. It was also noted that while individual feedback may not appear directly in the final strategy, it is informing the overall direction, and future input from Indigenous communities is expected to further enrich the process.

There were no questions.

11.2. Interim Provost and Vice-President Academic

Interim Provost Patti McDougall addressed the recent global cybersecurity incident affecting Canvas, the university's learning management system, noting that it impacted thousands of institutions worldwide. She expressed appreciation for the rapid response of the university's emergency management team, whose coordinated, cross-functional efforts—led by ICT and involving teaching and learning units—helped ensure continuity and security. Dr. McDougall emphasized the shared responsibility of all community members in maintaining cybersecurity awareness.

Dr. McDougall acknowledged the information item that came forward relating to device and research travel security, indicating that additional efforts would be made to broadly share this guidance across campus through training and communications to support faculty and staff when traveling or handling sensitive information.

There were no questions.

11.3. Graduate Students Association (GSA)

There was no May report- GSA elections will be taking place this upcoming weekend.

11.4. University of Saskatchewan Student's Union (USSU)

USSU President Abtin Safaeian provided his first report to Council as presented in the agenda package.

There were no questions.

12. Other Business

There was no other business.

13. Question Period

Pre-submitted questions:

- 1. I received notice through my Vice-Dean Academic that AES is terminating delivery of AES exams to departments and colleges as of May 1. I could not find any mention of this in the Provost or President's previous reports to Council — yet this affects the teaching-and-learning mission of 500+ faculty and instructors twice a year. Who made this decision? Who recommended this course of action to that decider? When was decision made? What was the supporting analysis/basis for the***

decision? Who among the faculty were consulted, and how was that consultation done? I request a detailed written answer to Council.

With the immediate situation defused, a broader understanding of decision-making processes and transparency can become the larger focus.

In response to the AES exam question, Dr. Delbaere explained that the decision fell within the portfolio of the Interim Vice Provost, Students and Learning, and was prompted by a significant increase in accommodation demands—approximately a 30% rise, with nearly 4,000 exams administered in the previous December alone. Due to limited staffing resources, a proposal was made to discontinue the delivery of completed exams in order to reallocate staff toward administering exams, thereby meeting legal obligations for student accommodations. This proposal was discussed with the Associate Deans' Academic Forum, where concerns about exam security led to additional planning in exam pick up.

Following broader feedback after the decision was made indicating the change would be highly disruptive, the decision was revisited in consultation with the provost, and a temporary reallocation of staff from another unit was implemented. This allowed the continuation of both exam administration and delivery services.

In follow-up, Provost McDougall acknowledged broader concerns about decision-making transparency and the cumulative impact of service changes on faculty. It was recognized that there is heightened sensitivity across the institution to such changes, particularly when they directly affect faculty work. The Provost reiterated a commitment from senior leadership to approach future decisions with greater care and deliberation, emphasizing that while organizational changes are sometimes necessary, there is an increased awareness of the importance of consultation and communication moving forward.

- 2. Summer fieldwork has begun again, and that means I have graduate students and undergrad field assistants with expense claims. Slow processing has been a big problem in past years, particularly an inability to fast-track reimbursements for the less well-paid employees.***

Associate Vice President, People and Chief Human Resources Officer, Marnie Wright responded that the Connection Point team has improved turnaround times, with a current average of nine days—better than the stated target of twelve days. An apology was offered for previous delays, along with reassurance that processing timelines are expected to be more efficient going forward. It was also noted that both Concur and eForm submission methods are handled by the same team, resulting in minimal differences in processing speed; however, eForms may be slightly faster because they tend to be more complete when submitted. The request to prioritize student-related payments during the summer months was acknowledged as a valid consideration and will be explored further. Ongoing efforts to improve payment processes—particularly for student employees—were also highlighted, with a focus on streamlining systems to ensure more timely compensation.

10. Adjournment

Motion (Lieverse): That the meeting be adjourned at 4:09 pm.

BUSINESS ARISING

Committee Name: Academic Programs Committee, University Council

Date: June 11, 2026

Subject: CASPer Situational Judgement Test Review

Agenda Item: 4.1

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

The use of situational judgment tests (SJTs), particularly CASPer, has been of keen interest to both the Academic Programs Committee (APC) of Council and the Senate Education Committee. Both Council and Senate play a decision-making role in establishing and changing admission qualifications for programs.

During the 2024-2025 academic cycle, APC observed an increase in requests from colleges to incorporate situational judgment testing, particularly CASPer, into admissions processes. In response, APC raised concerns regarding the equity, validity, and broader implications of these tests. At the June 2025 Council meeting, APC brought forward the following request:

Given the potential for adverse effects on the applicant pool in Saskatchewan, APC requests that each college using CASPer undertake a study to examine its validity as a predictor of future student success within their discipline. APC further requests that results be shared with Council to enable a comprehensive, institution-wide discussion.

In parallel, the Senate Education Committee has discussed the use of CASPer over the past two academic years, identifying similar concerns, including potential bias in testing outcomes, the financial burden on applicants, limited transparency in scoring, unclear evidence of predictive validity, and the ability for applicants to prepare for and potentially “game” the test.

On March 4, 2026, Troy Harkot, Chief Analytics Officer presented findings on behalf of the Provost’s Office indicating that programs across campus use and interpret CASPer results in varying ways, and that there is limited evidence demonstrating that the test contributes meaningfully to admissions decisions or predicts student success. Several programs and colleges have also raised concerns regarding its use. Notably, the College of Nursing has proposed removing CASPer as an admission requirement, and the College of Dentistry has discontinued its use following a trial period.

APC appreciated the work of the Provost’s Office working group and has continued to thoughtfully review and discuss the findings over several meetings.

At its May 27th, 2026 meeting, APC engaged in a robust discussion reviewing a briefing note prepared by an APC working group. The committee expressed ongoing concerns regarding the equity and effectiveness of CASPer, including its potential for racial and socioeconomic bias, possible misalignment with the values USask seeks in applicants to professional programs, ambiguity about its role in admission decisions, and the lack of strong evidence demonstrating a correlation between CASPer results and student success. Additional concerns were raised related to cost, accessibility, and overall validity.

REQUEST

Given these concerns, APC requests that the Provost's Office support the development of a well-researched concept paper examining the use of CASPer and other situational judgment tests. This paper should include a review of the existing evidence on their equity and effectiveness, a comparison with alternative approaches such as interviews or other assessment tools and strategies for navigating documented issues.

The purpose of this paper is to support academic programs in making more informed decisions about their admissions processes by providing clear evidence-based research that can guide reflection, evaluation, and future planning.

Overall, the committee recognizes that admissions decisions are very complex; however, emphasized the importance of due diligence to ensure that the most appropriate and informed decisions are being made on behalf of the University.

LOOKING FORWARD

During the discussion, members emphasized that CASPer represents only one aspect of a much broader issue within admissions. There was a shared view among the committee that admissions processes as a whole require careful and ongoing review, including the criteria used to select applicants, the equity implications of different approaches, and the extent to which these methods effectively predict meaningful outcomes such as student success and retention. As such, the committee anticipates that conversations about admissions will continue to evolve in the next academic cycle.

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

- 1) [CASPer Review Briefing Note](#)
- 2) [Minutes from June 2025 Council \(pages 7-8\)](#)

OVERVIEW

In the June 12, 2025 Annual Report to Council, the Academic Programs Committee (APC) signaled interest in how [Casper situational judgment testing](#) is used as part of admissions processes for various USask programs. Given the potential for adverse effects on the applicant pool in Saskatchewan, APC was interested in learning if/how colleges that use Casper in their admissions process examine the validity of Casper as a predictor of future success in their discipline. The intent of this document is to provide an overview of the use of Casper and insight on any analysis conducted by colleges on the use of this tool.

INQUIRY

APC's inquiry into this topic is based on learning more about the use of Casper in program admissions and if it is beneficial or detrimental to applicants. With this, APC highlighted that there have been studies and news pertaining to Casper scores being potentially biased due to racial factors (e.g. applicants from particular ethnic backgrounds or geographic origins), disability considerations (e.g. neurodivergent or autistic applicants), and cost-prohibitive due to preparing for, and writing the test which may adversely impact the ability of otherwise-strong potential applicants to submit their candidacy for admission. These observations formed the basis for the Provost's Office to engage in conversations with college stakeholders to learn more about the use of Casper.

INSIGHTS

To approach this work, conversations were initiated with selected colleges that have used Casper as part of their admissions process in past years. The use of Casper for new programs was omitted from the conversations as there would not be historical experience or reflection to obtain. Insights were obtained from the Colleges of Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy & Nutrition, and the Western College of Veterinary Medicine as described in the following paragraphs.

Within the College of Dentistry, Casper testing has been used in the admission process for the Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) program over the past four years as a pilot initiative. During this period, the College determined that the inclusion of Casper scores in the admissions criteria did not have a significant impact on student performance in the program and did not provide differentiation beyond the other assessment tools already used for admissions. Casper results were never applied as a selection factor and were collected solely for data purposes within the pilot study.

It is also important to note that when the College of Dentistry initiated the pilot, Casper representatives advised that the assessment could potentially substitute for their Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) process. However, by the end of the third year of the pilot, this guidance changed, and the college was advised that Casper should only be used to support, not replace, the MMI. Based on these outcomes, specifically, the lack of measurable differences in student progression and performance, and the fact that Casper was not a substitute for the highly complex operational MMI process, Dentistry decided to discontinue the use of Casper in the DMD admissions process.

Casper testing is used as an input into the admissions process for a number of College of Medicine programs. Recently, it has been added as a criterion for admissions into the newly launched Master of Speech-Language Pathology (M.S.L.P) and Master of Occupational Therapy (M.O.T) programs. Historically, it was initially used in the Postgraduate Medical Education (PGME) program effectively to



complement academic achievements of applicants and in 2021, Casper testing was introduced for admissions into the Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) program. The college's adoption of Casper for the M.D. program was consistent with the trend in Canada as it is widely used by other medical schools in the country. In this case, the results are not given any specific weight to the application but instead only used at the preliminary stage of the process as a one of many factors for consideration when selecting applicants to move onto the Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) stage.

Interestingly, the Undergraduate Medical Education (UGME) office recently engaged in a review to get a better understanding of how Casper results compared to other aspects of the M.D. admission process as well as looking into whether or not there was a correlation between Casper results and professional misconduct of students. They observed a correlation between performance on Casper and performance in the MMI but no significant correlation between Casper results and the panel interview/conversation circle stage. The potential correlation of Casper results to academic misconduct was of great interest as it could potentially provide insight into the students' level of professionalism and working with patients. For this, the UGME office analyzed data for incoming classes in 2021, 2022, and 2023 to see if there was a correlation between the Casper score and documented professionalism lapses in program. From this, no significant correlation was found between Casper score and professionalism incidents.

The UGME office's review of Casper did not consider financial or racial biases. Given that there is a cost to study for and/or write the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), the college has not observed any financial barriers pertaining to Casper. While not looking specifically at racial biases, UGME colleagues did look into Casper performance based on age. From this, the data showed that applicants who are aged 28 and over score lower on Casper prompting a proposal to modify the use of Casper for applicants aged 28+ to be similar to how Casper results are considered for Indigenous Admissions Circle (IAC) applicants. The UGME office is planning to undertake another review of Casper in the foreseeable future.

The College of Nursing incorporated Casper test scores into the admissions process for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program back in 2021 to assess non-academic attributes and interpersonal skills essential for success in the nursing profession. Over this time, the opinion is that Casper scores have not been a significant barrier to admissions due to the available seats and number of students applying. The college has not observed any impacts on Indigenous vs. non-Indigenous applicants or on any limitations due to the costs associated with Casper testing. Due to lack of data availability, the college is not able to provide an opinion on other racial biases or impacts on autistic or neurodivergent individuals. Interestingly, some analysis was conducted to determine if admissions scores would be similar on the basis of just using academic grades alone (without the input of Casper scores) and the admissions results would have been consistent with the results that did use Casper testing.

Further to this analysis, additional testing was conducted on the relationship between Casper scores and both academic and professional success. This involved analyzing admission averages, graduation averages, and nursing graduates' performance in the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) to determine if success correlated with higher Casper scores. The findings showed a weak but statistically significant correlation between Casper scores and GPAs. There was also a statistically significant, moderately positive association between Casper scores and first-time NCLEX pass rates. In addition, a weak, statistically significant negative correlation was observed between Casper scores and the number of NCLEX attempts. Although statistically significant relationships were observed between Casper scores and most nursing student success variables, the actual predictive power of Casper scores across these

variables was weak. Consequently, while real and consistent associations may exist between Casper scores and the measured outcomes, the college concluded that other factors likely play much larger roles in predicting both nursing student performance and professional success.

In the College of Pharmacy & Nutrition, Casper testing has been a component of the admissions process for a number of years (in addition to academic performance and a personal video interview). Casper was initially used for the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) program beginning in 2017 and was later introduced as a component of the Bachelor of Science in Nutrition program as well. The use of Casper for PharmD is common in Canada as many other medical/doctoral, research-intensive (U15) universities use it as well. Interestingly, PharmD accreditation requires admissions processes to be based on more than just academic achievement. Casper testing is a solution to meeting the additional assessment requirement.

To date, the college has not detected any biases pertaining to the use of Casper due to the fact that they have observed applicants with diverse backgrounds, cultures, and with neurodivergence successfully admitted to their programs. As well, college leaders did look into the correlation of Casper admissions scores and academic achievement and did not identify any notable patterns in this regard. Moving forward, Pharmacy & Nutrition plans to continue to look at ways to adjust how Casper scores are used for admission. For example, In January 2026, approval was received to change the way Casper will be used for the 2027 intake. Instead of counting for 30% of the overall admission score, Pharmacy & Nutrition will now just use the Casper score as a threshold/minimum that applicants must meet in order to be considered eligible for admission. This will hopefully help to further reduce any biases that may exist with Casper.

The Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVN) introduced Casper as an admission requirement for the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) program for applicants seeking entry in fall 2024. This decision came from the 2022 Admissions Task Force recommending a situational judgment test be used to evaluate applicants' social intelligence, professionalism, and non-academic competencies. This is also an important requirement of the accreditation standard for the college that admissions criteria and selection process include several non-academic factors.

All WCVN applicants must meet or exceed a minimum Casper threshold, which is set annually by the Admissions Committee. Applicants are ranked based 60% academic and 40% interview for all pools except the Agriculture-focused seats where the final weighted score is 20% Casper and 80% interview.

The College has been cautious in implementing Casper in a phased manner and continues to review its predictive value and statistical relationships with other admissions and student metrics in the DVM program. As the college enters the third year requiring Casper, they are also expanding analysis on students with multiple Casper attempts (2-3 sittings).

SUMMARY

The intent of this document was to provide insight based on feedback received from selected college stakeholders on how Casper situational judgement testing has been implemented and/or evaluated for admissions into their academic programs. Across these programs, Casper is used as a supplementary tool to evaluate non-academic attributes such as professionalism and interpersonal skills to complement other admissions requirements such as academic qualifications and interviews. Where analysis has been conducted by colleges on the applicability of Casper, findings show limited and inconsistent evidence of



strong predictive value for academic or professional success, with some weak correlations observed but no clear indication that Casper alone meaningfully differentiates applicants. While concerns have been raised by APC about possible financial, racial/demographic, or accessibility factors, the internal college reviews and opinions do not appear to have identified significant systemic bias to date, though it is important to note that testing has not thoroughly examined these factors in all cases. Overall, the colleges that provided feedback seem to be applying Casper cautiously (e.g., with adjustment of its weighting or use in some cases) and are continuing to monitor its role to ensure admissions processes remain fair and evidence-informed in an attempt to ensure that applicants are qualified to be admitted and eventually succeed in their program of entry.

Given that evaluation of Casper within each college has been done to varying degrees to date coupled with the existence of third-party research that suggests that racial, financial, and discriminatory factors do exist with Casper testing, further analysis could be warranted. Potential next steps include revisiting admissions policies/guidelines, determining how to regularly (annually) evaluate the impact of Casper on admissions processes, or researching how peer institutions use situational judgement testing to enhance admissions processes while satisfying accreditation requirements in applicable program areas.

USask University Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday June 12, 2025
2:30-4:30pm
Convocation Hall and Zoom

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:34 pm.

The Chair, Dr. Christian Willenborg, began by explaining to members that both the Chair and Vice-Chair are away today; therefore, the Governance Committee appointed him as Chair for today's meeting. He then continued with a Land Acknowledgement.

No members of the media identified themselves.

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

1. Tribute

Dr. Sasha Koustov, Professor in the Department of Physics and Engineering Physics, provided a tribute to Professor Emeritus Don McEwen.

Prior to agenda approval, the Chair noted to members that committee year end reports were circulated with the agenda and questions on the reports will be taken during question period.

2. Adoption of the agenda

2.1 Adoption of the Agenda

Motion: (Deters/Jones): *That the agenda be approved as circulated.*

CARRIED

3. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Willenborg welcomed members to the final Council meeting of the 2024-2025 noting that it has been an exciting year. The Chair provided members with a recap on the year, including three elections, IRCC decisions, tariffs and budget challenges.

The Chair mentioned Convocation which took place last week and thanked members of Council as well as all of those who served on committees.

Chair Willenborg expressed his gratitude for the Governance team and all of their support of Council throughout the year.

4. Minutes

Motion: (Lamb/Lieverse): *That the minutes of May 15, 2025 be approved as circulated.*

CARRIED

Abstention: Vandenberg

5. Business Arising

There was no business arising.

6. Executive Committee of Council

6.1 Item for Information: 2024/25 Executive Committee Annual Report

Information is in the agenda package. Questions will be taken during question period.

7. Academic Programs Committee

Carolyn Augusta, Chair of APC presented the committee's items as outlined in the agenda package.

7.1 Request for Decision: Termination of Project Based Master of Mathematics

Information is in the agenda package. There were no questions.

Motion (Augusta/Okoko): *It is recommended by the Academic Programs Committee that Council approve the termination of the Master of Math (M.Math) Project Based Program effective May 2026.*

CARRIED

7.2 Item for Information: Academic and Curricular Approval Chart Revisions

Information is in the agenda package. There were no questions.

7.3 Item for Information: 2024/25 APC Annual Report

Information is in the agenda package. Questions will be taken during question period.

8. Planning and Priorities Committee

Dr. Angela Lieveise, Vice-Chair of the PPC Committee, introduced Dr. Jerome Cranston to present the 2024-2025 Enrolment Report.

8.1 Item for Information: 2024/2025 Enrolment Report

Slides are attached.

Dr. Jerome Cranston presented the report to members. Highlights of the presentation included:

- Final numbers are not confirmed until the middle of June.
- Numbers and plans continue to shift given the changes taking place in the world.
- Enrolment has stabilized- have seen domestic enrolment growth and a large decrease in graduate students.

- Continue to see an increase in students who graduate.
- Increase in teaching activity- students are taking more classes.

There were no questions.

8.2 Item for Information: 2024/25 PPC Annual Report

Information is in the agenda package. Questions will be taken during question period.

9. Governance Committee

Dr. Roy Dobson, Chair of the Governance Committee presented the committee's item.

9.1 Request for Decision: Academic Courses Policy Changes

Information is in the agenda package.

Question: Much of the changed/new material employs the term "educator", but much of the old material uses the previous terms "instructor" and "instructor of record". Are these terms distinct? If they are, I look forward to understanding the difference.

There is no definition in nomenclature between instructor and educator. Dr. Turner noted that this has been a shift in language coming from the Learning Charter. These definitions will become clearer in the revamped policy coming forward next year.

Motion (Dobson/Augusta): *It is recommended by the Governance Committee that Council approve the changes to Academic Courses Policy, effective September 1, 2025.*

CARRIED
1 opposed online

9.2 Request for Decision: Changes to Nominations Committee Terms of Reference

Information is in the agenda package. There were no questions.

Motion (Dobson/Augusta): *It is recommended by the Governance Committee that Council approve the changes to the Council Bylaws regarding membership of and quorum for the Nominations Committee of Council.*

CARRIED

9.3 Request for Decision: Nominations to the Nominations Committee of Council

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

Motion (Dobson/Augusta): *It is recommended by the Governance Committee that Council approve the slate of nominations, effective July 1, 2025.*

CARRIED

9.4 Request for Decision: Nomination for Chair of the Nominations Committee

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

Motion (Dobson/Augusta): *It is recommended by the Governance Committee that Council approve Reza Fotouhi as Chair of the Nominations Committee, effective July 1, 2025.*

CARRIED

9.5 Item for Information: Editorial Changes to Council Bylaws

Information is in the agenda package. There were no questions.

9.6 Item for Information: Student Appeal and Misconduct Report 2024-2025

Information is in the agenda package. There were no questions.

9.7 Item for Information: Editorial Changes to College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies Faculty Council Bylaws

Information is in the agenda package. There were no questions.

9.8 Item for Information: 2024/25 Governance Annual Report

Information is in the agenda package. Questions will be taken during question period.

10. Nominations Committee

Scott Bell, Chair of the Nominations Committee presented the committees items.

10.1 Request for Decision: Omnibus Council Committee Selections

Information is in the agenda package. There were no questions.

Motion (Bell/Dawson): *It is recommended by the Nominations Committee that Council approve the slate of nominations to the committees as noted below effective July 1, 2025.*

CARRIED
Singh Abstention

10.2 Request for Decision: Omnibus Council Committee Selections

Information is in the agenda package. There were no questions.

Motion (Bell/Dawson): *It is recommended by the Nominations Committee that Council approve the attached nominations of Council Committee Chairs effective July 1, 2025.*

CARRIED
Jones Abstention

10.3 Request for Decision: Executive Director, Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy Search

Information is in the agenda package. There were no questions.

Motion (Bell/Dawson): *It is recommended by the Nominations Committee that Council approve the nomination for the Executive Director, Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy Search, effective July 1, 2025.*

10.4 Item for Information: 2024/25 Nominations Annual Report

Information is in the agenda package. Questions will be taken during question period.

11. Scholarships and Awards Committee

11.1 Item for Information: 2024/25 Scholarships and Awards Annual Report

Information is in the agenda package. Questions will be taken during question period.

12. Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee

Eric Lamb, Chair of the RSAW committee introduced the items.

12.1 Item for Information: Vice President Research Annual Report

Chair Lamb invited Dr. Baljit Singh to provide highlights on the year-end RSAW report. The full report is in the agenda package.

12.2 Item for Information: College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies Annual Report

Information is in the agenda package. There were no questions.

12.3 Item for information: 2024/25 RSAW Annual Report

Information is in the agenda package. Questions will be taken during question period.

13. Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources Committee

13.1 Item for Information: 2024/25 TLARC Annual Report

Information is in the agenda package. Questions will be taken during question period.

14. Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships

Dr. Scott Walsworth presented one item for decision.

14.1 Request for Decision: Buckwold/Milani Scholar in Commercial Law

Dr. Walsworth explained that this gift was awarded to an existing faculty member which will be spread out over five years. It was also noted that some JCCP members continue to have concerns about the lack of safeguards on faculty bias when it comes to how money is donated for chairs and scholarships

Motion (Walsworth/Walleen): *It is recommended by the Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships that University Council approve the Buckwold/Milani Scholar in Commercial Law in the College of Law.*

15. Reports

15.1 Report of the President

President Stoicheff was away travelling. The full report is in the agenda package.

15.2 Report of the Acting Provost

Acting Provost Vince Bruni-Bossio acknowledged the communities affected by fires and invited Greg Fowler to speak to the work USask is doing to help these communities.

Mr. Fowler explained to members that his unit is working close with the red cross. USask began to take evacuees and red cross volunteers and are currently hosting 215 people. Mr. Fowler expressed his gratitude to the USask community for their support. The evacuation notice has been lifted for the groups that we are currently hosting; therefore, we will now be hosting those who are living in hotels to move to campus.

Dr. Bruni-Bossio mentioned the 'Think Tank' project designed to engage in discussions to be creative and brainstorm ideas to help USask's financial situation over the next 18 months. He noted that there are small things that we can do better, for example, how we use power on campus and looking at power optimizing space. Larger projects include looking at programs is beyond the scope of this project, but do encourage programming review in the Colleges. Dr. Bruni-Bossio was very clear to members that this project is not connected directly with any reorganization changes ongoing right now.

There were no questions.

15.3 Report of the GSA President

There was no report from the GSA.

15.4 Report of the USSU President

The full report is in the agenda package.

President Emma Wintermute presented a thorough review of the USSU report as well as pointing out upcoming events.

There were no questions.

16. Other business

There was none.

17. Question period

Pre-submitted question :

There has been discussions in various colleges and at APC regarding the use of the CASPer test for admissions decisions. APC has observed a recent increase in the number of new programs seeking to use a situational judgement test (e.g., CASPer) in their admissions process. CBC News questions this practice (https://youtu.be/mkxXnb-ml_I?si). Some academic journal articles have concluded that CASPer scores are biased due to racial factors (e.g., [1-2]). There is also a cost to writing the CASPer test: \$50 CAD + \$18 per school to which results are sent [3], and this may adversely impact the ability of otherwise-strong potential applicants to submit their candidacy for admission. This test intends to "measure aspects of social intelligence and professionalism like ethics, empathy, problem-solving and collaboration" [4], and is reputed to be a test that "you cannot study for" [5]. However, preparation has been shown to increase test scores (e.g., [6]), and preparatory courses may be prohibitively expensive for some applicants (e.g., [7]), which may again deepen the divide between potential applicants who have significant access to resources and those who do not.

Given the potential for adverse effects on the applicant pool in Saskatchewan, APC requests that each college that uses Casper in their admissions process undertake a study to examine the validity of Casper as a predictor of future success in their discipline. We also ask that the results be shared to Council, to enable a full understanding and discussion across the university.

References

- [1] V. Rosales, C. Conley, and M.C. Norris, "Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Situational Judgment Testing Among Applicants to an Anesthesiology Residency Program," *J Grad Med Educ*, vol. 16, no. 2, pp. 140-145 Apr. 2024. Accessed: May 29, 2025. doi: <https://doi.org/10.4300/JGME-D-23-00360.1>. [Online] Available: <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11234310/>
- [2] C.E. Gustafson, C.J. Johnson, G.L.B. Dallaghan, O.J. Knight, K.M. Malloy, K.R. Nichols, and L. Rahangdale, "Evaluating situational judgment test use and diversity in admissions at a southern US medical school", *PLoS One*, vol. 18, no. 2, pp. e0280205 Feb. 2023. Accessed: May 29, 2025. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0280205>. [Online] Available: <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9925012/>
- [3] University of Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy and Nutrition, "Admissions Information", <https://pharmacy-nutrition.usask.ca/students/undergraduate-programs/admissions-information.php> (accessed May 29, 2025).
- [4] Acuity Insights, "Take CASPer", <https://acuityinsights.app/> (accessed May 30, 2025).
- [5] R. Katta and J. Li-Wang, "How to Prepare for the Casper Test: Tips and Strategies", <https://www.thesuccessfulmatch.com/post/how-to-prepare-for-the-casper-test-tips-and-strategies#:~:text=Although%20Altus%20Suite%20markets%20Casper,a%20few%20very%20important%20point%20s>. (accessed May 29, 2025).
- [6] F. Lievens, T. Buyse, P.R. Sackett, and B.S. Connelly, "The Effects of Coaching on Situational Judgement Tests in High-stakes Selection", *International Journal of Selection and Assessment*, vol. 20, no. 3, pp. 272 - 282 Sept. 2012. Accessed: May 30 2025. [Online] Available: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1468-2389.2012.00599.x>

[7] Astroff Consultants, "Get Ready to Write CASPer", <https://www.casptest.com/> (accessed May 30, 2025).

Dr. Bruni-Bossio noted that the Provost Office is dedicated to the validity of these tests and committed to bringing back some more analysis.

Dr. Sarah Forgie, Dean of the College of Medicine, noted that CASPer has been an ongoing discussion for many years and introduced her colleague Dr. Adeyemi Laosebikan who noted that discussions are ongoing to start an ad hoc committee. Dr. Laosebikan explained that there is no definitive answer from the company who run CASPer tests on why some students are disadvantaged.

It was noted that CASPer plays a minimal role in admissions processes and is used to assess personal qualities in a candidate to help predict professional issues. In addition to CASPer, there are multiple interview processes to assess admission.

Dr. Laosebikan noted that the College of Medicine is in communication with company to address the concerns and will also work with other Colleges using this test as well.

Chair Augusta thanked the College of Medicine for this information and looks forward to more detail and hearing from other colleges on their data in the Fall.

18. Adjournment

(Jones): The meeting was properly adjourned at 4:03 pm.

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

REQUEST FOR DECISION

Committee Name: Academic Programs Committee, University Council

Date: June 11, 2026

Presented by: Paul Jones, Chair, Academic Programs Committee

Subject: Doctor of Pharmacy- Admission Qualification Changes

MOTION

It is recommended by the Academic Programs Committee that Council approve the admission qualification changes to the Doctor of Pharmacy program effective for the 2028-2029 application cycle.

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

The College of Pharmacy and Nutrition is proposing several changes to the prerequisite courses for admission requirements to the Doctor of Pharmacy program. The College feels these changes will better align with other Canadian PharmD programs and will be easier for non USask students to be eligible for admission into the program. Additionally, the changes also aim to better meet the needs of the program as it moves forward.

CONSULTATION

The College of Pharmacy and Nutrition submitted a proposal to the Academic Programs Committee (APC) on May 27, 2026. APC had the opportunity to review the proposal and ask questions. APC voted in favour of these admission requirements. Senate confirmation of the decision is required before the changes can take effect, which will take place in Fall of 2026.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Doctor of Pharmacy Admission Qualification Changes**

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Degree(s) Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD)	
Fields of study	
Concentration (i.e. option, specialization within a major, themes, streams, focus, etc.):	
Academic Unit (unit offering the program): College of Pharmacy and Nutrition	Proposed date for implementation: 2028-29 admission
Contact person name Charity Evans	Email charity.evans@usask.ca
Motion Carried at the College Faculty Council Approval or equivalent: MOTION: <i>That Faculty Council approve the proposed changes to the PharmD prerequisite course requirements and forward the proposed changes to Academic Programs Committee (APC) for review and approval. [Evans/Blackburn]. May 11, 2026</i>	

Admission requirements are made up of several factors including admission qualifications and selection criteria which are governed under the **Policy on Admission to Degree Programs**.

Select the area in which you are proposing to change/create:

Admission Qualifications

These are the credentials that an applicant must present in order to establish eligibility for admission. They include but are not restricted to objective qualifications such as high school subjects, secondary or post-secondary standing, minimum averages, English proficiency, and minimum scores on standardized tests. Qualifications may vary for some admission categories. Admission Qualifications become part of your "Admission Requirements" for applicants.

Admission category

Admission categories are approved at a university wide level and are a way to differentiate and compare applicants with similar qualifications (i.e. Regular Admission, Special Admission, Indigenous Specific Seats, etc.).

Enrolment Management

Changes to the capacity of seats available for new admits if different from the college/school strategic enrolment plan.

Selection Criteria

The means by which a college assesses and ranks its applicants for admission. They include but are not restricted to admission test scores, cut-off averages, interview scores, departmental recommendations, auditions, portfolios, letters of reference, admission essays, definitions of essential abilities for professional practice, and the relative weighting to be given to the various requirements. Selection criteria may vary for some admission categories.

Learner Pathway

Different routes that individuals choose to progress into, within, and out of the post-secondary education system.

Note: If the learner pathway requires individuals to adhere to a **different set of admission qualifications** this would then require Council level approval.

RATIONALE

Describe the rationale for the admission change and provide a statement from College/School leadership recommending the change and how it relates to the strategic mission and enrolment plan of the College.

The proposed changes to the PharmD prerequisites are based on Faculty review and recommendations, and to better align our prerequisites with those of other Canadian PharmD programs. We anticipate more students, especially non-USask students, being eligible for admission with these changes. Additional rationale/details provided in the individual consultation forms (attached).

These changes have full support from the College leadership and faculty and would be implemented for the 2028-29 admission year.

Course Subject	Credit Units Required	USask Course
Biology	6	BIOL 120.3 and BIOL 121.3
General chemistry	3 6	CHEM 112.3 and CHEM 115.3
Organic chemistry	6 3	CHEM 250.3 and CHEM 255.3
English	6	Two of ENG 111.3, 112.3, 113.3, 114.3 or ENG 110.6 6 credit units of English
Biochemistry	6 3	BMSC 200.3 and BMSC 230.3
Physiology	6	BMSC 207.3 and BMSC 208.3
Mathematics (Calculus)	3	MATH 125.3 or MATH 104.3
Statistics	3	STAT 246.3 STAT 244.3 (or equivalent) or STAT 245.3 (or equivalent)
Microbiology	3	BMSC 210.3
Nutrition	3	NUTR 120.3
Indigenous learning ¹	3	INDG 107.3 or equivalent
Electives	12	3 credit units from psychology, sociology, or philosophy; 9 unrestricted credit units

CONSULTATIONS

Checklist of consultations to be completed before a submission can be reviewed by the Academic Programs Committee of Council:

Required Consultation/Office	Required Documentation Submission
1. Undergraduate Programs Admission Consultation (See appendix I) Contact: Karen Gauthier, Director, Admissions and Transfer Credit	Memo of completed consultation from Admissions ATTACHED
2. Provost (Financial Implications) Strategic Finance Office Review (Tuition and Fees) Contact: Kyla Shea	Memo of approval from Provost Office ATTACHED
3. Consultation with Registrar Contact: Seanine Warrington	Consultation with the Registrar Form and CWR Cover Sheet (completed by the Registrar's Office) ATTACHED
4. Internal USask Consultations	Memo from impacted Department/College or School supporting the change. <i>Note: Only required if the change impacts another College/School)</i> ATTACHED
4. Consultation with Space Planning (Teaching Space and Administrative Space) Contact: space.management@usask.ca	Memo from Space Planning <i>Note: This consultation is only required if the change impacts enrolment management.</i>
Approvals	
College Faculty Council Approval or equivalent	Faculty Council approved – May 11, 2026
Governance Approval (APC, Council; possibly Senate)	

Note: The Academic Programs Committee is responsible for evaluating academic implications of admission requirements. Approval at APC, Council and Senate (where applicable) does not imply approval of required resources (faculty complement, additional space requirements, etc.). Academic units are responsible for implementing these changes within the resources available including any incremental tuition generated.

APPENDIX I

Admissions Consultation (Undergraduate Programs Only)

Contact: Karen Gauthier (karen.gauthier@usask.ca), Director, Admissions and Transfer Credit

The Admission Framework document must be reviewed to determine how an applicant will be considered for admission. There are several factors to consider when creating a new program. The Director, Admissions and Transfer Credit, can assist in the development of the criteria. Information determined here should then be used to inform the completion of an Admission Template as found on <https://programs.usask.ca/programs/2026-27-admission-requirements.php>

- a. **What are the admissions requirements of this program** – high school subjects, secondary or post-secondary standing, minimum averages, English proficiency, and minimum scores on standardized tests?
- b. **What are the selection criteria** – how will you rank and select applicants? For example, ranking by admission average, admission test scores, interview scores, departmental recommendations, auditions, portfolios, letters of reference, admission essays, and definition of essential abilities for professional practice?
- c. **What are admission categories** – regular admission, special admission, and Indigenous equity admission?
- d. **What are the admission models** – direct entry, non-direct entry, ranked competitive or cut-off average? Is a confirmation of admission required?
- e. **Intake** - how many seats are required to be filled – for first year and transfer students, reserved for Indigenous, Saskatchewan, out-of-province, and international students?
- f. **What are the application process and timelines** – September or January intakes, online application, application and document deadlines, and scholarship deadlines to consider?
- g. **Which office will manage the admission process** – TLSE, college, department, or a combination?
- h. **Marketing and Promotion of New Program** – consideration needs to be given to a communications plan and marketing of the new program.
- i. **Admissions Appeal** – what will this process be.
- j. **Transfer Credit** – when will this be assessed and by which office?
- k. **Admission Change Timeline** -what timeline is needed to implement these changes to allow students enough time to complete new requirements (if change is an addition of a subject).

PROVOST & SFO CONSULTATION

To: Academic Programs Committee of Council

From: Kyla Shea, Academic Programs and Planning Specialist

Date: April 14, 2026

Re: PharmD Pre-requisite Changes

SUMMARY

The Provost and Strategic Finance Offices have reviewed and endorsed the proposal as proposed. The purpose of the review was twofold:

- 1) to understand the potential impact of the change on the program enrolment and alignment to the college/school strategic enrolment plan.
- 2) To understand the financial implications of the proposed change and the impact on the college / school financial situation.

Date: April 10, 2026	Reviewed By: Loleen Berdahl, Acting Deputy Provost	Communicated By: Kyla Shea
-------------------------	---	-------------------------------

ADMISSIONS CONSULTATION

To: Academic Programs Committee of Council

From: Karen Gauthier, Director of Admission and Transfer Credit

Date: April 24, 2026

Re: PharmD Prerequisite Change

SUMMARY

The Admissions Office has reviewed the proposal and see no issues moving forward with the changes to the required prerequisite courses required for admission consideration effective 2028-29.


Date	Reviewed By: Karen Gauthier	Communicated By: Karen Gauthier
------	--------------------------------	------------------------------------



This form is for curricular proposals **originating outside the College of Arts and Science** and is intended to be used when another College is proposing a change that may impact a department/program within the College of Arts and Science or the College as a whole. Its completion confirms that appropriate consultation has occurred with Arts and Science at both the department and college level, and that the proposed changes are supported. If multiple departments need to be consulted, a separate form is required for each.

Proposer Information (name and email):	
College of Proposer:	Challenge Contact:
College being Consulted: ARTS AND SCIENCE	Challenge Contact: Alexis Dahl
Subject of consultation:	
Summary (rationale, academic implications, projected enrollment, and financial implications.) Please attach completed catalogue entry when submitting this form.	

Department Approval

Department/Program	
Department Head Signature 	Date

Arts and Science College Approval

Vice Dean Academic Signature (asvicedean.academic@usask.ca) 	Date
--	------


Please submit the completed form with your completed curricular proposal.
If you have any questions, please contact: challenge.coordinator@artsandscience.usask.ca



This form is for curricular proposals **originating outside the College of Arts and Science** and is intended to be used when another College is proposing a change that may impact a department/program within the College of Arts and Science or the College as a whole. Its completion confirms that appropriate consultation has occurred with Arts and Science at both the department and college level, and that the proposed changes are supported. If multiple departments need to be consulted, a separate form is required for each.

Proposer Information (name and email):	
College of Proposer:	Challenge Contact:
College being Consulted: ARTS AND SCIENCE	Challenge Contact: Alexis Dahl
Subject of consultation:	
Summary (rationale, academic implications, projected enrollment, and financial implications.) Please attach completed catalogue entry when submitting this form.	

Department Approval

Department/Program	
Department Head Signature	Date
	March 27, 2026

Arts and Science College Approval

Vice Dean Academic Signature (asvicedean.academic@usask.ca)	Date
	April 6, 2026


Please submit the completed form with your completed curricular proposal.
If you have any questions, please contact: challenge.coordinator@artsandscience.usask.ca



This form is for curricular proposals **originating outside the College of Arts and Science** and is intended to be used when another College is proposing a change that may impact a department/program within the College of Arts and Science or the College as a whole. Its completion confirms that appropriate consultation has occurred with Arts and Science at both the department and college level, and that the proposed changes are supported. If multiple departments need to be consulted, a separate form is required for each.

Proposer Information (name and email):	
College of Proposer:	Challenge Contact:
College being Consulted: ARTS AND SCIENCE / MEDICINE	Challenge Contact: Alexis Dahl
Subject of consultation:	
Summary (rationale, academic implications, projected enrollment, and financial implications.) Please attach completed catalogue entry when submitting this form.	

Department Approval

Department/Program	
Department Head Signature 	Date

Arts and Science College Approval

Vice Dean Academic Signature (asvicedean.academic@usask.ca) 	Date
--	------

Please submit the completed form with your completed curricular proposal.
If you have any questions, please contact: challenge.coordinator@artsandscience.usask.ca

Consultation with the Registrar (CWR) – Proposal Highlights

Title of Proposal: Admission Requirements – Revisions to Admission Prerequisites for Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) program

General Description:

To better align with other Pharm.D.-granting universities in the country and to improve enrolment opportunities at USask, the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition proposes some changes to the courses required for admission to the Pharm.D. program. The changes apply to Biomedical Sciences, Chemistry, Statistics, and English courses as detailed in the proposal.

College Approval: Pending the approval of the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition Faculty Council on May 11, 2026.

Provost’s Office Review: The Provost’s Office supports the proposal.

Effective Term: 2028-2029 application cycle

Course implications

- N/A

Registration and classes

- N/A

Convocation

- N/A

Financial and Budget

- N/A

Student Mobility

- N/A

Catalogue Changes

Course Subject	Credit Units Required	USask Course
Biology	6	BIOL 120.3 and BIOL 121.3
General chemistry	3 6	CHEM 112.3 and CHEM 115.3
Organic chemistry	6 3	CHEM 250.3 and CHEM 255.3
English	6	Two of ENG 111.3, 112.3, 113.3, 114.3 or ENG 110.6 6 credit units of English
Biochemistry	6 3	BMSC 200.3 and BMSC 230.3
Physiology	6	BMSC 207.3 and BMSC 208.3
Mathematics (Calculus)	3	MATH 125.3 or MATH 104.3
Statistics	3	STAT 246.3 STAT 244.3 (or equivalent) or STAT 245.3 (or equivalent)
Microbiology	3	BMSC 210.3
Nutrition	3	NUTR 120.3
Indigenous learning ¹	3	INDG 107.3 or equivalent
Electives	12	3 credit units from psychology, sociology, or philosophy; 9 unrestricted credit units

Academic Programs Committee (APC) Annual Report for Information

Presented by: Paul Jones
Date of meeting: June 11, 2026

SUMMARY

The Academic Programs Committee (APC) serves as the primary decision-making body of Council, responsible for reviewing and approving curriculum changes, new programs, program terminations from all colleges and making recommendations to Council. It also oversees policies related to students and academic programs. The committee engaged in collaborative dialogue and offered constructive feedback to proponents. The committee also finished a two-year project on refining submission documentation which drastically decreased the amount of materials for review.

APC met on 13 occasions throughout 2025-26. The Chair of APC also served on the Governance and Executive Committees of Council.

MEMBERSHIP

ELEVEN MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ACADEMIC ASSEMBLY, AT LEAST FIVE OF WHOM WILL BE ELECTED MEMBERS OF COUNCIL, NORMALLY ONE OF WHOM WILL BE CHAIR. ONE SESSIONAL LECTURER, ONE GRADUATE STUDENT APPOINTED BY THE GSA, ONE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT APPOINTED BY THE USSU.

Council Members:

Paul Jones (Chair)	School of Environment and Sustainability	2024-2027
Carolyn Augusta	Edwards School of Business	2024-2027
Helen Vandenberg	Nursing	2024-2027
Janet Luimes	Nursing	2024-2027
Roy Dobson	Pharmacy and Nutrition	2025-2028

General Academic Assembly Members:

Jennifer Lang	Arts & Science	2025-2028
Jan Gelech	Arts & Science	2025-2026
Lori McKee	Education	2024-2027
Yannick Tremblay	Medicine	2025-2028
Regina Taylor-Gjevre	Medicine	2024-2027
Valerie Caron	School of Rehabilitation Science	2025-2028

Sessional:

Pearson Ahiahonu

2025

Student Members:

Sunny Bui

GSA (VP Academic & Student Affairs)

Norah Jacob

USSU (VP Academic Affairs)

Ex-Officio:

Salome Ries	Acting Associate Vice-Provost & Registrar
Marjorie Delbaere	Interim Vice-Provost, Students & Learning

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

1. Recommending to Council policies and procedures related to academic programs and sustaining program quality.
2. Evaluating the fit of academic program proposals with university priorities; reviewing financial sustainability of proposals for new academic programs and program deletions; and recommending to Council on new programs, major program revisions and program deletions, including their budgetary implications.
3. Approving minor program changes, including additions of new courses and revisions to or deletions of existing courses and reporting them to Council.
4. Considering outreach and engagement aspects of programs.
5. Consulting with Planning and Priorities Committee on processes and outcomes of academic program review, following consultation with the Planning and Priorities Committee and other Council committees as appropriate.
6. Consulting with Planning and Priorities Committee on proposals for the establishment, disestablishment or amalgamation of any college, school, department or any unit responsible for the administration of an academic program.
7. Consulting with Planning and Priorities Committee on proposed or continuing affiliation or federation of other institutions with the University.
8. Reporting to Council on the academic implications of enrolment plans, changes, and admission standards.
9. Approving the annual academic schedule and reporting the schedule to Council for information and recommending to Council substantive changes in policy governing dates for the academic sessions.
10. Approving minor changes (such as wording and renumbering) to rules governing examinations and reviewing and recommending to Council substantive changes.
11. Recommending to Council classifications and conventions for instructional programs.

12. 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.
13. Consider the priorities of the University, such as Indigenization and internationalization, when assessing current and new academic programs and policies.
14. Carrying out all the above in the spirit of a philosophy of equitable participation and an appreciation of the contributions of all people, with particular attention to rigorous and supportive programs for Indigenous student success, engagement with Indigenous communities, inclusion of Indigenous knowledge and experience in curricular offerings, and intercultural engagement among faculty, staff and students.

Shaping USask's Academic Future

The Academic Programs Committee handled several proposals for new programs, program revisions, academic policy changes, program terminations and adjustments to the academic calendar. The revised workflow processes, including a sign-up sheet for colleges immensely improved the approval process for all stakeholders. Below are all the items brought forward:

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

Terminations

- Graduate Pathways Certificate
- Graduate Certificate in Improving Teaching and Learning
- Graduate Certificate in Foundations for Registered Nurse Specialty Practice
- Postgraduate Degree Specialization Certificate

Admission Changes and Pathways

- Bachelor of Science Dental Hygiene
- Bachelor of Science Dental Therapy
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) and Post-Degree Bachelor of Science in Nursing (PDBSN) Programs
- Doctor of Pharmacy
- Indigenous Language Certificate
- Master of Business Administration
- MSc Pathway for Doctor of Dental Medicine Program (D.M.D)
- MSc Admission Pathway for Mechanical Engineering
- PhD in Nursing
- PhD in Public Policy

New Certificates

- Graduate Certificate in Large Animal Veterinary Specialty Internship
- Graduate Certificate in Improvement Science

- Certificate in Accounting for Decision Making
- Certificate in Foundational Pathways in Arts and Science
- Forest Resources Certificate

Curricular Revisions

- Certificate in Geomatics Revisions
- Geological Engineering Program Revisions
- Ron and Jane Graham School of Professional Development Certificate Name Changes
- Graduate Certificate in Quality Teaching changing to Graduate Certificate of Teaching and Learning in Health Professions Education Name Change

New Programs

- Diploma in Educational Studies
- Master of Science in Periodontology Program

Policies

- New Assessment and Course Delivery Policy

Items for Information

- New Direct Entry PhD Pathway for Biochemistry, Microbiology and Immunology
- 2026-2027 Academic Calendar

In addition to the items noted above, the Academic Programs Committee discussed:

Certificate in Dental Assisting Program Changes, Authorized Leave Placeholder Class, CGPS Main Admission Qualification Changes for PhD Direct Entry Programs, Revisions to Course Challenge Procedures, Revisions to Moribund Course Deletion Procedures, Academic Programs Committee Terms of Reference, Enrolment Strategy Planning, TOEFL Changes- Graduate and Undergraduate, USask Academic Program Review and CASPer situational judgment testing discussions and response back to Council.

UNIVERSITY COURSE CHALLENGE

The University Course Challenge is a process mandated by University Council that allows for efficient collegial review and approval of curricular revisions. University Course Challenge documents are posted on the UCC website at <https://governance.usask.ca/proposals/course-challenge.php>

During the 2025-2026 year, a total of 11 Course Challenge documents will have been posted (August 2025-June 2026). These included new courses, prerequisite changes, course deletions, and program revisions for programs in several colleges and schools.

The University Course Challenge is posted on a regular schedule. Items are posted on approximately the 15th of each month and are considered to be approved by the end of the month if no challenges come forward. The Governance Office facilitated four challenges during the 2025-2026 academic cycle, all of which were resolved at the college level.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

As Chair of APC I express my sincere gratitude to all members of the committee for their dedication to the work of this 'heavy lifting' committee this year. I would also express my gratitude to the members of the Governance Office who have done such a stellar job at supporting the committee in its work.

Respectfully,
Paul Jones, Chair, Academic Programs Committee

REQUEST FOR DECISION

Committee Name: Governance Committee, University Council

Date: June 11, 2026

Presented by: Susan Detmer, Chair, Governance Committee

Subject: Amendments to the Academic Programs Committee Terms of Reference

MOTION

It is recommended by the Governance Committee that Council approve the terms of reference for the Academic Programs Committee in the *Council Bylaws and Regulations* as described in this report, effective July 1, 2026.

SUMMARY

Revisions to the *Council Bylaws and Regulations* require approval by University Council at the recommendation of the Governance Committee of Council. At the May meeting of University Council, the Governance Committee presented notice for the above motion in accordance with the requirement for a 30-day notice period for bylaw changes. Since the time notice was provided and the posting of this report, no questions or concerns were raised to the Governance Office about these changes.

Over the past year, the Academic Programs Committee has undertaken a review of its terms of reference to clarify the role and responsibilities of the committee and to align with current practice.

Discussion on this matter occurred over three committee meetings of the Academic Priorities Committee, and on March 25, 2026 the changes (articulated below) were approved by the committee.

These changes were presented to the Governance Committee at its meeting on May 5, 2026. The Governance Committee endorsed the changes as presented.

SIDE-BY-SIDE COMPARISON

Current	Edits	New
Recommending to Council policies and procedures related to academic programs and sustaining program quality.	Recommending to Council policies and procedures related to academic programs and sustaining program quality (e.g. Assessment Policy , Course Delivery Policy and Admission to Degree Programs Policy).	Recommending to Council policies and procedures related to academic programs and sustaining program quality (e.g. Assessment Policy , Course Delivery Policy and Admission to Degree Programs Policy).
Approving minor changes (such as wording and renumbering) to rules governing examinations and reviewing and recommending to Council substantive changes.	Approving minor changes (such as wording and renumbering) to rules governing examinations and reviewing and recommending to Council substantive changes. to the procedures attached to the Assessment and Course Delivery Policies and recommending substantive changes to Council.	Approving changes to the procedures attached to the Assessment and Course Delivery Policies and recommending substantive changes to Council.

	<p>Evaluating the fit alignment of new academic programs, program deletions and major program revisions academic program proposals with university policy and procedures and considering financial analysis provided by the Strategic Finance Office and endorsement by the Provost. reviewing financial sustainability of proposals for new academic programs and program deletions; and recommending to Council on new programs, major program revisions and program deletions, including their budgetary implications.</p> <p><i>Note: Created a separate point for the recommendation of new programs, deletions and major revisions – see next line.</i></p>	<p>Evaluating the alignment of new academic programs, program deletions and major program revisions with university priorities, policies and procedures and considering financial analysis provided by the Strategic Finance Office and endorsement by the Provost.</p>
N/A	N/A	<p>Recommending to Council new academic programs, program deletions, and major program revisions.</p>
<p>Approving minor program changes, including additions of new courses and revisions to or deletions of existing courses and reporting them to Council.</p>	N/A	N/A
<p>Consulting with Planning and Priorities Committee on processes and outcomes of academic program review, following consultation with the Planning and Priorities Committee and other Council committees as appropriate.</p> <p>Consulting with Planning and Priorities Committee on proposals for the establishment, disestablishment or amalgamation of any college, school, department or any unit responsible for the administration of an academic program.</p>		<p>Consult with Planning and Priorities Committee on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processes and outcomes of academic program review. • Proposals for the establishment, disestablishment or amalgamation of any college, school, department or any unit responsible for the administration of an academic program. • Proposed or discontinuing affiliation or federation of other institutions with the University when academic programs are impacted.

Consulting with Planning and Priorities Committee on proposed or continuing affiliation or federation of other institutions with the University.

Reporting to Council on the academic implications of enrolment plans, changes, and admission standards.

N/A

N/A

Approving the annual academic schedule and reporting the schedule to Council for information and recommending to Council substantive changes in policy governing dates for the academic sessions.

N/A

N/A

Recommending to Council classifications and conventions for instructional programs.

Recommending to Council classifications and conventions for instructional programs e.g. [Academic and Curricular Nomenclature](#), [Certificate and Diploma Guidelines](#), [Micro-credential Guidelines](#), [University Course Challenge Procedures](#), [Moribund Course Procedures](#), [Special Topics Courses](#), [Cross-College Minor Procedures](#)

Recommending to Council classifications and conventions for instructional programs (e.g. Academic and Curricular Nomenclature, Certificate and Diploma Guidelines, Micro-credential Guidelines, University Course Challenge Procedures, Moribund Course Procedures, Special Topics Courses, Cross-College Minor Procedures)

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.

N/A

N/A

Carrying out all the above in the spirit of a philosophy of equitable participation and an appreciation of the contributions of all people, with particular attention to rigorous and supportive programs for Indigenous student success, engagement with Indigenous communities, inclusion of Indigenous knowledge and experience in curricular offerings, and intercultural engagement among faculty, staff and students.

~~In carrying out all the above in the spirit of a philosophy of equitable participation and an appreciation of the contributions of all people, with particular attention to rigorous and supportive programs for Indigenous student success, engagement with Indigenous communities, inclusion of Indigenous knowledge and experience in curricular offerings, and intercultural engagement among faculty, staff and students.~~ [its responsibilities, the Academic Programs Committee will operate in a spirit of respect, equity, inclusion, and belonging, ensuring meaningful](#)

In carrying out its responsibilities, the Academic Programs Committee will operate in a spirit of respect, equity, inclusion, and belonging, ensuring meaningful participation for all members of the university community. The committee affirms its role in shaping academic programs that reflect the university's commitments to EDI, Indigenization, and the creation of learning environments where all learners can thrive.

	<p>participation for all members of the university community. The committee affirms its role in shaping academic programs that reflect the university's commitments to EDI, Indigenization, and the creation of learning environments where all learners can thrive.</p>	
<p>Considering outreach and engagement aspects of programs.</p>	<p>Considering outreach and engagement aspects of programs as appropriate.</p>	<p>Considering outreach and engagement aspects of programs as appropriate.</p>
<p>Consider the priorities of the University, such as Indigenization and internationalization, when assessing current and new academic programs and policies.</p>	<p>Consider the priorities of the University, such as Indigenization and internationalization, when assessing current and new academic programs and policies.</p>	<p>None – wrapped into the new wording of commitment to EDI and Indigenization</p>

CLEAN VERSION

The Academic Programs Committee of University Council is responsible for:

- 1) Recommending to Council policies and procedures related to academic programs and sustaining program quality (e.g. Assessment Policy, Course Delivery Policy and Admission to Degree Programs Policy).
- 2) Approving changes to the procedures attached to the Assessment and Course Delivery Policies and recommending substantive changes to Council.
- 3) Evaluating the alignment of new academic programs, program deletions and major program revisions with university priorities, policies and procedures and considering financial analysis provided by the Strategic Finance Office and endorsement by the Provost.
- 4) Recommending to Council new academic programs, program deletions, and major program revisions.
- 5) Consult with Planning and Priorities Committee on:
 - Processes and outcomes of academic program review
 - Proposals for the establishment, disestablishment or amalgamation of any college, school, department or any unit responsible for the administration of an academic program.
 - Proposed or discontinuing affiliation or federation of other institutions with the University when academic programs are impacted.
- 6) Recommending to Council classifications and conventions for instructional programs (e.g. Academic and Curricular Nomenclature, Certificate and Diploma Guidelines, Micro-credential Guidelines, University Course Challenge Procedures, Moribund Course Procedures, Special Topics Courses, Cross-College Minor Procedures).
- 7) Considering outreach and engagement aspects of programs as appropriate.
- 8) In carrying out its responsibilities, the Academic Programs Committee will operate in a spirit of respect, equity, inclusion, and belonging, ensuring meaningful participation for all members of the university community. The committee affirms its role in shaping academic programs that reflect the university's commitments to EDI, Indigenization, and the creation of learning environments where all learners can thrive.

REQUEST FOR DECISION

Committee Name: Governance Committee, University Council

Date: June 11, 2026

Presented by: Susan Detmer, Chair, Governance Committee

Subject: Amendments to the Research, Scholarly and Artistic Works Committee Terms of Reference

MOTION

It is recommended by the Governance Committee that Council approve the terms of reference for the Research, Scholarly and Artistic Works Committee in the *Council Bylaws and Regulations* as described in this report, effective July 1, 2026.

SUMMARY

Revisions to the *Council Bylaws and Regulations* require approval by University Council at the recommendation of the Governance Committee of Council. At the May meeting of University Council, the Governance Committee presented notice for the above motion in accordance with the requirement for a 30-day notice period for bylaw changes. Since the time notice was provided and the posting of this report, no questions or concerns were raised to the Governance Office about these changes.

The Research, Scholarly and Artistic Works Committee has undertaken a review of its terms of reference to clarify the role and responsibilities of the committee and to align with current practice.

The changes below were approved by the Research, Scholarly and Artistic Works Committee at its meeting on September 11, 2025.

These changes were presented to the Governance Committee at its meeting on May 5, 2026. The Governance Committee endorsed the changes as presented.

CHANGES TO TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Research, Scholarly and Artistic Works Committee of University Council is responsible for:

1. Recommending to Council on issues and strategies to support research, scholarly, and artistic work.
2. Recommending to Council on policies and issues related to research integrity and ethics in the conduct of research, scholarly, and artistic work.
3. Recommending to Council and providing advice to the Vice-President, Research on community engagement and knowledge translation activities related to research, scholarly, and artistic work.
4. Providing advice to the Vice-President, Research and reporting to Council on issues relating to the granting agencies that provide funding to the University.
5. Providing advice to the Vice-President, Research, the Vice-Provost, ~~Teaching, Learning, and Student Experience~~, **Students and Learning** and the Dean of the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies on the contributions of undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to the research activity of the University.
6. ~~Examining~~ **Provide advice on** proposals for the establishment of any institute or centre engaged in research, scholarly, or artistic work at the University **by delegating an RSAW member to serve on the centres subcommittee of** and ~~providing advice to~~ the Planning and Priorities Committee of Council.

7. Receiving annual reports from the Vice-President, Research and the Dean of College of Graduate and Post-Doctoral Studies.
8. Receiving and reporting to Council the University's research ethics boards' annual reports.
9. 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.
10. Considering the priorities of the University community, such as Indigenization and internationalization, when assessing current and new research, scholarly, and artistic work activities.

REQUEST FOR DECISION

Committee Name: Governance Committee, University Council

Date: June 11, 2026

Presented by: Susan Detmer, Chair, Governance Committee

Subject: Nominations to the Nominations Committee

MOTION

It is recommended by the Governance Committee that Council approve the appointments to the Nominations Committee of Council and the chair of the Nominations Committee as outlined in this report.

SUMMARY

The *Council Bylaws and Regulations* charge the Governance Committee with nominating members of Council to the Nominations Committee, including recommending the chair.

The bylaws also indicate that the Nominations Committee is composed of “Ten elected members of Council, not more than three members from Arts and Science and not more than two members from each of the other colleges.”

The members of this committee needing replacement are:

- Marcella Ogenchuk, College of Nursing
- Rachel Engler-Stringer, College of Medicine
- Reza Fotouhi, College of Engineering
- Pierre-François Noppen, College of Arts and Science
- Keith Walker, College of Education
- Craig Wilson, Edwards School of Business

At its meeting on May 26, 2026, the Governance Committee voted to recommend the following appointments to this committee (marked in yellow below), including the appointment of a member to serve as chair:

Member	College or School	Term
Carolyn Augusta (chair)	Edwards School of Business	June 30, 2027
Jamesy Patrick	Law	June 30, 2028
Jason Perepelkin	Pharmacy and Nutrition	June 30, 2028
Lori Bradford	Engineering	June 30, 2028
Paul Jones	SENS	June 30, 2029
Jaswant Singh	WCVN/CGPS	June 30, 2029
Maha Kumaran	University Library	June 30, 2029
Jay Kalra	Medicine	June 30, 2029
Carla Orosz	Arts and Science	June 30, 2029
Chris Todd	Arts and Science	June 30, 2029

The Governance Office issued a call for interest in committee participation, and the results of this helped inform the committee’s decision making on this matter. The committee also attempted to include individuals who are broadly representative of disciplines across the university and to prioritize equity, diversity, and inclusion considerations.

FOR INFORMATION

Committee Name: Governance Committee, University Council

Date: June 11, 2026

Presented by: Susan Detmer, Chair, Governance Committee

Subject: Student Appeals and Misconduct, 2025-2026

BACKGROUND

The Governance Committee has previously requested that the University Secretary report on the nature and number of student appeals under Council's regulations on Student Appeals in Academic Matters, as well as appeals of decisions related to academic misconduct.

SUMMARY OF APPEALS

1. Student Appeals in Academic Matters

From May 1, 2025, to April 30, 2026, there were seventeen applications for appeals in academic matters submitted to the University Secretary. Ten did not proceed to hearings because the appellants did not identify valid grounds of appeal. Three appeals proceeded to hearings before a university appeal board. Of those three appeals, one appeal was dismissed by the appeal board, in one case the appellant was successful, and in one case the appellant was successful on one ground of appeal. Three appeals remain active and are proceeding to hearings before a university appeal board. One appeal was withdrawn by the appellant.

These numbers represent an increase in the number of appeals filed. There were seven applications for appeal in 2024-25 and two applications for appeal in 2023-24.

Appeals are becoming increasingly complex, often involving multiple layers of concerns and challenges between the parties. There has also been an increase in appeals involving allegations that accommodation policies were not properly followed, as well as allegations or concerns relating to discrimination.

2. Appeals of Decisions Related to Academic Misconduct

From May 1, 2025 to April 30, 2026, there were ten applications for appeals of decisions of college hearing boards under the Student Academic Misconduct Regulations. Of the ten applications received, one appeal is proceeding before a university appeal board. Eight applications were dismissed without a hearing because the applicants did not identify valid grounds of appeal. One appeal was withdrawn by the appellant.

The number of appeals is slightly lower than in the previous two years. In both 2024-25 and 2023-24, there were fourteen applications for appeals of decisions of college-level hearing boards filed with the University Secretary.

Under Council's regulations on student misconduct, allegations of academic misconduct are heard first at the college level. In a small number of cases, including at least two this year, matters were redirected back to the appropriate college-level process where the university-level appeal process was not yet appropriate. Since September, the Governance Office received approximately 73 inquiries relating to student conduct and appeals.

FOR INFORMATION

Committee Name: Governance Committee, University Council

Date: June 11, 2026

Presented by: Susan Detmer, Chair, Governance Committee

Subject: Editorial Changes to Council Bylaws

BACKGROUND

The *Council Bylaws and Regulations* enable the Governance Committee to “review and approve editorial (not substantive) revisions to the University Council Bylaws ... and report them to Council on an annual basis.”

This report outlines these editorial changes that were approved by the Governance Committee at its meeting on May 5, 2026. The changes are confined to Part Three, section 1 of the *Council Bylaws and Regulations*: the listing of the degrees, diplomas and certificates offered by the University of Saskatchewan. These changes reflect the changes made to the offerings or names of degrees, diplomas and certificates that have been made over the past year by University Council or the Academic Programs Committee.

ATTACHMENT

- 1) *Council Bylaws and Regulations* – List of Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates Amended

Council Bylaws and Regulations

April 15, 1999 with revisions: September 1999; October 2000; May, September 2001; February, March, June, October, November, December 2002; February, May, June, Sept. 2003; January, May, June, September 2004; January, February, April, June, September 2006; January, May, June, October, December 2007; March, June, October 2008; February, March 2009; May, October 2010; January, February, May, June 2011; March, June, September 2012; January, April, June, December 2013; June, December 2014; January, February, March, May, September 2015; January, February, April, May, November 2016; February, March, August, November, December 2017; April, May, July 2018; September, December 2019; February 2020; May, June, November, 2020; January, October, November 2021; April, May, June 2022, August 2022; Major Revisions and Edits June 2024; June 2025, June 2026



Contents

PART ONE- COUNCIL

I.	CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS AND DUTIES OF COUNCIL	3
II.	ELECTION OF FACULTY MEMBERS TO COUNCIL	4
III.	PROCEDURAL BYLAWS OF COUNCIL.....	5
1.	Quorum for Meetings	5
2.	The Duties of Chair and Vice-Chair	5
3.	Selection and Removal of the Chair and Vice-Chair.....	6
4.	Council Membership.....	7
5.	Council Meetings.....	8
IV.	CONFLICT OF INTEREST	9
1.	Council Proceedings	9
2.	Committees of Council.....	9
3.	Conflict of Interest Defined.....	10

PART TWO- COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

I.	THE COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL	11
1.	Creation and Composition of Council Committees.....	11
2.	Committee Responsibilities.....	13
II.	ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE.....	14
III.	GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE	16
IV.	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	18
V.	NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE	19
VI.	PLANNING AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE	21
VII.	RESEARCH, SCHOLARLY, AND ARTISTIC WORK COMMITTEE.....	24
VIII.	SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE	26
IX.	TEACHING, LEARNING AND ACADEMIC RESOURCES COMMITTEE	27
X.	JOINT COMMITTEE ON CHAIRS AND PROFESSORSHIPS.....	29

PART THREE- COUNCIL REGULATIONS

I.	DEGREES, DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES	30
1.	Degrees.....	30
2.	Honorary Degrees	32
3.	Degree-Level Diplomas and Certificates	32
4.	Non-Degree Level Certificates.....	35

5. Community Level Certificates	35
6. Microcredentials	35
II. AWARDING DEGREES, CERTIFICATES and DIPLOMAS	36
III. CANCELLATION OF DEGREES	36
IV. UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS	36
V. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COLLEGES, SCHOOLS AND DIVISIONS	36
VI. CONSTITUTION AND DUTIES OF FACULTY COUNCILS	41
1. Membership of the Faculty Councils.....	41
2. Roles and Responsibilities of the Faculty Councils.....	41
VII. PROGRAMS OF STUDY.....	43
VIII. ENROLMENT MANAGEMENT.....	43
IX. ADMISSION OF STUDENTS	43
X. EXAMINATIONS, GRADING AND ASSESSMENT OF STUDENTS.....	43
XI. AFFILIATION AND FEDERATION	44

PART ONE - COUNCIL

I. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS AND DUTIES OF COUNCIL

The University of Saskatchewan Act, 1995, S.S. 1995, c. U-6.1 prescribes the constitution, powers, and duties of Council. Section 60 of the *Act* provides that Council is responsible for “overseeing and directing the university’s academic affairs.” Section 61 provides a list of specific matters that fall within the jurisdiction of Council.¹ These include the following: (the list is not exhaustive)

- grant academic degrees, diplomas and certificates of proficiency;
- grant scholarships, prizes, fellowships, bursaries and exhibitions;
- authorize the Board on academic grounds to establish or disestablish a college, school, department, chair or institute;
- authorize the Board on academic grounds to provide for or to dissolve affiliation or federation with another educational institution;
- prescribe curricula, programs of instruction and courses of study;
- prescribe methods and rules for evaluating student performance;
- discipline students for academic dishonesty;
- prescribing academic and other qualifications for admission;
- hear appeals by students or former students concerning academic decisions affecting them;
- prescribe the number of students to be admitted to a college or program;
- review library policies;
- review the physical and budgetary plans for the university and make recommendations respecting those matters to the President or the Board;
- exercise power that the Board or Senate may delegate to it;
- appoint members to committees composed of members of Council and any or all of the Board, the Senate and the General Academic Assembly;
- make bylaws governing election of members;
- make bylaws respecting any matter over which it has jurisdiction;
- make recommendations to the President, the Board or Senate respecting any matter that Council considers to be in the interests of the University;
- do anything that it considers necessary, incidental or conducive to the exercise of its powers to promote the best interests of the University or to carry out the purposes of the *Act*.

¹The exercise of some of these powers is subject to review by the General Academic Assembly and, in some cases, involves the Board of Governors or the Senate.

II. ELECTION OF FACULTY MEMBERS TO COUNCIL

1. The University Secretary will oversee the call for nominations and election of faculty members of Council as provided in section 57(1) of *The University of Saskatchewan Act, 1995*.
2. Per sections 57(2) to (5) of *The University of Saskatchewan Act, 1995*, the academic vice president of the undergraduate students' union, and the academic vice president of the graduate students' association, respectively, shall oversee the elections of student members of Council mentioned in 53(2)(h).
3. Nominations and elections of faculty and student members of federated and affiliated colleges to University Council are delegated to those colleges.
4. The *Act* defines a faculty member as "a person who is employed on a full-time basis by the university or an affiliated or federated college and who serves as a Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, Lecturer, full-time Special Lecturer, full-time Instructor, or Librarian." For the purposes of Council and General Academic Assembly (GAA) membership, faculty members who are appointed on a full-time basis but are on an approved reduced appointment are still eligible to serve. Certain approved leaves also grant eligibility to serve (e.g., sabbatical/administrative leaves, maternity/parental leaves, or educational leaves).
5. A faculty member may choose to stand for election as a college (including the University Library) faculty representative, and/or as a faculty member at large, per Section 53 of *The University of Saskatchewan Act, 1995*. There are two faculty positions per college; there are 54 members at large.

The college representative call for nominations and election will occur first followed by a call for nominations and election for the member at large position.

6. Nominations will be made using the form provided by the Secretary. A nomination will be endorsed by the nominee and will confirm their eligibility and willingness to stand for election.
7. Once the deadline for nominations has passed, the Secretary will conduct elections by making ballots available to all eligible voters.
8. If there are more than two nominations for the college representatives there will be an election for both positions on one ballot.
9. If two or more nominees with the most votes receive the same number of votes, the Secretary will select the elected member from among those nominees by lot.

10. Candidates on the voting list who receive the greatest number of votes are elected to Council effective July 1. Should candidates so elected decline or otherwise be unable to accept a position on Council, at the time of the election such positions shall continue to be filled by those unelected candidates that received the greatest number of votes.
11. If insufficient nominations are received to fill the vacant positions, then those valid nominees whose nominations were received by the deadline will be considered elected by acclamation, and a second call for nominations will be sent.
12. If after the second call for college representative nominations are closed and there is a vacant position, as per Sec 53 of the *Act*, the dean shall be a college representative. If there is more than one vacant position, then the dean shall also ensure another college faculty member is appointed.
13. If after the second call for faculty members at large nominations are closed and there are vacant positions, the Nominations Committee of Council will be asked to appoint faculty members to fill the vacant positions for a one-year term.
14. A vacancy on Council for a college representative or a faculty member at large shall be filled by an election held within 90 days of the vacancy, if the vacancy occurs within 27 months of that member being elected. A vacancy arising after that time shall be filled at the next annual election. Council members taking sabbatical, administrative or other leaves of greater than six months, will be filled equivalent to the length of the leave during the annual election. In the event a member decides to serve during their leave, a replacement is not required. Members may complete their term upon return from their leave if still within their elected time frame.

III. PROCEDURAL BYLAWS OF COUNCIL

1. Quorum and Voting for Meetings

- (a) The quorum for regular and special meetings will be 40%.
- (b) Council will use the majority of votes cast (as defined in Kerr and King, 3rd ed.) as the default method of calculating a majority during Council votes unless otherwise explicitly stated in the bylaws or procedures.

2. The Duties of Chair and Vice-Chair

- (a) The duties of the Chair will be carried out by the Vice-Chair when, for any reason, the Chair is unable to discharge these duties.

- (b) If the Vice-Chair is required to act as Chair for more than one month, the Nominations Committee shall present to Council for approval the name of a person to be acting Vice-Chair until the Vice-Chair is able to resume the position of Vice-Chair.
- (c) If the Chair, the Vice-Chair, and the acting Vice-Chair are all unable to discharge the duties of the Chair, the Governance Committee shall name a member of Council to serve as Chair for a specified period of time.
- (d) The Chair will preside over all meetings of Council. The Chair's duties are to preserve order and decorum and, subject to appeal, to decide all questions of order and other questions as provided in these bylaws.
- (e) The Chair will prepare a draft agenda for each meeting of Council and will present it for approval at the meeting.
- (f) The Chair will not vote on a motion before Council except when there is an equal number of voting members supporting and opposing the motion.
- (g) The Chair may seek the guidance and assistance of the governance committee with respect to matters pertaining to the role of the Chair.
- (h) The Chair will be the spokesperson for Council in communications with the Board, the Senate, the General Academic Assembly, and the public. In this respect, the role of the Chair is to explain the activities and to communicate the policies of Council.

3. Selection and Removal of the Chair and Vice-Chair

- (a) The Chair and Vice-Chair will be selected as hereinafter provided.
- (b) At least 14 days prior to the deadline for nominations, the Secretary will inform all members of Council that nominations for the position of Chair are being requested and will provide a nomination form for this purpose.
- (c) A Council member is nominated for the position of Chair when the nomination form referred to in (b) containing the consent of the nominee is endorsed by three members of Council and returned to the Secretary on or before the date specified by the Secretary. The nomination form will contain a brief description of the nominee stating the nominee's qualifications for the position of Chair of Council.
- (d) At least seven days prior to the deadline for voting, the Secretary will provide to all members of Council a ballot setting out the names of the nominees and the brief description of each nominee referred to in (c).

- (e) All ballots received by the Secretary on or before the date referred to in (d) will be reported by the Secretary to the next meeting of Council. The Chair of the Governance Committee will determine whether an irregular ballot will be counted and the effect of any other election irregularities. The Chair's decision will be final.
- (f) In the event that the two or more nominees with the most votes receive the same number of votes, the Chair of the Governance Committee will select the Chair by lot.
- (g) In the event that no nominations are received by the deadline for nominations for Chair, a second call for nominations will be sent. If the second call for nominations does not elicit a nomination, then the Nominations Committee will be asked to nominate a member of Council to serve as Chair for a one-year term, and a call for nominations will go out the following year.
- (h) If necessary, the Secretary will allow adequate time for the second nomination period and will communicate these timelines to the Governance Committee.
- (i) The Nominations Committee will nominate a member of Council to serve as Vice-Chair.
- (j) The Chair and Vice-Chair will normally hold office for a period of 2 years.
- (k) Council may remove the Chair or Vice-Chair by a vote of 2/3 of the members of Council present and voting.
- (l) If the Chair is unable to discharge the duties associated with the position for three months, the Governance Committee will present a motion to a meeting of Council asking for the removal of the Chair. A vote of 2/3 of the members of Council present and voting shall be necessary for the passage of such a motion. In the event such a motion is passed, an election will be held for a new Chair according to the procedures laid out in these bylaws.

4. Council Membership

- (a) Annual elections for Council will be completed by March 31. Changes to deadlines and timelines regarding elections, should they be necessary, shall be determined by the Governance Committee in consultation with the University Secretary.
- (b) Term of office for Council membership begins July 1 of the year of the member's election or appointment, other than student members.
- (c) Terms of student members will be one year beginning May 1.
- (d) When a person appointed to Council under Section 53 (2)(c)(ii) of the *Act* ceases to be a Dean, the acting Dean or a new Dean appointed during the term of the incumbent Dean will occupy the position of Dean with voice and vote until the expiration of the incumbent Dean's term on

Council when a new election or appointment occurs.

- (e) A vacancy occurs on Council when:
 - I. a member resigns from Council by submitting their intentions in writing to the Secretary;
 - II. a member ceases to be an employee of the University, or
 - III. a member is unavailable to attend meetings of Council for a period of greater than six months during their term.

- (f) All Council members, other than ex officio members, are also members of the student academic hearing and appeals committee, from which representatives for student disciplinary and appeal boards are selected. Members may decline to serve on a board when asked.

5. Council Meetings

- (a) Council meetings will be open except when Council decides to have them closed.

- (b) Council will meet monthly during the academic term (September - June) except in February. The Chair can call a meeting during a month when a meeting is not normally scheduled.

- (c) Attendees at Council meetings are expected to refrain from unauthorized audio or video recording of the proceedings and to respect the rulings of the Chair.

- (d) Special meetings of Council can be called by the Chair or by petition of 20% of the members of Council.

- (e) A motion to amend the Bylaws will be preceded by a notice of motion presented in writing to the members not less than 30 days prior to the date of the meeting at which the motion is considered.

- (f) Except as provided in Bylaws (e) and (i), a motion will be preceded by a notice of motion presented in writing to the members of Council not less than 10 days prior to the date of the meeting at which the motion is to be considered. This bylaw applies only to a motion dealing with a substantive matter which requires consideration by members of Council prior to the meeting at which the motion is presented. Whether or not a motion falls within this bylaw will be determined by the Chair.

- (g) The requirement of bylaw (f) may be suspended upon vote of two-thirds of the members present and voting at a meeting.

- (h) A recommendation to Council contained in a committee report is deemed to be a notice of motion if the report containing the recommendation is included with the agenda of the meeting at which the report is considered.
- (i) In the event of an emergency situation as declared jointly by the President and Chair of Council or their respective delegates, if Council is unable to meet or attain quorum, Council may decide urgent matters by alternative means. Procedures governing such decisions are the responsibility of the Governance Committee.
- (j) The meetings of Council and of committees of Council will be conducted in accordance with the rules of order contained in Procedures for Meetings and Organizations, Third Edition by Kerr and King.
- (k) Unless Council decides otherwise, the secretary of Council meetings shall be the University Secretary, or a member of the University Secretary's office as designated by the University Secretary.

IV. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

1. Council Proceedings

- (a) It is necessary to distinguish between the roles of the "representative" members of Council, on the one hand, and the "at large" and ex officio members, on the other, with respect to their obligations to bring pertinent information to Council or to committees of Council and to report back to their constituents. However, there is no distinction with respect to the exercise of judgment and decision-making in Council meetings and in deliberations of a committee of Council. Members of Council and members of committees of Council will have as their principal concern the welfare of the University community. They will exercise independent judgment and may not act as agents of any person or organization.
- (b) There are no restrictions on the rights of a Council member to participate in debate and to vote on any matter that comes before Council. However, a Council member who has a conflict of interest with respect to a matter that comes before Council will disclose the conflict when speaking on the matter in Council proceedings.

2. Committees of Council

- (a) A member of a committee of Council will conduct themselves so as to avoid conflict of interest or the appearance of conflict of interest.

- (b) A member of a committee will disclose and identify any conflict of interest or perceived conflict of interest affecting that member.
- (c) Sessional Lecturer members cannot also be full-time employees in another bargaining unit.
- (d) A member of a committee will abstain from voting in committee proceedings on matters on which they have a conflict of interest. When appropriate, the member will withdraw from all committee deliberations with respect to the matter.
- (e) The Chair or a member of a committee will be entitled to raise the question of whether another member has a conflict of interest or perceived conflict of interest on a matter before the committee.
- (f) The Chair or a member of a committee is entitled to ask another member who has or is perceived to have a conflict of interest to withdraw from the deliberations of the committee and/or to refrain from voting on a matter before the committee.
- (g) If a request referred to in paragraph (e) to withdraw from the deliberations of the committee or to refrain from voting on a matter before the committee is denied by the member to whom the request is directed, the fact that the request was made and was denied will be recorded in that portion of the committee's report relating to the matter.

3. Conflict of Interest Defined

A conflict of interest exists for a member of Council or a member of a Council committee when, with respect to a matter being considered by Council or the committee:

- (a) the decision being made is such that the member could not reasonably be expected to exercise independent judgment because of the effect the decision would or would be likely to have on the member or a person closely related or closely associated with the member; or
- (b) as a result of occupying a position or holding an office in an organization, the person is legally obligated to subordinate the interests of the University to the interests of the organization when dealing with the matter.

PART TWO – COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

I. THE COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

1. Creation and Composition of Council Committees

- (a) Council has the statutory power to establish committees to facilitate its work. There is no requirement that these committees be composed entirely of Council members². Council is also empowered to appoint members of joint committees involving the Board, the Senate or the General Academic Assembly.
- (b) The Governance Committee will nominate the members and Chair of the Nominations Committee.
- (c) The Nominations Committee will nominate members, including the Chairs, of Council committees. Chairs of Council committees will appoint their vice chairs. Except where the chair is required to be a member of Council, the Nominations Committee shall first consider Council members for the position of Chair and if a suitable nominee cannot be obtained, then the Chair will be selected from the General Academic Assembly members.
- (d) The Nominations Committee will present its nominations to Council by the final Council meeting of the year, and otherwise as required when vacancies occur.

It is the responsibility of the Nominations Committee of Council to present a slate of candidates for all committee positions except the Nominations Committee itself. The Committee will take into consideration the abilities and experience of the proposed nominees and the balance of representation from the various sectors of the campus, as well as equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI). It will review the names of potential nominees submitted by faculty, Department Heads and Deans and if necessary canvas additional individuals in order to develop an able, representative slate.

The Nominations Committee will present the slate to Council with sufficient names to fill the available positions. The Chair of Council will call for any further nominations from the floor. If there are none, the slate will be elected. If there are nominations from the floor there will be an election held within two weeks. The election will be held only for those committees that have received nominations exceeding the available positions. The ballot will be prepared and

²The only statutory restriction on the committee structure is prescribed by section 61(2) of the Act which requires that a committee established to discipline students or hear appeals with respect to student discipline must contain members of Council who are students.

distributed by the University Secretary. The ballot will include the names of the slate presented by the Nominations Committee and the nominations from the floor indicating the Council status of each. It will indicate the positions to be filled and the eligibility requirements for the positions. Voters will indicate choices up to the number of positions available. Eligible candidates with the greatest number of votes will be declared elected.

- (e) The President and the Chair of Council are *ex officio*, non-voting members of all Council committees. They are not counted when determining the quorum of a committee meeting unless otherwise stated.
- (f) An *ex officio* member may designate an individual to serve in their place on a committee of Council with the same powers as the designator. Such designations shall last for twelve months and are subject to renewal. In the event that the individual is unable to complete the full term, another individual can be designated in their place. To initiate the designation, the *ex officio* member will inform the Chair of Council and the Chair of the committee involved. During the period of designation, the *ex officio* member who initiated the designation may still attend the Committee meeting from time to time with a voice but no vote.
- (g) The USSU and GSA will name their appointees to Council committees for the year from May 1 to April 30.
- (h) Resource officers and offices providing administrative support are non-voting members of the committees and are not counted when determining the quorum of a committee meeting.
- (i) Terms of office for Council committee members will begin July 1 unless otherwise provided by the Nominations Committee, except for student committee members whose terms of office will begin May 1.
- (j) The term of office of a faculty member of a standing committee is normally three consecutive years, unless otherwise specified by the Nominations Committee to ensure regular turnover on Council committees. Terms are renewable once for up to an additional three years, for a maximum of six consecutive years of service. Once the maximum term of service has been reached, one year must lapse prior to the commencement of a new term on that same committee. The term of office of the Chair will be one year, renewable annually for up to two additional one-year terms. Once the Chair has served for a maximum of three consecutive years of service, one year must lapse before the member may serve as Chair of that same committee. The renewal of the Chair is subject to the six consecutive years of service a faculty member may serve on a standing committee. For greater certainty, the maximum six years of consecutive service limitation does not apply to *ex officio* members of a committee.
- (k) The terms of student and Sessional Lecturer members will be one year.
- (l) When a committee member is appointed as a member of Council, if there is a GAA vacancy on said committee their term on the committee may be completed if they cease to be a member of

Council provided they are and remain a faculty member, at the discretion of the Nominations Committee. This excludes the Nominations Committee and the voting members of the Governance Committee, whose membership is restricted to Council members.

- (m) In the event of a vacancy on a Council committee of greater than six months, the vacancy will be filled so that the balance between Council and General Academic Assembly members on the committee of the bylaw is maintained.

2. Committee Responsibilities

- (a) All standing committees will meet and report to Council at least once each academic year.
- (b) Standing committees may create subcommittees, including subcommittees composed of persons who are not members of Council.
- (c) The quorum for standing committee meetings is a majority of the voting members.
- (d) Unless a motion of Council specifically provides otherwise, all recommendations of committees will be brought to Council for approval or change. Generally, committee recommendations are presented to Council in the form of reports.
- (e) Council has statutory power to make recommendations to the President, the Board, or the Senate respecting matters that Council considers to be in the interests of the University. A matter may be referred to a Council committee by Council to develop recommendations to be presented to the President, the Board, or the Senate.
- (f) The constitutional structure of the University provides for shared jurisdiction over matters. Consequently, it may be necessary for the President, acting as the chief administrator of the University, or the Board to seek the advice or assistance of a Council committee with respect to a particular matter. The power of a committee to provide advice or assistance to the President or the Board is specified in Part Two of these Bylaws or will be given by Council. The advice and assistance will not contradict or conflict with the Bylaws of Council.
- (g) A committee that provides advice and assistance pursuant to clause (e) will report to Council the general nature of the advice. However, the Committee need not report to Council on matters the disclosure of which would be inimical to the interests of the University. These matters will be disclosed to the governance committee at the request of the Chair of Council.

II. ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Membership

Eleven members of the General Academic Assembly, at least five of whom will be elected members of Council, normally one of whom will be chair.

One Sessional Lecturer*

One undergraduate student appointed by the USSU

One graduate student appointed by the GSA

Ex Officio Members

Vice-Provost, Students and Learning

University Registrar

Vice-President, Administration and Chief Operating Officer or designate (non-voting member)

President (non-voting member)

Chair of Council (non-voting member)

Resource Officers (Non-voting members)

Resource Officers are to be identified at the end of each academic cycle for the following year (May committee meetings) by the Committee, and in consultation with the Governance Office.

*If there is no immediate interest in the Sessional Lecturer position, it will remain vacant.

Committee Coordination

Governance Office

The Academic Programs Committee is responsible for:

- 1) Recommending to Council policies and procedures related to academic programs and sustaining program quality.
- 2) Evaluating the fit of academic program proposals with university priorities; reviewing financial sustainability of proposals for new academic programs and program deletions; and recommending to Council on new programs, major program revisions and program deletions, including their budgetary implications.
- 3) Approving minor program changes, including additions of new courses and revisions to or deletions of existing courses and reporting them to Council.
- 4) Considering outreach and engagement aspects of programs.
- 5) Consulting with Planning and Priorities Committee on processes and outcomes of academic program review, following consultation with the Planning and Priorities Committee and other Council committees as appropriate.

- 6) Consulting with Planning and Priorities Committee on proposals for the establishment, disestablishment or amalgamation of any college, school, department or any unit responsible for the administration of an academic program.
- 7) Consulting with Planning and Priorities Committee on proposed or continuing affiliation or federation of other institutions with the University.
- 8) Reporting to Council on the academic implications of enrolment plans, changes, and admission standards.
- 9) Approving the annual academic schedule and reporting the schedule to Council for information and recommending to Council substantive changes in policy governing dates for the academic sessions.
- 10) Approving minor changes (such as wording and renumbering) to rules governing examinations and reviewing and recommending to Council substantive changes.
- 11) Recommending to Council classifications and conventions for instructional programs.
- 12) 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.
- 13) Consider the priorities of the University, such as Indigenization and internationalization, when assessing current and new academic programs and policies.
- 14) Carrying out all the above in the spirit of a philosophy of equitable participation and an appreciation of the contributions of all people, with particular attention to rigorous and supportive programs for Indigenous student success, engagement with Indigenous communities, inclusion of Indigenous knowledge and experience in curricular offerings, and intercultural engagement among faculty, staff and students.

III. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Membership

Three elected members of Council, one of whom will be Chair

A GAA member of Council appointed by the President

Chair of Council

Chair, Academic Programs Committee of Council or APC committee designate*

Chair, Planning and Priorities Committee of Council or PPC committee designate*

Ex Officio Members (non-voting)

University Secretary

President

Student members (non-voting unless the appointed member is a member of Council)

GSA President or designate

USSU President or designate

*Should the chair of this committee not be a member of Council, a committee designate who is a member of Council will be named.

Committee Coordination

Governance Office

The Governance Committee is responsible for:

- 1) Reviewing the Bylaws of Council and recommending to Council revisions to the Bylaws.
- 2) Reviewing the Bylaws of Faculty Councils and recommending to University Council, Colleges, and Schools changes to their Bylaws.
- 3) Reviewing the membership, powers, and duties of committees of Council and recommending to Council revisions to the membership, powers and duties of committees.
- 4) Recommending to Council regulations and procedures for Council and Council committees.
- 5) Advising the University Secretary (or designate) on matters relating to faculty councils and University Council elections.

- 6) Advising Council with respect to its responsibilities and powers under *The University of Saskatchewan Act, 1995* and recommending to Council on proposed changes to the Act.
- 7) Nominating the members and chair of the Nominations Committee of Council to University Council.
- 8) Providing advice to the Chair of Council on the role of the Chair.
- 9) Recommending to Council rules and procedures, including the penalties as prescribed by section 61(1)(h) of *The University of Saskatchewan Act, 1995*, to deal with allegations of academic misconduct on the part of students.
- 10) Recommending to Council rules and procedures to deal with appeals by students and former students concerning academic decisions affecting them as provided in section 61(1)(j) of *The University of Saskatchewan Act, 1995*.
- 11) 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.
- 12) Reporting and recommending to Council on University policies that are within the purview of Council and/or the joint purview of the University's governing bodies.
- 13) To review and approve editorial (not substantive) revisions to the University Council Bylaws (e.g., corrections to title changes for senior administrative positions, spelling, formatting, proofing...), and report them to Council on an annual basis. Such revisions will not change the reading of the Bylaws, their potential interpretations, meanings, or significance.

IV. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Membership

Chair of Council, who shall be Chair

Vice-Chair of Council

Chairs of Council Committees

Ex Officio Members (non-voting)

University Secretary

President

Committee Coordination

Governance Office

The Executive Committee is responsible for:

- 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.

V. NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Membership

Ten elected members of Council, not more than three members from Arts and Science and not more than two members from each of the other colleges, one of whom will be Chair.

Ex Officio Members (non-voting)

President

Chair of Council

Committee Coordination

Governance Office

The Nominations Committee is responsible for:

- 1) Nominating members of the General Academic Assembly (GAA) and Council to serve on all standing and special committees of Council, other than the Nominations Committee, and nominating the Chairs of these committees.
- 2) Nominating members of Council or the GAA to serve on other committees on which Council or GAA representation has been requested.
- 3) Nominating individuals to serve as Chair and/or Vice-Chair of Council, or as members of Council, as required, in accordance with the Bylaws.
- 4) Nominating Sessional Lecturers to Council committees as required.
- 5) Nominating eligible members of the General Academic Assembly to serve on appeal and review committees as required by the Collective Agreement with the University of Saskatchewan Faculty Association.
- 6) Nominating individuals to serve on search and review committees for senior administrators.
- 7) Designating individuals to act as representatives of a Council Committee on any other bodies, when requested, where such representation is deemed by the Committee to be beneficial.

Notes:

- (a) Members of the Nominations Committee will be permitted to serve on other Council committees.
- (b) To the greatest extent possible the Nominations Committee should attempt to ensure that no member of Council or the General Academic Assembly serves on more than one of the following

committees: Academic Programs Committee or Planning and Priorities Committee.

- (c) Members of affiliated and federated colleges may not serve on the Planning and Priorities Committee.
- (d) To the greatest extent possible, the Nominations Committee should attempt to include on committees members who are broadly representative of the disciplines of the University.
- (e) The Nominations Committee will solicit nominations widely from Council and the General Academic Assembly.
- (f) The term of office of a faculty member of a standing committee is normally three consecutive years, unless otherwise specified by the Nominations Committee so as to consider regular turnover, the composition of committee membership, and the alignment of Council terms.
- (g) The Nominations Committee will nominate term replacements for Council Committee members taking sabbatical, administrative or other leaves of greater than six months, equivalent to the length of the leave. In the event a member decides to serve during their leave, a replacement is not required. Members may complete their term upon return from their leave if still within their elected time frame.
- (h) Nominees will be selected for their experience, demonstrated commitment and/or their potential for a significant contribution to committee functions.
- (i) In nominating individuals to Council and other university committees, a full consideration will be given to achieve equity, diversity, and inclusion in representation. The Nominations Committee of Council will revise and adapt its approach to fulfilling this commitment on a regular basis.

VI. PLANNING AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE

Membership

Eleven members of the General Academic Assembly, at least six of whom will be elected members of Council, normally one of whom will be Chair. At least one member from the General Academic Assembly with some expertise in financial analysis will be nominated.

One Dean appointed by Council

One undergraduate student appointed by the USSU

One graduate student appointed by the GSA

One Sessional Lecturer*

Ex Officio Members

Provost and Vice-President, Academic or designate

Vice-President, Administration and Chief Operating Officer or designate

Vice-President, Research or designate

Vice-Provost, Indigenous Engagement or designate

Chief Financial Officer, Office of the President

President (non-voting member)

Chair of Council (non-voting member)

Resource Officers (Non-voting members)

Resource Officers are to be identified at the end of each academic cycle for the following year (May committee meetings) by the Committee, and in consultation with the Governance Office.

*If there is no immediate interest in the Sessional Lecturer position, it will remain vacant.

Committee Coordination

Governance Office

Quorum for Planning and Priorities Committee meetings is 40%, with at least five members (majority) of the General Academic Assembly as appointed by Council.

The Planning and Priorities Committee (PPC) is responsible for:

- 1) Recommending and reporting to Council on university wide planning and priorities initiatives and review activities in consultation with the President and Senior Administration.
- 2) Undertaking the review and recommending to Council on:
 - (a) Academic plans & priorities for the university including teaching, learning and research, scholarly and artistic works.
 - (b) Community engagement plans & priorities.
 - (c) Matters referred to it from other committees.

- (d) Establishment and disestablishment (including through amalgamation or separation) of any college, school, department, or any unit responsible for the administration of an academic program, with the advice of relevant committees of Council.
 - (e) Establishment and disestablishment (including through amalgamation or separation), reorganization, or review of any institute or centre at the university.
 - (f) Affiliation or federation with other educational institutions, or dissolution of such arrangements, in consultation with relevant committees of Council.
- 3) Review the physical and budgetary plans for the university and make recommendations respecting those matters to the President or Board, such as:
- (a) Main elements of the comprehensive budget.
 - (b) Budgetary implications of government funding requests.
 - (c) Operating and capital budgetary matters, including infrastructure and space allocation issues.
 - (d) Administrative structural changes and reorganizations.

The Planning and Priorities Committee will report to Council on the general nature of the feedback and, where practicable, obtain the guidance of Council. However, the Committee need not disclose to Council matters the disclosure of which would be contrary to the interests of the University.

- 4) 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.
- 5) Balancing academic and fiscal concerns in forming its recommendations.
- 6) Proactively supporting equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging as well as a commitment to transformative decolonization leading to reconciliation in all processes and matters coming before the Committee.

Centres Subcommittee

The mandate of the PPC Standing Subcommittee on Centres is to:

- (a) Upon request, provide advice and feedback to existing and prospective centres
- (b) Support and monitor compliance with the Centres Policy and provide recommendations regarding revisions
- (c) Develop and maintain Centres Guidelines
- (d) Advise on the establishment, disestablishment, and reorganization of centres
- (e) Maintain a list of active centres
- (f) Report on and bring recommendations on these issues to PPC

Membership on this subcommittee is as follows:

- Vice Chair of the Planning and Priorities Committee to serve as chair of the subcommittee.
- Two additional members from the Planning and Priorities Committee.
- One member from the Academic Programs Committee.
- One member from the Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Work Committee.
- Five centre directors.

- One representative of the Office of the Provost.
- One representative of the Office of the Vice-President Research.

Terms of centre directors on the subcommittee are for three years, rotating to ensure continuity of membership. Terms of the representatives of Council committees align with their terms on those committees. Quorum of the subcommittee is a majority of voting members.

The Governance Office provides committee coordination for the subcommittee.

VII. RESEARCH, SCHOLARLY, AND ARTISTIC WORK COMMITTEE

Membership

Nine members of the General Academic Assembly, at least three of whom will be elected members of Council, normally one of whom will be chair.

One of the nine members will be an Assistant or Associate Dean with responsibility for research.

One undergraduate student appointed by the USSU

One graduate student appointed by the GSA

Ex Officio Members

Vice-President, Research

Dean of the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

Dean of the University Library or designate

President (non-voting member)

Chair of Council (non-voting member)

Resource Officers (non-voting)

Resource Officers are to be identified at the end of each academic cycle for the following year (May committee meetings) by the Council Committee, and in consultation with the Governance Office.

Committee Coordination

Governance Office

The Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Work Committee is responsible for:

- 1) Recommending to Council on issues and strategies to support research, scholarly, and artistic work.
- 2) Recommending to Council on policies and issues related to research integrity and ethics in the conduct of research, scholarly, and artistic work.
- 3) Recommending to Council and providing advice to the Vice-President, Research on community engagement and knowledge translation activities related to research, scholarly, and artistic work.
- 4) Providing advice to the Vice-President, Research and reporting to Council on issues relating to the granting agencies that provide funding to the University.
- 5) Providing advice to the Vice-President, Research, the Vice-Provost, Teaching, Learning, and Student Experience, and the Dean of the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies on the contributions of undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to the research activity of the University.

- 6) Examining proposals for the establishment of any institute or centre engaged in research, scholarly, or artistic work at the University, and providing advice to the Planning and Priorities Committee of Council.
- 7) Receiving annual reports from the Vice-President, Research and the Dean of College of Graduate and Post-Doctoral Studies.
- 8) Receiving and reporting to Council the University's research ethics boards' annual reports.
- 9) 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.
- 10) Considering the priorities of the University community, such as Indigenization and internationalization, when assessing current and new research, scholarly, and artistic work activities.

VIII. SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Membership

Nine members of the General Academic Assembly, at least three of whom will be elected members of Council, normally one of whom will be chair.

Vice-President, Academic of the USSU

Vice-President, Finance of the GSA

An Indigenous representative from the Office of the Vice-Provost Indigenous Engagement

Ex Officio Members

Provost and Vice-President, Academic or designate

Dean of the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies or designate

Vice-Provost, Students and Learning or designate

Vice-President, University Relations or designate (non-voting member)

President (non-voting member)

Chair of Council (non-voting member)

Resource Officers (non-voting)

Resource Officers are to be identified at the end of each academic cycle for the following year (May committee meetings) by the Council Committee, and in consultation with the Governance Office.

Committee Coordination

Office of the Registrar

The Scholarships and Awards Committee is responsible for:

- 1) Recommending to Council on matters relating to the awards, scholarships and bursaries under the control of the University.
- 2) Recommending to Council on the establishment of awards, scholarships and bursaries.
- 3) Granting awards, scholarships, and bursaries that are open to students of more than one college or school.
- 4) Recommending to Council rules and procedures to deal with appeals by students with respect to awards, scholarships and bursaries.
- 5) 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.

IX. TEACHING, LEARNING AND ACADEMIC RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Membership

Eleven members of the General Academic Assembly, at least five of whom will be members of Council, and among the members from the General Academic Assembly there will be some expertise in Indigenous teaching and learning. Normally one of the five members of Council will be appointed Chair of the Committee.

One Sessional Lecturer*

One graduate student appointed by the GSA

One undergraduate student appointed by the USSU

Vice-Provost, Students and Learning or designate

Ex Officio Member (non-voting)

President

Chair of Council

Resource Officers (non-voting)

Resource Officers are to be identified at the end of each academic cycle for the following year (May committee meetings) by the Council Committee, and in consultation with the Governance Office.

*If there is no immediate interest in the Sessional Lecturer position, it will remain vacant.

Committee Coordination

Governance Office

The Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources committee is responsible for

- 1) Commissioning, receiving and reviewing scholarship and reports related to teaching, learning and academic resources, with a view to supporting the delivery of academic programs and services at the University of Saskatchewan.
- 2) Making recommendations to Council and the Planning and Priorities Committee on policies, activities and priorities to enhance the effectiveness, evaluation and scholarship of teaching, learning and academic resources at the University of Saskatchewan.
- 3) Promoting student, instructor and institutional commitments and responsibilities, as set out in the University of Saskatchewan Learning Charter and as reflected in the priority areas of the University of Saskatchewan integrated plans.
- 4) 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.

- 5) The Committee will carry out all of the above in the spirit and philosophy of equitable participation and an appreciation of the contributions of all people. As one of the university's priority areas is Indigenization, this includes rigorous and supportive programs for Indigenous student success, engagement with Indigenous communities, and the creation of learning outcomes tied to Indigenous content and experiences grounded in Indigenous world views. In this context, Indigenous refers to First Nations, Métis and Inuit people of Canada. In addition, the prioritization of internationalization calls the committee to a focus on intercultural and international engagement among students, educators, and staff.

X. JOINT COMMITTEE ON CHAIRS AND PROFESSORSHIPS

Membership

Provost & Vice-President, Academic or designate (chair)

One member of Council appointed by Council

One member of the Board of Governors appointed by the Board

One member of the Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee appointed by Council;

University Secretary or designate;

Vice-President, Research or designate;

Vice-President, University Relations or designate;

Vice-President, Administration and Chief Operating Officer or designate

Committee Coordination

Office of the Vice-Provost, Faculty Relations

The Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships is responsible for:

- 1) Developing and reviewing procedures and guidelines relating to the establishment, funding, and ongoing administration of chairs at the University of Saskatchewan.
- 2) Receiving and reviewing proposals for the establishment of all chairs and Professorships, assessing compliance with university aims and objectives, administrative processes, and financial integrity.
- 3) Recommending to Council the approval of proposed chairs, and subsequently recommending to the Board of Governors that the Board authorize the establishment of chairs and changes to the structure of chairs as may be required from time-to-time.
- 4) Receiving notice of proposed changes to the names of chairs in accordance with the university's policy on *Naming of University Assets*.
- 5) Submitting an annual report to Council and the Board on the activities of the Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships.

PART THREE- COUNCIL REGULATIONS

Introduction

Following are the academic regulations of the University of Saskatchewan enacted by Council. Prior to 1995, these regulations were approved by the University of Saskatchewan Senate. Under *The University of Saskatchewan Act, 1995*, (hereinafter referred to as “the Act”), the authority over these academic regulations was transferred to Council.

Specific instances where procedures are mandated by the Act are identified.

I. DEGREES, DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES

1. Degrees

The following degrees are authorized by Council to be granted by the University:

Graduate Level

Doctor of Education (Ed.D.)

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

Master of Agriculture (M.Agr.)

Master of Arts (M.A.)

Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.)

Master of Chemical Risk Assessment (M.R.A.)

Master of Clinical Pharmacy (M.C.P.)

Master of Education (M.Ed.)

Master of Engineering (M.Eng.)

Master of Environment and Sustainability (M.E.S.)

Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.).

Master of Governance and Entrepreneurship in Northern and Indigenous Areas (M.G.E.N.I.A.)

Master of Indigenous Land-Based Education (M.I.L.B.E.)

Master of International Public Management and Administration (M.I.P.M.A.)

Master of Laws (LL.M.)

Master of Mathematics (M.Math.)

Master of Music (M.Mus.)

Master of Nursing (M.N.)

Master of Occupational Therapy (M.O.T)

Master of Physical Therapy (M.P.T.)

Master of Physician Assistant Studies (M.P.A.S.)

Master of Professional Accounting (M.P.Acc.)

Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.)

Master of Public Health (M.P.H.)

Master of Public Health Nursing (M.P.H.N)

Master of Public Policy (M.P.P.)
Master of Scholarship in Teaching and Learning (M.SoTL.)
Master of Science (M.Sc.)
Master of Speech-Language Pathology (M.S.L.P)
Master of Sustainability (M.Ss.)
Master of Water Security (M.W.S.)

Combined Degrees

Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) and Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.)
Juris Doctor (J.D.) and Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.)

Undergraduate Level

Bachelor of Arts and Science (B.A.&Sc.)
Bachelor of Arts and Science Honours (B.A.&Sc.)
Bachelor of Arts Three-year (B.A.)
Bachelor of Arts Four-year (B.A.)
Bachelor of Arts Honours (B.A.)
Bachelor of Commerce (B.Comm.)
Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.)
Bachelor of Fine Arts Honours (B.F.A.)
Bachelor of Music (B.Mus.)
Bachelor of Music Honours (B.Mus.)
Bachelor of Music in Music Education [B.Mus.(Mus.Ed.)]
Bachelor of Science Three-year (B.Sc.)
Bachelor of Science Four-year (B.Sc.)
Bachelor of Science Honours (B.Sc.)
Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness [B.Sc.(Agbus.)]
Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (B.S.A.)
Bachelor of Science in Animal Bioscience [B.Sc.(An.Biosc.)]
Bachelor of Science (Biomedical Science) Three-Year [B.Sc. (BMSC) Three-Year]
Bachelor of Science (Biomedical Science) Four-Year [B.Sc. (BMSC) Four-Year]
Bachelor of Science (Biomedical Science) Honours [B.Sc. (BMSC) Honours]
Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene [B.Sc.(DH)]
Bachelor of Science in Dental Therapy [B.Sc.(DT)]
Bachelor of Science in Dentistry [B.Sc.(Dent.)]
Bachelor of Science in Engineering (B.E.)*
Bachelor of Science in Food and Nutrition [B.Sc.(F&N)]
Bachelor of Science in Food Industry Management [B.Sc.(FIM)]
Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology [B.Sc.(Kin.)]
Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N)
Bachelor of Science in Nutrition [B.Sc.(Nutr.)]
Bachelor of Science in Renewable Resource Management [B.Sc.(R.R.M.)]
Doctor of Dental Medicine (D.M.D.)
Doctor of Medicine (M.D.)

Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.)
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M.)
Juris Doctor (J.D.)

Combined Degree

Bachelor of Science Kinesiology/Bachelor of Education Combined Degree [B.Sc.(Kin.)/B.Ed.]

2. Honorary Degrees

The following Honorary degrees are authorized by Senate to be granted by the University:

Doctor of Laws, honoris causa - LL.D.
Doctor of Science, honoris causa - D.Sc.
Doctor of Letters, honoris causa - D.Litt.

3. Degree-Level Diplomas and Certificates

The following Degree-Level Certificates and Diplomas are authorized by Council to be granted by the University:

Graduate Level

Postgraduate Diploma
Postgraduate Degree Specialization Certificate
Graduate Certificate in Climate Change, Vulnerability Assessment, and Adaptation Action
Graduate Certificate in Community Energy Finance and Planning
Graduate Certificate in Energy Transitions
Graduate Certificate in Environmental Planning
Graduate Certificate in Financial Management
Graduate Certificate in Foundations for Registered Nurse Specialty Practice
Graduate Certificate in Governance Foundations for Sustainability
Graduate Certificate in Hydrology
~~Graduate Certificate in Improving Teaching and Learning in Health Professions Education~~
Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Nation-Building
[Graduate Certificate in Large Animal Specialty Veterinary Internship](#)
Graduate Certificate in Leadership
Graduate Certificate in Non-Profit Management
Graduate Certificate in One Health
Graduate Certificate in Public Administration
Graduate Certificate in Public Policy Research
~~Graduate Certificate in Quality Teaching in Health Professions Education~~
Graduate Certificate in ~~Rotating~~ Small Animal [Rotating](#) Veterinary Internship

Graduate Certificate in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning
~~Graduate Certificate in Social Economy, Co-operatives, and the Nonprofit Sector~~
~~Graduate Certificate in Specialty Internship in Veterinary Internship~~
[Graduate Certificate in Small Animal Specialty Veterinary Internship](#)
Graduate Certificate in Substance Use Health and Wellbeing
Graduate Certificate in Sustainable Water Management
Graduate Certificate in Sustainability Solutions
[Graduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Health Professions Education](#)
Graduate Certificate in Veterinary Diagnostic Pathology
Graduate Certificate in Water Resources
Graduate Certificate in Water Science

Undergraduate Level

Aboriginal Teacher Associate Certificate
[Certificate in Accounting for Decision-Making](#)
Certificate in Advanced French Language and Culture
Certificate in Advanced Studio Art
Certificate in Applied Gender Justice
Certificate in Astronomy
Certificate in Biological Research
Certificate in Business
Certificate in Catholic Studies
Certificate in Chemistry Foundations I
Certificate in Chemistry Foundations II
Certificate in Classical and Medieval Latin
Certificate in Computing
Certificate in Creative Writing
Certificate in Criminology and Addictions
Certificate in Curation Studies
Certificate in Early Childhood Education
Certificate in Entrepreneurship
[Certificate in Engineering Entrepreneurship - Leading Innovative Teams](#)
[Certificate in Engineering Entrepreneurship - New Product Market](#)
[Certificate in Engineering Innovation and Entrepreneurship](#)
Certificate in Ethics, Justice, and Law
[Certificate in Forest Resources](#)
Certificate in Formal Reasoning
[Certificate in Foundational Pathways in Arts and Science](#)
Certificate in Foundations of Drama
Certificate in Foundations of Studio Art
Certificate in French-English Translation
Certificate in Geology Fundamentals
Certificate in Geomatics
Certificate in Global Health

Certificate in Global Studies
Certificate in Hard Rock Geoscience
Certificate in Human Nutrition
Certificate in Human Nutrition for Internationally Trained Dietitians
Certificate in Indigenous Governance and Politics
Certificate in Indigenous Languages
Certificate in the Study of Indigenous Storytelling
Certificate in Indigenous Studies
Certificate in Intermediate French Language and Culture
Certificate in Intermediate Studio Art
Certificate in Introductory Agriculture
Certificate in Japanese Language and Culture
Certificate in Jazz
Certificate in Jewish and Christian Origins
Certificate in Labour Studies
Certificate in Mathematical Modelling
Certificate in Medical Language
Certificate in Music and Wellbeing
Certificate in One Health
Certificate in Peace Studies
Certificate in Precision Agriculture
Certificate in Professional Communication - Leadership and Negotiation
Certificate in Professional Communication - Persuasive Communication
Certificate in Professional Communication - Technical and Professional Writing
Certificate in Politics and Law
Certificate in Practical and Applied Arts
Certificate in Quantitative Geosciences
Certificate in Queer Theory, Gender Diversity, and Sexualities Studies
Certificate in Religious Literacy
Certificate in Secondary Technical Vocational Education
Certificate in Sedimentary Geography
Certificate in Spanish Language and Culture
Certificate in Speech Development and Diversity
Certificate in Statistical Methods
Certificate in Sustainability
~~Certificate in Technological Innovation~~
~~Certificate in Technical Innovation – Leading Innovative Teams~~
~~Certificate in Technical Innovation – New Product Market~~
Certificate in Ukrainian Studies
Certificate in Urban Design
Certificate in Water Science
Certificate in wîcêhtowin Theatre
Certificate of Leadership in Post-Secondary Education
Indigenous Business Administration Certificate

Internationally Educated Teachers Certificate
Kanawayiketaytan Askiy Certificate
Post-Degree Specialization Certificate
Post-Degree Certificate in English as an Additional Language
Post-Degree Certificate in Education: Special Education

Diplomas

Diploma in Agribusiness
Diploma in Agronomy
[Diploma in Educational Studies](#)
Kanawayihetaytan Askiy Diploma in Indigenous Lands Governance - K.A.I.L.G.
Kanawayihetaytan Askiy Diploma in Indigenous Resource Management – K.A.I.R.M.

4. Non-Degree Level Certificates

The following Non-Degree Level Certificates are authorized by the Provost and Vice-president Academic to be granted by the University:

Certificate in Dental Assisting
~~Certificate in English for Academic Purposes~~
Prairie Horticulture Certificate
Graduate Certificate in Teaching Preparation
~~Graduate Pathways Certificate~~
Graduate Professional Skills Certificate
STEM Accelerator Certificate

5. Community Level Certificates

The following Community Level Certificates are authorized by the Dean of a college (after consultation with the Provost and Vice-president Academic) to be granted by the University:

Master Gardener Certificate
Certified Crop Science Consultant
Arts and Artisanry Certificate

6. Microcredentials

The following microcredentials are authorized by the Dean of a college (after consultation with the Provost and Vice-president Academic) to be granted by the University:

Foundations in Science Communication
Fundamentals of Collaborative Research

II. AWARDING DEGREES, CERTIFICATES and DIPLOMAS

Degrees, Certificates and Diplomas may be conferred at the annual meeting of Convocation or at any other meeting of Convocation. The formal admission of candidates to degrees, certificates and diplomas shall, in the absence of the Chancellor, be made by the President (Vice-Chancellor), or by a member of the Council, appointed for that purpose.

Degrees may be conferred upon persons in absentia.

III. CANCELLATION OF DEGREES

Council may revoke the degree or degrees, diplomas, certificates and distinctions of the university and all privileges connected therewith of any holder of the same for cause or where the conduct of the holder, in the opinion of Council and following due process under the Academic Misconduct regulations, shall constitute a breach of any agreement made with the University as a condition of the conferment of such degree or degrees, diplomas, certificates or distinctions. Council may restore, on cause being shown, any person so deprived to the degree, distinction or privileges previously enjoyed by that person without further examination.

IV. UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

Under section 61(1)(d) of the Act, Council is authorized to grant scholarships, prizes, fellowships, bursaries and exhibitions. Under section 49(1)(i) the Board of Governors provides for the establishment of scholarships, fellowships, bursaries and exhibitions if authorized by Council.

V. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COLLEGES, SCHOOLS AND DIVISIONS

1. In the University the following Colleges and Schools shall be established, namely:
 - The College of Arts and Science
 - The College of Agriculture and Bioresources
 - The College of Law
 - The College of Engineering
 - The College of Pharmacy and Nutrition
 - The College of Education
 - The Edwards School of Business
 - The College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
 - The College of Medicine
 - The Western College of Veterinary Medicine
 - The College of Dentistry
 - The College of Kinesiology
 - The College of Nursing
 - The Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy

The School of Public Health
The School of Environment and Sustainability

(a) Within the College of Medicine, and subject to its oversight, the following school and program shall be established:

The School of Rehabilitation Science

(b) Within the College of Engineering, and subject to its oversight, the following school shall be established:

The School of Professional Development, College of Engineering

(c) Within the College of Arts and Science, and subject to its oversight, the following school shall be established:

The School for the Arts

2. In the University the following Departments and Divisions shall be established, and such other departments as may from time to time be authorized by the Board on the recommendation of Council:

Agriculture and Bioresources

Departments

Animal and Poultry Science
Agricultural and Resource Economics
Food and Bioproduct Sciences
Plant Sciences
Soil Science

Arts and Science

Departments

Anthropology
Art and Art History
Biology
Chemistry
Computer Science
Drama
Economics
English
Geography and Planning
Geological Sciences
History
Indigenous Studies
Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies
Linguistics
Mathematics and Statistics
Music
Philosophy

Physics and Engineering Physics
Political Studies
Psychology and Health Studies
Sociology

Edwards School of Business

Departments

Accounting
Finance and Management Science
Human Resources and Organizational Behaviour
Management and Marketing

Dentistry

No departments

Education

Departments

Curriculum Studies
Educational Administration
Educational Foundations
Educational Psychology and Special Education

Engineering

Departments

Chemical and Biological
Civil, Geological and Environmental
Electrical and Computer
Mechanical

Divisions

Division of Biomedical Engineering

Kinesiology

No departments

Law

No departments

Medicine

Departments

Anesthesiology
Biomedical Sciences
 Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology
 Biochemistry, Microbiology and Immunology
Community Health and Epidemiology
Emergency Medicine
Family Medicine

Medical Imaging
Medicine
Obstetrics and Gynecology
Oncology
Ophthalmology
Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Pediatrics
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
Psychiatry
Surgery

Divisions

Continuing Professional Development
Division of Social Accountability

Nursing

No departments

Pharmacy and Nutrition

Divisions

Pharmacy
Nutrition

Veterinary Medicine

Departments

Large Animal Clinical Sciences
Small Animal Clinical Sciences
Veterinary Biomedical Sciences
Veterinary Microbiology
Veterinary Pathology

3. Under section 49 (1)(k) and (l) of the *Act*, the Board of Governors may provide for the establishment or disestablishment of any college, school, department, chair, endowed chair or institute if authorized by Council.
4. Under section 49(1)(l), the Board may provide for the disestablishment of any college, school, department, chair, endowed chair or institute if authorized by Council on academic grounds. If the Board considers disestablishment necessary because of financial exigency, section 49(2) requires the Board to consult with Council, and section 49(3) restricts implementation of the decision until (a) the Board has reported the decision to Council, and (b) Council has advised the Board respecting the effect of the decision on the academic program of the university or 60 days have passed from the date the Board reported the decision to the Council, whichever is earlier.
5. Under section 62(3)(c), a decision of Council to authorize the disestablishment of any college, school, department, chair, institute or endowed chair is to be reported to the Senate at its next meeting and is not to be implemented until either the Senate confirms the decision or 12 months have passed following the end of the fiscal year in which the decision was made,

whichever is earlier.

6. Under section 23(j), Senate may receive proposals respecting the establishment of any college, school, department, or institute and recommend to the Board and the Council whether or not it should be established. Under section 23(l), Senate may consider and recommend to the Board and the Council whether or not any college, school, department or institute should be disestablished because of lack of relevance to the province.

VI. CONSTITUTION AND DUTIES OF FACULTY COUNCILS

1. Membership of the Faculty Councils

Faculty Councils of all colleges and schools shall include the following (*denotes non-voting members):

- (a) The President of the University*
- (b) The Provost and Vice-President, Academic* or designate
- (c) The Vice-President, Research*
- (d) The Vice-President, Administration and Chief Operating Officer*
- (e) The Vice-President, University Relations*
- (f) The Vice-Provost, Students and Learning*
- (g) The Vice-Provost, Indigenous Engagement*
- (h) Chief Information Officer and Associate Vice-President Information and Communications Technology*
- (i) The Dean of the college, or the Executive Director of the school, when the school is not encompassed within a college
- (j) The Dean of the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies or designate
- (k) The Dean of the University Library or designate*
- (l) The University Secretary or designate*
- (m) The University Registrar or designate*
- (n) Such other persons as University Council may, from time to time, appoint in a voting or non-voting capacity;
- (o) Such other persons as the Faculty Council may, from time to time appoint in a non-voting capacity*
- (p) Those Professors, Associate Professors, Assistant Professors, fulltime Lecturers, Instructors and Special Lecturers who, for administrative purposes, are assigned to the Dean of the college of

The individual College and School Faculty Council memberships are comprised of the members listed above and those specified in their respective Faculty Council Bylaws available at:

<https://governance.usask.ca/governance/governing-documents.php>

The University Secretary, or an assigned deputy, shall act as Secretary of each Faculty Council.

2. Roles and Responsibilities of the Faculty Councils

The Faculty Council of each college or school, subject to the provisions of the *Act*, the Bylaws of University Council and the general control of University Council, shall have charge of matters of scholarship and discipline.

- (a) Among the duties delegated by University Council to the faculty councils are the following:
 - I. To make recommendations to University Council concerning the requirements for admission to programs offered by the college or school;

- II. To establish and report to University Council on the number of students who may be admitted to a college or program of study and to report to University Council on the number of students admitted each year;
 - III. To make recommendations to University Council concerning addition, deletion or modification of courses and programs of study, and concerning the requirements for successful completion of such programs;
 - IV. To establish and publish rules and methods for the progression and graduation of students and for their suspension or requirement to withdraw permanently for failure to meet the requirements for progression;
 - V. Subject to University Council's examination regulations, to establish and publish rules and standards with respect to the assessment and examination of students in courses and programs offered by the college or the school;
 - VI. To make decisions concerning progression of students and concerning their suspension or requirement to withdraw, in accordance with the rules approved by the faculty council, and to hear appeals of such decisions;
 - VII. To approve candidates for degrees, diplomas and certificates;
 - VIII. To approve candidates for scholarships, prizes, and other awards and honours;
 - IX. To establish a mechanism for appointing hearing boards to hear allegations of academic misconduct as provided for under University Council's regulations governing academic misconduct;
 - X. To consider appeals from students in accordance with University Council's regulations governing student appeals in academic matters.
- (b) The Chair or the Secretary of the Faculty Council of any college or school shall transmit to University Council for consideration and review all matters which belong to the care of University Council or which from their nature concern more than one college or school.
- (c) Each Faculty Council shall establish bylaws for the purpose of regulating the conduct of its meetings and proceedings and may establish standing committees and their terms of reference. Authority that has been delegated by University Council to the Faculty Councils, either in accordance with these Bylaws or through policies approved by University Council, may not be further delegated without the permission of University Council.
- (d) Each Faculty Council shall keep a record of its proceedings and this record shall be open to any member of the faculty council. A copy of the proceedings shall, upon request, be furnished by its Secretary to the Chair of University Council and/or to the President of the University.

VII. PROGRAMS OF STUDY

Under section 61(1)(f) of the *Act*, Council is authorized to prescribe curricula, programs of instruction and courses of study in colleges, schools or departments.

Each college or school Faculty Council shall prepare its program or programs of study, including the curriculum for any degree of that college or school, and shall submit them to Council for approval under regulations established for that purpose by Council. Upon the approval of Council, they may be published and go into effect.

VIII. ENROLMENT MANAGEMENT

The University reserves the right to restrict the registration of students in programs, courses and classes. Council delegates to colleges, schools and departments, in consultation with the University Registrar and Vice-Provost, Students and Learning, authority to restrict and to control registration in any or all courses and classes where such restriction is necessary or advisable.

Subject to the approval by Council and confirmation by Senate of a strategic enrolment management plan, Council delegates to colleges and schools the management of enrolment in accordance with the approved plan.

IX. ADMISSION OF STUDENTS

Under section 61(1)(i) and (l) of the *Act*, Council is authorized to prescribe academic and other qualifications required for admission as a student, and to prescribe and limit the number of students who may be admitted to a college or a program of study. Subject to the authority given to Senate under the *Act*, Council will approve admission qualifications for all programs. Upon the approval of Council and subject to any necessary approvals by Senate, these may be published and go into effect.

1. Council may establish policies, regulations and procedures concerning admission of students and granting of credit for prior learning.
2. In accordance with these regulations, Council may delegate to Faculty Councils and/or to the Admissions Office responsibility for setting application deadlines and for the assessment of applications and for making admission offers in accordance with the admission qualifications approved by Council.

X. EXAMINATIONS, GRADING AND ASSESSMENT OF STUDENTS

Under section 61(1)(g) and (j) of the *Act*, Council is authorized to prescribe methods and rules for evaluating student performance, including prescribing examination timetables and the conduct of

examinations, and to hear appeals by students or former students concerning academic decisions affecting them.

1. The examiners of the University shall be:
 - (a) The Professors, Associate Professors, Assistant Professors, Lecturers, Special Lecturers, Sessional Lecturers and Instructors of the University;
 - (b) Such other Lecturers or teachers of the University as Council may appoint;
 - (c) By delegation from Council, such adjunct faculty, professional affiliates, Professors emeriti and external and independent examiners, not included in (a) or (b), as the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies may appoint to serve on graduate studies examining committees and boards for the purpose of assessing candidates for graduate-level degrees and diplomas.
2. Council may establish policies, regulations and procedures concerning the examination, grading and assessment of students and concerning the degrees and distinctions to be conferred by the University, as well as policies, regulations and procedures governing student appeals in academic matters. Such policies, regulations and procedures may include delegation of authority by Council and shall be published and made available to students.
3. Section 23(g) of the *Act* authorizes the Senate to appoint examiners for and make bylaws respecting the conduct of examinations for professional societies or other bodies if the University or any of its agencies is required or authorized by any act to do so.

XI. AFFILIATION AND FEDERATION

1. Under section 61(1)(e) of the *Act*, Council has the power to authorize the Board to provide for affiliation or federation with any educational institution, or the dissolution of any affiliation or federation with any educational institution. Under 62(3)(d), a decision to authorize the dissolution of any affiliation or federation is to be reported to the Senate at its next meeting and is not to be implemented until either the Senate confirms the decision or 12 months have passed following the end of the fiscal year in which the decision was made, whichever is earlier.
2. Under 23(k) and (l), the Senate may receive proposals respecting the affiliation or federation of any educational institution with the university and recommend to the Board and Council whether or not the proposed affiliation or federation should be made. Senate may also consider and recommend to the Board and Council whether or not any affiliation or federation should be dissolved because of lack of relevance to the province.
3. Principles for federation and affiliation with the University of Saskatchewan, which are representative of the current relationships with federated and affiliated colleges, and are the basis for considering future requests, are as follows.
 - (a) Relationships of affiliation or federation should be based on academic interests shared by the University and the candidate institution. Though it is possible to conceive of many

reasons for entering into partnerships or collaborative relationships with other institutions – sharing space or other resources or joining together in government relations initiatives, for example – the particular relationship of affiliation or federation should be founded in common academic goals and interests, such as programming for students or advancing a research agenda.

- (b) Relationships of affiliation or federation should be based on shared support for the University's vision, mission and values. The governing bodies of the University of Saskatchewan have adopted a statement setting out the vision, mission and values that will guide the institution. Though the University cannot require that other institutions are guided by identical values or an identical mission, the university can only enter into relationships of affiliation or federation on terms that are consistent with the values held by the University and the vision it has adopted.
- (c) The University should approach the request for a relationship of federation or affiliation in a spirit of respect for the distinctive history, traditions and achievements of the candidate institution. Though the University should not enter into relationships of affiliation or federation on terms that undermine the stated vision, mission and values of the institution, the University should not demand that an affiliated or federated institution conform in all respects to the University's established practices and procedures. The rationale for creating relationships of affiliation or federation is in part that the University is enriched by the distinctive perspectives brought by the partner institutions.
- (d) The significant elements of a relationship of affiliation or federation should be reflected, insofar as possible, in written agreements. Though strong partnerships are marked by flexibility, informality and vigorous personal connections, it is important that the basic terms to which the partners have agreed are clearly documented in writing.
- (e) Consideration should be given to the reciprocal contributions that can be made by the university and the candidate institution. Though the University is likely to be the larger partner in these relationships, the formation of the partnership should take into account fully the contributions both parties can make to the lives of their respective institutions.
- (f) Provision should be made for regular review of the relationship with the candidate institution. The potential for refreshing and reforming the relationship should be provided for through a regular cycle of reviews. Academic institutions are not stagnant, and their relationships should be examined on occasion to ensure that the goals for the partnerships are being met effectively.
- (g) Consideration should be given to developing clear pathways for students between programs offered by the university and the candidate institution. In keeping with the obligation of post-secondary institutions to support the career aspirations of their students, the question of whether a relationship of affiliation or federation provides an

opportunity to establish academic pathways or ladders for students should be a factor in defining the relationship.

- (h) Consideration should be given to the role the candidate institution might play in the governing bodies of the university. *The University of Saskatchewan Act 1995* provides that affiliated and federated institutions have representation on both Council and the Senate. The partners should consider how this opportunity to participate in university governance can be most effectively deployed. A Council of Affiliated and Federated Institutions (CAFI) will be established to that effect.
- (i) Consideration should be given to whether an alternative form of partnership might be more appropriate. Given the involvement of affiliated and federated institutions in University governance, it is clearly contemplated that these relationships will be of a comprehensive nature. Where the interest of the parties is restricted to individual programs or projects, there may be other forms of relationship that are more appropriate.
- (j) The academic standards and integrity of the candidate institution should be a factor in determining whether the university will enter into a relationship of affiliation or federation. It is important to the university that any candidate institution be able to demonstrate standards of academic attainment and institutional integrity that will be consonant with the level of expectation to which the University holds itself.

4. Affiliation

- (a) The aim of affiliation is to associate with the University for the purposes of promoting the general advancement of higher education in the province, those institutions which are carrying on work recognized as of university grade by Council of the University, where such association is of mutual benefit to the University and the institution seeking affiliation.
- (b) The following theological colleges are affiliated with the University:
 - College of Emmanuel and St. Chad
 - Lutheran Theological Seminary
 - St. Andrew's College
 - Horizon College and Seminary
 - Briercrest Bible College and Biblical Seminary
- (c) The requirements for the affiliation and continued affiliation of theological colleges with the University are:
 - i. That the theological college may offer at least three courses for which credit is given by the University toward a degree.
 - ii. That the normal admission requirements of the theological college be at least equal to those of the University.

- iii. That students who receive the graduation diploma of the college shall normally have a minimum of one year of Arts credit other than theological options beyond senior matriculation.
- iv. That the qualifications of the faculty including graduate work, the expected proportion of holders of PhDs on the faculty, and the adequacy of the library facilities be approved by Council of the University.
- v. That, except in cases of emergency as recognized by Council of the University, the minimum number of full-time students who qualify under regulation (b) above be not less than an average of twelve students per year over any or every period of three consecutive years.
- vi. That, the course of studies leading to the graduate diploma of the college should normally require a period of at least three academic years for completion.
- vii. That an institution which is seeking affiliation with the University of Saskatchewan must institute tenure provisions acceptable to the University but not necessarily equivalent to the University academic tenure regulations.

(d) Gabriel Dumont College of Metis Studies and Applied Research is an Affiliated College with the University.

(e) St. Peter's College is an Affiliated College with the University.

St. Peter's College

Students taking courses at St. Peter's College for university credit must be admitted to the University of Saskatchewan as well as to St. Peter's College. For work done in St. Peter's College, the University may give credit provided that the following conditions are met:

- I. That the courses to be credited to the University are considered by the University to be equivalent in quality to its own courses.
- II. That the offering of each course and the appointment of its instructor are approved by the appropriate official of the University, with the concurrence of the University of Saskatchewan Department Head, Dean or Director concerned.
- III. That the library and other facilities of the College for a given course are judged adequate by the University, with the concurrence of the University of Saskatchewan Department Head, Dean or Director concerned.
- IV. That the final examinations are conducted by examiners appointed or accepted by the University in accordance with university examination regulations; that the examination papers are approved in advance by the University department, faculty, or school concerned, which may also review the marked answer papers before the final results are reported to the University Registrar and Director of Student Services.
- V. That an upper-year student of the University is permitted to register at the College only part-time i.e. for a maximum of two full courses.

- VI. That a student may not receive credit for more than two years (10 courses) of work at the College, of which not more than one year (5 courses) may consist of upper-year courses.
- VII. Colleges which have been or shall be recognized by Council as federated colleges of the University shall be considered to be in affiliation with the University.

5. Federation

- (a) The requirements for recognition as a federated college of the University shall include the following:
 - i. The College must be authorized by the University to give courses recognized for credit toward a Bachelor of Arts degree in the subjects of at least four departments of the College of Arts and Science.
 - ii. The members of the College teaching staff, teaching the above University courses or classes, must possess qualifications sufficiently high to be recognized as members of the Faculty of Arts and Science and shall be so recognized.
 - iii. The College must be situated on or adjacent to the campus at Saskatoon.
- (b) St. Thomas More College is a Federated College with the University.

St. Thomas More College, Saskatoon

St. Thomas More College, Saskatoon, which is hereinafter referred to as the College, shall be recognized as a federated college upon the following terms and conditions:

The officers and faculty of the College, as indicated, are entitled to full membership with power to vote, on the following academic bodies:

The Senate: The President to be a member.

The General Academic Assembly: The Dean, Professors, Associate Professors, Assistant Professors, full-time Lecturers, Special Lecturers and Instructors to be members.

The Council: either two elected representatives, or the Dean and one elected representative. The President to be a non-voting member.

The Faculty Council of the College of Arts and Science: The Dean, Professors, Associate Professors, Assistant Professors, full-time Lecturers, Special Lecturers and Instructors teaching courses recognized for the B.A. or B.Sc. degrees to be members.

Students enrolled in the College who have satisfied the University requirements for admission shall be admitted to such University courses as they are qualified to enter and continue therein on the same terms as other University students, provided the fees required for such courses have been paid. Students enrolled in the University may, with the permission of the College, take courses in the College recognized for the B.A. and B.Sc. degrees provided that the fees required for such courses have been paid. The conditions will apply provided the same tuition fee is required by both the College and the University.

The foregoing provision with regard to the tuition fee for the Arts and Science courses applies to the pre-professional courses.

All students enrolled in a professional college or school must pay the University the full tuition fee required for each year of the professional program, though the University may grant credit for any course or courses taken in the College and accepted by the College of Arts and Science for the corresponding course required in a professional program.

Academic appointments to and promotions within the College shall be made by the Board of Governors of the College, on the recommendation of the President of the College but prior to making such appointments or promotions, the President of the College shall secure the approval of the President of the University.

The University will recognize the instruction given by the College in subjects in the divisions of the humanities and social sciences, and such other subjects as may from time to time be agreed upon with the College of Arts and Science, or other appropriate college, provided that the instruction is given by competent teachers and that the work done in each course is equivalent in extent and standards to that given by the University. This equivalence is to be determined by the Head of the Department in the College and the Head of the Department in the University working out in cooperation the extent of the courses, the standard and all the particulars pertaining to the subjects, including the examinations to their mutual satisfaction or, in cases of difficulties, to the satisfaction of the President of the University.

The University shall confer the B.A. or B.Sc. Degree on such students of the College as have satisfied the requirements prescribed by the University for admission and for the B.A. or B.Sc. curriculum.

FOR INFORMATION

Committee Name: Governance Committee, University Council

Date: June 11, 2026

Presented by: Susan Detmer, Chair, Governance Committee

Subject: Faculty Council Bylaws – Checklist and Template

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2011, the Governance Committee approved of resources for both the Governance Committee and individual faculty councils – a set of guidelines for faculty council bylaws and a template/example set of bylaws. At the time, these resources were sent to both Council and individual faculty councils. However, in the intervening years, these resources fell into disuse and as such faculty councils did not have as fulsome of guidance and resources as they had in the past.

This report reinvigorates these previous efforts and creates resources for use by both individual faculty councils when drafting bylaws and the Governance Committee when reviewing them. A checklist is found in Attachment 1 and a template is found in Attachment 2.

BACKGROUND

The Governance Committee first discussed this issue at its March 3 meeting, with a more general conversation about what – if any – sort of resources should be developed (or redeveloped) to assist the Governance Committee in the review of faculty council bylaws or individual faculty councils in drafting them.

There were two general and related issues under consideration:

- 1) *Lack of Guidance for Governance Committee:* Typically, the information provided to the Governance Committee is a track-changed or side-by-side comparison demonstrating what specific changes have been made and perhaps a memo or message from the college explaining why certain changes were made. However, this process means that – for example – if the current bylaws and the proposed bylaws are both silent on the issue of defining what quorum is (and who is counted in quorum calculations) or if the chair votes or how members call a special meeting, then the current process would require that it be incumbent on the members of the Governance Committee to recognize these shortcomings exist and then to communicate these shortcomings to the college or school.
- 2) *Lack of Resources for Faculty Councils:* Currently, individual faculty councils are not provided with structured resources on drafting their faculty council bylaws or analyzing them for shortcomings or gaps. Although the Governance Office serves as a resource for *ad hoc*, specific questions about faculty council bylaws, colleges and schools are not provided with clear information as to what should be included (and excluded) in such documents.

The Governance Committee was supportive of reinvigorating the efforts made in 2011 to better support both this committee and all faculty councils in developing strong bylaws. This approach was taken because it balances enabling different approaches in colleges or schools to respond to their own dynamics with providing them with support and resources as they go about this work. For example, the checklist outlines that quorum *should* be defined and that the bylaws *should* describe how members may call a special meeting without prescribing exactly what quorum should be (and who should count for it) and what the process for calling a special meeting should be.

At its May 5, 2026 meeting, the Governance Committee endorsed the attached checklist and template and agreed to forward them along to Council and individual faculty councils for information.

NEXT STEPS

Following the receipt of this report by University Council, all individual faculty councils will be provided with the new checklist, the updated template and an explanatory memo. The Governance Office is prepared to address any questions that arise from faculty council leadership and will be hosting a training session for the administrators who oversee faculty councils in the colleges and schools about this matter.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1) Faculty Council Bylaws Checklist
- 2) Faculty Council Bylaws Template

Faculty Council Bylaws Checklist

Council's bylaws say that "each Faculty Council shall establish bylaws for the purpose of regulating the conduct of its meetings and proceedings and may establish standing committees and their terms of reference." [Council Bylaws, Part Three, Section V.2.C.]

The table below is a checklist of items to consider when drafting or reviewing faculty council bylaws.

Section	Checklist and Guidance
Preamble	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do the bylaws state that they are subject to the bylaws, policies, and regulations of University Council? Do the bylaws state that they have precedence over previous resolutions of the faculty council?
Constitutional Powers and Duties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are the constitutional powers and duties aligned with the Council bylaws? <i>Note: This does not have to duplicate the text in the Council bylaws, but should refer to it.</i>
Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the membership of the faculty council aligned with the Council bylaws? <i>Note: This does not have to duplicate the text in the Council bylaws, but should refer to it.</i> Do the bylaws include whether or not faculty members on leave can vote and if they count for quorum?
Appointment and Election of Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do the bylaws specify how members who must be elected or appointed are selected? <i>Note: This must be done for each category: sessional lecturers, undergraduate students, graduate students, professional society representatives, etc.</i> Do the bylaws specify term lengths for elected or appointed members? Do the bylaws contain processes for certain <i>ex officio</i> members to delegate their membership if this delegation is allowed in the Council bylaws?
Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do the bylaws say who serves as chair or how the chair is chosen? If the chair is an elected position, are the term length, eligibility requirements, and election processes outlined? Do the bylaws outline the duties of the chair? Do the bylaws say who serves as vice chair or how the vice chair is chosen? If the vice chair is an elected position, are the term length, eligibility requirements, and election processes outlined? Do the bylaws outline who serves as secretary? Do the bylaws outline the duties of the secretary?
Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do the bylaws outline the frequency of faculty council meetings? Do the bylaws outline the requirements for proper notice for a meeting, such as time requirements and if anything must be provided in the notice (such as an agenda, reports, motions, etc)? Do the bylaws describe how members call a special meeting? Do the bylaws outline quorum requirements for a meeting, including which classifications of members count in the determination of quorum? <i>Note: For example, quorum could be calculated as a percentage or as an absolute number and could count either all voting members or just the voting members who are faculty.</i> Do the bylaws describe how meetings are cancelled or postponed? Do the bylaws specify if non-members are able to speak at meetings? Do the bylaws describe how the faculty council enters a closed (or <i>in camera</i>) session?

Procedures and Voting

- Do the bylaws discuss the means by which substantive motions can be added to the agenda after it has been distributed?
- Do the bylaws outline special parameters for approving Convocation lists?
- Do the bylaws specify what threshold is necessary for a motion to pass?
- Do the bylaws specify if (or when) the chair has voting rights?
- Do the bylaws specify how voting is done, such as by show of hands or through voice vote?
- Do the bylaws allow for electronic voting outside of meetings? If so, are there special requirements of these votes and are there parameters around the use of electronic voting?
- Do the bylaws allow for abstentions or negative votes to be recorded in the minutes?
- Do the bylaws specify which procedural authority is used for matters not covered in the bylaws?

Committees

- Do the bylaws list the standing committees of faculty council?
- If other committees are included in the bylaws, such as management committees or committees related to collegial processes, is it clear that they are not committees of faculty council?
- Do the bylaws allow for special or *ad hoc* committees to be constituted?
- Do the bylaws allow for committees to establish subcommittees? If so, do these subcommittees have restrictions on membership?
- Do the bylaws make requirements for the minimum number of times a committee must meet?
- Do the bylaws make requirements for the minimum number of times a committee must report to faculty council?
- Do the bylaws specify how committees are populated, such as through a recommendation of a nominating committee? Do the bylaws cover how a contested election for committee positions would be administered?
Note: This should also cover any differences for various positions, such as unique methods for determining student positions.
- Do the bylaws specify when it is necessary to fill a vacancy on a committee?
- Do the bylaws specify term length for committee positions?
Note: This should also cover any differences for various positions, such as different term lengths for student positions.
- Do the bylaws outline any *ex officio* positions for each (or all) committee? If there is an *ex officio* position on a committee, can this responsibility be delegated?
- Do the bylaws specify if any positions on committees are non-voting?
- Do the bylaws specify who serves as each committee chair or how a committee chair is chosen, such as by a central nominating committee or by having the committee select its own chair?
- Do the bylaws specify if committees have vice-chairs? If so, how are they chosen?
- Do the bylaws specify quorum for all committees?
- Do the bylaws specify if the person chairing the committee is eligible to vote?
- Do the bylaws specify the responsibilities of each committee?

Records

- Do the bylaws describe how minutes are made available?
- Do the bylaws describe processes for confidential minutes?

**Conflicts of Interest
Amendment**

- Do the bylaws describe processes for declaring conflicts of interest and the actions members with conflicts should take?
- Do the bylaws describe any necessary actions for amending the faculty council bylaws, such as an additional notice requirement or a higher majority threshold?

Sample Set of Faculty Council Bylaws

What follows is a suggested format for the faculty council bylaws and potential language. The text included in square brackets are options to be considered. It is up to each faculty council to determine which specific options are most appropriate and practical for them.

For questions and assistance, please contact the Governance Office.

College/School of _____ Faculty Council Bylaws

Preamble

These bylaws describe and set forth procedures relating to the governance of the faculty council of the School/College of _____ and are subject to the bylaws, policies and regulations of University Council. To the extent that any previous resolution of the faculty council or its predecessors or any committee of the faculty council is inconsistent with these bylaws, these bylaws have precedence.

Part One: Faculty Council Regulations

A. Constitutional Powers and Duties

The faculty council of the College/School of _____ is established under the authority of the University of Saskatchewan Council, whose powers and duties are in turn established by *The University of Saskatchewan Act, 1995*.

Under Part Three of University Council's bylaws, the faculty council of each college or school – subject to the provisions of the University Act, the bylaws of University Council and the general control of University Council – has charge of matters of scholarship and discipline. The duties delegated by University Council to the faculty councils are laid out in Part Three, Section V, Subsection 2 of the University Council bylaws.

[At the time of approval/last revision of these bylaws, those duties were specified as follows:

- a) To make recommendations to University Council concerning the requirements for admission to programs offered by the college or school;
- b) To establish and report to University Council on the number of students who may be admitted to a college or program of study and to report to University Council on the number of students admitted each year;
- c) To make recommendations to University Council concerning addition, deletion or modification of courses and programs of study, and concerning the requirements for successful completion of such programs;
- d) To establish and publish rules and methods for the progression and graduation of students and for their suspension or requirement to withdraw permanently for failure to meet the requirements for progression;

- e) Subject to University Council's examination regulations, to establish and publish rules and standards with respect to the assessment and examination of students in courses and programs offered by the college or the school;
- f) To make decisions concerning progression of students and concerning their suspension or requirement to withdraw, in accordance with the rules approved by the faculty council, and to hear appeals of such decisions;
- g) To approve candidates for degrees, diplomas and certificates;
- h) To approve candidates for scholarships, prizes, and other awards and honours;
- i) To establish a mechanism for appointing hearing boards to hear allegations of academic misconduct as provided for under University Council's regulations governing academic misconduct;
- j) To consider appeals from students in accordance with University Council's regulations governing student appeals in academic matters.]

[In addition to these statutory powers and duties, faculty council serves as a forum for the participation and engagement of members to discuss policies, plans and decisions by the [college/school] administration that directly affect those areas for which faculty council has responsibility.]

B. Membership

The membership of the faculty council of the College/School of _____ is prescribed in the bylaws of University Council, Part Three, Section VI, Subsection 1.

[At the time of [approval/last revision] of these bylaws, the membership consisted as follows (*denotes non-voting members):

- a) The President of the University*
- b) The Provost and Vice-President, Academic* or designate
- c) The Vice-President, Research*
- d) The Vice-President, Administration and Chief Operating Officer*
- e) The Vice-President, University Relations*
- f) The Vice-Provost, Students and Learning*
- g) The Vice-Provost, Indigenous Engagement*
- h) Chief Information Officer and Associate Vice-President Information and Communications Technology*
- i) The Dean of the college, or the Executive Director of the school, when the school is not encompassed within a college
- j) The Dean of the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies or designate
- k) The Dean of the University Library or designate*
- l) The University Secretary or designate*
- m) The University Registrar or designate*
- n) Such other persons as University Council may, from time to time, appoint in a voting or non-voting capacity;
- o) Such other persons as the Faculty Council may, from time to time, appoint in a non-voting capacity*
- p) Those Professors, Associate Professors, Assistant Professors, full-time Lecturers, Instructors and Special Lecturers who, for administrative purposes, are assigned to

the Dean of the College of _____.]

[Members on leave retain their right to participate in meetings and are counted in quorum] or [Members who are on leave or otherwise unavailable to attend meetings for six consecutive months or more should notify the chair and ask that they be removed from the roster of voting members for the period of their absence so they do not count toward the calculation of quorum].

C. Appointment and Election of Members

For those members of the faculty council who are not members by virtue of their position as administrators or as members of the faculty of the College/School of _____. [include only those that are relevant:

1. The representatives of external departments, colleges and schools are appointed/elected by _____ and hold membership for a period of _____.
2. The sessional lecturers are appointed/elected by _____ and hold membership for a period of _____.
3. The undergraduate students are appointed/elected by _____ and hold membership for a period of _____.
4. The graduate students are appointed/elected by _____ and hold office for a period of _____.
5. The staff members are appointed/elected by _____ and hold office for a period of _____.]

An *ex officio* member who is entitled under the Council bylaws to delegate their membership may designate an individual to serve on the faculty council with the same powers as the designator. Such designations last until June 30 of each year and are subject to renewal. If the individual is unable to complete the full term, another individual may be designated in their place. To initiate the designation, the *ex officio* member informs the chair of faculty council. When an *ex officio* member has initiated a designation, they may attend meetings of faculty council with a voice but no vote.

D. Duties, Terms of Office and Election of Officers

1. The officers of the faculty council are [the chair, the vice chair, the dean or executive director and the secretary.]
2. The [dean/executive director of the college/school of _____ is the chair of the faculty council] [chair is elected by the members of the faculty council. The term of the chair is [one year], renewable]. {Note: If the position of chair is an elected one, procedures should be in place to outlined the nomination and election process.}
3. The chair is responsible:
 - a) To preside at all meetings of the faculty council, to preserve order and decorum and, subject to appeal, to decide all questions of order and other questions as provided in these bylaws.

- b) [In consultation with the dean] to prepare a draft agenda for each meeting of the faculty council and to present it for approval at the meeting.
- c) In accordance with University Council's bylaws, to transmit to University Council for consideration and review all matters which belong to the care of University Council or which from their nature concern more than one college or school.
- d) To ensure the maintenance of an archive of the proceedings and all approved minutes of faculty council meetings.
- e) As the spokesperson for faculty council, to explain the decisions, activities and procedures of faculty council.

The chair may seek the guidance and assistance of [the Bylaws Committee] [the vice chair] with respect to matters of procedure.

- 4. The vice chair [is elected by secret ballot by the members of the faculty council] [is the Associate Dean Academic of the college] [is the chair of the _____ Committee] [is appointed by the dean]. {Note: If the position of vice chair is an elected one, procedures should be in place to prescribe the nomination and election process.}
- 5. In the chair's disability or absence, the vice chair has all the powers and performs all the duties of the chair. The vice chair presides at meetings in place of the chair if the chair declares a conflict of interest in a matter.
- 6. The secretary acts as the delegate of the University Secretary under University Council's Bylaws Part Three, Section V.1.E. Under the general direction of the chair, the secretary is responsible:
 - a) To assist the chair in the preparation of agendas and minutes.
 - b) To arrange for the distribution of notice of meetings, agendas and minutes to all members of the faculty council.
 - c) [To record attendance at all meetings].
 - d) To record all motions, resolutions and other decisions taken at meetings.
 - e) [To arrange for and carry out elections in accordance with these bylaws and provide the result to the chair.]

E. Meetings

- 1. Regular meetings of the faculty council are held at least [3] times each academic year.
- 2. Notice of regular meetings is provided in writing and is provided to all members no less than [30] days in advance of the meeting.
- 3. A special meeting of the faculty council may be held at any time upon the call of the chair, or in the chair's disability or absence, of the vice chair. Upon the written petition of not fewer than [10] [20% of] voting members, the chair calls a special meeting for the transaction of such business only as may be specified in the

notification of the meeting. Special meetings require written notice to all members not less than [7] days in advance.

4. An agenda and, wherever practical, all supporting material is sent to each member of the faculty council at least [7] days in advance of the meeting.
5. The quorum for regular and special meetings is [a majority of voting members] [60% of voting members] [a majority of members who hold full-time faculty positions in the College of _____].
6. Any regular meeting may be postponed or cancelled at the call of the chair.
7. Regular meetings of the faculty council are normally open to the members of the university community and may at the discretion of the chair be open to the general public.
8. Non-members may speak at the discretion of the chair.
9. The chair may call for any meeting or portion of a meeting to be closed. Every member of the faculty council, whether a voting or non-voting member, is entitled to attend closed meetings and sessions, unless that member has a conflict of interest, in which case the conflict is declared and the chair rules whether the member should remain. [Student members are considered to be in a conflict of interest and excluded from consideration of those matters where the performance of students is under review or consideration].

F. Procedures and Voting

1. Meetings are presided over by the chair or, in the absence or disability of the chair, the vice chair. In the absence or disability of both, meetings are chaired by any other member of the faculty council as agreed to by the majority of members at the meeting.
2. The agenda is approved at the beginning of each meeting. Notice of any substantive motions to be voted upon by the faculty council are included in advance in the agenda material. A 'substantive motion' refers to any motion dealing with a substantive matter which requires consideration by members of the faculty council prior to the meeting at which the motion is presented. Whether or not a motion falls within this definition is determined by the chair. This requirement may be suspended upon vote of [2/3] of the members present and voting at a meeting.
3. Notwithstanding Section E(4) and F(2), the Convocation lists of degrees, certificates, diplomas, honours and distinctions and the recommendations of Convocation awards need not be included in advance in the agenda material but may be circulated at the meeting at which these items are considered.

4. Except as provided elsewhere in these bylaws, all questions legitimately before faculty council are decided by a majority vote. The chair does not vote on a motion before faculty council except when there is a tie.
5. Voting is normally by show of hands. A procedural motion to require a written vote must be seconded and approved by majority.
6. [In matters requiring an urgent decision, and at the call of the chair, a motion may be put to the members electronically. Electronic approval of a [two-thirds] majority of the voting members of faculty council to any motion is deemed to have the same force and effect as a motion adopted by a vote of the members at a meeting duly convened, and is recorded in the minutes of the next regular meeting.]
7. [Any member may have their vote recorded for the minutes on request.] [The number voting for or against a motion is entered on the minutes at the call of any [2] members.]
8. For procedures not covered in these bylaws, faculty council follows the procedural authority adopted by University Council.

G. Committees

1. Faculty council may establish *ad hoc* committees to facilitate its work and, subject to the approval of University Council and without jeopardizing Council's authority, may delegate decisions to its committees. The standing committees of faculty council are:
 - a. [Bylaws Committee]
 - b. [Nominating Committee]
 - c. [Admissions Committee]
 - d. [Committee on Studies, Progression and Appeals]
 - e. [Scholarship and Awards Committee]
 - f. [Curriculum Committee]
 - g. [Teaching, Learning and Academic Support Committee]
 - h. [Board for Student Misconduct]
 - i. [Research and Ethics Committee]
2. Unless a motion of faculty council passed in accordance with a delegation by University Council specifically provides otherwise, all recommendations of committees are brought to faculty council for consideration.
3. All standing committees meet and report to faculty council at least once each academic year. Responsibility for calling committee meetings rests with the chair of the committee.
4. Standing committees may create subcommittees, [including subcommittees composed of those who are not members of faculty council].

5. It is [not] required that committees be composed entirely of faculty council members.
6. All standing and *ad hoc* committees have terms of reference outlining their composition and accountabilities. Each committee should regularly review its own terms of reference and may recommend changes to faculty council as required. The membership and terms of reference of standing committees of the faculty council [as well as other committees of the College/School of _____] are specified in Part Two of these bylaws.
7. The [executive] [bylaws] committee nominates members and chair of the nominations committee and presents these to the faculty council as required when vacancies occur.
8. The nominations committee nominates members and chairs of other standing and *ad hoc* committees of the faculty council [and of other college committees] and presents its nominations to faculty council at the [May] meeting [and otherwise as required when vacancies occur—or see item 13].
9. [Procedures should be developed to cover the possibility of an election if the nominations committee is expected to bring more nominations than there are positions—see the College of A&S Bylaws OR if the faculty council does not accept the nominees presented by these committees--see Council Bylaws Part One Section IV.1.e]
10. The term of office for the chair and members of standing committees is [one year, renewable for a total of [3] years].
11. Terms of office for chairs and members of standing committees begin July 1 unless otherwise provided by the nominations committee. The terms of student members [and sessional lecturers] normally begin on [September 1].
12. A vacancy is declared in the case a committee member will be absent from the university or otherwise unavailable to attend meetings for a period of six consecutive months or more.
13. In the case of a vacancy on a committee between meetings of the faculty council, the faculty council delegates authority to fill the vacancy to [the nominations committee] in accordance with the membership requirements of the committee, for the balance of the academic year.
14. The [dean/executive director] [and the chair of faculty council] are *ex officio* non-voting members of all standing committees.
15. An *ex officio* member of a committee may designate an individual to serve in their place with the same powers as the designator. Such designations last until June 30 and are subject to renewal. In the event that the individual is unable to complete the

full term, another individual may be designated in their place. To initiate the designation, the *ex officio* member informs the chair of the committee involved. During the period of designation, the *ex officio* member who initiated the designation may attend meetings of the faculty council with a voice but no vote.

16. [Committees] [Committee chairs] may appoint a vice chair. In the absence of the chair, and where a vice chair has been appointed, the vice chair presides. In the absence of both the chair and vice chair, the committee may appoint a member to chair the meeting.
17. The quorum for all standing committees [except the nominations committee] is [a majority] of the voting members. [The quorum for the nominations committee is [two-thirds] of the voting members.]
18. Matters decided by the committee are decided by a majority vote of those present and voting. The chair has the deciding vote in the case of a tie.
19. Minutes are taken at all committee meetings, and they are available [specify how] to all members of the [faculty council] [committee].
20. The dean/executive director may seek the advice or assistance of a committee of faculty council with respect to particular items of business. Ordinarily, the committee reports to faculty council on the general nature of the advice given.

H. Records

1. Council bylaws require that “each faculty council shall keep a record of its proceedings and this record shall be open to any member of the faculty council. A copy of the proceedings shall, upon request, be furnished by its secretary to the chair of University Council and/or to the president of the university.”
2. Wherever practical, draft minutes, including a record of all motions and resolutions, from all regular and special meetings are circulated to all members with the agenda material for the next meeting, and are presented for adoption at that meeting.
3. Subject to section 4, the record of all general and special meetings are, once adopted, signed by the presiding chair and the recording secretary of the meeting and kept in [the College Dean’s Office] [in an online repository] where they are available to any member of faculty council.
4. Records of motions from closed sessions may be deemed confidential by the chair and the related portion of the minutes may remain confidential at the discretion of the chair. In such cases the non-confidential portion of the minutes reflect the fact that a confidential section has been removed. Both the non-confidential and the confidential portion of the minutes are considered to constitute the official record of the meeting and are preserved for the official archive.

I. Independence and Conflict of Interest

1. In line with the University Council bylaws, members of the faculty council and its committees have as their principal concern the welfare of the college and of the university. They exercise independent judgment and may not act as agents of any person or organization.
2. There are no restrictions on the right of a member of faculty council to participate in debate and to vote on any matter that comes before the faculty council. However, if a member of faculty council has a conflict of interest in any matter under consideration, the member discloses their interest when speaking on the matter in faculty council proceedings, and the disclosure is recorded in the minutes.
3. A member of a committee of the faculty council discloses and identifies a conflict of interest (including a perceived conflict of interest), and abstains from voting in committee proceedings on matters on which they have a conflict of interest. When appropriate, the member withdraws from all committee deliberations with respect to the matter. The minutes reflect that a disclosure was made and any abstention or withdrawal.
4. The chair or a member of a committee is entitled to raise the question whether another member has a conflict of interest or perceived conflict of interest on a matter before the committee, and to ask such a member to withdraw from the deliberations of the committee or to refrain from voting on a matter before the committee.

J. Amendment

1. A motion to amend the bylaws is preceded by a notice of motion presented in writing to the members not less than [30 days] prior to the date of the meeting at which the motion is to be considered, and requires a [2/3] majority vote of those present and voting prior to being sent to University Council for approval.

Part Two: Committee Terms of Reference

The list below is illustrative, not definitive. Colleges have different numbers of committees and their responsibilities are combined in various ways. The most important thing is to distinguish:

- *Committees that are responsible and accountable to University Council (that is, those having academic responsibilities) and are thus properly committees of faculty council.*
- *Those that are responsible to carry out aspects of the collective agreements (search, promotion, tenure) and are thus accountable to USFA and the Board, and*
- *Those whose responsibilities (finance, budget, staffing, infrastructure, facilities) relate to the executive oversight of the dean and, ultimately, the Board of Governors.*

For each committee, the membership (by position) and terms of reference should be specified. If standard procedures (such as quorum and term) for all committees are not specified in Part One of the Bylaws, these should be specified here for each committee.

I. Standing Committees of Faculty Council

- a. Bylaws Committee
- b. Nominating Committee
- c. Admissions Committee
- d. Committee on Studies, Progression, and Appeals
- e. Scholarship and Awards Committee
- f. Curriculum Committee
- g. Teaching, Learning and Academic Support Committee
- h. Board for Student Misconduct
- i. Research and Ethics Committee

II. Other College Committees not Accountable to Council

- a. Committees governed by the Collective Agreements
 - i. Search Committees
 - ii. Renewals and Tenure Committee (non-departmentalized colleges)
 - iii. Promotions Committee (non-departmentalized colleges)
 - iv. College Review Committee
 - v. Salary Review Committee
- b. Management Committees (Advisory to the Dean)
 - i. Dean's Executive
 - ii. Budget Committee
 - iii. Physical Facilities and Infrastructure Committee
 - iv. Safety Committee
 - v. Visiting Speaker Committee
 - vi. Equity Committee
 - vii. Committee on Alumni and Donor Relations

Governance Committee Annual Report for 2025/26

Presented by: Susan Detmer
Date of meeting: June 11, 2026

BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

SUMMARY

The Governance Committee reports regularly to Council on changes to the *Council Bylaws and Regulations* and the changes to the bylaws of faculty councils. It also oversees matters of student academic misconduct and appeals, the overall organization of Council's committee structure, and how Council's meetings are conducted. During 2025-26, the committee met nine times.

MEMBERSHIP

THREE MEMBERS OF COUNCIL; A MEMBER OF COUNCIL APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT; THE CHAIRS OF COUNCIL, APC, AND PPC; AND THE PRESIDENT, THE UNIVERSITY SECRETARY, AND THE PRESIDENTS OF THE USSU AND GSA AS NON-VOTING MEMBERS.

Council Members:

Susan Detmer (Chair)	WCVM	2026
Rachel Sarjeant-Jenkins	University Library	2028
Scott Bell	Arts and Science	2026
Dani Brittain	Kinesiology	President's Designate

Ex Officio Members:

Vicki Squires	Education	Chair of Council
Chris Willenborg	Agriculture and Bioresources	Chair of PPC
Paul Jones	SENS	Chair of APC

Non-Voting Members:

Julian Demkiw	University Secretary
Emma Wintermute (July to April)	USSU
Abtin Safaeian (May to June)	USSU
Palash Roy	GSA

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 1) Reviewing the Bylaws of Council and recommending to Council revisions to the Bylaws.
- 2) Reviewing the Bylaws of Faculty Councils and recommending to University Council, Colleges, and Schools changes to their Bylaws.

- 3) Reviewing the membership, powers, and duties of committees of Council and recommending to Council revisions to the membership, powers and duties of committees.
- 4) Recommending to Council regulations and procedures for Council and Council committees.
- 5) Advising the University Secretary (or designate) on matters relating to faculty councils and University Council elections.
- 6) Advising Council with respect to its responsibilities and powers under *The University of Saskatchewan Act, 1995* and recommending to Council on proposed changes to the *Act*.
- 7) Nominating the members and chair of the Nominations Committee of Council to University Council.
- 8) Providing advice to the Chair of Council on the role of the Chair.
- 9) Recommending to Council rules and procedures, including the penalties as prescribed by section 61(1)(h) of *The University of Saskatchewan Act, 1995*, to deal with allegations of academic misconduct on the part of students.
- 10) Recommending to Council rules and procedures to deal with appeals by students and former students concerning academic decisions affecting them as provided in section 61(1)(j) of *The University of Saskatchewan Act, 1995*.
- 11) 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.
- 12) Reporting and recommending to Council on University policies that are within the purview of Council and/or the joint purview of the University's governing bodies.
- 13) To review and approve editorial (not substantive) revisions to the University Council Bylaws (e.g., corrections to title changes for senior administrative positions, spelling, formatting, proofing...), and report them to Council on an annual basis. Such revisions will not change the reading of the Bylaws, their potential interpretations, meanings, or significance.

DECISION ITEMS

The Governance Committee presented the following decision items to University Council:

- October: Amendments to the faculty council bylaws of the College of Medicine.
- October: Filling a vacancy on the Nominations Committee.
- December: Amendments to the faculty council bylaws of the Edwards School of Business.
- January: Amendments to the faculty council bylaws of the College of Nursing.
- January: Amendments to the faculty council bylaws of the College of Agriculture and Bioresources.
- January: Amendments to Council's bylaws to amend the membership of the Planning and Priorities Committee.
- April: Amendments to the faculty council bylaws of the School of Rehabilitation Science.
- May: Amendments to Council's bylaws to change Council's rules of order.
- May: Amendments to the faculty council bylaws of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine.
- June: Amendments to Council's bylaws to amend the terms of reference for the Academic Programs Committee.
- June: Amendments to Council's bylaws to amend the terms of reference for the Research, Scholarly and Artistic Works Committee.
- June: Appointments to the Nominations Committee.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The Governance Committee presented the following information items to University Council:

- June: Reporting on student appeals in misconduct and academic standing.
- June: Editorial changes to the Council bylaws.
- June: Updated checklist and template for faculty council bylaws.

The Governance Committee also spent considerable time this past year on the following matters, and additional reporting to Council is expected on this in the future:

- 1) The regulations and processes used to manage accusations of academic misconduct.
- 2) The structure, composition, and resources available to university-level appeal boards.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Detmer
Chair, Governance Committee

ITEM FOR DECISION

Committee Name: Planning and Priorities Committee, University Council

Date: June 11, 2026

Presented by: Angela Lieverse, Vice-Chair, Planning and Priorities Committee

Subject: Change of Name for Department of Academic Family Medicine

MOTION

It is recommended by the Planning and Priorities Committee that Council approve the name change from the Department of Academic Family Medicine to the Department of Family Medicine effective immediately.

SUMMARY

The College of Medicine is proposing to change the name of the Department of Academic Family Medicine to the Department of Family Medicine. This name change aims to reduce barriers to participation and improve inclusivity among family physicians involved in teaching and supervision across the province. Feedback indicates that the term “academic” is perceived as exclusionary and may undermine a sense of belonging, potentially affecting engagement that is critical to the college’s academic mission.

Renaming the department to Department of Family Medicine would align with naming conventions used by other clinical departments at the University of Saskatchewan and with family medicine departments nationally. It would also reduce confusion among system partners by matching terminology used within the Saskatchewan health system.

The original distinction between “academic” and clinical departments is no longer necessary due to strengthened integration between the College of Medicine and the provincial health authority under a unified department head model.

CONSULTATION

The College of Medicine submitted a proposal to the Planning and Priorities Committee (PPC) on June 10, 2026. PPC had the opportunity to review the proposal and ask questions. PPC voted in favour of this name change.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Department of Academic Family Medicine Name Change Proposal**

CHANGE OF NAME REQUEST

College: Medicine	College approval date: May 27, 2026
Proposed date for change to take effect: November 2026	
Contact person name Kathy Lawrence	Email Kathy.lawrence@usask.ca
What are you changing the name of: <input type="checkbox"/> College <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Department <input type="checkbox"/> Program Name <input type="checkbox"/> Degree Name <input type="checkbox"/> Name of Field of Specialization (major, minor, concentration, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Street <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
Current name: Department of Academic Family Medicine	Changing to: Department of Family Medicine

RATIONALE

The proposed name change is intended to reduce perceived barriers to participation for faculty across the province. The department has received feedback indicating that the inclusion of “academic” in the department’s name is exclusionary and does not foster a sense of belonging among family physicians who teach and supervise medical learners throughout the province. The continued engagement of these physicians is essential to advancing the college’s academic mission.

Removing the word “Academic” from the department’s name would align the department with other clinical departments within the USask College of Medicine and with family medicine departments at medical schools across Canada.

Adopting the name Department of Family Medicine would reduce confusion among our partners by aligning with nomenclature currently used within the Saskatchewan health system. While the former name, Department of Academic Family Medicine, was originally intended to distinguish the university’s academic department from the Saskatoon Health Region’s clinical department, this distinction is no longer necessary. In recent years, the College of Medicine and the provincial health authority have strengthened their partnership through a unified department head model, facilitating the integration of academic and clinical functions within a single department.

IMPLICATIONS

The proposed name change will not affect students, residents, or staff, as the department is already widely known and referenced as the Department of Family Medicine. The change will not necessitate revisions to course names, as the proposed name aligns with existing course nomenclature. In addition, there will be no impact on other programs, units, university systems, or resource areas.

Finally, the new name will align the department with national and international naming conventions and resonate more readily with community members who would not distinguish between the clinical and academic work of family physicians in the province.

COSTS

There will be modest costs to replace existing signage, letterhead/logos, business cards, etc., which departmental budgets will cover. The costs would largely be related to staff time to change out digital records.

CONSULTATION

The Governance Office advised the department that consultation with other university offices was not required, given the limited impacts of this name change. The Registrar's Office (via the Governance Office) confirmed that the proposed change will not impact student systems.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Department

As part of an external review conducted in 2022, it was recommended that the department consider re-naming itself the "Department of Family Medicine" based on the following feedback and observation:

A few participants wondered if the word "Academic" should be dropped from the unit's present appellation "Department of Academic Family Medicine." It was felt that the use of the term "Academic" might create an unnecessary divide and that the aspiration should be that all family physicians should embrace their teacher role. The naming is also inconsistent with other departments within the College of Medicine, who do not use "Academic" in their names.

Subsequently, in the fall of 2023, department members (faculty, staff, and residents) were surveyed to gain their perspectives on the name change. When asked "Do you support the Department of Academic Family Medicine changing its name to the Department of Family Medicine,"

179 of the 182 respondents (98%) said “yes.” Most written comments were also supportive of the change, including the following examples:

Thank you. I have long thought our naming was exclusionary, particularly to regional and rural physicians

Completely agree with the name change... I think this name (the original) has alienated some family physicians from the department. We need all family physicians to feel welcome to help recruit them as preceptors, and I feel this slight name change will help in that regard. Great idea!

I like embracing the idea that academics happen in a variety of practice settings

The external reviewer’s recommendation and results of the department survey were discussed at the February 2024 Department Executive Committee meeting. This committee, which is advisory to the Department Head, is comprised of the clinical unit and academic leaders of the department’s divisions (undergraduate, postgraduate, scholarship, faculty development, rural) and operational leaders. The committee reached a consensus that the department should move forward with removing “Academic” from its name.

College

Dean Sarah Forgie has endorsed the proposed name change (see attached letter). A Notice of Motion was presented to the College of Medicine Faculty Council on March 25, 2026, followed by a Motion at the May 27, 2026 Faculty Council meeting. The Motion read: *It is recommended that Faculty Council approve the renaming of the Department of Academic Family Medicine to the Department of Family Medicine.* No questions were asked at the May 27 meeting and the motion was carried.

University

The Provost & Strategic Finance Offices have reviewed and endorsed the proposed name change (see attached memo).

As advised by the Governance Office, following its approval at the College of Medicine Faculty Council, the proposal will go to University Council through the Planning and Priorities Committee (PPC).



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

College of Medicine

MEDICINE.USASK.CA

Office of the Dean
Box 19, 107 Wiggins Road, 4A20, Health Sciences Building
Saskatoon SK S7N 5E5 Canada
Email: sarah.forgie@usask.ca

May 5, 2026

As Dean of the College of Medicine, I am pleased to express my support for the proposal to change the name of the Department of Academic Family Medicine to the Department of Family Medicine. In keeping with our college's core value of fostering a sense of belonging, I appreciate the department's efforts to use more inclusive language and ensure that its name does not inadvertently exclude or alienate any members of our medical faculty. Family physicians across the province are vital members of our college community, and their contributions to our academic mission are invaluable.

I wish to convey my sincere thanks to Dr. Kathy Lawrence and her team for drafting the proposal before you, and to the many faculty and leaders who have expressed their support for this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Forgie'.

Sarah Forgie, MD, M.Ed., FAMMI, FRCPC
Dean, College of Medicine
Professor, Department of Pediatrics

PROVOST & SFO CONSULTATION

To: Planning and Priorities Committee of Council

From: Kyla Shea, Academic Programs and Planning Specialist

Date: March 30, 2026

Re: Name Change – Academic Family Medicine to Family Medicine

SUMMARY

The Provost and Strategic Finance Offices have reviewed and endorsed the proposal as proposed. The purpose of the review was twofold:

- 1) to understand the potential impact of the change on the program enrolment and alignment to the college/school strategic enrolment plan.
- 2) To understand the financial implications of the proposed change and the impact on the college / school financial situation.

Date: March 27, 2026	Reviewed By: Loleen Berdahl, Acting Deputy Provost	Communicated By: Kyla Shea
-------------------------	---	-------------------------------

ITEM FOR INFORMATION

Committee Name: Planning and Priorities Committee, University Council

Date: June 11, 2026

Presented by: Angela Lieverse, Vice-Chair, Planning and Priorities Committee

Subject: Provisional Canada-India Pulse Protein Centre of Excellence

SUMMARY

The Canada–India Pulse Protein Centre of Excellence, led by the University of Saskatchewan, will serve as a collaborative research and development hub to advance the conversion of pulse crops into high-protein foods and ingredients, accelerating innovation, commercialization, and trade through partnerships between academia, industry, and government in both countries. The initiative responds to growing global protein demand and food security challenges, leveraging Canada’s leadership in pulse production and India’s rising need for affordable, nutrient-dense protein sources, while strengthening agri-food sectors and economic growth. Established under a joint Canada–India agreement, the Centre aims to enhance food-processing expertise, support public health through fortified food products, and deepen bilateral collaboration, with USask positioned as a national lead given its strong research capacity and infrastructure in pulse science, processing, and innovation.

CONSULTATION

Proponents presented their proposal to the Centres Subcommittee of the Planning and Priorities Committee (PPC) on May 20, 2026, where it was reviewed and recommended for approval pending minor revisions. Subsequently, on June 10, 2026, PPC considered the revised proposal, engaged in a thorough discussion, and approved the Provisional Centre effective June 10, 2026. Note that PPC has the authority to approve provisional centres. Provisional status is granted for a two-year term, during which time proponents must develop and submit a full centre proposal for approval by University Council.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Proposal for the Provisional Canada-India Pulse Protein Centre of Excellence**

CENTRE BASICS

Canada-India Pulse Protein Centre of Excellence	Centre proponents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dean, College of Agriculture and Bioresources • Dean, College of Engineering Executive sponsor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vice-President Research <p>This research centre will report to the Vice-President Research</p>
Name of proposed interim director: Michael Nickerson, FABS/AgBio	Anticipated date of submission of full centre proposal: Within two years following the approval of the provisional centre

Centre overview

The Canada-India *Pulse Protein Centre of Excellence*, led by the University of Saskatchewan, will function as a research and development hub focused on converting pulse crops into commercially viable high-protein foods and food ingredients. The Centre will accelerate the translation of pulse-protein research into processing innovations, ingredient development, value-added food production and trade policies through strong collaboration among academic, industry, and ecosystem partners in Canada and India. By advancing applied research, enabling knowledge exchange, and supporting commercialization, the Centre will facilitate the strengthening of agri-food partnerships to drive economic impact in pulse-protein processing and the development of nutrient-dense protein-rich foods for populations facing food-insecurity challenges.

RATIONALE FOR THE PROVISIONAL CENTRE

The global demand for protein is rapidly increasing as countries face food-security challenges to feed 10-11 billion people by 2050. Countries such as India are experiencing rapid population growth and industrialization, driving increased demand for pulses as an alternative low-cost, sustainable protein source and the need for innovative pulse protein-related biofortified products to address both macro- and micronutrient needs. Canada is a global leader in the production and export of pulses, with more than 80% of our raw materials being exported to India. Over the last decade, Canada has built significant infrastructure and has research investments to advance the protein and co-product processing (e.g., starch and fibre ingredients), and product innovation to enhance economic development and build a stronger agri-food sector. The future sustainability, resilience and economic growth of Canada's and India's protein-ingredient and plant-based food sectors rely heavily on the strength of established research programs, partnerships and collaborations between academia, government and industry stakeholders along the supply chain.

Building on the shared vision outlined by the **New Roadmap for India-Canada Relations**, the Governments of India and Canada have agreed to develop a joint India-Canada Pulse Protein Centre of Excellence in India to accelerate protein-processing research and to develop fortified nutritious products, to benefit producers, processors, population health and to grow the agri-value sectors in both countries. To better facilitate this agreement, a Pulse Protein Centre of Excellence at USask will be developed to work in parallel and collaboratively, aligned with the same research goals as the Centre in India to advance the pulse sectors in both Canada and India.

The signed Declaration between both countries aims to deepen cooperation in:

- **Growing expertise** – strengthening food-processing capabilities, including advanced protein extraction and nutrition-sensitive food systems through applied innovation, knowledge exchange and advanced training to produce future generations of people to address these complex plant-protein challenges;
- **Public health** – supporting the development of nutrient-dense fortified pulse products to address micronutrient deficiencies via government-administered nutrition programs for children, pregnant women and lactating mothers; and
- **Mutual evolution** – addressing other strategic priorities as may be mutually agreed to by the participants.

Within this Declaration, a national lead was identified from each of Canada (USask) and India (the National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management in Kundli (NIFTEM-K) for implementation of this roadmap. Thus, a USask parallel Centre is needed to facilitate the goals of the joint Declaration.

USask is recognized nationally and internationally for its work on pulses, spanning from variety development through to processing, ingredient development, product design, nutrition and policies. As such, USask is well positioned to lead this work to accelerate the training of the next generation of scientists in Canada and India in this area and spur on innovation and growth within this partnership and the economy. Currently, the College of Agriculture and Bioresources (AgBio) has already built a solid foundation of the research ecosystem in pulse processing and product innovation on campus and with external partners. USask's College of Engineering has a cadre of excellent scholars and well-established research infrastructure related to food processing and bioprocessing, and a commitment to engineering for agriculture and agricultural-products processing is a key part of the College Strategic Plan.

NEED FOR A PROVISIONAL CENTRE

To firmly cement the leading role of USask in delivering on the Government's declaration and responding to emergent opportunities, we are proposing to establish the Canada-India Centre of Excellence for Pulse Proteins (the Centre) at USask. This initiative responds to growing opportunities to expand the use of pulses in large-scale food applications while reinforcing their role in advancing nutritional security. It has the potential to strengthen markets for Saskatchewan producers, drive processing investment in the province, and deliver meaningful nutritional benefits to the Indian population. The Centre is proposed on a provisional basis to allow for continued refinement of its structure, scope, and partnerships.

The Centre will facilitate research collaborations and alignment within the pulse-protein processing and foods sector among leading researchers, partners, and resources on campus, within the Saskatchewan ecosystem and at the national level; acting as a research hub for collaborations and partnerships with its counterpart Centre and ecosystem in India. The Centre will facilitate deeper collaboration, more integrated approaches, and greater impact. A Centre model also provides the scale and visibility needed to:

- attract major funding and strategic partnerships,
- coordinate large, multi-disciplinary research initiatives,
- support shared infrastructure and specialized expertise, and
- strengthen the university's position as a leader in addressing complex, real-world challenges.

Without a Pulse Protein Centre on campus, efforts risk remaining fragmented among colleges and external partners, limiting both their reach and effectiveness. Advances in the pulse protein sector span many fields from crop breeding to food science, process engineering, development of new separative techniques, human and animal nutrition, medicine, marketing and policy. As such, a cross-university centre ensures alignment, cohesion, and momentum, allowing for ideal conditions to accelerate research and information, training and industry adoption of technologies and products (i.e., nutrient-dense foods). Without the Centre, research will be less impactful, more expensive and take much longer for development. Establishment of a Provisional Centre will also enable time to address complexities of aligning priorities between USask/Canada and NIFTEM-K/India stakeholders to support the already established pulse-protein research ecosystem in Saskatchewan and Canada.

The proposed Centre will advance research activities and priorities (within the context of both Canada's and India's pulse sectors) within USask by partnering with:

College of Agriculture and Bioresources:

- to evaluate and develop new crop varieties with better processing traits,
- to develop disruptive technologies for sustainable pulse-protein processing,
- to evaluate protein-ingredient development strategies for enhanced nutrition, flavours and functionality,
- to develop fortified nutrient-dense pulse foods for the Canadian and Indian markets,
- to examine protein co-product valorization and
- to assess protein-ingredient/product safety.

The College of Engineering – to evaluate and co-develop protein and co-product processing technologies and scalability thereof. This includes development of new technology for dry separation processes for protein, starch, and fibre constituents.

The College of Pharmacy and Nutrition, School of Public Health, the College of Medicine, and the College of Kinesiology – for assessing health impacts and ensuring nutrient targets are met in products designed for Indian and Canadian markets and nutritionally vulnerable groups (e.g., children, women and mothers).

The School of Public Policy and the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics – to assess policies associated with market access and consumer trends.

The Centre will also partner with the Nutrien Digital Agriculture Centre – to address any sustainability-based research associated with breeding that impacts the development of crop varieties with traits important to the protein-processing sector. The Nutrien Centre deals with sustainability issues surrounding our crops, not within the processing sector. This work will therefore be synergistic in nature.

The Crop Development Centre – to develop new crop varieties with improved processing traits and higher protein concentrations to support efficient protein extraction and product development.

The provisional Centre for Bioproduct Development and Commercialization – to aid in co-product valorization (i.e., starch and fibres). This centre will primarily examine industrial uses of starches/fibres arising from the protein-processing sector, which is outside of the scope of the proposed Centre (food related). Work will be synergistic in nature.

The Global Institute for Food Security – joint research collaborations with their biomanufacturing (e.g., fermented or enzyme-modified pulse proteins) and automation of manufacturing processes for ingredients. Work at GIFS does not focus on pulse-protein processing or foods. Work will be synergistic in nature.

The Office of the Vice-President Research (OVPR) including Innovation Mobilization and Partnerships, Opus, and the Edwards Schools of Business – to promote entrepreneurship and industry adaptation.

The Centre fits within the University's Agriculture Signature Area of Research by examining low-cost sustainable and disruptive technologies to advance the protein-processing sector; reduce environmental impacts of processes through water/energy reductions and the creation of nutrient-dense value-added products that will address food-insecurity issues in Canada and India, while having broad market appeal. Objectives of the Centre also align with AgBio's strategic plan, working on enhanced sustainability practices for the value-added bioprocessing sector (focused on pulse proteins), allowing the College to better '*adapt to changing environments*' and inspiring '*boundless collaborations*'. In addition, the Centre objectives are consistent with the College of Engineering's commitment to engineering for agricultural products and agricultural product processing, as stated in the College Strategic Plan. We envision the work within the Centre to be integrated within USask and the surrounding ecosystem in Canada and in India.

The Centre will coordinate collaborative pulse-protein research and engagement in the following areas:

- low-cost disruptive technologies for sustainable pulse processing;
- protein-ingredient processing for enhanced nutrition, flavors and functionality;
- AI-driven solutions to protein processing and product development;
- development of fortified nutrient-dense pulse-based foods for the Canadian and Indian markets;
- co-product utilization (e.g., starch/fibre) to support the growth/sustainability of protein sector;
- commercialization (e.g., industry adaptation and entrepreneurship);
- public policy (e.g., supply chain, global trade, etc.) and
- knowledge transfer to the wider sector (i.e., farmers, industry, stakeholders, etc.) (pending further stakeholder engagement with external members).

The Centre will also play an important role in researcher/student exchanges with the potential for the development of innovative undergraduate/graduate academic programming partnerships between USask and academic partners in India.

GOALS FOR THE PROVISIONAL CENTRE

The short-term deliverables for the Canada–India partnership focus on establishing foundational collaborations and early activities. These are summarized in **Appendix A**.

Over the longer term, this Canada–India partnership aims to strengthen graduate training, research collaboration, and industry impact through increased student mobility, joint supervision, collaborative grants and publications, regular industry engagement, and the development and adoption of new technologies and intellectual property.

MEMBERSHIP

It is proposed that **Dr. Michael Nickerson, Ph.D., PAg, FCIFST** serve as the provisional centre lead. Dr. Nickerson is a Ministry of Agriculture Research Chair and Professor in the Department of Food and Bioproduct Sciences, College of Agriculture and Bioresources, with over 20 years of experience developing sustainable, economically viable, and industry-adoptable technologies for plant proteins, protein-rich co-products, and ingredients for food, feed, and bioproduct applications. In this role, Dr. Nickerson will work closely with a management team to provide strategic and operational leadership for the Centre, including setting research priorities in collaboration with members and stakeholders, strengthening the research ecosystem, building partnerships with NIFTEM-K, and reporting within the centre’s governance structure.

Under this leadership, the Provisional Centre will bring together a multidisciplinary group of USask researchers whose expertise aligns with the proposed mandate, complemented by external partners from industry, government, and collaborating organizations (**Appendix B**). Faculty members will actively contribute to advancing the Centre’s objectives through collaborative grant applications, joint supervision and student exchanges with India, participation in workshops and Centre activities, and promotion of the Centre internally and externally. External partners will engage in integrated research collaborations, support commercialization and technology transfer in both Canada and India, and may be prioritized for subcontracting opportunities where appropriate.

GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Provisional Centre will be owned and operated by USask and will be housed virtually within the College of Agriculture and Bioresources.

This will be a university-controlled Centre that engages with external partners. This engagement will involve consultations with industry, grower organizations, NGOs, and government to ensure the Centre activities are meeting the needs of the Declaration between both countries for the betterment of the Canadian pulse sector.

The proposed governance model includes a management team led by a Director, Dr. Nickerson, with representation from Chemical and Biological Engineering, and the Crop Development Centre. The management team will oversee centre operations and delivery of objectives, and will coordinate activities with USask researchers, external research partners, industry, and other stakeholders.

The management team will report to an executive group comprising the Deans of the Colleges of Agriculture and Bioresources and Engineering. The executive group will report to the Vice-President research to ensure alignment with college and university strategic priorities.

An external advisory group will be established, including key Canadian stakeholders such as Pulse Canada, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Trade and Export, and two industry representatives.

An overview of the provisional centre's organizational chart and governance structure is provided in **Appendix C**.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATION

Strategic funding from the OVPR will support startup and early operations (\$400,000 in Year 1, \$250,000 in Year 2, and \$100,000 in Year 3), complemented by an initial \$200,000 from the College of AgBio and \$25,000 from the College of Engineering, while ongoing efforts will focus on actively pursuing and coordinating external funding opportunities to ensure long-term sustainability and growth. A three-year preliminary budget is outlined in Appendix D.

CONSULTATION

Between March 9 and April 17, USask undertook a series of meetings with provincial (Sask Ag, TED), federal (CFIA and PrairiesCan), industry (Pulse Canada and Sask Pulses) and NGO (Nutrition International). These meetings set the foundation for a workshop that was held at USask on April 23. The workshop, which was attended by nearly 60 participants, included opening remarks from Minister Warren Kaeding, Scott Mathies and Dr. Harinder Oberoi, Director of NIFTEM-K and expert presentations and focused discussions on scientific priorities, funding and partnerships, and capacity building. Together, these supported a shared vision for the Centre and helped define a strong path forward.

ENDORSEMENT

Letters of endorsement from the Vice-President Research (**Appendix E**), the acting Dean of the College of Agriculture and Bioresources (**Appendix F**), and the Dean of Engineering (**Appendix G**) are attached.

APPENDIX A.

Table of goals and deliverables of the Provisional Centre.

Centre Goals	Centre Deliverables
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Align research priorities on campus among researchers with the needs of Canadian stakeholders (i.e., grower organizations, government, pulse/plant-based food companies, NGOs); and the needs of the NIFTEM-K joint Centre. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased online and in person interactions with NIFTEM-K researchers to identify research priorities, strengths and gaps. Have stakeholder meetings with industry, government, NGOs, etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a model for transfer and sharing of intellectual property under the umbrella of the parallel Centres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A framework strategy to handle joint IP related research projects.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a clear understanding for all researchers and partners involved outlining commitments and expectations of the Centre. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active engagement of members in Centre’s activities. Establish an expectations document for all types of members, including researchers, government, industry and NGOs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate research-planning meetings for joint collaborative research projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased amounts of research occurring at USask in pulse-protein processing, ingredient development and product development, and with ecosystem partners. Increased number of joint research activities (e.g., grants, student supervision) between Canadian and Indian researchers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop inventories of infrastructure and equipment for protein researchers on campus, and ecosystem capacities within Saskatchewan and Canada. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infrastructure and equipment inventory database, and management agreements at USask Database of the Canadian Centre’s partners and collaborators (i.e., expertise, major equipment, pilot plant capacity and services) Database of the Joint Centre’s capacity at NIFTEM-K (i.e., expertise, major equipment, pilot plant capacity and services) Mapping the ecosystem in Canada and with NIFTEM-K – identifying gaps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize a joint Canada-India Pulse Protein Summit at USask and at the partnering institutions in India, alternating annually to show case research and knowledge exchange. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual research meetings to engage industry stakeholders – alternating between Canada and India. Evidence of researcher mobility

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate exchange of researchers and students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased mobility of researchers and/or students between USask and NIFTEM-K (and Indian Universities)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an internal and external communication strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A website, branding and a communications strategy Host a joint webinar series for knowledge exchange.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the research ecosystem within Canada in pulse proteins and identify partnering research entities in India. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased number of grants and co-authored publications involving Centre members.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attract initial membership from industries in Canada and India, including research institutions, non-profit organizations, ingredient processors, food companies, grower organizations, farmers, and government. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased number of USask researcher members Increased number of external researcher collaborations. Increased industry stakeholder engagement with the Centre
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong governance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure longer-term funding for the centre and closer, more deliberate collaborations with colleagues on campus. Monthly management meetings between Canadian-India-Centres

APPENDIX B.

Table of the proposed internal members and proposed external partners

a) Proposed Internal members

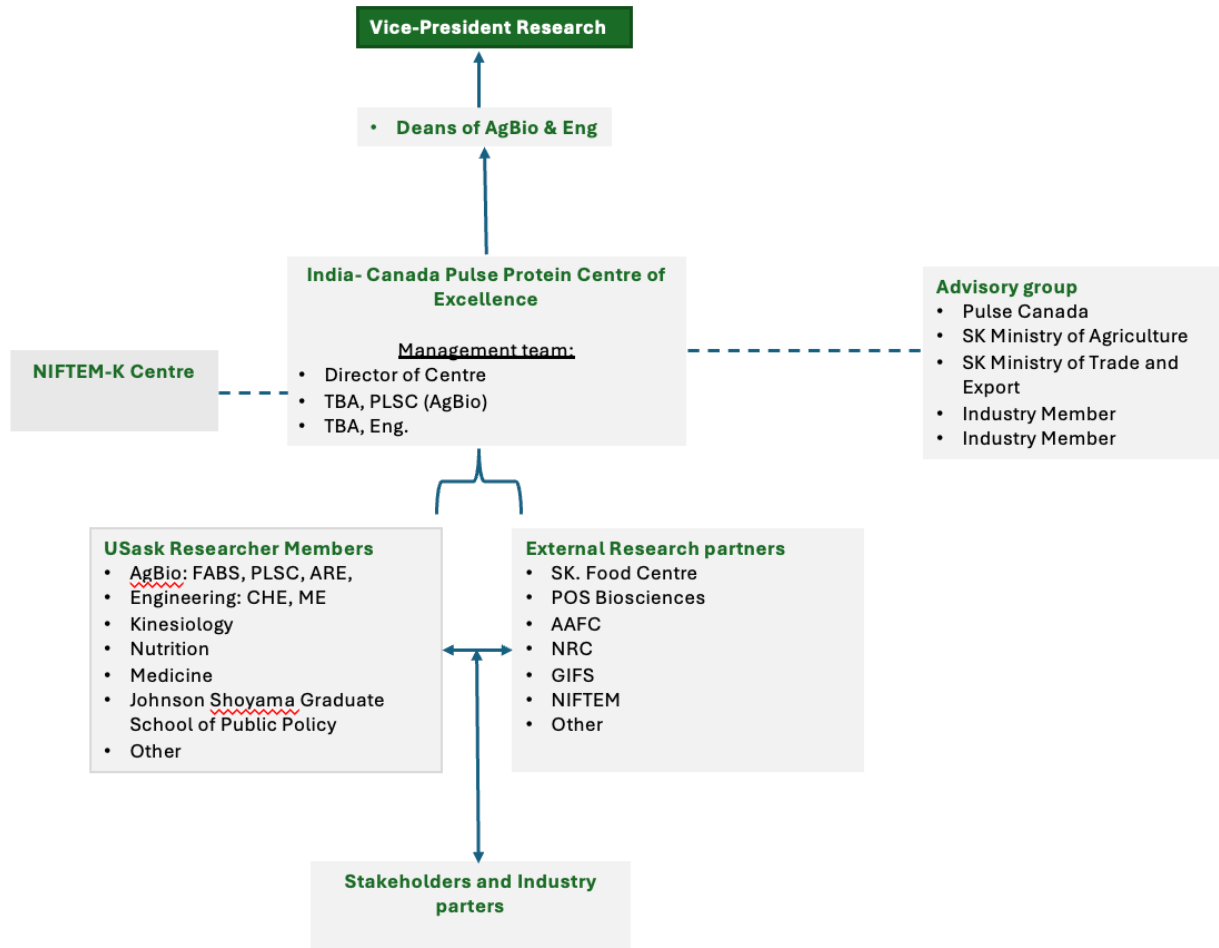
College of Agriculture and Bioresources	College of Engineering	Other Colleges & Units at USask
<p>Food and Bioproduct Sciences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Nickerson – pulse protein processing & utilization • D. Korber – fermentation of proteins • S. Ghosh – protein emulsifiers • Y. Ai – co-product valorization (starch) • M. Reaney – co-product valorization (lipid) • H. Zhang – analytical chemistry • Y. Fang/K. Wang – safety • S. Lui – food product development • T. Tanaka – enzymes – protein modification <p>Crop Development Centre/Plant Sciences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T. Warkentin – Pea breeding • B. Tar’an – Chickpea breeding • A. Vargas – Lentil & Faba breeding <p>Agricultural and Resource Economics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Hobbs – Consumer behavior, food policy, supply chains 	<p>Chemical and Biological Engineering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L. Zhang – cold plasma • V. Meda – dry fractionation/international development • J. Soltan – ultrasound/ozone • O. Baik – radio frequency • B. Acharya – co-product valorization (fibre) <p>Mechanical engineering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D. Chen – 3D printing 	<p>Nutrition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C. Henry – food security/nutrition <p>Kinesiology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P. Chilibeck - nutritional assessment <p>Medicine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R. Engler-Sringer – School programs, community health <p>Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y. Yang – Consumer behavior, food policy <p>Edwards School of Business</p> <p>Opus</p> <p>Innovation Mobilization and Partnerships</p>

b) Proposed external partners and stakeholders

Research partners	Stakeholders	Industry
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saskatchewan Food Industry Development Centre - Scale up product development for mini-product launches, scale up fermentation, protein extraction or other processes (e.g., extrusion). • POS Biosciences - Scale up protein and co-product extractions. • AAFC – Joint research collaborations • NRC – Joint research collaborations with scientists – analytics, pilot scale processing and AI driven platforms. • GIFS – Joint research collaborations with their biomanufacturing and automation platform • NIFTEM-K – Joint research collaborations • University of Alberta - Joint research collaborations - • University of Manitoba - Joint research collaborations • Alberta Food Centre – Scale up • Manitoba Food Centre – Scale up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government of Canada • Government of India • Pulse Canada • Saskatchewan Pulse Growers • Prairies Economic Development Canada • Mitacs • Innovation Saskatchewan • Saskatchewan Ministry of Trade and Export Development • Ministry of Advanced Education • Ministry of Agriculture • Saskatchewan Research Council • SERDA • Nutrition International • Food Banks Canada • AgWest Bio • Protein Industries Canada 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alliance Grain Traders • C-Merak • Lovingly Made • Parrheim Foods • Avena Foods • Three Farmers • DG Global West • InfraReady Products Ltds. • PhytoKana • Louis Dreyfus Company • Roquette • Nutri-Pea • Others

APPENDIX C.

Flow diagram of the proposed governance model of the Provisional Centre



APPENDIX D.
Preliminary three-year budget

Pulse Protein Center Three Year Budget			
	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
RESOURCES			
University Strategic Funding (confirmed)	400,000	250,000	100,000
College of Agriculture (confirmed)	200,000		
College of Engineering (confirmed)	25,000		
Research overhead support (pending)		25,000	35,000
Center Membership/Sponsorship (pending)		10,000	15,000
User fees (pending)		25,000	50,000
Industry contracts (pending)		15,000	30,000
Prairies Can (pending)		1,300,000	300,000
Innovation Science Fund (pending)		1,000,000	-
Agriculture Development Fund (pending)		200,000	
Pulse Growers Associations (pending)		265,000	130,000
Donar funding (pending)		100,000	
Total Funding	625,000	3,190,000	660,000
EXPENSES			
Business development		125,000	150,000
3 PHD students	90,000	90,000	93,600
Post Doc Fellow	35,000	65,000	67,600
AgBio research officer (.5)	40,000	60,000	62,400
AgBio research officer (.5)	40,000	60,000	62,400
Travel	25,000	50,000	30,000
Administrative support	30,000	30,900	32,136
Executive director stipend	15,000	15,000	15,000
Stakeholder meetings (4)	12,000	12,000	12,480
Researcher exchange support	10,000	10,000	10,400
Meals and entertainment	5,000	5,000	5,200
IP web services	5,000	5,000	5,200
Communication and branding	10,000	2,000	2,080
Graduate student awards	20,000	30,000	30,000
USask conference	25,000	-	-
Equipment costs	-	2,500,000	-
Total expenses	362,000	3,059,900	578,496
Surplus/Deficit	263,000	130,100	81,504
Reserve	263,000	393,100	474,604

APPENDIX E. Endorsement letter from the Vice-President Research



Vice-President Research

107 Administration Place
Saskatoon SK S7N 5A2 Canada
Telephone: (306) 966-8514
Facsimile: (306) 966-8736
<http://www.usask.ca/vpresearch>

May 8, 2026

Dear Centres Subcommittee,

The provisional *Canada-India Pulse Protein Centre of Excellence* represents a timely and strategic opportunity to advance research excellence and innovation in the pulse protein sector. The Centre will serve as an integrated research and development hub focused on converting pulse crops into commercially viable, high-protein foods and ingredients. Through strong collaboration among academic, industry, and government partners in Canada and India, it will accelerate the translation of research into processing innovations, value-added products, and informed policy.

The proposal aligns closely with the *New Roadmap for India-Canada Relations*, which underscores the importance of strengthening bilateral collaboration in research, public health, and agri-food development. The Centre is an outcome of the agreement signed between federal governments of Canada and India during Prime Minister Mark Carney's recent visit to India. The establishment of complementary Centres in India and at USask will enable coordinated efforts to advance shared priorities in protein processing, nutrition, and food innovation.

The University of Saskatchewan is uniquely positioned to lead this initiative, with internationally recognized expertise in pulse research and strong connections across the agricultural value chain. The Centre will bring together multidisciplinary strengths spanning plant science, food science, engineering, nutrition, and policy, ensuring an integrated, end-to-end approach. This alignment will be critical to addressing sectoral and industry needs, securing trade advantage for Saskatchewan's agrifood especially the pulses, advancing commercialization pathways, and supporting the adoption of innovative technologies and products.

The Centre model provides the scale and visibility required to attract major external funding, foster strategic partnerships, and support large, collaborative research initiatives. A coordinated, multi-sector partnership approach linking academia, industry, and government will be essential to securing investment, scaling innovation, and delivering meaningful economic and societal impact.

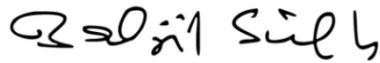
In addition, the Centre will strengthen research training and capacity building through student and researcher mobility, joint supervision, and collaborative programming with partners in India. These efforts will enhance the development of highly qualified personnel and further reinforce international research collaboration.



Seed funding from the OVPR Strategic Fund will provide a strong foundation for start-up activities and partnership development, positioning the Centre to secure long-term external funding and sustainability. As a university-led initiative engaging key stakeholders, the Centre will remain closely aligned with national priorities and sector needs.

This initiative presents a significant opportunity to position Canada and India as global leaders in pulse-based innovation, food security, and nutrition. I strongly support this proposal and its potential to deliver impactful outcomes through research excellence and partnership.

Sincerely,



Baljit Singh, FCAHS, BVSc&AH, PhD
Vice-President Research

APPENDIX F.

Endorsement letter from the Acting Dean, College of Agriculture and Bioresources



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

College of Agriculture
and Bioresources

AGBIO.USASK.CA

2D30, 51 Campus Drive
Saskatoon SK S7N 5A8 Canada
Telephone: 306-966-4056
Fax: 306-966-8894

May 29, 2026

Dear Colleagues,

The University of Saskatchewan has a strong complement of faculty members doing research that involves bioprocessing. This cohort of faculty members spans multiple colleges, with active research programs in the College of Engineering, the College of Agriculture and Bioresources and collaboration with colleagues in other colleges like Pharmacy and Nutrition and Kinesiology. The bioprocessing ecosystem extends beyond the university with many active collaborations with colleagues at the Saskatchewan Food Industry Development Centre, POS Biosciences, the National Research Council and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, as examples. The concentration of bioprocessing activity and expertise in this vicinity provide a strong and logic argument that the Canada-India Pulse Protein Centre of Excellence (Centre) should be established here. Among other intended outcomes, the establishment of a Centre will formally consolidate those interdisciplinary relationships and collaborators, drawing attention to significant scholarly strength.

While this is intended to be a Centre with activities focused on plant-based protein, it's important to acknowledge that pulse seeds are comprised of starch, fibre and oil, in addition to protein. Faculty in the Department of Food and Bioproduct Sciences include dedicated research Chairs with expertise in protein (Nickerson), starch (Ai) and lipids (Reaney), and expertise in these other co-products (lipids and starch) allows us to contribute to enhanced utilization of all portions of the seed constituent parts. This will be important as the plant-protein industry grows. The Provincial Growth Plan has ambitious targets for added-value processing, with a specific target, "Process 50 percent of the pulse crops Saskatchewan producers in Saskatchewan". Bioprocessing, with a concentration in the area of plant-based proteins, has been and will continue to be an area of teaching and research focus within the College of Agriculture and Bioresources, and a provisional Centre with a focus on pulse protein is directly inline with priorities in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources.

Discussions with other faculty members and department leaders in AgBio, regarding the provisional Centre have all been very positive. Colleagues have commented that this makes a lot of sense, given our expertise and the signing of the MOU in India. The only concern was related to the available funding for the Centre. Seed funding committed by the OVPR will allow the Centre to be

launched and give the proponents (including deans) time to work on external funding to support ongoing activities. This Centre has a bright future, and I look forward to celebrating its many successes.

I am pleased to confirm financial support from the College of Agriculture and Bioresources through a \$200,000 contribution to purchase equipment in support of the Centre's establishment and to strengthen Saskatchewan's leadership in pulse-protein innovation.

Thank you for considering the proposal. Please don't hesitate to contact me if there are questions.

Best regards,



Trever Crowe, PhD, P.Eng., PAg
Acting Dean and Professor

APPENDIX G.
Endorsement letter from the Dean, College of Engineering



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
College of Engineering
ENGINEERING.USASK.CA

Office of the Dean 3B48 Engineering
Building, 57 Campus Drive
Saskatoon SK S7N 5A9 Canada
Telephone: 306-966-5273 Fax: 306-
966-5205

May 31, 2026

The Centres Subcommittee of the Priorities and Planning Committee
University of Saskatchewan

Re: Letter of Support for Proposed Canada-India Pulse Protein Centre of Excellence

Dear Centres Subcommittee,

I am writing this letter in support of the establishment of the proposed new Canada-India Pulse Protein Centre of Excellence at the University of Saskatchewan (USask). This Centre will play a key role in developing pulse protein products for markets in India and abroad, leveraging USask's considerable reputational strengths in this important area of applied agricultural science and engineering. This Centre will be directly aligned with major Saskatchewan-based agricultural and value-added industries and is in the national interest. In partnership with the College of Agriculture, and other participating units, the College of Engineering will play a major role in this Centre, especially in the context of evaluating and developing new protein and co-product processing technologies, and assessing the scalability thereof. The College of Engineering has a number of active researchers in bioprocessing and related areas, who are expected to make major contributions to the Centre's activities. I expect significant research results and intellectual property to emerge from this Centre, and look forward to supporting its growth and development.

To support the establishment of the Centre, the College of Engineering will contribute \$25,000 to accelerate technology development and industry-focused innovation in the pulse sector.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Bradley".

Michael Bradley
Dean, College of Engineering
& Professor, Physics & Engineering Physics
College of Engineering, University of Saskatchewan

Planning and Priorities Committee Annual Report for Information

Presented by: Christian Willenborg
Date of meeting: June 11, 2026

SUMMARY

The Planning and Priorities Committee has had another fulsome year addressing a broad range of subjects, from the continually evolving political landscape to budget and tuition matters, approval of provisional centres, and the beginning stages of UPlan 2035 development. Throughout this work, the committee has engaged in collaborative dialogue, offering meaningful feedback, and asking thoughtful, challenging questions to encourage deeper consideration across key areas.

The Planning and Priorities Committee (PPC) met on 15 occasions throughout 2025-26. Additionally, the PPC Centre's Subcommittee met on 1 occasion. The Chair of PPC also served on the Executive Committee and the Governance Committee.

MEMBERSHIP

ELEVEN MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ACADEMIC ASSEMBLY, AT LEAST SIX OF WHOM WILL BE ELECTED MEMBERS OF COUNCIL, NORMALLY ONE OF WHOM WILL BE CHAIR. AT LEAST ONE MEMBER FROM THE GENERAL ACADEMIC ASSEMBLY WITH SOME EXPERTISE IN FINANCIAL ANALYSIS WILL BE NOMINATED; ONE DEAN APPOINTED BY COUNCIL, ONE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT APPOINTED BY THE USSU; ONE GRADUATE STUDENT APPOINTED BY THE GSA AND ONE SESSIONAL LECTURER.

Council Members:

Christian Willenborg (Chair)	Agriculture and Bioresources	2023-2026
Angela Lieveise (Vice-Chair)	Arts and Science	2024-2027
Claire Card	WCVM	2023-2026
Jay Kalra	Medicine	2023-2026
Jaswant Singh	WCVM	2024-2027
Rainer Dick	Arts and Science	2025-2028

General Academic Assembly Members:

Volker Gerdts	WCVM/VIDO	2025-2028
Stella Spriet	Arts and Science	2025-2028
Kerry Mansell	Pharmacy and Nutrition	2024-2027
David Williams	Edwards School of Business	2025-2027
Venkatesh Meda	Engineering	2024-2027

Dean:

Brooke Milne

Arts and Science

2025-2027

Student Members:Lindsay Gray Carlson
Owen DeisGSA (VP Finance & Operations)
USSU (VP Operations & Finance)**Ex-Officio:**

Patti McDougall	Interim Provost and Vice-President Academic
Terry Fonstad	Designate for VP Research
Greg Fowler	Vice-President, Administration & Chief Operating Officer
Angela Jaime (September-March)	Vice-Provost, Indigenous Engagement
Amaranta Sokół (April-June)	Acting/Interim Vice- Provost, Indigenous Engagement
Deidre Henne	Chief Financial Officer
Vicki Squires (non-voting)	University Council Chair

Resource Members:

Loleen Berdahl

Acting Deputy Provost

Note: President, Provost and Deputy Provost members changed October 1st, 2025, with Vince Bruni-Bossio named the incoming President.

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

1. Recommending and reporting to Council on university wide planning and priorities initiatives and review activities in consultation with the President and Senior Administration.
2. Undertaking the review and recommending to Council on:
 - a. Academic plans & priorities for the university including teaching, learning and research, scholarly and artistic works.
 - b. Community engagement plans & priorities.
 - c. Matters referred to it from other committees.
 - d. Establishment and disestablishment (including through amalgamation or separation) of any college, school, department, or any unit responsible for the administration of an academic program, with the advice of relevant committees of Council.

- e. Establishment and disestablishment (including through amalgamation or separation), reorganization, or review of any institute or centre at the university.
 - f. Affiliation or federation with other educational institutions, or dissolution of such arrangements, in consultation with relevant committees of Council.
3. Review the physical and budgetary plans for the university and make recommendations respecting those matters to the President or Board, such as:
 - a. Main elements of the comprehensive budget.
 - b. Budgetary implications of government funding requests.
 - c. Operating and capital budgetary matters, including infrastructure and space allocation issues.
 - d. Administrative structural changes and reorganizations.
4. 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.
5. Balancing academic and fiscal concerns in forming its recommendations.
6. Proactively supporting equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging as well as a commitment to transformative decolonization leading to reconciliation in all processes and matters coming before the Committee.

COUNCIL ITEMS

PPC presented the following items to University Council:

- Decision: Business Research Integration and Development Group (BRIDGE) Knowledge Centre
- Information: Provisional Centre for Entrepreneurship
- Information: Provisional Canada-India Pulse Protein Centre of Excellence
- Decision: Disestablishment of the Centre for the Study of Science and Innovation Policy
- Information: Revisions to Access to Information and Privacy Policy
- Decision: Change of Name for the Department of Family Medicine
- Information: 2025/2026 Enrolment Report

STRATEGIC, INTEGRATED and FINANCIAL PLANNING

The Planning and Priorities Committee received presentations and provided feedback on several university-level initiatives and plans, including but not limited to:

Budgeting and Tuition and Fees for 2026-2027

Planning and Priorities was actively engaged in discussion around university finances and the budgeting process, including the transition to the Accountability Framework for the Ministry of Advances Education. Members were also provided with an opportunity to review the approved 2026-2027 Tuition Rates and Student Fees as well as a briefing on the 2026-2027 Comprehensive Budget.

The committee was appreciative for another year of increased transparency and consultation on the budget discussions and the opportunity to provide feedback to the President and the Board of Governors.

Vice-President Portfolio Priorities

The Planning and Priorities Committee invited all the Vice-Presidents to report on their progress from 2024-2025 as well as outline their priorities for the coming year. The Vice-President portfolio priorities encompass a variety of objectives enhancing various aspects of the institution which are important for PPC to understand to ensure decisions made are aligning with these priorities. These priorities include but are not limited to academic excellence, student success, research, community engagement, and financial sustainability.

Integrated Services Renewal Initiative (ISR) and Administrative Service Review Initiative (ASR)

Planning and Priorities received updates on both the ISR and ASR initiatives. The ISR project to replace the university's core enterprise systems (ERP), including HR, finance, procurement, and eventually student systems is moving towards identifying a preferred platform, project scope, timelines, and cost ranges by the end of the fiscal year. It is important to note that this initiative will only move forward if funding is received from the Government. As for ASR, progress is continuing to be made on centralizing and creating networks of professionals to work together. PPC will continue to receive updates on these projects as they unfold.

Enrolment Planning Strategy

As part of PPC's priorities, enrolment planning was a reoccurring agenda item throughout the year. The committee was briefed on USask's plan move away from a fixed approach, emphasizing flexibility and adaptability in its planning processes. Student retention was

identified as a key priority, with recognition that supporting the success and persistence of current students is one of the most effective strategies for sustainable growth.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Updates on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) initiatives demonstrated steady progress across multiple areas, including student experience, teaching and learning, research, scholarly and artistic work, employee experience, systems and physical space. Members recognized that advancing EDI is an ongoing process requiring sustained commitment, reflection, and continuous improvement.

Economic and Social Impact Study

PPC members received a thorough presentation on the findings from a new **Economic and Social Impact Study** which demonstrated the university's significant contributions at both local and broader levels, including workforce development, research innovation, and community engagement. Members had the opportunity to engage in a collaborative workshop to identify additional opportunities to further communicate and demonstrate USask's non measurable impact.

UPlan 2035

President Bruni-Bossio engaged PPC early in the planning process for UPlan 2035, identifying multiple opportunities for strategic input and consultation. PPC participated in discussions focused on the university's future position within the higher education landscape, opportunities to more effectively articulate its value and impact, and the identification of key institutional strengths for prioritization and further development. Engagement with PPC will continue as the planning process advances.

PPC CENTRES SUBCOMMITTEE

Membership on this subcommittee is as follows:

- Vice chair of the Planning and Priorities Committee to serve as chair of the subcommittee.
- Two additional members from the Planning and Priorities Committee.
- One member from the Academic Programs Committee.
- One member from the Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Work Committee.
- Five centre directors.
- One representative of the Office of the Provost.
- One representative of the Office of the Vice-President Research.

Terms of centre directors on the subcommittee are for three years, rotating to ensure continuity of membership. Terms of the representatives of Council committees align with their terms on those committees. Quorum of the subcommittee is a majority of voting members.

The PPC Centre's subcommittee had a quieter year; nonetheless, brought forward one centre to PPC for Provisional Status.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I thank my Vice-Chair, Angela Lieverse, and all the members of PPC who made time to read the supporting documentation and provided the biweekly meetings of the PPC with insightful and thoughtful conversations.

I want to thank the PPC Executive for finding the additional hour in their busy schedules to meet and plan for agenda items that, in several cases, were challenged by internal and/or external deadlines. Thank you to Angela for chairing several PPC meetings as well as the PPC centers subcommittee meetings, and to Jordan Sherbino for supporting the subcommittee. I also wish to thank Danielle Rudulier and Julian Demekiw for their exceptional support of the PPC committee. Finally, I thank all of the outgoing members of PPC and wish them the very best.

Respectfully,

Christian Willenborg, Chair, Planning and Priorities

REQUEST FOR DECISION

Committee Name: Nominations Committee, University Council

Date: June 11, 2026

Presented by: Reza Fotouhi, Chair, Nominations Committee

Subject: Omnibus Council Committee Vacancies

MOTION

It is recommended by the Nominations Committee that Council approve the nominees for the council committees as outlined below.

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

The Nominations Committee is tasked with putting forward nominations for Council's approval to fill vacancies that arise throughout the year on Council committees and for vacancies in the position of chair on Council committees. The terms of reference (as articulated in the *Council Bylaws*) for these committees set forth various requirements for membership, such as having a certain number of Council members on a committee.

The Nominations Committee has reviewed the membership of Council committees and is submitting a list of nominees to Council for approval to fill the various vacancies.

Through the Governance Office, the Nomination Committee issued a call-for-interest to the General Academic Assembly, inviting volunteers to serve on these committees. Volunteers are considered first in determining the list of nominees. The Nominations Committee attempts to include individuals who are broadly representative of disciplines across the university, and prioritizes equity, diversity, and inclusion in representation. This prioritization is in line with the terms of reference for the Nominations Committee as set out in the *Council Bylaws*.

ATTACHMENTS

List of Council Committees and Nominees (with new nominees highlighted in yellow)

2026-2027 LIST OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND NOMINEES

Academic Programs Committee

Eleven members of the General Academic Assembly, at least five of whom will be elected members of Council, normally one of whom will be chair.

Voting members of the committee:

Council Members

Carolyn Augusta	Edwards School of Business	
Roy Dobson	Pharmacy and Nutrition	
Kevin Flynn	Arts and Science	2026-2029
Janet Luimes	Nursing	
Paul Jones	SENS	

General Academic Assembly Members

Mary Ellen Labrecque	Nursing	2026-2029
Jennifer Lang	Arts and Science	
Yannick Tremblay	Medicine	
Regina Taylor-Gjevre	Medicine	
Lori McKee	Education	
Valerie Caron	School of Rehabilitation Sciences	

Ex Officio and Other Members

	USSU representative	
	GSA representative	
TBD	Sessional Lecturer	
Marjorie Delbaere	Acting Vice-Provost, Students and Learning	
Salome Ries	Acting Associate Vice-Provost and University Registrar	

Governance Committee

Three elected members of Council, one of whom will be chair. Council chair, PPC chair, APC chair, President's designate.

Voting members of the committee:

Council Members

Rachel Sarjeant-Jenkins

Janet Luimes

Paul Jones

Library

Nursing

SENS

2026 - 2029

General Academic Assembly Members

None.

Ex Officio and Other Members

Ralph Deters

TBD

TBD

Dani Brittain

Chair, University Council

Chair, APC

Chair, PPC

President's designate

Planning and Priorities Committee

Eleven members of the General Academic Assembly, at least six of whom will be elected members of Council, normally one of whom will be chair. One sessional lecturer. One dean appointed by Council.

Voting members of the committee:

Council Members

Rainer Dick	Arts and Science	
Carla Orosz	Arts and Science	2026 - 2029
Kevin Flynn	Arts and Science	2026 - 2029
Christian Willenborg	Agriculture and Bioresources	2026 - 2029
Angela Lieverse	Arts and Science	
Jaswant Singh	CGPS/WCVM	

General Academic Assembly Members

Volker Gerdts	VIDO/WCVM
Stella Spriet	Arts and Science
Venkatesh Meda	Engineering
Kerry Mansell	Pharmacy and Nutrition
David Williams	Edwards School of Business

Ex Officio and Other Members

	USSU representative
	GSA representative
TBD	Sessional Lecturer
Brooke Milne	Dean appointed by Council
Patti McDougall	Provost and Vice-President, Academic (or designate)
Terry Fonstad	Designate for Vice-President, Research
Amaranta Sokół	Interim Vice-Provost, Indigenous Engagement
Greg Fowler	Vice-President, Administration (or designate)
Deidre Henne	Chief Financial Officer

Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Work Committee

Nine members of the General Academic Assembly, at least three of whom will be elected members of Council, normally one of whom will be chair.

Voting members of the committee:

Council Members

VACANT

Kevin Read

Keith Walker

Michael Wu

University Library

Education

WCVM

2026 - 2029

2026 - 2029

General Academic Assembly Members

Lingling Jin

Mariam Komeili

Dean McNeill

Janet Okoko

Stephan Milosavljevic

Arts and Science

Medicine

Arts and Science

Education

Medicine

2026 - 2029

Ex Officio and Other Members

Baljit Singh

Debby Burshtyn

Karim Tharani

USSU representative

GSA representative

Vice-President, Research

Dean, College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

Designate for Dean, University Library

Scholarships and Awards Committee

Nine members of the General Academic Assembly, at least three of whom will be elected members of Council, normally one of whom will be chair.

Voting members of the committee:

Council Members

VACANT

Carla Orosz

Jason Perepelkin

Veronika Makarova

Arts and Science

Pharmacy and Nutrition

Arts and Science

2026 - 2029

General Academic Assembly Members

Sarah Burningham

Carmen Gillies

FangXiang Wu

Michelle Gagnon

Kerry Mansell

Law

Education

Engineering

Arts and Science

Pharmacy and Nutrition

2026 - 2029

2026 - 2029

Ex Officio and Other Members

Trenna Vanghel

Marjorie Delbaere

Pirita Mattola

Leah Johnson

USSU representative

GSA representative

Representative from Office of the Vice Provost Indigenous Engagement

Designate for Provost and Vice-President Academic

Designate for Vice-Provost, Students and Learning

Designate for Dean, College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources Committee

Eleven members of the General Academic Assembly, at least five of whom will be members of Council, normally one of whom will be chair. One sessional lecturer.

Voting members of the committee:

Council Members

Ella Ophir	Arts and Science	2026 – 2029
Paul Jones	SENS	2026 – 2029
Marguerite Koole	Education	
Kate Congreves	Agriculture and Bioresources	
Natasha Hubbard Murdoch	Nursing	

General Academic Assembly Members

Greg Malin	Medicine	2026 – 2029
Gurpreet Kaur Aulakh	WCVM	
Melanie Hamilton	Education	
Maha Kumaran	Library	
Rebekah Bennetch	Engineering	2025 - 2026
Ken MacKenzie	Arts and Science	

Ex Officio and Other Members

	USSU representative	
	GSA representative	
TBD	Sessional Lecturer	
Marjorie Delbaere	Acting Vice-Provost, Students and Learning	

REQUEST FOR DECISION

Committee Name: Nominations Committee, University Council

Date: June 11, 2026

Presented by: Reza Fotouhi, Chair, Nominations Committee

Subject: Council Committee Chair Nominees

MOTION

It is recommended by the Nominations Committee that Council approve the nominees for the council committee chairs as outlined below.

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

The attached report for Council's consideration and approval contains this year's Chair nominees for the committees of University Council.

NEXT STEPS:

As per Part Two I. (d) of the Council Bylaws, the Chair of Council will call for any further nominations from the floor at the June 11, 2026 Council meeting. If there are none, the slate will be elected. If there are nominations from the floor there will be an election held within two weeks.

The Governance Committee is responsible for nominating the Chair of the Nominations Committee.

ATTACHMENTS

List of Council Committees Chairs Nominees (with new nominees highlighted in yellow)

2026 – 2027 List of Council Committees Chairs Nominees

Academic Programs Committee

Eleven members of the General Academic Assembly, at least five of whom will be elected members of Council, normally one of whom will be chair.

Voting members of the committee:

Council Members

Carolyn Augusta	Edwards School of Business	
Roy Dobson (Chair)	Pharmacy and Nutrition	
Kevin Flynn	Arts and Science	2026-2029
Janet Luimes	Nursing	
Paul Jones	SENS	

General Academic Assembly Members

Mary Ellen Labrecque	Nursing	2026-2029
Jennifer Lang	Arts and Science	
Yannick Tremblay	Medicine	
Regina Taylor-Gjevre	Medicine	
Lori McKee	Education	
Valerie Caron	School of Rehabilitation Sciences	

Ex Officio and Other Members

	USSU representative	
	GSA representative	
TBD	Sessional Lecturer	
Marjorie Delbaere	Acting Vice-Provost, Students and Learning	
Salome Ries	Acting Associate Vice-Provost and University Registrar	

Governance Committee

Three elected members of Council, one of whom will be chair. Council chair, PPC chair, APC chair, President's designate.

Voting members of the committee:

Council Members

Rachel Sarjeant-Jenkins	Library	
Janet Luimes	Nursing	2026 - 2029
Paul Jones (Chair)	SENS	

General Academic Assembly Members

None.

Ex Officio and Other Members

Ralph Deters	Chair, University Council
TBD	Chair, APC
TBD	Chair, PPC
Dani Brittain	President's designate

Planning and Priorities Committee

Eleven members of the General Academic Assembly, at least six of whom will be elected members of Council, normally one of whom will be chair. One sessional lecturer. One dean appointed by Council.

Voting members of the committee:

Council Members

Rainer Dick	Arts and Science	
Carla Orosz	Arts and Science	2026 - 2029
Kevin Flynn	Arts and Science	2026 - 2029
Christian Willenborg	Agriculture and Bioresources	2026 - 2029
Angela Lieverse (Chair)	Arts and Science	
Jaswant Singh	CGPS/WCVM	

General Academic Assembly Members

Volker Gerdts	VIDO/WCVM
Stella Spriet	Arts and Science
Venkatesh Meda	Engineering
Kerry Mansell	Pharmacy and Nutrition
David Williams	Edwards School of Business

Ex Officio and Other Members

	USSU representative
	GSA representative
TBD	Sessional Lecturer
Brooke Milne	Dean appointed by Council
Patti McDougall	Provost and Vice-President, Academic (or designate)
Terry Fonstad	Designate for Vice-President, Research
Amaranta Sokół	Interim Vice-Provost, Indigenous Engagement
Greg Fowler	Vice-President, Administration (or designate)
Deidre Henne	Chief Financial Officer

Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Work Committee

Nine members of the General Academic Assembly, at least three of whom will be elected members of Council, normally one of whom will be chair.

Voting members of the committee:

Chair is to be determined.

Council Members

VACANT

Kevin Read	University Library	2026 - 2029
Keith Walker	Education	2026 - 2029
Michael Wu	WCVM	

General Academic Assembly Members

Lingling Jin	Arts and Science	
Mariam Komeili	Medicine	2026 - 2029
Dean McNeill	Arts and Science	
Janet Okoko	Education	
Stephan Milosavljevic	Medicine	

Ex Officio and Other Members

	USSU representative
	GSA representative
Baljit Singh	Vice-President, Research
Debby Burshtyn	Dean, College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
Karim Tharani	Designate for Dean, University Library

Scholarships and Awards Committee

Nine members of the General Academic Assembly, at least three of whom will be elected members of Council, normally one of whom will be chair.

Voting members of the committee:

Council Members

VACANT

Carla Orosz Arts and Science 2026 - 2029

Jason Perepelkin Pharmacy and Nutrition

Veronika Makarova (Chair) Arts and Science

General Academic Assembly Members

Sarah Burningham Law 2026 - 2029

Carmen Gillies Education

FangXiang Wu Engineering

Michelle Gagnon Arts and Science 2026 - 2029

Kerry Mansell Pharmacy and Nutrition

Ex Officio and Other Members

USSU representative

GSA representative

Trenna Vanghel Representative from Office of the Vice Provost Indigenous Engagement

Marjorie Delbaere Designate for Provost and Vice-President Academic

Pirita Mattola Designate for Vice-Provost, Students and Learning

Leah Johnson Designate for Dean, College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources Committee

Eleven members of the General Academic Assembly, at least five of whom will be members of Council, normally one of whom will be chair. One sessional lecturer.

Voting members of the committee:

Council Members

Ella Ophir	Arts and Science	2026 – 2029
Paul Jones	SENS	2026 – 2029
Marguerite Koole (Chair)	Education	
Kate Congreves	Agriculture and Bioresources	
Natasha Hubbard Murdoch	Nursing	

General Academic Assembly Members

Greg Malin	Medicine	2026 – 2029
Gurpreet Kaur Aulakh	WCVM	
Melanie Hamilton	Education	
Maha Kumaran	Library	
Rebekah Bennetch	Engineering	2025 - 2026
Ken MacKenzie	Arts and Science	

Ex Officio and Other Members

	USSU representative	
	GSA representative	
TBD	Sessional Lecturer	
Marjorie Delbaere	Acting Vice-Provost, Students and Learning	

REQUEST FOR DECISION

Committee Name: Nominations Committee, University Council

Date: June 11, 2026

Presented by: Reza Fotouhi, Chair, Nominations Committee

Subject: Council Vice-Chair Nominee

MOTION

It is recommended by the Nominations Committee that Council approve Jason Perepelkin as the Vice Chair of Council effective July 1, 2026.

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

The Nominations Committee is tasked with putting forward a name for consideration by Council.

After reviewing the list of eligible persons to be nominated for this position, the Nominations Committee is recommending the following person serve as the Vice-Chair of University Council:

- Jason Perepelkin, College of Pharmacy & Nutrition.

REQUEST FOR DECISION

Committee Name: Nominations Committee, University Council

Date: June 11, 2026

Presented by: Reza Fotouhi, Chair, Nominations Committee

Subject: Omnibus Collective Agreement Committee Nominees

MOTION

It is recommended by the Nominations Committee that Council approve the nominees for the collective agreement committee as outlined below.

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

Each year, the Nominations Committee reviews the membership of Council committees and submits a list of nominees to Council for approval. The attached report for Council's consideration and approval contains this year's Collective Agreement Committee Nominees.

Through the Governance Office, the Nomination Committee issued a call-for-interest to the General Academic Assembly, inviting volunteers to serve on these committees. Volunteers are considered first in determining the list of nominees. The Nominations Committee attempts to include individuals who are broadly representative of disciplines across the university, and prioritizes equity, diversity, and inclusion in representation. This prioritization is in line with the terms of reference for the Nominations Committee as set out in the *Council Bylaws*.

ATTACHMENTS

List of Collective Agreement Committee Nominees (with new nominees highlighted in yellow)

List of Collective Agreement Committee Nominees

University Review Committee

As per Article 15.8.4 of the collective agreement: "The University Review Committee shall be made up of nine tenured or continuing employees plus the Vice-President Academic and Provost who shall be chair. The nine employees shall be nominated to this committee by the Nominations Committee of Council and approved by Council with the length of their term specified so as to ensure a reasonable turnover of membership. Employees shall not be nominated for membership if they have served on the University Review Committee in the previous three years or if they have agreed to serve on a College review committee in that academic year."

Appointed Members:

Jason Perepelkin	Pharmacy and Nutrition	
Lori Bradford	Engineering	
Egan Chernoff	Education	
Gordon Sarty	Arts and Science	
Jessica Lieffers	Pharmacy and Nutrition	
Alexander Crizzle	School of Public Health	2026 - 2029
Pamela Downe	Arts and Science	2026 - 2029
Ajay Dalai	Engineering	2026 - 2029
Sarah Burningham	Law	2026 - 2029

Ex Officio Members:

Scott Walsworth (chair)	Provost and Vice-President Academic (or designate)
-------------------------	--

Appeal Panel

As per Article 16.3.5.1 of the collective agreement: "An Appeal Panel of forty-eight employees drawn from the membership of the General Academic Assembly shall be named by the Nominations Committee of Council and approved by Council, with length of term specified so as to ensure a reasonable turnover of membership.... Membership shall be restricted to tenured faculty who are not members of the University Review Committee and who have not served on the University Review Committee in the previous three years."

The following people to be added to the Appeal Panel, with term lengths of three years:

1. Carey Simonson
2. Cherie Westbrook
3. Colleen Dell
4. Hassanali Vatanparast
5. Karla Williamson
6. Michel Gravel
7. Philip Chilibeck
8. Teresa Paslawski
9. Valerie Thompson
10. Ibiwonke Odumosu-Ayanu
11. Kirstin Bett
12. Laureen McIntyre
13. Melissa Arcand
14. Michaela Keet
15. Rajesh Karki
16. Yang Yang

Renewals and Tenure Appeal Committee

As per Article 15.8.5.2 of the collective agreement: "The committee shall consist of twelve tenured or continuing status faculty members: nine employees and three senior administrators, selected from amongst Associate Deans, Vice-Deans, Deans, Executive Directors, and/or vice-Provosts. Members will be selected by the Nominations Committee of Council and will serve a three year term. The Nominations Committee of Council shall strive to achieve representation from a wide range of disciplinary areas while also respecting the commitment to diversity (Article 7). Each year three new employees and one new senior administrator will be appointed to serve on the committee. Each year the chair of the committee shall be selected by mutual agreement between the Association and the Employer from amongst the committee members. Members may not serve as members of the University Review Committee during their term. A vacancy created by the resignation of a member will be filled by the Nominations Committee of Council for the remaining period of the term of that member."

The Senior Administrator was nominated and approved by Council earlier this year.

The following people to be added to the Renewals and Tenure Appeal Committee, with term lengths of three years:

Kirstin Bett	Agriculture and Bioresources
Chris Todd	Arts and Science
Yang Yang	Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy

Nominations Committee Annual Report for

Presented by: Reza Fotouhi
Date of meeting: June 11, 2026

BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

SUMMARY

The Nominations Committee works through the year to populate University Council, Collective Agreement, senior leader search and review, and other, “as needed,” committees. Our mandate is to bring diverse and representative slates of nominees for these committees forward to Council. Including the nominations being proposed at this meeting of University Council; since September, there have been a total of 76 nominations made by the Nominations Committee including the ones submitted for this council meeting.

MEMBERSHIP

TEN ELECTED MEMBERS OF COUNCIL, NOT MORE THAN THREE MEMBERS FROM ARTS AND SCIENCE AND NOT MORE THAN TWO MEMBERS FROM EACH OF THE OTHER COLLEGES, ONE OF WHOM WILL BE CHAIR.

Council Members:

Jason Perepelkin	Pharmacy and Nutrition	2028
Marcella Ogenchuck	Nursing	2027
Carolyn Augusta	Edwards School of Business	2027
Rachel Engler-Stringer	Medicine	2026
Reza Fotouhi (Chair)	Engineering	2026
Pierre-Francois Noppen	Arts and Science	2026
Jamsey Patrick	Law	2028
Keith Walker	Education	2026
Craig Wilson	Edwards School of Business	2026
Lori Bradford	Engineering	2028

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

1. Nominating members of the General Academic Assembly (GAA) and Council to serve on all standing and special committees of Council, other than the Nominations Committee, and nominating the Chairs of these committees.

2. Nominating members of Council or the GAA to serve on other committees on which Council or GAA representation has been requested.
3. Nominating individuals to serve as Chair and/or Vice-Chair of Council, or as members of Council, as required, in accordance with the Bylaws.
4. Nominating Sessional Lecturers to Council committees as required.
5. Nominating eligible members of the General Academic Assembly to serve on appeal and review committees as required by the Collective Agreement with the University of Saskatchewan Faculty Association.
6. Nominating individuals to serve on search and review committees for senior administrators.

COUNCIL ITEMS

Nominations presented the following items to University Council:

- 23 nominations for individuals to serve on Council Committees
- 8 nominations to serve on Search Committees
- 3 Sessional Lecturers nominations to serve on Council
- 1 nomination to serve as vice-chair on University Council
- 6 nominations for individuals to serve as chairs of Council Committees, and
- 34 nomination to serve on committees required under the Collective Agreement

College Representation analysis:

Member	College	Compared to number of seats available on committees	Compared to College Populations
GAA Member	Arts and Science	26%	2%
GAA Member	Education	15%	10%
GAA Member	Medicine	15%	5%
GAA Member	Engineering	7%	2%
GAA Member	Library	7%	6%
GAA Member	Pharmacy and Nutrition	7%	6%
GAA Member	WCVM	7%	1%
GAA Member	Agriculture and Bioresources	4%	1%
GAA Member	Edwards	4%	2%
GAA Member	School for the Arts	4%	0%
GAA Member	School of Rehabilitation Sciences	4%	0%
GAA Member	Dentistry	0%	0%
GAA Member	Kinesiology	0%	0%
GAA Member	Law	0%	0%
GAA Member	Nursing	0%	0%

Council Member	Arts and Science	16%	2%
Council Member	Agriculture and Bioresources	11%	5%
Council Member	Medicine	11%	5%
Council Member	Nursing	11%	7%
Council Member	WCVM	11%	3%
Council Member	Edwards	8%	5%
Council Member	Engineering	8%	4%
Council Member	Pharmacy and Nutrition	8%	9%
Council Member	Education	5%	5%
Council Member	SENS	5%	9%
Council Member	Law	3%	4%
Council Member	Library	3%	3%
Council Member	Dentistry	0%	0%
Council Member	Kinesiology	0%	0%
GAA+council	Pharmacy and Nutrition	16%	
GAA+council	Education	15%	
GAA+council	Medicine	10%	
GAA+council	Library	9%	
GAA+council	SENS	9%	
GAA+council	Nursing	7%	
GAA+council	Agriculture and Bioresources	6%	
GAA+council	Edwards	6%	
GAA+council	Engineering	6%	
GAA+council	Arts and Science	5%	
GAA+council	WCVM	4%	
GAA+council	Law	4%	
GAA+council	Dentistry	0%	
GAA+council	Kinesiology	0%	
GAA+council	School for the Arts	in Arts and science	
GAA+council	School of Rehabilitation Sciences	in Medicine	

Respectfully,
Reza Fotouhi, Chair, Nominations Committee

ITEM FOR INFORMATION

Committee Name: Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee, University Council

Date: June 11, 2026

Presented by: Eric Lamb, Chair, Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee

Subject: Vice-President Research Annual Report

SUMMARY

At its May 21, 2026 meeting, RSAW members received the annual report from the Vice-President Research, Baljit Singh. In summary, Dr. Singh noted a continually strong and increasingly strategic research environment at USask, with growing emphasis on impact and community engagement. At the national level, the research and innovation landscape remains supportive, with new federal investments in infrastructure and defence-related research that are additive and integrated across facilities, personnel, and trainees. Provincially, the Government of Saskatchewan continues to provide stable and consistent support for research.

USask is strengthening its focus on community-connected research, positioning its activities at serving local, rural, northern, and Indigenous communities while maintaining global relevance. This approach aligns with the emerging University Plan centred on “local connections for global impact,” and is reflected in initiatives such as community-based research partnerships, outreach programming, and major engagement infrastructure projects.

In 2025–26, USask recorded \$272M in research revenue and \$164M in awarded funding, with steady growth in recent years. Success rates in federal tri-agency competitions are at or above national averages, supported by institutional grant development and mentorship. The university continues to secure major national and international funding and maintain an expanding global research footprint, with partnerships spanning more than 55 countries.

USask is building on established strengths in agriculture, health, energy, and social sciences, while expanding into emerging areas such as quantum computing, artificial intelligence, and defence-related research. Innovation and commercialization are also growing, supported by increased patenting activity and startup development initiatives. Looking ahead, priorities include strengthening faculty capacity, expanding health research leadership, enhancing graduate and undergraduate research opportunities, and preparing for increased engagement in defence-related research framed around community resilience.

Overall, USask is well-positioned within a favourable funding and policy environment, demonstrating strong research performance, an expanding global presence, and a clear shift toward community-focused impact as it develops its next institutional plan.

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2025-2026 Annual Report- Office of the Vice-President Research



UNIVERSITY OF
SASKATCHEWAN

2025 - 2026 ANNUAL REPORT

Office of the Vice-President Research

BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

'Capturing the Radiance of USask's Beloved Airplane Room' by Dr. Ian Stavness (PhD), Department of Computer Science, College of Arts and Science.



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The University of Saskatchewan is on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Vice-President's Address	4
The Office of the Vice-President Research	6
Connecting with Community	8
Research, Scholarly and Artistic Works (RSAW) Funding	11
Intellectual Property Management	19
Internationalizing the USask Experience	20
Tri-Agency Updates	25
Storytelling and Awards	27
RSAW Services	29
RSAW Initiatives	32

VICE-PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

BALJIT SINGH

Once again, it is my honour to provide members of the University of Saskatchewan (USask) community the 2025-26 Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work (RSAW) report on behalf of the Office of the Vice-President Research (OVPR).

The role of RSAW has never been more important.

Our world is changing rapidly at a speed we never thought imaginable. Areas of great importance and impact are advancing seemingly overnight. These include the literature we read, cars we drive, phones we use to connect, the energy that powers our homes and the way we appreciate and consume art and culture.

Many areas of our lives are undergoing monumental shifts, and we have just begun to scratch the surface of what these changes can do for us, as a society, and how they may impact our life as individuals.

Behind all these advancements and our abilities to respond to them remains one constant. And that, of course, is the RSAW that drives the innovation. None of these advancements in technology, artificial intelligence, energy or social sciences could be possible without the research behind these inventions, and the dedicated individuals behind the research.

I'm proud to say that USask is home to some of the best, brightest and most efficient researchers, scholars and artists in the country and we are positively contributing to this moment in history.

USask is an economic driver for the province with longstanding research and teaching collaborations in various parts of the world. The depth and strength of our international engagement is indicated by our international partnerships and growing funding opportunities. These international engagements support Saskatchewan's economic connections with the world.

We continue to excel in areas that have great importance to this province and the world; agrifood, water security, energy, health and social sciences are just a few examples.



The OVPR, our partners across our campus, and our dedicated cluster of world-leading research centres have found new ways to push the envelope and have continued to advance our RSAW footprint in ways that we've never seen before.

We are here to serve our local and global communities. What we do greatly matters to the people of Saskatchewan and the world, and USask's RSAW impact shows no signs of slowing down anytime soon.

Throughout the pages of this annual report, you'll find stories that showcase our commitment to accelerating RSAW in Saskatchewan and beyond. Through internationalization, entrepreneurialism, community engagement, funding successes, storytelling, and dependable research services, we are building momentum and greatly supporting our RSAW ecosystem.

This success was not created in a day. Instead, it has been built through the hard work of many employees over many years. Each of my predecessors, Dr. Corcoran, Dr. Franklin and Dr. Chad, and their teams had a major role in developing the foundation that my team and colleagues across our campus are benefiting from and strengthening further. There is an invisible thread that ties each one of us together, as we passed the baton from one hand to the next to create ever growing RSAW enterprise at USask.

On January 31, 2026, I also completed five years of service as your Vice-President, Research. It has been a journey of personal and professional growth, a huge joy in working with and learning from so many of you and to experience many triumphs, celebrations and transformations.

I am so proud of the team in OVPR and the collaboration with members of President's Executive, Deans and other leaders from across the campus.

As we reflect on the progress we've made, we also welcome a new chapter for RSAW at USask. I warmly welcome Vince Bruni-Bossio to his role as our new president and know that under his leadership we will continue to build, together.

There is still a lot to be done. We are looking ahead into 2027 and the development of a new *University Plan* to carry forward the momentum of our past and build a bright future for years to come.

Baljit Singh
Vice-President Research
University of Saskatchewan

THE OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT RESEARCH

The Office of the Vice-President Research (OVPR) provides key services and supports to researchers, fostering connections between USask's Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work (RSAW) endeavours and communities worldwide. Together, the units of OVPR facilitate the development of local, national, and international partnerships, manage grant and contract submissions, support knowledge mobilization, ensure compliance, and highlight the university's impact and achievements.

International Office (IO): supports the USask community to engage in international research and partnerships, by identifying funding opportunities, and bringing teams and global partners together to work on international projects. The IO's work supports and coordinates international initiatives highlighted in the university's *International Blueprint for Action 2025 – a vision for a globally significant university*.

Innovation Mobilization and Partnerships (IMP): builds strong ecosystems and research partnerships to support mobilizing USask innovations with the goal of creating external value for society, the economy, and the environment. IMP teams conduct technology transfer, research contracting, intellectual property management, venture creation, and innovation ecosystem engagement activities. IMP is the organizational home of Opus, USask's pre-accelerator program for founders with research-backed innovations for which they want to build new companies.

Research Acceleration and Strategic Initiatives (RASl): supports the university research community in the incubation and development of research grants, infrastructure projects and initiatives, and management of the federal research chairs programs. Key goals of RASl are to provide researchers and the university with services and programs that create a competitive edge when applying for external research funding, ensure alignment with granting agency and national research security requirements, and support good management of external funding. RASl supports the development of a robust research culture through targeted programs and initiatives, including the Undergraduate Research Initiative and Discovery, Achievement and Research Excellence (DARE) program.



A photo of the OVPR leadership team, 2025/2026.

Research, Profile and Impact (RPI): tells the university's research story to the world – through strategic communications involving print, video, newsletters, media releases, web, social media, advertisements and events. It plays a critical role in building USask's reputation as a U15 institution, which in turn helps bolster our placement in university rankings and attracting top talent, public and private investment, as well as support from alumni and partners. As the university's liaison with federal and provincial granting agencies, RPI ensures compliance with communication requirements and leading high-profile events to showcase our research funding successes. Working in coordination with University Relations and a network of USask college and research centre communicators, RPI is here to help researchers celebrate their success, effectively tell their stories, and demonstrate their impact to the world.

Research Ethics and Infrastructure: upholds the approved ethical standards and guidelines for research conducted on campus. Services include reviewing and approving submissions, developing policies, providing education and training.

Tri-Agency Research Support: provides support to researchers applying for funding from the federal Tri-Agency granting councils, Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR), Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) through the development of research grants. The goal of the Tri-Agency Support team is to support researchers through the initial phases of development of their grants through targeted workshops, mentorship, peer review, resources, and providing information around funding opportunities and deadlines.

The College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (CGPS): **Dr. Dean Debby Burshtyn** (PhD) and VPR **Dr. Baljit Singh** (PhD), continue to incorporate CGPS strategy into RSAW planning to deepen graduate student and postdoctoral scholar experience. Leadership has been working closely with deans, centre directors and department heads on the alignment of graduate student programming. OVPR and CGPS continue to work collaboratively to find more graduate student funding and international opportunities.

CGPS prepares an annual report for University Council. For further information on the college's priorities and activities, please refer to CGPS's report.

CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITY

Saskatchewan's Research in Action: On March 10, Innovation Saskatchewan hosted teams from USask, Saskatchewan Polytechnic and the University of Regina at the legislature for an event that showcased Saskatchewan led research. The research on display highlighted the undeniable role RSAW plays in the fabric of Saskatchewan. **President Vincent Bruni-Bossio** was on hand to bring greetings, where he emphasized USask's strong history of innovation in Saskatchewan. USask researchers representing many areas, including agriculture, life sciences, energy, and critical minerals, were at the reception to speak to Members of the Legislative Assembly and many others about USask's RSAW and its role in innovating Saskatchewan.

Senate presentation: USask's RSAW elevates what this province is already known for – agriculture, energy, social sciences, health and many other disciplines. This was the message that VPR **Dr. Baljit Singh** (PhD) delivered during his presentation to the USask Senate, earlier this spring. The presentation underpinned how USask's discoveries and made-in Saskatchewan solutions are keeping us competitive on the global stage.



Campus Conversations: Throughout the year, the OVPR hosts Campus Conversations, which is an event that fosters constructive discussions with members of the campus community and OVPR leadership to support RSAW at USask. All faculty, staff, postdoctoral fellows and students are welcome.

Station 20 West: USask continues to be a co-locator with the OVPR overseeing the lease and this important relationship. The Network Environments for Indigenous Health Research (NEIHR) has been the primary presence in this space. In 2026, the space is being opened to other researchers and groups who wish to have a community presence working with neighbourhoods in the area.

RSAW Intersections – The Power of Story: Led by Dr. Kokum Linda Young and Elder Roland Duquette, a panel that included Governor General’s Award winners **Tara Beagan** and **Cheryl L’Hirondelle**, as well as Canada Research Chair **Kristina Bidwell**, explored the meaning and purpose of story in their lives and work. **Elder Joseph Naytowhow** helped the group close the evening that was hosted by **Drs. Dawn Wallin (PhD)** and **Andrew Denton (PhD)** in partnership with the Canada Council for the Arts, Remai Modern and USask.





Digital Equity work with City of Saskatoon: The OVPR is collaborating with the City of Saskatoon on a project that will support the City in its efforts to provide greater equity in access to digital technologies, programming and services.



SSHRC Matters Series: Throughout 2025-2026, the series explored topics related to community needs and interests, including: *Beyond Borders: Community-Driven Research in Africa and Lessons for Living Well: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Human Flourishing.*



Research Junction: In collaboration with the City of Saskatoon and the OVPR, the Research Junction program supports the development of joint research projects that address contemporary urban issues for the benefit of Saskatoon residents. To enhance research connections and support the development of large-scale, multi-year opportunities, Research Junction offers seed and development grants. These grants fund projects that are co-led and co-developed by a City of Saskatoon staff member and a USask researcher. In 2025-26, Research Junction funded four development grants and two seed grants for a total awarded funding of \$129K.



Outreach/Media Events: The OVPR, along with partners in USask's Government Relations and University Relations, welcomed community members and members of the media to campus to announce that USask will be home to Canada's first university-owned-and-operated, vendor-supported, full-stack, open-architecture quantum computer. Led by **Dr. Steven Rayan** (PhD), the new computer is a first in Canada and will allow researchers a unique opportunity to access new research avenues never before available.

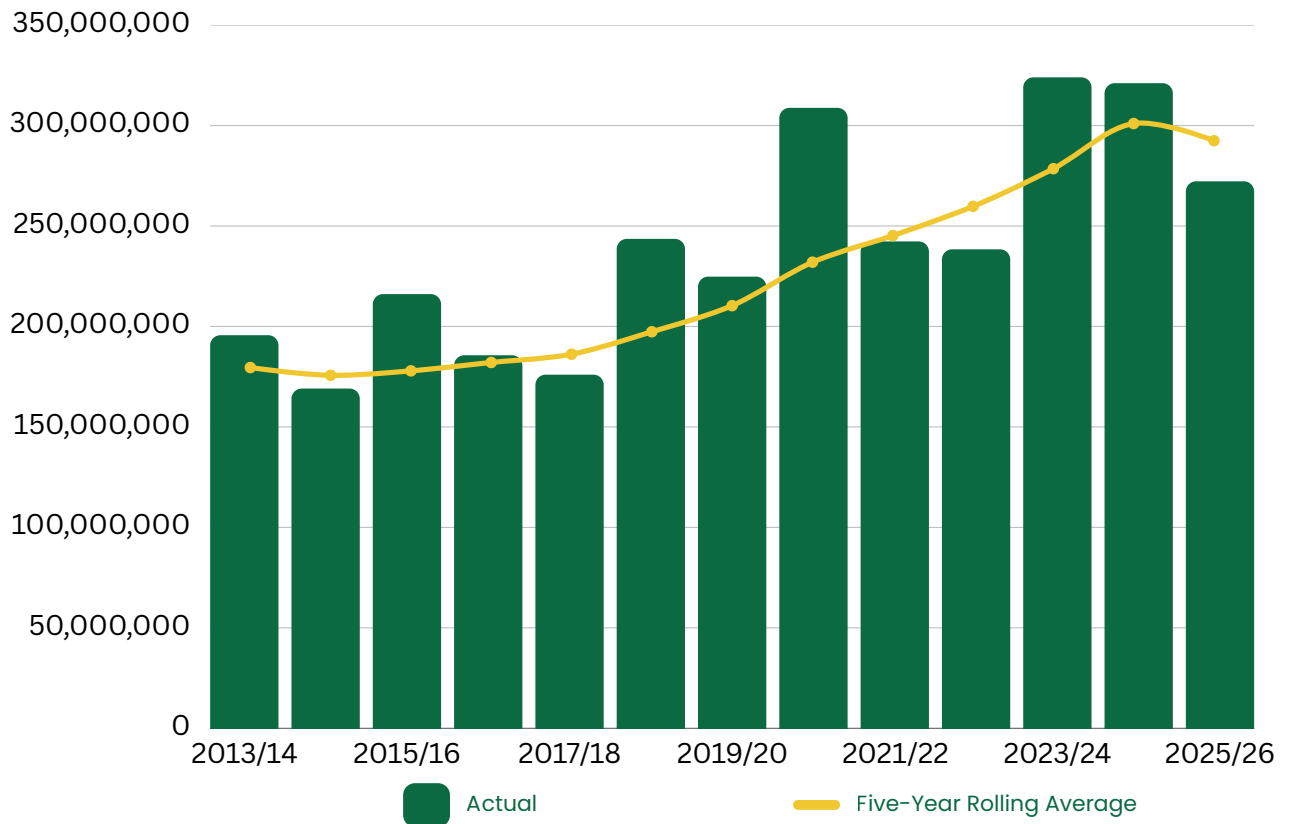
RSAW FUNDING

RSAW Revenue

- USask received **\$272 Million** in RSAW revenue recorded for the 2025-26 fiscal year.
- The current five-year rolling average (2021-22 to 2025-26) **\$280 Million (17 per cent increase since 2021-22).**

**RSAW revenue amounts are shown as and when the money is received. Amounts are shown under each year the installment is received. **Data is incomplete for 2025-2026 until July 2026.*

Annual RSAW Revenue* and Five-Year Rolling Average

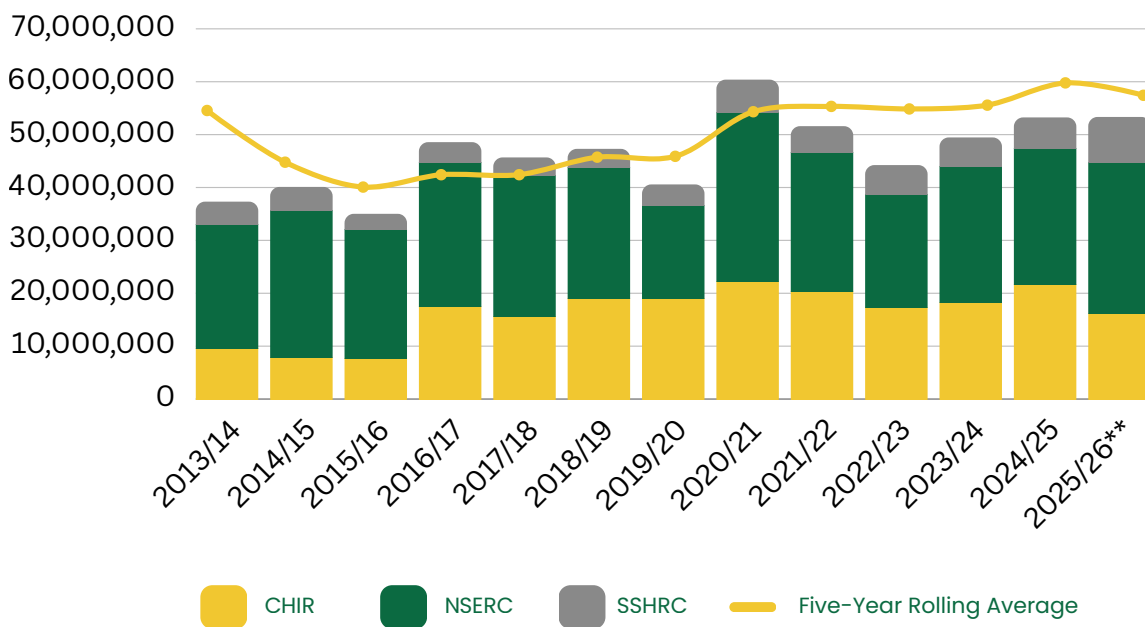


Tri-Agency Five-Year Trends

Over the past five years, USask has experienced growth in tri-agency research activity and total funding, driven by increasing applications and strong performance in several key programs. Growth in applications and awarded funding across NSERC, CIHR, and SSHRC reflects a strong and engaged research ecosystem. For the purpose of this Annual Report, a short summary of selected tri-agency funding trends is provided below. Detailed five-year trend data is available upon request.

- **NSERC** has seen a consistent and steady increase in both application volumes and total funding, with Discovery Grant funding more than doubling since 2022. USask success rate has remained consistent and on par with national success rates.
- **CIHR Project Grants** show increasing submission volumes and higher total dollars awarded over the five-year period. The success rate in the 5/10 most recent competitions has been similar or higher than the national average.
- We are seeing significant increases in **SSHRC** applications for the flagship Insight program (Insight Grant and Insight Development Grant) with success rates remaining near national averages. There is also an increasing trend in submissions for grants focused on bringing people together for collaboration and knowledge mobilization (Connection Grants, and Partnership Engage Grants) with success rates higher than the national rates. Application rates for the SSHRC Partnership Program (Partnership Development Grant and Partnership Grant) remain quite low, with RASI and the Tri-Agency team working on improving supports for faculty who engage in these high-intensity collaborative grant applications.

Annual Tri-Agency RSAW Revenue* (Actual) & Five-Year Moving Average



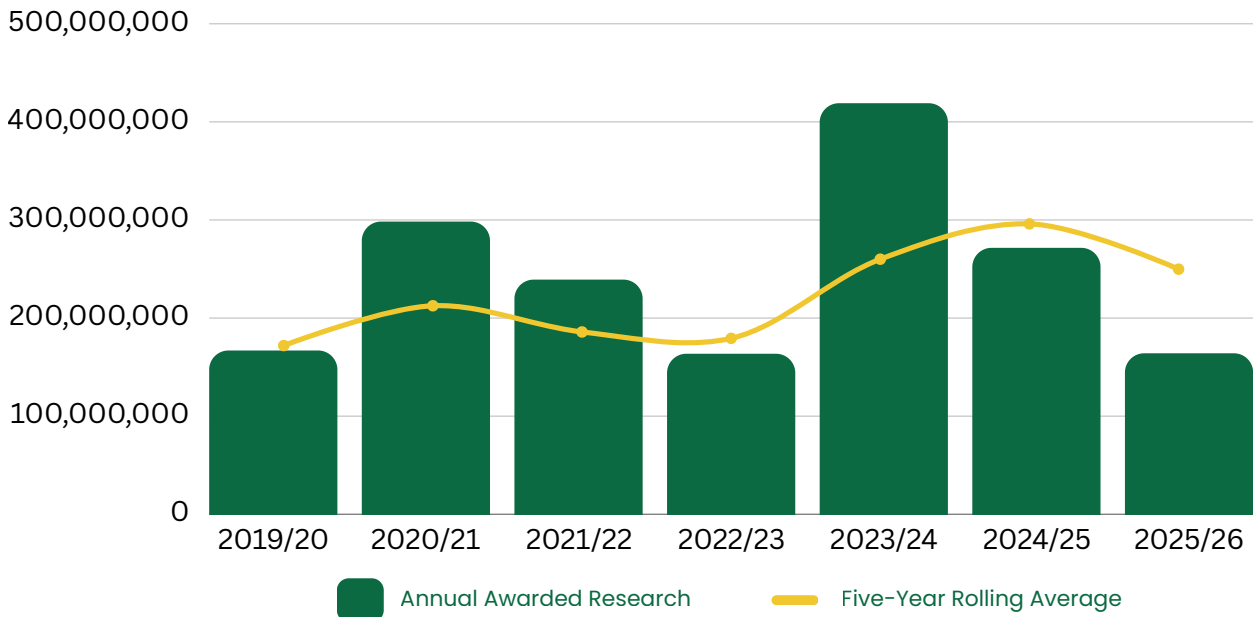
Awarded RSAW

The OVPR supported researchers in securing:

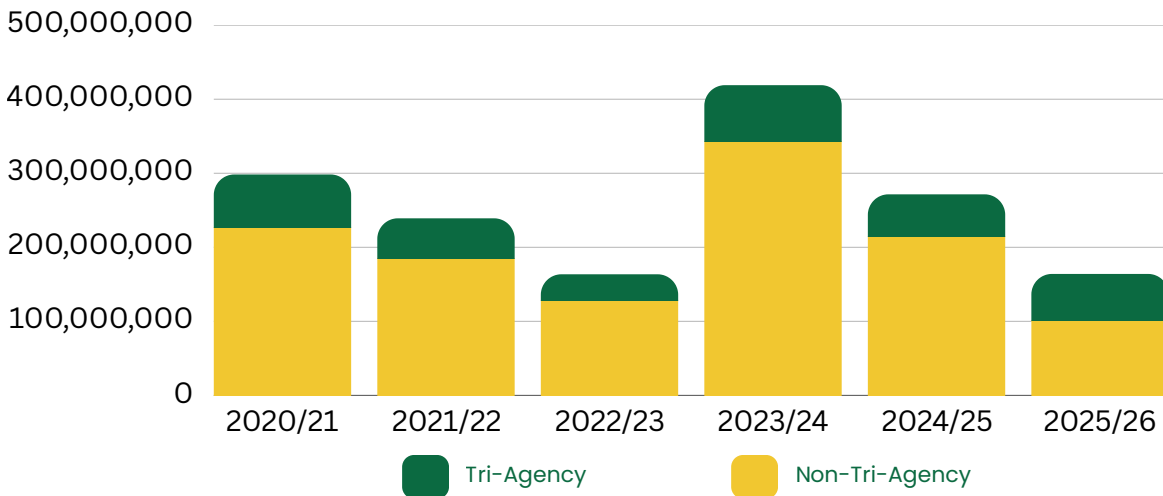
- USask received **\$164 Million** in awarded RSAW funding in 2025-26, including **\$63 Million** in Tri-Agency funding.
- USask’s five-year rolling average of awarded RSAW is **\$251 Million (17 per cent increase since 2021-22).**

**Awarded RSAW includes the total research amounts under the year (fiscal year) the award was accepted. The total of all instalment amounts if any are shown under the date of acceptance of award.*

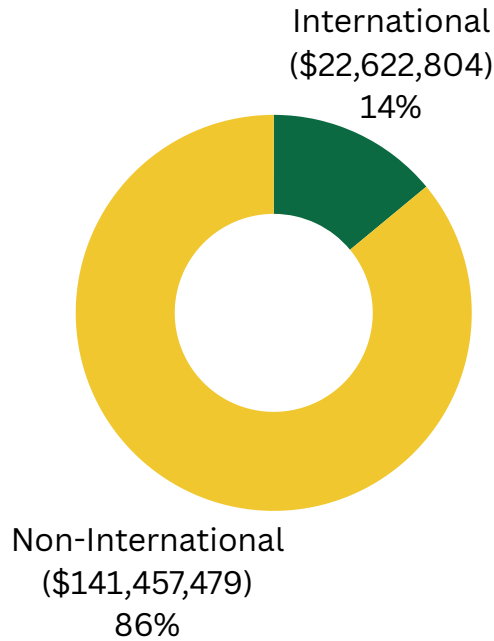
Awarded RSAW* - Five-Year Rolling Average



USask Awarded RSAW



- Over **\$22 M** in awarded international RSAW funding from May 1, 2025 to April 30, 2026 contributed to the USask total awarded RSAW funding listed above.



Key grant successes in the last year include:

A) Large-scale and institutional RSAW and infrastructure grants

OVPR supported the development of large-scale and institutional significant RSAW grant proposals, helping faculty navigate the complexity by providing a suite of strategic and practical supports. A few examples of key grants that USask was awarded in 2025-26 include:



Dr. Karen Schwean-Lardner (PhD) with the College of AgBio speaks at an event announcing \$6.2 million from the CFI to support the construction of a new poultry laying facility at USask.

- *The Story Collider: Listening, Telling and Retelling* led by **Drs. Dawn Wallin** (PhD) and **Andrew Denton** (PhD) received **\$3M** from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) Innovation Fund (IF) program. Total project cost was funded through the inaugural social science, humanities and art (SSHA) funding stream.
- *Sustainable Eggs, Improved Animal Welfare and Enhanced Food Security through New Technologies* led by **Drs. Karen Schwean-Lardner** (PhD) and **Deborah Adewole** (PhD) received **\$6.2M** from the CFI-IF. Total project cost is **\$15.9M**.

B) Large-scale international RSAW and development grants

The IO supported a number of successful, large-scale grants. Some examples from 2025-26 include:

- **Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, USA (Dr. Veronica Campanucci (PhD) and Dr. Juan Ianowski (PhD), College of Medicine):** this project addresses poorly understood challenges in cystic fibrosis. **Dr. Campanucci (PhD)** proposes a major shift in thinking—that these symptoms are driven not only by mucus issues but also by malfunctioning gut nerves. **Dr. Ianowski's (PhD)** project aims to pinpoint exactly which airway cells must be corrected to effectively treat cystic fibrosis lung disease.
- **International Development Research Centre, Canada (Dr. Maureen Reed (PhD) and Dr. Jim Robson (PhD), SENS):** awarded \$401,320 to launch *Reimagining Ethics, Learning and Transdisciplinary Evaluation (RELATE)*, a transformative project that will advance new approaches to ethics and evaluation in sustainability research. This project strengthens USask's international partnerships, bringing together collaborators from Mexico and South Africa.
- **Global Affairs Canada, Canada (Dr. Varuni Jayasooriya (PhD), SENS):** awarded over \$500,000 as part of the Indo-Pacific Strategy, to launch a multi-year research fellowship program supporting climate resilience in vulnerable coastal communities. Beginning in 2026, USask graduate students will conduct fieldwork in Sri Lanka, the Philippines, and New Zealand with international partners on nature-based solutions.
- **Global Affairs Canada, Canada (Dr. Bunyamin Tar'an (PhD), College of Agriculture and Bioresources):** awarded over \$210,000 as part of the Indo-Pacific Regional Connectivity Envelope for the *Accelerated Breeding for Climate Resilience in Rice – Harnessing Innovations, Addressing Challenges, and Promoting Cooperation* in the ASEAN Region. A five-day workshop was co-hosted by USask and Bogor Agricultural University (IPB), Indonesia, with approximately 40 participants from Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Indonesia. Participants represented breeding organizations, rice gene banks, agricultural ministries, universities, research institutions, and policy consultants.
- **The São Paulo Research Foundation, Brazil:** a landmark **\$2M**, five-year research agreement was signed between **Dr. Walter Siqueira (PhD)** at the USask College of Dentistry and the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP) to support 50 joint projects over five years on oral, dental, and craniofacial research between USask researchers and leading institutions in the State of São Paulo. The development of this partnership was first initiated through an outbound mission of USask Senior Leadership in September 2024. The partnership is notable as the largest known FAPESP agreement with a Canadian university requiring interdisciplinary collaboration between USask colleges and international partners.

C) *International Blueprint for Action 2025* – International travel and project grants

An integral component of the *International Blueprint for Action* is the International Travel and Project seed grants that the IO manages. Each year a call for applications for the travel and project grants is promoted to USask faculty/staff and to their international partners to support incoming and outgoing travel to initiate, build and support international and intercultural engagement and activities aligned with USask priorities.

USask is proud to be one of the first to offer these types of seed grants, which are seen by many of our partners as an exemplary model of how to support internationalization strategically. Some projects supported by these grants include:

- **Global Community Service Fund:** Nursing Assistant Professor **Dr. Maposa Sithokozile's** (PhD) project built a long-term international partnership to strengthen global health approaches for Indigenous older adults in Piauí, Brazil, and Saskatchewan. Guided by Elders, knowledge keepers, and community organizations, the team identified culturally grounded priorities and mapped resources and gaps through an environmental scan.
- **Global Innovation Fund:** SENS Professor **Dr. Tim Jardine's** (PhD) project focused on protecting Morocco's native African trout by assessing how climate change is affecting high-altitude freshwater ecosystems in the Atlas Mountains. By working with universities, government agencies, conservation groups, and local Amazigh communities, the team monitored water conditions, habitat health, and trout food webs to identify future refuge areas.

D) Other notable successes

Quantum Computer

USask, with support from Prairies Economic Development Canada (PrairiesCan) and Innovation Saskatchewan, will be installing the new 14 qubit full-stack quantum computer at USask's Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organizations (VIDO) for research and education. The PrairiesCan funding of **\$1.93M** is through the Regional Innovation Ecosystems program, and Innovation Saskatchewan provided an additional \$400,000 through its Innovation & Science Fund. This project was led by **Dr. Steven Rayan** (PhD).



Dr. Steven Rayan (PhD), Director of the Centre for Quantum Topology and its Applications and Professor in the College of Arts and Science, shows off a quantum computer chip at the announcement event for USask's acquisition of its own quantum computer.

IntegrOmes

Guided by cutting-edge studies on the healthy microbiome, Integrated Omics for Sustainable Animal Agriculture and Environmental Stewardship (IntegrOmes) is a **\$17M** project that will work on development of omic tools that target livestock productivity, genetic diversity, disease investigation and surveillance will usher in a new era of animal agriculture and ecosystem health for Canada and the world. Based at the Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence (LFCE), the IntegrOmes team will combine controlled real-time livestock investigation with genomics tools to contribute to the sustainability and profitability of one of Canada's vital industries. It secured a much-needed final piece of funding of **\$3.35M** from the Government of Saskatchewan.

Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) and Canada Impact+ Research Chair

Every four years the Tri-agency Institutional Programs Secretariat (TIPS) releases a call for CERC nominations. This is a highly competitive, recruitment tool to crystalize Canada's position as a world-leader in a particular research area. For this competition, USask submitted nominations valued at up to \$1M/year (either two \$500K/year or one \$1M/year nominations).

- In 2025-26, a search for a \$1M CERC was underway. A nomination for a CERC in *Sustainable Beef Production* was submitted in March 2026. The results will be announced in December 2026.

In late 2025, TIPS launched an additional \$1B call to recruit CERC-level candidates to Canada from abroad to further Canada's strategic positioning in eight areas of strategic importance. USask was able to submit \$6M worth of chairs (either \$500K/year or \$1M/year nominations) across two intake deadlines. The first intake was in March 2026; the second intake is in June 2026.

- Two competitive Impact+ Chair candidates were identified for the first Impact+ submission (each \$1M/year chair). One nomination was submitted at the first intake in March 2026. The results will be announced in June 2026. It is expected that there will be additional submissions for the June Impact+ Chair intake.

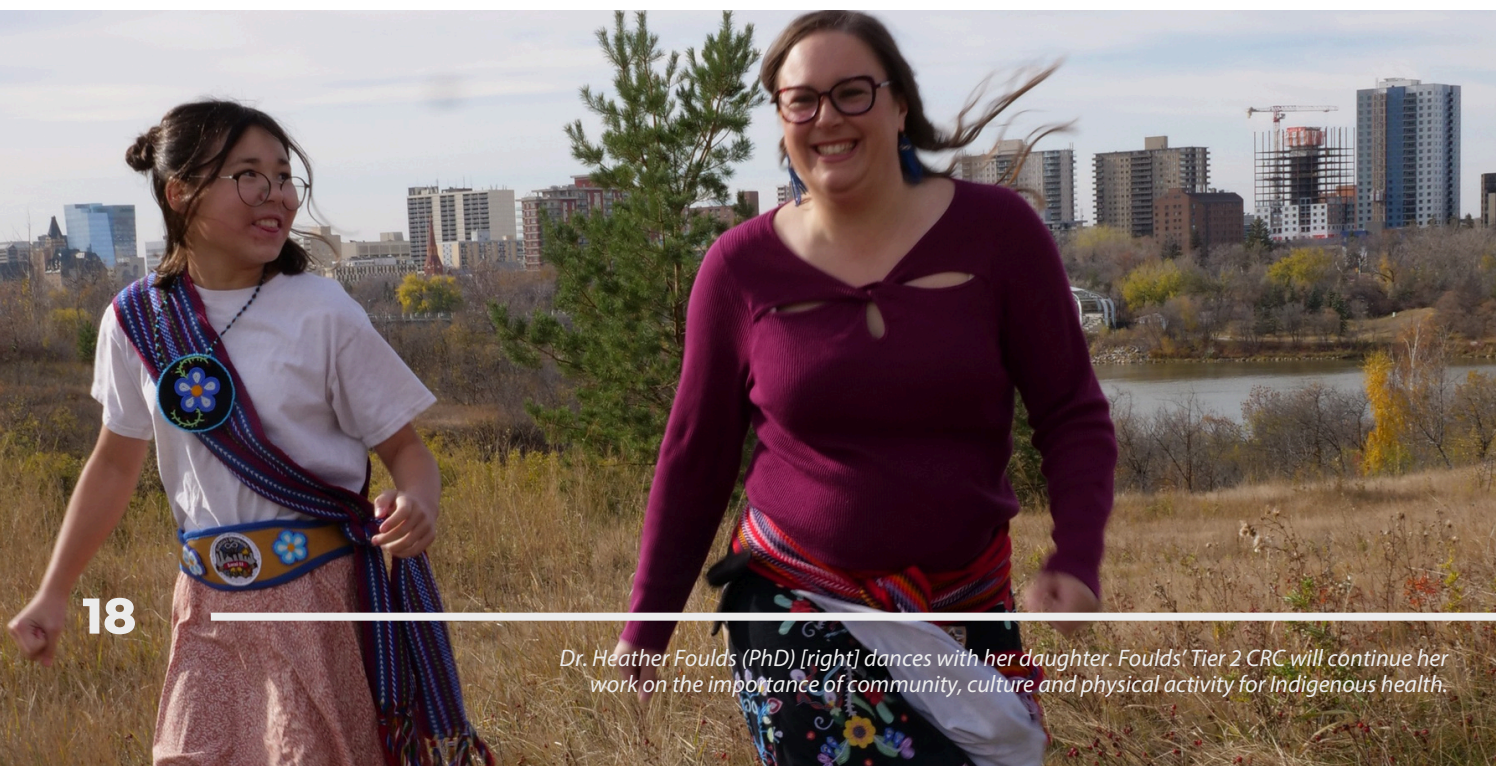
Canada Research Chairs

In 2025-26, nine Canada Research Chair (CRC) searches were underway. Two new CRC nominations and one renewal were submitted from October to December 2025 (results pending).

- Two new CRC Tier 2 (T2) nominations and one renewal submitted in October 2024 were awarded in April to August 2025. One new CRC T2 nomination was unsuccessful but was resubmitted in November (above).
- A call for CRC theme area proposals was sent out to the community in October 2025. The call focused not only on recruiting global leaders to enhance USask's signature areas, but also allowed academic units to propose theme areas tied to existing internal faculty who have shown exceptional RSAW leadership who meet or exceed the criteria for a CRC.

Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI)

- In 2025-26, two regular JELF proposals were submitted to CFI (results pending) and two JELF-partnerships were submitted to CFI in support of Canada Research Chair applications (results pending).



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

IMP's innovation mobilization activities can be reflected in key metrics:



Assessed **28** innovation disclosures from seven colleges and schools



Filed **29** new patents, contributing to a total of **186** active patent families



Secured **46** new license agreements, which are now part of **323** active licenses under management

Within these quantitative metrics are hidden key milestones and stories of innovation mobilization success from the past year, including:

- USask spinout company Excir secured an equity investment from the UK Royal Mint, who have built a facility in the UK to utilize patented Excir chemistry for recovery of precious metals from electronic waste, invented by **Dr. Stephen Foley** (PhD) (College of Arts and Science).
- Antibodies discovered and developed by **Dr. Ekaterina Dadachova** (PhD) (College of Pharmacy and Nutrition) and **Dr. Maruti Uppalapati** (PhD) (College of Medicine) were licensed to commercial partner Frezent Biological Solutions (New York, USA) for use in developing next-generation antibody-drug conjugate therapeutics for treatment-resistant cancers.
- Plant protein de-flavouring technology developed by **Dr. Micheal Nickerson** (PhD) (College of Agriculture and Bioresources) is set for joint commercialization through a strong local partnership with POS Biosciences.
- A technology co-invented by College of Agriculture and Bioresources Professors Emeriti **Drs. Vladimir Vujanovic** (PhD) and **Jim Germida** (PhD) that was licensed to Indigo Ag, an international agriculture sustainability and biological solutions company, was successfully launched in the form of a new biological pesticide.

INTERNATIONALIZING THE USASK EXPERIENCE

The IO has hosted events at all accessibility levels and collaborated with colleagues on and off campus to ensure an internationalization experience for all.

In 2025-26 the IO accomplished the following highlights:



The International Office leads over **250** international agreements with more than **190** entities in over **55** countries.



In 2025-2026, there were **18 new** and **15 renewed** agreements that were signed.



Five of the **18 new** agreements signed were with institutions in India, including two new Dual PhD Degrees.

20

Dr. Volker Gerds, director and CEO of VIDO signs and agreement with the International Vaccine Institute in Seoul, South Korea, in September 2025.



Delegation Support

- Hosted 31 inbound visiting delegations from more than 20 countries including:
 - May 2025: USask hosted Ambassador **Yuliya Kovaliv** and delegates, who met with senior leadership and engaged with faculty and students from the Colleges of Education and Nursing.
 - September 2025: USask hosted His Excellency **Rob Tinline**, High Commissioner of the United Kingdom and senior UK officials, who met with senior leaders to discuss shared priorities to strengthen Canada–UK research collaboration.
 - September 2025: USask welcomed a high-level delegation from Iwate University (Japan), led by President **Dr. Satoshi Ogawa** (PhD). USask and Iwate University have partnered since 2008, and now this relationship has grown to involve collaborative research, student exchanges, experiential learning opportunities, and a dual PhD program. President Ogawa met with senior leaders to discuss ongoing initiatives and future areas of collaboration.
- Supported 10 outbound delegations by USask senior leaders including:
 - September–October 2025: The VPR joined the CALDO Consortium Mission to Colombia and Chile to strengthen academic, research, and innovation partnerships with key institutions and government agencies in both countries. In Colombia, the delegation focused on research collaboration, graduate education, science diplomacy, and mobility with leading universities, national research networks, ICETEX, ASCUN, and the INNTEGRA forum. In Chile, meetings focused on funding, institutional partnerships, and student recruitment and research in mining, lithium and energy transition, climate resilience, health, engineering, and sustainability.
 - November 2025: Organized two separate missions to India (one led by the USask President, other led by the Dean, College of Medicine). The President’s mission included participation at the Canada-India Business Council Forum, meetings with government, academic institutions and a USask reception co-hosted with the High Commission of Canada in India. The College of Medicine Mission included visits to 15 medical schools in four cities and focused on nurturing existing relationships and developing new ones.

- February-March 2026: Mission led by the VPR was organized to visit several partner institutions in India. The visit coincided with the Prime Minister and Saskatchewan Premier's visit and a Saskatchewan-India Symposium on Science, Innovation and Commercialization was held featuring the Premier and the CEO of Nutrien. The symposium brought together senior leaders from government, industry, and academia to explore opportunities for collaboration across priority sectors, including sustainable energy, critical minerals, food processing, entrepreneurship, commercialization, and health. In addition, **Dr. Dalai** (PhD) and **Dr. Shirtliffe** (PhD), who were also part of the delegation, participated in an AI Summit. Agreements were signed with International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management, Thanjavur (NIFTEM-T), and National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management, Kundli (NIFTEM-K).
- An India-Canada Joint Pulse Protein Centre of Excellence between NIFTEM-K and USask was also announced as part of a joint Government of India and Government of Canada initiative. The India-Canada Joint Pulse Protein Centre of Excellence is a research initiative that aims to advance pulse protein processing and food innovation through research and capacity strengthening with industry partners on crop development, phenotyping, disease resistance, and food fortification to address global and food nutrition security.



Government Engagement

To extend our global impact on International Education, the IO participated in more than 75 meetings with provincial, federal, or international government representatives. We have participated/organized joint events and initiatives with international and provincial governments such as:

- DAAD Germany, Innovation Saskatchewan, and USask agreement: The first year of this tripartite agreement was successfully utilized as students and faculty participated in academic, research and partnership activities in Germany. This agreement was designed to strengthen research and mobility ties between Saskatchewan and Germany.
- February 2026: A joint mission to the Philippines and Thailand with the Ministry of Advanced Education and the SaskAlliance was organized and facilitated strategic partnership development with partners and diplomats in those countries to advance cooperation in joint research, student mobility and recruitment, faculty exchange and training for USask.
- June 2026: **Dr. Fabien Agenès** (PhD), Director of The French National Institute of Health and Medical Research's (INSERM) North America Office, visited USask to explore collaboration in infectious disease and vaccine research.

IO Initiatives

- June 2025: Dental schools from USask, the University of São Paulo (Brazil), Peking University (China), and the Catholic University of Portugal gathered in Beijing for the inaugural INSPiRE (International Network of Strategic Partners in Research and Education) Oral Health Symposium. As a founding member of the consortium, USask helped support its expansion in 2026, when the University of Otago (New Zealand) and the University of the Western Cape (South Africa) joined as new partners. The Consortium seeks to drive transformative research, education and innovation in oral health to improve health and well-being in communities worldwide.



Keynote speaker André Picard presents at PAW 2025 International Congress at USask.

- October 22-24, 2025: The People Around the World (PAW) 2025 International Congress hosted by USask on its Saskatoon campus themed on *Healthy People, Healthy Planet: Driving Innovation with Data* was attended by students and panellists from 16 countries. The Congress enabled many learning and collaboration opportunities through its five pre-Congress workshops focused on research collaboration with the Czech Republic, France, Germany and Mozambique. Keynote speakers included **André Picard**, **Timothy Caulfield**, and USask alumnus **Steven Heidel** (Congress Reception Speaker). Three panels spanned multiple topics ranging from public and population health data management, the future of healthcare to science diplomacy. Several concurrent sessions were tailored to USask's interdisciplinary interests. The overall event brought together researchers, industry partners, students, and community members.
- February 5, 2026: USask and the National University of Singapore, Asia's top-ranked university, co-hosted a joint *Symposium on Tissue Engineering and Bioprinting* in Singapore. This event brought together leading researchers from two of the world's leading tissue engineering programs to share emerging research, explore collaborative opportunities, and discuss the future of bioprinting innovation.
- The USask IO team has supported our researchers in engaging with over 100 collaborating institutions from Europe and other global regions to facilitate consortium building for Horizon Europe. These collaborative efforts brought together expertise spanning Engineering, Environmental Sciences, Agriculture & Bioresources, Health Sciences, and Social Sciences & Policy and have led to multiple application submissions to the Horizon Europe program.

TRI-AGENCY UPDATES

Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)

USask has achieved notable progress in CIHR Project Grants, driven by augmented internal review program, competition targeted workshops, and expanded internal funding mechanisms such as bridge grants. These initiatives have contributed to both increased application volume and improved funding success rates. National engagement has also strengthened considerably, with representation on five of 13 Institute Advisory Boards (up from 0–1 previously), and 93 USask members currently serving on the College of Reviewers. USask's CIHR lead is **Dr. Darcy Marciniuk** (MD, PhD).

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC)

Dr. Julia Boughner (PhD), a professor of Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology (College of Medicine) has joined us as the new NSERC Lead. She brings extensive experience with NSERC and has introduced several new initiatives to support faculty and strengthen application success rates, including a peer support program, new workshops, and enhanced guidance for Internal Reviewers. We would like to sincerely thank our out-going lead, **Dr. Ron Borowsky** (PhD), for his dedicated leadership as USask's NSERC lead for many years.

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)

USask's SSHRC lead is **Dr. Dawn Wallin** (PhD). Under her leadership, the SSHRC portfolio is seeing more applications and increased success for USask researchers. Initiatives such as the Bridge Funding Program support scholars in the Insight Programs. The SSHRC Matters series continues to create RSAW conversations for scholars on a variety of topics. Excitingly, **Alexandria Pavelich**, an Interdisciplinary PhD student supervised by **Dr. Colleen Dell** (PhD), was chosen as one of the 20 finalists for the annual Storytellers Challenge for her submission, *Mattering and the Social Significance of Animals for Individuals Living with Pain and Suicidality*.

Tri-Agency Highlights

- **Service to Assist Research in French (SARF)**. USask collaborates with Association francophone pour le savoir (Acfas) on the SARF program to offer additional research support to French language researchers at USask applying to CIHR and SSHRC. It was recently announced that SARF will be supporting NSERC in the near future. The program has been successful in supporting the submission of proposals in French.

- **Tri-Agency Narrative CV Development Series.** The Tri-Agency team launched an initiative to help faculty navigate the new tri-agency requirement for narrative CV's for grant submissions. The first Tri-Agency CV workshop in December in collaboration with colleagues from NSERC and CIHR was widely attended by over 200 people. A second session was held in April in collaboration with colleagues from the Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching and Learning focused on the ways in which storytelling approaches that are rooted in Indigenous methodology and sustainability can improve how scholars communicate their research experience, with a particular emphasis on developing narratives for the Tri-Agency CV.

STORYTELLING AND AWARDS

The RPI team continues to creatively find ways to tell USask's RSAW story to the world.

In 2025-26 RPI accomplished the following:

Storytelling

- RPI's social media channels "usaskresearch," continued to expand our storytelling presence online. Instagram stories and reels have generated over 1.2 million views and have reached over 136,293 accounts. USask Research had over 290,000 impressions on LinkedIn and gained more than 2,600 new followers, contributing to a total of 6,881 followers on the platform. This increase reflects a 40 per cent growth rate.
- USask's *Signature Series Podcast* is an exploration and celebration of the interesting and the innovative, the fun and the fantastic, the cutting-edge and creative of USask RSAW.
 - Listeners join host, **Matt Olson**, for a deep dive into thought-provoking questions about the world in which we live. Through the lens of USask's Signature Areas of Research, listeners can learn about USask's leading researchers and scholars as they tackle the questions, challenges and opportunities the world faces today. Work includes identifying podcast guests, writing, editing, technical support and promotion. The *Signature Series Podcast* webpage has been visited over 1,500 times with over 2,700-episode downloads since its launch.
- RPI's monthly newsletter, *Discovery Digest*, had a 54.5 per cent open rate. Additionally, 46 new subscribers were added.
- There was a total of 156 news releases/stories on the USask news page labelled as "Research".



Matt Olson (right) with Research Profile and Impact interviews Dr. Colin Laroque (PhD) (left) with the College of AgBio for an episode of the Signature Series Podcast.

Awards

RPI facilitates several USask faculty applications for external research awards to encourage and build external recognition for breadth and quality of RSAW created by our faculty. Working with facilitators and other supporters from colleges and schools, the RPI awards team has supported many high-profile nominations for awards and recognitions, including the Royal Society of Canada, Canadian Academy of Health Sciences, and more.

Awards received (May 1, 2025 – April 30, 2026) include:

Dr. Ingrid Pickering (PhD)

Department of Geological Sciences, College of Arts and Science
2025 YWCA Women of Distinction Awards STEM category – Laureate

Dr. Corinne Schuster-Wallace (PhD)

Department of Geological Sciences, College of Arts and Science
2026 YWCA Women of Distinction Awards STEM category – Finalist

Global Water Futures

Stockholm Water Prize – Shortlisted
(Ranked within the top 10 per cent of 200 highly competitive nominations submitted)

Dr. Dwight Newman (PhD)

College of Law
Royal Society of Canada Fellowship

Dr. Leon Kochian (PhD)

Department of Plant Sciences, College and Agriculture and Bioresources
Royal Society of Canada Fellowship

Dr. Allyson Stevenson (PhD)

Department of History, College of Arts and Science
Royal Society of Canada College Membership

Dr. Steven Rayan (PhD)

Department of Mathematics, College of Arts and Science
Royal Society of Canada College Membership

Dr. Arinjay Banerjee (PhD)

Principal Investigator, VIDO
Canadian Academy of Health Science Emerging Leaders

Dr. Curtis Pozniak (PhD)

Department of Plant Sciences, College and Agriculture and Bioresources
The Bertebos Prize, Swedish Royal Academy of Agriculture and Forestry



Dr. Curtis Pozniak (PhD) receiving the Bertebos Prize from King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden at a ceremony in Stockholm, Sweden.

RSAW SERVICES

Strengthening the Operational Framework

In 2025, the OVPR continued strengthening its research administration operational framework to support sustained growth in research activity across the university. With a significant increase in application volume and overall demand for support, efforts have focused on enhancing scalability, consistency, and efficiency of core processes. Key improvements include the introduction of standardized administrative review practices, streamlining of internal workflows, and closer coordination across units involved in the research lifecycle. Collaboration with the Legal Office (Research Contracts) has continued to strengthen, supporting greater alignment between grants and contracts as volume increases and ensuring more seamless support for researchers. This ongoing work is helping to build a more responsive and sustainable operating environment that supports researchers effectively, while maintaining strong institutional compliance and accountability. This work has been particularly important in the context of a 33 per cent increase in research funding applications compared to the previous year.

Human Research Ethics

The Human Research Ethics Office (REO), along with the Behavioural and Biomedical Research Ethics Boards (REBs), continues to support USask researchers who engage in research involving human participants. Over 4,100 research ethics applications were processed in the last year (new applications, acknowledgments, exemptions, amendments, renewals and closures) representing ~ four per cent increase from the previous year. Despite the increase, the REO and REBs have maintained their shortened times from submission to approval that were achieved in the previous year.

Recognizing the need for continued improvement and innovation in the services provided to researchers, the REO and REBs collaborated with the USask Information and Communications Technology unit to successfully complete the RFP process for new research ethics software. Once developed and implemented, this new software is expected to improve and optimize researchers' experiences with submitting applications, as well as increase efficiency in the review process for the REO and REBs.

Research Security Program

The Research Security service within RASI continues to develop USask's research security program. Currently RASI is working collaboratively with ICT to create a full travel security program including loaner devices. Travel Security is an important part of safeguarding research data, methodologies, and outputs when researchers, administrators and senior leadership travel. A one-year pilot program is anticipated to launch in fall 2026.

Animal Care

The Animal Care and Research Support (ACRS) office has improved sustainability and support for researchers who use animals in response to an increased workload and the growing complexity of Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) requirements.

USask's last full CCAC site assessment was on June 10-13, 2025, the associated report was received on March 27, 2026 which included a number of serious and regular recommendations of areas for improvement across the full scope of the animal care and use program to ensure alignment with current CCAC standards and guidelines.

ACRS is currently updating the Care and Use of Animals in Science at USask Policy (January 2001) and we expect that all approvals will be in place by fall 2026. Additionally, the office has introduced a USask Culture of Care for Animals Used in Science statement that provide objectives for anyone involved with the use of animals to maintain the highest standards.

ACRS has secured funding and signed a contract with a vendor for a new software system for animal protocol administration, animal ordering and management. The new software will streamline various facets of ACRS work to improve the animal user experience. Implementation is planned for early 2027. ACRS will be hosting multiple town halls with stakeholders to communicate the forthcoming changes. Training for all animal researchers including faculty, students, and staff on use of the new system will be provided via multiple formats.

In 2025-26 ACRS accomplished the following:

- Supported over 1,000 active animal users, at USask and its affiliates, who completed animal-based activity on 160,000 animals and totaling more than \$1M in animal purchase costs.
- Managed 470 animal use protocols.
- Completed over 100 animal user training sessions.
- Trained veterinary students in laboratory animal medicine through first year lectures, senior year rotations, and the WCVL laboratory animal medicine club.
- ACRS Veterinarians and animal technicians as well as various USask faculty continue to be invited and complete CCAC assessments at other institutions. This provides an excellent opportunity for collaboration with animal research and teaching programs across Canada and heightens USask's role nationally with various regional and national stakeholders.



Infrastructure

We have undertaken an inventory of research equipment and capabilities. Research equipment valued at over approximately \$50,000 and unique equipment was inventoried and the inventory made available and searchable on the USask Geographic Information System. Research infrastructure of lesser value but that, collectively, provides unique research capabilities was also added to the inventory. The result is a searchable database that allows researchers to locate USask research equipment or capabilities and contact the individual(s) managing the equipment to determine user fee schedules and availability. Evaluation of current software used on campus to reserve access to research inventory is underway. Additionally, commercially available research equipment management software and software utilized by other universities is under evaluation. Our goal is to develop the ability for researchers to locate research infrastructure and resources to advance USask research along with software that will facilitate reserving access to the required infrastructure and allocation of the user fees to the appropriate research account.

We continue to work with our colleagues in Facilities to ensure research infrastructure is installed in appropriate locations, in a timely manner and that supporting infrastructure receives the required level of maintenance support. Work over the next year will include an inventory of research space uses and inclusion of research infrastructure space needs in on going long-term planning.

In partnership with the Vice-President Administration office, the Research Information Management System (RIMS) initiative advanced progress across several key areas. For Animal Care software, the contract was successfully awarded, and work is underway to establish the USask project team and consolidate workflows, documentation, and knowledge-transfer materials in preparation for software configuration. For Human Ethics software, the project is currently in the contract award phase, after which formal team formation and execution activities will commence under the established RIMS governance framework.



College of Engineering alumnus, Colton Breitzkreuz, pitches his company TAUlab at the 2025 Opus Innovation Expo.

RSAW INITIATIVES

Opus – Incubating USask Startups

USask launched Opus in 2022, a pre-accelerator program for USask founders with research-backed innovations they wish to use as the basis for a startup venture. Opus is designed to provide participants with foundational knowledge to build business acumen, as well as personal connections to mentors, experts, industry, funders, and business service providers.

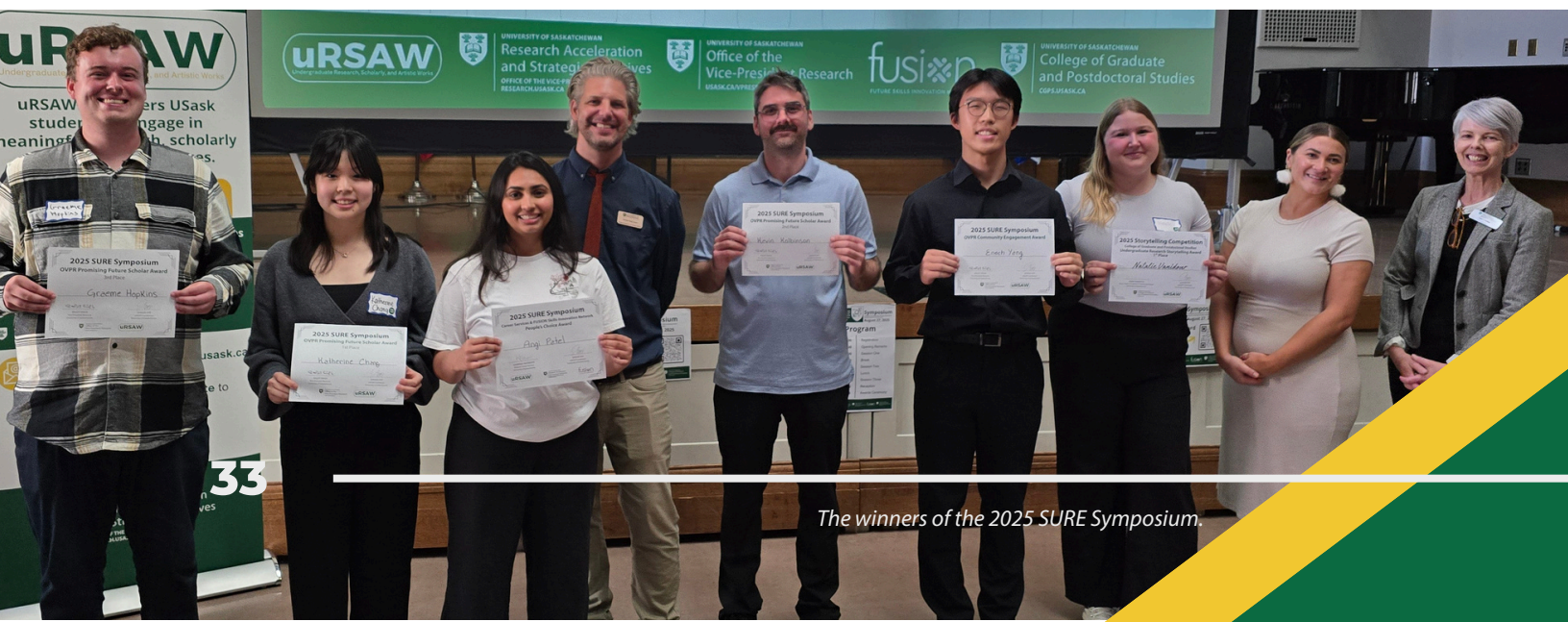
Opus 2025-26 Quick Facts:

- Our i2Build 2025 cohort included 23 aspiring entrepreneurs in 11 new ventures with six of those ventures moving into our i2Market 2026 cohort.
- Our i2Market 2026 cohort began in January 2026 consisting of 11 ventures in AgTech, FoodTech, BioTech, AI, PharmaTech, IoT (Internet of Things) and HealthTech.
- To date, Opus companies have created 22.75 jobs and 27 demo-ready prototypes.
- In total, companies have generated almost \$998K in revenue and accessed \$1.1B in funds to help grow their ventures.
- As of January 2026, Opus founders have earned \$39,900 in prize money from 37 startup competitions and have participated in 32 external accelerators/incubators.

Undergraduate Research

The Undergraduate Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Works (uRSAW) initiative focuses on connecting undergraduate students to the research activities of USask, including course-based research experiences, research skill development, paid assistantships and disseminating the impact and achievements of our emerging scholars. Highlights for 2025-26, include:

- The 2025 SURE Symposium hosted 100 undergraduate poster presentations, 70 volunteer judges and handed out seven sponsored awards and prizes for undergraduate RSAW excellence totaling \$3,000, including a prize for our 2nd annual uRSAW Storytelling Competition.
- The SURE program hosted 38 workshops and events with 809 attendees.
- Our 19 FYRE courses had 1,937 enrollments, a growth of over 600 students from the previous year.
- USask maximized our annual Tri-Agency Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA) allocation and awarded a total of 91 Tri-Agency USRAs for the summer of 2026, including 67 NSERC USRAs, 11 NSERC USRAs for Indigenous Student Scholars, seven NSERC USRAs for Black Student Scholars, three SHRC USRAs for Black Student Scholars, and three CIHR USRAs for Black Student Scholars.
- The DARE Undergrad Training and Mentorship Awards funded nine early career researchers to hire undergraduate student research assistants for the summer of 2026.
- The Collaborative Energy, Minerals, and Society Research Award (CEMSRA), funded four research projects where undergraduate students are co-led and co-supervised by faculty at both USask and URegina.



The winners of the 2025 SURE Symposium.



Dr. Tianqi Xie (PhD) in the College of Arts and Science captivated the crowd with her talk, "Why did the asteroid kill all the dinosaurs, but not us?" at the 2026 TEDxUniversityofSaskatchewan event.

TEDx

On February 1, 2026, RPI – with support from USask’s Media Production and University Relations teams – hosted a half-day TEDxUniversityofSaskatchewan event that profiled a carefully curated and prepared series of talks designed to celebrate world-leading ideas and innovations at USask. Under the theme of *Exploring the Edges*, the event welcomed 400 attendees from on and off campus.

13 faculty, staff and students were engaged in this year’s TEDx process, undergoing a comprehensive series of coaching and rehearsal sessions to prepare for the live event.

Live talks were recorded and distributed online via the TEDx official YouTube channel – home to 42 million+ subscribers. These recordings have also been widely shared and celebrated within the USask community and beyond. As of March 23, four of the recordings were selected by TEDx for additional marketing profile, significantly increasing their reach and viewership.

Planning for TEDxUniversityofSaskatchewan 2027 is already underway, with speaker information sessions and recruitment set to begin Spring of 2026.

Images of Research

From field work in the Canadian Arctic to the 3D map of one of USask's most iconic lecture theatres, this year's Images of Research contest once again showcased the rich research, scholarly and artistic work of USask staff, faculty, students, and alumni.

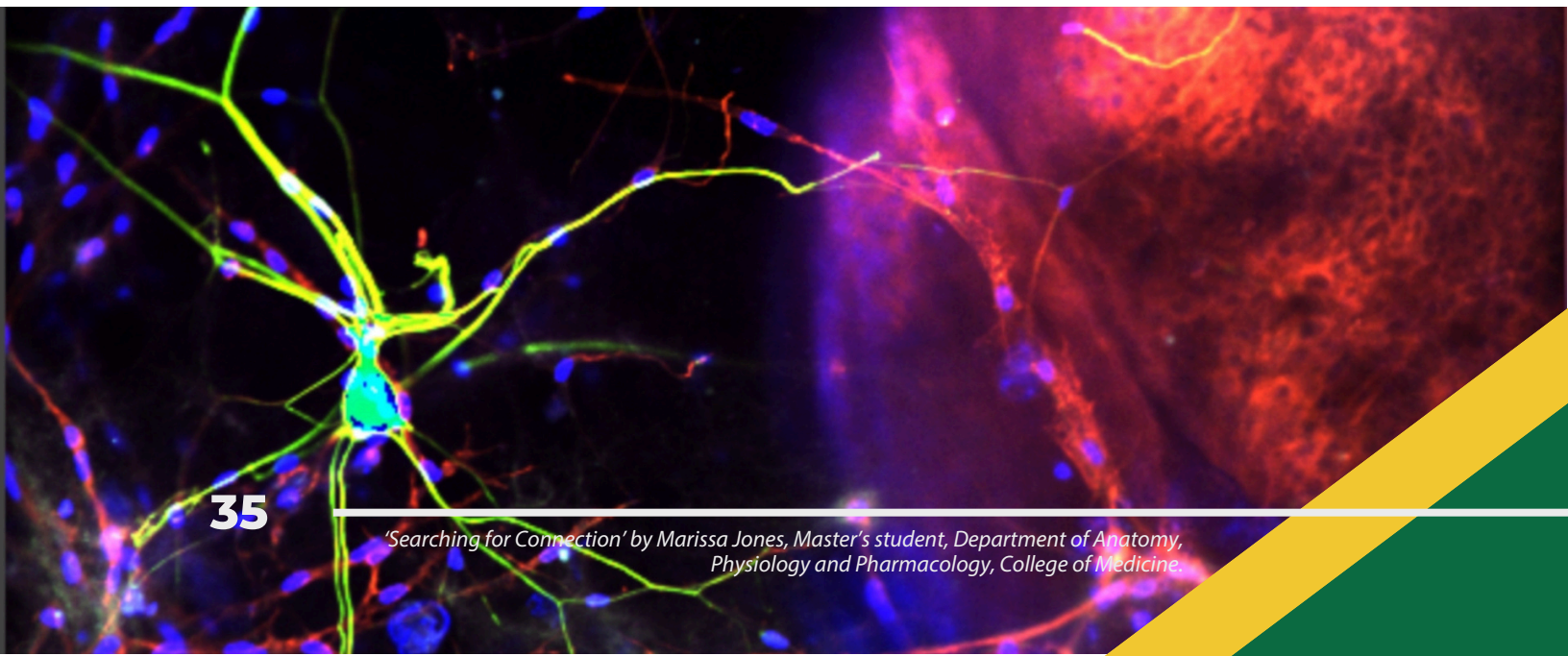
In its 12th year and organized by USask's Research Profile and Impact team, the Images of Research contest celebrates the beauty, diversity, and impact of USask research.

With nearly 110 entries across five categories, eight images took home this year's top spots. Seven of the images were selected by judges on multi-disciplinary panels while the Viewers' Choice category was decided by more than 1,500 online votes.

With thoughtful descriptions and beautiful visuals, this year's entries looked at the hidden details of the microscopic world, the impact of community-based research and artistic pursuits, and the many ways we can capture and celebrate the important research of our campus community.

35

'Searching for Connection' by Marissa Jones, Master's student, Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology, College of Medicine.



Research Cluster Incubation

The OVPR supports emerging areas of research strength, particularly in Artificial Intelligence, Northern research and national security and defence research. Support included organizing workshops, developing internal funding mechanisms, and creating strategies to build institutional research capacity in these areas.

On September 25, 2025, the OVPR hosted the USask Northern Research Initiative workshop, where 100 faculty members, USask staff and external partners joined in conversations on how to support RSAW and training programs focused on the North and beyond. On November 6, 2025, the OVPR hosted the Convergence in AI Futures across Social, Human and Natural Sciences: A USask AI Research & Innovation Workshop, bringing together 70 researchers and scholars for an interdisciplinary workshop with a keynote talk, an expert panel, and a collaborative breakout session. To further support this area, the OVPR launched an AI Capacity Building Grant that will fund new collaborative and interdisciplinary research projects. On December 18, 2025, the OVPR organized the USask UAV & Drones Defence Research workshop, which had an attendance of 37 researchers and industry partners from Calian, with 10 presentations by USask researchers and a facilitated group discussion.

Faculty Support

DARE supports new faculty at USask to build cross-campus connections and grow their research programs. DARE provides practical and tailored resources for new and early career faculty, coordinates interdisciplinary programming to support grant development, and hosts networking and career development events for new and early career faculty.

- Over 2025-26, DARE welcomed 45 new research faculty to the USask and subsequently held 1:1 meetings with 40 of these new researchers.
- DARE hosted 12 workshop and connection events with over 200 attendees. Events focused on key skills needed to accelerate research careers, including building a research program, effective grant writing, establishing partnerships, and responsible uses of AI for research.
- DARE supports early career researchers with the NFRF Exploration funding program through our *Exploration Grant Development Program*. Through a series of targeted workshops, organized internal review, and 1:1 support, DARE supports ECR proposal development to ensure competitive proposals are submitted to the ECR stream of the Exploration program. The 2024 results (announced in spring 2025) included one successful USask project. This was led by early career researcher **Dr. Soo Kim** (PhD), (College of Medicine) (\$247,898) and ECR co-applicant **Dr. Stacey Lovo** (PhD), (College of Medicine). Both participated in DARE's *Exploration Grant Development Program*.

Research Support Network (RSN)

The purpose of RSN (formerly called the Research Facilitators/Administrators) is to provide a common platform for professional learning and engagement, build community of practice, sharing of information and opportunities, and celebrate success. The RSN continued its monthly professional development forums, including topics on AI in Research Management, Post Award Grant Management Pathways, and Responsible Conduct of Research. Planning for the RSN annual meeting scheduled for June 10 for professional development, engagement with Associate/Vice Deans, and the OVPR, and celebrate RSN members achievement is in progress.

Rankings and RSAW Intelligence

OVPR continues to collaborate with various portfolios continues in support of rankings and RSAW intelligence at USask. The 2025-26 year once again saw overall strong rankings performances for USask, continuing the positive momentum built in recent years. Some highlights from this cycle were:

- **Research Funding Growth:** USask jumped into 10th overall in the Research Infosource Rankings in 2025, based on total sponsored research income. In the medical university category, USask dominated the “growth” ranking categories, ranking #1 in research income growth (34.6 per cent), corporate research income growth (63.2 per cent), and international government research income growth (188.1 per cent), as well as ranking #1 in research intensity per graduate student.
- **Strong International Presence:** USask maintained strong performances in international university rankings after multiple record-setting years, achieving 378th in the 2026 QS World University Rankings, 351-400 tier in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings, and 401-500 tier in the Shanghai Academic Ranking of World Universities.
- **Global Subject Leadership:** USask once again achieved global top 100 placements in multiple subjects, including Water Resources (Shanghai – 34th, #1 in Canada), Agriculture (QS – 54th), Veterinary Sciences (QS – 49th), and Earth Sciences (Shanghai - 76-100). We additionally achieved top 200 performances in Environmental Sciences (Shanghai – 101-150, QS – 151-200), Dentistry & Oral Sciences (Shanghai – 101-150) Geophysics (QS - 151-200), and Atmospheric Science (Shanghai – 151-200). These highlight just a few of USask’s achievements in subject rankings, as USask saw strong results among the top 300, 400 and 500 across a number of competitive subjects.
- **Sustainability Impact:** USask continues to perform strongly in global sustainability rankings, placing 168th globally in the QS Sustainability Rankings. USask also placed 101-200 overall in the THE Impact Ratings, including top 100 placements in three of the global sustainable development goals: Life Below Water, Sustainable Cities, and Partnerships for the Goals.

Research-related metrics, along with reputation indicators, continue to hold significant weight across most international rankings. Continued focus on improving research productivity, impact, and visibility, and improving global reputation, will enhance USask’s international profile and provide opportunities to continue to showcase our excellence on the global stage.



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Office of the
Vice-President Research

[USASK.CA/VPRESEARCH](https://usask.ca/vpresearch)

ITEM FOR INFORMATION

Committee Name: Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee, University Council

Date: June 11, 2026

Presented by: Eric Lamb, Chair, Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee

Subject: College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies 2025-2026 Annual Report

SUMMARY

At its May 21, 2026, meeting, RSAW members received the annual report from Debby Burshtyn, Dean, College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (CGPS). The report highlighted a year of strategic advancement in graduate education, research excellence, and student support amid a changing policy and funding landscape. Central to the college's efforts was enhancing student success and institutional impact through innovation and investment. Notably, the launch of the CGPS Awards HUB streamlined funding access and administration, contributing to over \$4 million in Tri-Agency funding secured by graduate students, alongside major recognitions such as Vanier Scholarships and Governor General's Gold Medals.

Key priorities include equity, access, and mentorship, with updated admissions policies enabling more flexible and holistic applicant evaluation and expanded supports such as individualized accommodations for students and enhanced mentorship programming for faculty and graduate supervisors. Efforts to strengthen inclusion are also reflected in significant gains in Indigenous student engagement, including a 22% increase in Indigenous enrolment.

In addition, CGPS worked to advance interdisciplinary research and innovation through new awards, expanded programming, and high-impact events such as the Interdisciplinary Symposium and TEDx participation.

Despite several achievements, enrolment trends reveal emerging challenges, including a 3% overall decline driven by reduced international student numbers linked to federal policy constraints, though domestic and Indigenous enrolment rose. In response, CGPS intensified recruitment efforts and introduced new academic programs while maintaining a focus on service improvement, operational efficiency, and financial sustainability. Overall, the report presents an adaptive approach to strengthening graduate education at USask through inclusive practices, targeted investment, and continued innovation.

ATTACHMENTS

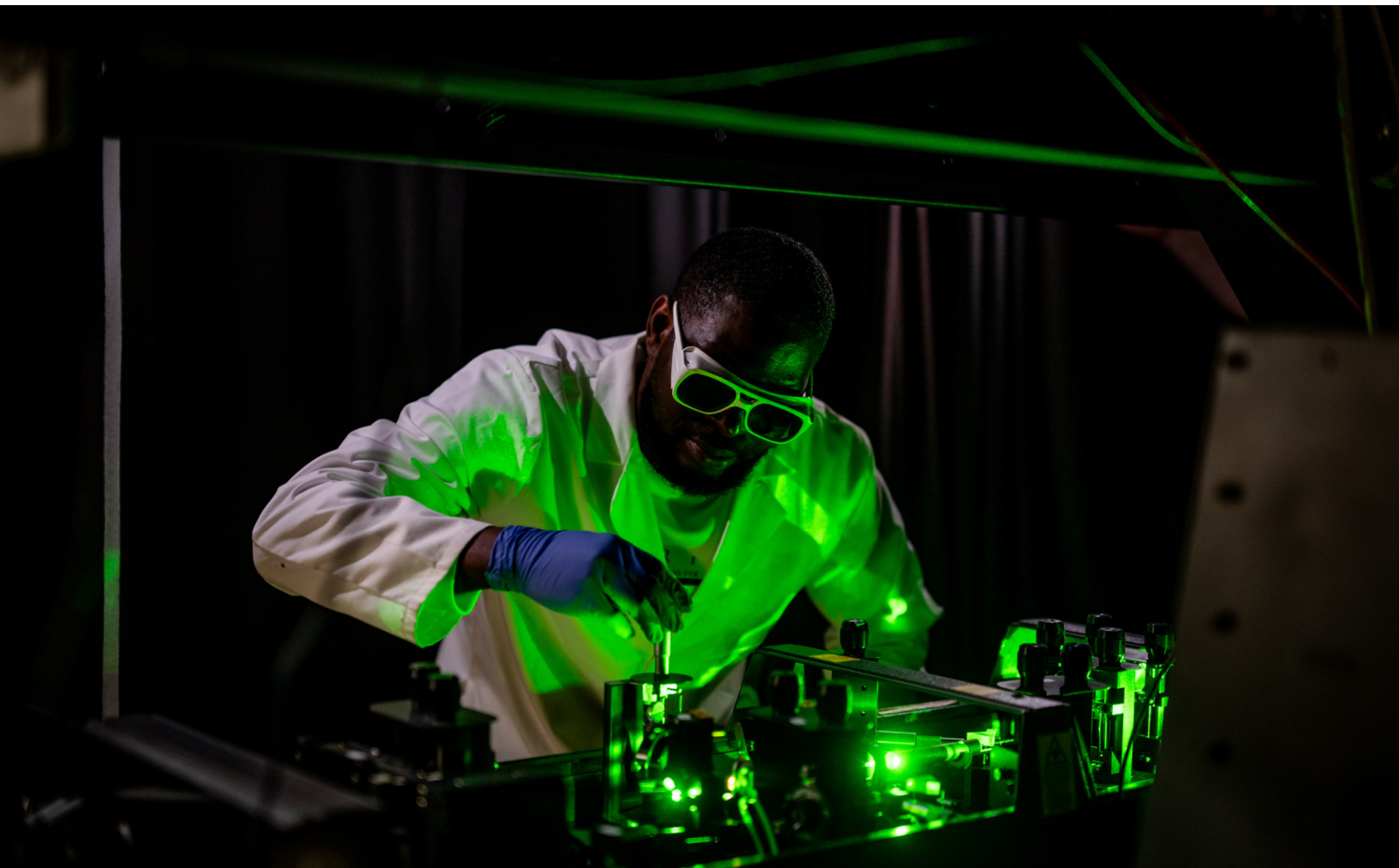
1. 2025-2026 Annual Report- College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

College of Graduate
and Postdoctoral Studies

CGPS.USASK.CA



Annual Report 2025-26

Date: May 21, 2026



UNIVERSITY OF
SASKATCHEWAN

BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS



Message from the Dean



Graduate students and postdoctoral scholars are central to the University of Saskatchewan’s research mission, advancing discovery, innovation, creative scholarship, and professional training. Their contributions strengthen the university’s impact across disciplines and prepare future researchers and professionals to address complex challenges.

Over the past year, graduate education has continued to evolve within a landscape shaped by policy shifts, global uncertainty, and rapid technological change. As I began my second term as Dean, I remained committed to providing responsive leadership during a period of both pressure and opportunity, with a continued focus on supporting graduate student success.

This report highlights key developments, student accomplishments, and the collective efforts of faculty and staff to sustain a strong, inclusive, and forward-looking graduate community. I am grateful for the dedication, resilience, and collaboration that continue to define graduate education at USask.

Sincerely,

Dr. Debby Burshtyn
Dean, College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Recognizing and Funding Excellence	02
Equity, Access and Mentorship	04
Interdisciplinary Studies	06
Indigenization and Decolonization	07
Professional Development	08
Programming, Recruitment and Enrolment	09
Thank you	11



Recognizing and Funding Excellence

One of the most significant milestones in 2025 was the launch of the long-anticipated **CGPS Awards HUB**, a centralized graduate application and awarding platform. The HUB streamlines funding searches, applications, and adjudication, improving efficiency for students while simplifying reference requests and application reviews for faculty.

In total, graduate students received over \$4 million in Tri-Agency funding in the 2025-26 year.

In January, CGPS held its 2nd annual **Celebrating U reception** to honour recipients of Tri-Agency and CGPS awards and welcomed a full house in recognition of academic excellence. The names of major scholarship recipients are curated on the [CGPS website](#).

In 2025, three outstanding PhD students were awarded **Vanier Scholarships** in the final year of the program – Arianna Gibson (SSHRC), Jeremy Irvine (NSERC) and Jinnath Rehana Ritu (NSERC).

	CIHR	NSERC	SSHRC
Master's	21	33	40
Doctoral	3	28	40
Vanier	1	5	3

Active students receiving Tri-Agency Funding 2025-26

Each year, CGPS selects two **Governor General's Gold Medals** are awarded to PhD recipients, one at Fall Convocation and one at Spring Convocation. At Fall 2025 Convocation, Dr. Geneveave Barbo received the medal for her research on immersive virtual reality simulations designed to better prepare nursing students to support migrants facing mental health challenges. The Spring 2026 recipient was embargoed at the time of this report.

The first wave of the federally funded **Canada Impact+ Research Training Awards program** launched in December 2025, to recruit PhD and postdoctoral trainees to Canadian institutions from abroad into eight research priority areas. USask was allocated 6 postdoctoral and 13 doctoral awards in total. Wave 1 generated strong interest from USask faculty, enabling awards to be offered across most priority areas, subject to limited allocations. Wave 2 awards will be allocated in June 2026, with a targeted focus on priority areas that were underrepresented in the first wave.

The Government of Saskatchewan offers two scholarships to support graduate and postgraduate students pursuing research and demonstrating leadership in their fields. In 2025-26, Thulani Hewavithana was the recipient of the **Lieutenant Governor Scholarship** and Ethan Landry (PhD) was the recipient of the **Lieutenant Governor Indigenous Scholarship**.

Starting in 2026-27, the Ministry of Advanced Education has announced additional funding, including two additional Saskatchewan Lieutenant Governor Scholarships, doubling the number of recipients moving forward.

CGPS continues to provide financial support for the **GSA–CGPS Need-Based Bursary program**, offered twice annually, and remains committed to supporting the GSA executive in delivering this important initiative.



Arianna Gibson, Vanier Recipient (SSHRC)



Jeremy Irvine, Vanier Recipient (NSERC)



Jinnath Rehana Ritu, Vanier Recipient (NSERC)



Dr. Geneveave Barbo, Governor General Gold Medallist

During Indigenous Achievement Week, doctoral student Dessa Gottfriedson (Interdisciplinary Studies, Le7 te Melámen cohort) was presented with an **Indigenous Achievement Award for Leadership** in recognition of her advocacy for equitable access to education in her community.

In October 2025, CGPS received news that the request to the Strategic Finance Committee for additional institutional funds to support graduate students was approved. We are grateful for a multi-year commitment that will result in over **\$1.3 million in new funding for graduate students** by 2028/2029, raising the minimum stipend for doctoral students to \$25,000 per year for four years in participating programs.

POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLARS

During **National Postdoctoral Appreciation Week** (September 2025), CGPS hosted a series of events recognizing the contributions of postdoctoral scholars at USask and supporting their professional development. Programming included a virtual academic career webinar, the Annual Postdoc Reception, and a new postdoc onboarding session, offering opportunities for learning, connection, and community building.

The **2025 Misiwéskamik International Postdoctoral Fellowship** recipient Dr. Fernanda Mascarenhas (PhD) is investigating how mitochondrial dysfunction contributes to the development and progression of Alzheimer's disease, led by supervisors Dr. Ana Paula Mendes Silva and Dr. Tyler Wenzel.

The **Living Skies Postdoctoral Fellowship** program launched a new call to provide funding opportunities for transdisciplinary research supported by USask faculty and external mentors in the Signature Areas of Water, Health & Wellness, Indigenous Peoples, One Health, and Agriculture.

In 2025, Dr. Crystal Giesbrecht (PhD) received the prestigious **Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship**. Giesbrecht's work investigates types of intimate partner violence and personality traits of perpetrators in efforts to improve responses and develop more tailored approaches to case management.

CGPS introduced **Postdoctoral Fellow Excellence Awards** in 2026, to celebrate excellence in research, scholarly and artistic work by postdocs at USask, recognizing their critical role in advancing the University's mission. These awards mark an important step in strengthening institutional recognition of postdoctoral excellence at USask, and the selected awardees will be formally announced at a later date.



Dr. Fernanda Mascarenhas,
Misiwéskamik Scholar



Dessa Gottfriedson,
Indigenous Achievement
Award, Leadership



Dr. Crystal Giesbrecht,
Banting Postdoctoral
Scholar

Professional Development for Postdocs

To support postdocs with career exploration both within and beyond academia, CGPS' PD portfolio offered a range of targeted professional development opportunities for postdoctoral scholars. These sessions helped build skills in leadership, networking, and research, and assisted in preparation for academic industry and public sector roles.



Equity, Access and Mentorship

CGPS continues to support graduate students, faculty and programs to achieve academic excellence by creating flexible pathways and student centric policies and support mechanisms.

In response to changes in the graduate education landscape, CGPS conducted a review of admissions policies. Following consultation, revisions were approved by CGPS Faculty Council in Spring 2025. The updates are intended to provide greater flexibility for admission committees when assessing applicants. While holistic reviews are now strongly encouraged, they are not mandatory.

Key policy updates include:

- **Graduate Certificates:** Established clear minimum admission requirements for graduate-level certificates, aligned closely with master's level entrance standards and formally documented in both the CGPS Policy Manual and the University Catalogue.
- **Graduate Certificate Laddering:** Introduced a new policy confirming that laddering from a certificate to a master's program is permitted at the academic unit's discretion. The policy outlines how certificate course credit may be applied for a master's degree and clarifies requirements related to GPS 960, tuition and fees.
- **PGD, Master's and PhD Admissions:** Revised entrance requirements by removing the 'honours' designation or four-year bachelor's degrees and clarifying that admission GPA is calculated using the most recent graded credit units (equivalent to the final two years of full-time study) at the time of application.

To support implementation, CGPS also developed a companion [Best Practices in Graduate Admissions Guide](#) to assist units.



Students, supervisors, and other members of the USask community attend the annual Celebrating U event



Graduate student researchers captured at the Sask Cancer Agency as part of the photoshoot for graduate recruitment efforts



CGPS staff volunteer at the 2026 USask 3MT Finals

To support student success, in collaboration with Access and Equity Services, graduate chairs, and supervisors, CGPS developed **individualized accommodation plans** for 22 master's and doctoral students in 2025–26 to support progress on non-coursework degree requirements. In addition, more than 300 graduate students received **course-based accommodations**. Associate Dean Jaswant Singh also supported more than 15 graduate students in navigating complex academic situations, including Required to Discontinue recommendations, supervisor-student conflicts, and academic appeals.

Professional development and engagement activities for graduate faculty continued throughout the year. In October 2025, Jae Morgans and Jaswant Singh delivered conflict-engagement training for graduate chairs.

The 2024-25 recipient of **Distinguished Graduate Mentor Award** was Dr. Janet Hill (PhD) from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine.

In recognition of outstanding service and support to graduate students at USask, Amy Hassett (M.Ed, Ed.D) from the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy was awarded the 2024-25 **Clement Employee Service Award**.

In November 2025, CGPS Graduate Mentorship Award recipients Dawn Wallin and Julia Boughner led a **Best Practices in Graduate Student Supervision workshop**, sharing mentorship strategies with early-career faculty. The April 2026 Graduate Chair Forum featured Dr. Wendy James, who provided an overview of the new Course Assessment policy and procedures scheduled for implementation in September 2027.

New policies around thesis and dissertation requirements were drafted to align with current and emerging needs of students and to provide clear guidance for students, supervisors, and advisory committee members and include a requirement to **declare use of generative AI tools** in preparation of the documents is expected to be passed at the May 28th CGPS Faculty Council meeting for fall implementation.

Much appreciation to members of the Council, CGPS Graduate Academic Affairs Committee, the Graduate Programs Committee and the Associate Deans Grad group for their input.

Interdisciplinary Studies

The Interdisciplinary Studies (InterD) program gratefully acknowledges Dr. Steven Rayan, who completed his term as Director and Graduate Chair of CGPS Interdisciplinary Studies on July 1, 2025. Dr. Monica Popa Sârghie assumed the role, continuing to advance initiatives that celebrate and strengthen interdisciplinary research.



Dr. Monica Popa Sârghie, Director of Interdisciplinary Studies

New initiatives include the **InterD Supervisor Award**, which recognizes USask faculty for excellence in supervising graduate students in the Interdisciplinary Studies program, and the **InterD Advisor Award** - honoring members of students' advisory committees who demonstrate exceptional commitment, valuable guidance, and dedicated efforts to strengthen interdisciplinary graduate research. Based on students' nominations and adjudicated by the InterD committee, this year's awards were presented to Dr. Lori Bradford and Dr. Cynthia R. Wallace (InterD Supervisor Award), Dr. Ibironke Odumosu-Ayanu and Dr. Simonne Horwitz (InterD Advisor Award).

The newly established **InterD Publication Award** provides financial support to InterD students for research publications in peer-reviewed journals that require publication fees.



2025-26 marked the inaugural year of the InterD Supervisor Award and the InterD Advisor Award



InterD students, supervisors and advisors attending the InterD Annual Symposium

The CGPS InterD program special events, embedded within the seminar requirements, included the **Interdisciplinary Studies Keynote Lecture** of Dr. Maureen G. Reed (UNESCO Chair in Biocultural diversity, sustainability, reconciliation, and renewal) entitled "Learning together, working together: A journey in transdisciplinary sustainability research".

The signature **W[InterD]ialogues** event featured Dr. Nora Dominguez, President Emeritus of the International Mentoring Association and director of the Mentoring Institute at the University of New Mexico, in an interactive dialogue focused on mentorship and developmental networks for graduate student success.

This series of events, open to the entire USask community, culminated in the **InterD Annual Symposium**, where eight interdisciplinary graduate research teams from diverse disciplines addressed today's pressing challenges for a better tomorrow in Saskatchewan, Canada and worldwide



Cousins workshop participants at red willow basket weaving workshop, led by Traditional Knowledge Keeper Lyndon J. Linklater

Indigenization and Decolonization

CGPS remains committed to fostering [an Indigenous graduate student community](#) that nurtures belonging and success and harnessing the richness of diverse viewpoints and wisdom.

In efforts to assist Indigenous students in building community, CGPS regularly hosts **Cousins Workshops** with a 'busy hands' model that encourages students to make connections through cultural and artistic activities.

2025/26 workshops included:

- Red willow basket weaving
- Sun printing in the College of Law Medicine Garden
- Virtual/in-person beading sessions
- Ribbon skirt/shirt sewing workshop
- Tufting workshop

Other Cousins meet-ups included virtual, and in-person work jams, a family movie night, sharing circles, information sessions, Turkey Bingo and more.

In 2025/26, the **Indigenous Graduate Leadership Circle** welcomed its second cohort, led by Indigenous Initiatives Coordinator Aurora Wolfe to amplify and center Indigenous student voices.

In October 2025, CGPS hosted a panel discussion with UBC Indigenous scholars Drs. Margaret Kovach, Shawn Wilson, Monty Montgomery, and PhD candidate Lindsay DuPré focused on **creating meaningful space for Indigenous graduate students**. The session also invited USask Indigenous graduate students to share their experiences as part of a study examining Indigenous graduate student support programs at Western Canadian universities.

This year, CGPS continued its **Holiday Hamper** program, providing pantry staples and sweet treats to over 20 Indigenous graduate students and their families.

According to preliminary 2025-26 data, Indigenous graduate student enrolment is up 22%, with incoming students increasing across programs.

Full details on past and ongoing Indigenization and Decolonization efforts at CGPS will be found in the 2026 ohpahotân | oohpaahotaan report.



Professional Development



InterD student and composer Paul Suchan debuts a composition inspired by climate change at TEDxUniversityofSaskatchewan 2026.



3MT 2026 finalists and judges



The Graduate Mentorship Program celebrated 19 successful students in the first cohort of the program

Graduate studies explored the edges at [TEDxUniversityofSaskatchewan 2026](#), with five graduate students taking the stage to deliver ground-breaking talks.

Falling Walls Lab Edmonton, part of an international research communication competition showcasing breakthrough ideas, featured strong USask representation in August 2025 with one graduate student and one postdoctoral scholar advancing to the finals.

This year's [USask 3MT competition](#) featured preparatory workshops and one-on-one finalist coaching. Participation was broader than ever, with new academic units represented in the preliminary round and 12 finalists competing in April. Congratulations to Biology PhD student Cassidy Waldrep, who earned first place, and went on to compete at the Western Regional Finals at the University of Regina.

The **Graduate Mentorship Program**, launched in May 2025, successfully completed its inaugural cohort with 19 PhD students matched with mentors from academia, industry, government, and entrepreneurship. Strong student demand has led to the program's expansion to include master's students in its second cohort.

The CGPS **Professional Skills Suite (ProSkills)** delivered nine in-class sessions, equipping 125 graduate students with key competencies in areas such as communication, leadership, and career planning. Two additional modules are in development, alongside efforts to expand faculty engagement with professional development programming.

CGPS delivered a range of centralized **professional development (LevelUP) workshops**, engaging nearly 150 graduate students through virtual and in-person sessions. While most workshops, particularly those focused on career preparation, were well attended. The Cultural Adjustment Series for international students (developed to replace GPS 981) was discontinued due to consistently low participation.

Professional Development (continued)

Through partnerships with the Library and Gwenna Moss Centre, CGPS supported graduate student development in research ethics, teaching, and professional skills, with more than 1,100 students completing the GPS 960 Ethics course and strong participation across teaching and certificate programs. These collaborations also contributed to broader research impact and teaching excellence, including ongoing engagement with the Undergraduate Research Journal and multiple professional development offerings.

In partnership with Edwards School of Business, CGPS PD Specialist Kenisha Blair facilitated the professional coaching of 12 graduate students by professionals who participated in the school's Executive Coaching Program.

The **Dean's Support Fund sponsorship program** that funds student-led conferences and initiatives sponsored 11 events, engaging several thousand graduate students supporting conference organizing skill development and hands-on experience.

Programming, Enrolment and Recruitment

PROGRAMMING

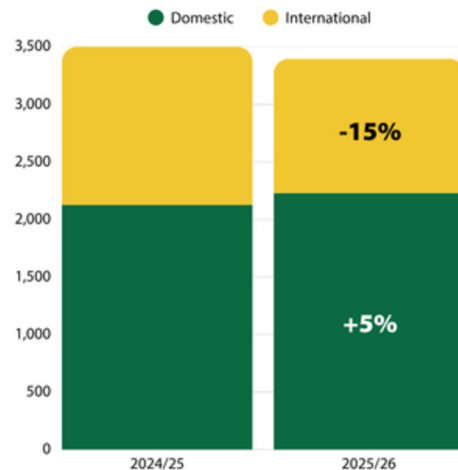
New in programming, University Council approved the Master of Science in Periodontology, the Graduate Certificate in Large Animal Veterinary Specialty Internship and the Graduate Certificate in Improvement Science. The application cycle for the Master of Occupational Therapy and Master of Speech-Language Pathology programs opened for the Fall 2026 intake with very strong application numbers (237 and 142 respectively). CGPS approved two new special case admission programs, two cotutelle doctoral programs, and three cotutelle doctoral notices of intent.

ENROLMENT

Preliminary 2025–26 data (as of April 19, 2026) show a 3% decline in overall graduate enrolment, driven by a 15% decrease in international students, likely a consequence of federal Provincial Attestation Letter (PAL) requirements and low study permit approval rates. Domestic (+5%) and self-declared Indigenous (+22%) enrolment increased over the same period.

As of January 1, 2026, the federal government **removed the PAL requirement** for international master's and PhD students, though it remains in place for most graduate certificate and Visiting Research Students.

For full details on last year's enrolment, see the [2024-25 Graduate Student and Postdoc Scholar Report](#).



RECRUITMENT

CGPS continues to collaborate with Student Recruitment, Student Marketing and Communications, and Digital Strategy to strengthen a coordinated graduate recruitment strategy, including a series of Lunch & Learn sessions to engage programs and align efforts.

Last May, CGPS organized a photoshoot highlighting several units across campus to create a library of grad-specific brand assets. These assets supported the creation of a [grad viewbook](#) that serves as a recruitment tool for prospective students.

In the coming year, CGPS will continue developing agreements with external scholarship agencies and advancing their implementation.

CONTINUOUS SERVICE IMPROVEMENT

As part of ongoing efforts to enhance service to students and stakeholders, CGPS staff received training in the BIFF communication model at the annual staff retreat, facilitated by Jae Morgans.

In 2025–26, CGPS introduced monthly Graduate Administrator Forums to share policy updates, provide guidance, and address questions. The sessions saw strong attendance and engagement, and continuation of this format is being considered for the future.



*CGPS is proud to celebrate the growth and development of our team. The results of the **2025 Employee Engagement Survey** demonstrated a promising increase in overall engagement, reflecting the college's commitment to staff and students.*

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

The CGPS resource allocation for operations for 2026-27 will be reduced by 0.7% and the reduced international application pressure creates significant budgetary constraints. To match rising costs, effective Fall 2025, graduate program application fees increased \$5 for domestic applicants and \$25 for international applicants. This marked the first application fee increase since Spring 2020 and positions CGPS competitively among western U15 institutions while supporting efficient application processing.

A new fee of \$20/term to defer the delivery of professional development programming for graduate students was approved and will begin to be charged in Fall 2026.

As part of fiscal sustainability measures, a valued team member position will not be replaced. Lori Lisitza served as Executive Officer for over eight years, building strong relationships and leading numerous initiatives to streamline operations; her contributions will be greatly missed, and we wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

THANK YOU TO 2025-26 COMMITTEE & COUNCIL MEMBERS!

CGPS extends its gratitude to the many individuals who served on committees this past year. Without your dedication and service, the delivery of countless awards and initiatives would not be possible.

A special thanks to the following outgoing members:

Awards & Scholarship Committee

Ajay Dalai, Chemical & Biological Engineering
Bishnu Acharya, Chemical & Biological Engineering
Gupreet Aulakh, Small Animal Clinical Sciences

Graduate Academic Affairs Committee

Elizabeth Quinlan, Sociology

Graduate Programs Committee

Ann Martin, English
Maud Ferrari, Veterinary Biomedical Sciences

Interdisciplinary Committee

Pammla Petrucka, Nursing

Nominations Committee

Valery Chirkov, Psychology and Health Studies

Postdoctoral Advisory Committee

Andrey Freywald, Pathology
Jonathan Norton, Surgery

CGPS Faculty Council

Andrei Smolyakov, Physics and Engineering Physics
Christian Willenborg, Plant Sciences
Maruti Uppalapati, Pathology
Pierre-Francois Noppen, Philosophy
Randy Kutcher, Plant Sciences
Shafiz Alam, Chemical & Biological Engineering

We'd also like to thank the following graduate students and postdocs who've served on committees this year:

Palash Roy, GSA President (CGPS Faculty Council, Executive and Coordinating Committee)
Lindsay Carlson (Awards and Scholarships)
Laila Valila (CGPS Faculty Council)
Mandela Alema (CGPS Faculty Council, Graduate Programs Committee, Graduate Academic Affairs Committee)
Ghazal Mousavian (Interdisciplinary Committee)
Cody Koloski (CGPS Faculty Council)
Dean Shameess (CGPS Faculty Council)
Gabriela Sieminska-Jauck (CGPS Faculty Council)
Jeremy Irvine (CGPS Faculty Council)
Mike Scott (CGPS Faculty Council)
Yesu Ramya Kandregula (CGPS Faculty Council)
Keigan Lloyd (CGPS Faculty Council)
Samantha Carly (CGPS Faculty Council)
Tamanna Jahan (CGPS Faculty Council, Postdoctoral Advisory Committee)
Mohammad Miah (CGPS Faculty Council, Postdoctoral Advisory Committee)
Yang Lin (Postdoctoral Advisory Committee)

BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

ITEM FOR INFORMATION

Committee Name: Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee, University Council

Date: June 11, 2026

Presented by: Eric Lamb, Chair, Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee

Subject: RSAW Infrastructure Update

SUMMARY

Early in the 2025–2026 academic year, members of the Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work (RSAW) Committee heard a range of concerns related to research infrastructure across the USask, including facility capacity, maintenance issues, and the responsiveness of Facilities Services. The same issues were identified by the College Associate Deans Research (ADRs); therefore, in response a meeting was held between the ADRs and representatives from the Vice-President Administration and Vice-President Research portfolios.

At its May 7, 2026, meeting, RSAW received an update on this meeting. It should be noted that this was an initial, listening-focused conversation in which ADRs had the opportunity to share extensive feedback on challenges affecting research infrastructure. The VP Administration and VP Research will be reporting back to the ADRs on potential solutions.

Key themes included aging infrastructure, reduced facilities staffing, and resulting impacts on research productivity and safety. Members highlighted unclear roles and responsibilities for maintenance and associated costs, particularly in the context of full cost recovery expectations. Broader concerns were also raised about funding models, policy gaps, and the increasing operational burden on faculty and staff to manage infrastructure-related issues. Challenges in coordination, communication, and long-term planning were noted, with a tendency toward reactive solutions and emerging workarounds across units.

The meeting was viewed as a constructive first step. The RSAW Committee views this as an institution-wide issue and has requested ongoing updates that will be communicated to Council to support awareness, transparency, and ongoing monitoring. Faculty concerns should be directed to their respective ADR.

Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee (RSAW) Annual Report for Information

Presented by: Eric Lamb
Date of meeting: June 11, 2026

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

1. Recommending to Council on issues and strategies to support research, scholarly, and artistic work.
2. Recommending to Council on policies and issues related to research integrity and ethics in the conduct of research, scholarly, and artistic work.
3. Recommending to Council and providing advice to the Vice-President, Research on community engagement and knowledge translation activities related to research, scholarly, and artistic work.
4. Providing advice to the Vice-President, Research and reporting to Council on issues relating to the granting agencies that provide funding to the University.
5. Providing advice to the Vice-President, Research, the Vice-Provost, Teaching, Learning, and Student Experience, and the Dean of the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies on the contributions of undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to the research activity of the University.
6. Examining proposals for the establishment of any institute or centre engaged in research, scholarly, or artistic work at the University, and providing advice to the Planning and Priorities Committee of Council.
7. Receiving annual reports from the Vice-President, Research and the Dean of College of Graduate and Post-Doctoral Studies.
8. Receiving and reporting to Council the University's research ethics boards' annual reports.
9. 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.
10. Considering the priorities of the University community, such as Indigenization and internationalization, when assessing current and new research, scholarly, and artistic work activities.

Advancing Discovery and Innovation

The Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee engaged in many thoughtful discussions throughout the year, supporting research policy reviews and revisions, receiving reports, securing research data when travelling as well taking action on concerns surrounding research infrastructure.

Updated University Standards

This year marked the completion of a refreshed set of University Standards from the Vice-Provost Faculty Relations, which was developed through extensive consultation with RSAW, colleges, departments, Indigenous partners, faculty groups, and unions. The updated standards introduce clearer and more consistent language around teaching, research, and service expectations, with a strong emphasis on fairness, flexibility, and transparency. Key updates include a reframing of student input as feedback rather than formal evaluation, explicit recognition of often-invisible academic contributions such as peer review, and clearer articulation of teaching expectations across academic ranks. New pathways have been

introduced for teaching-intensive faculty, and departments now have greater flexibility to define discipline-appropriate scholarly outlets. A coordinated communication plan, including town halls, was developed to support the campus community in understanding and applying these changes.

Ethics Oversight

Ethics remained a significant area of focus throughout the year. Annual reports from both the Human Ethics Board and the Animal Care and Use Committee were reviewed and broadly circulated. Revisions to the Animal Care and Use Policy, as well as a new USask Standard of Care document, were brought forward to Council for approval.

Undergraduate Research: Growth and Capacity

Undergraduate research programming continues to expand, with strong participation in initiatives such as FYRE, SURE, and national award programs. Alongside this growth, challenges related to funding, supervisory capacity, and equitable access were identified. Work is underway to improve data transparency, expand opportunities, and elevate the visibility of student research outcomes. Future efforts will focus on clearer communication for students and more strategic, feedback-driven planning across campus. RSAW will continue to engage with the team moving this initiative forward.

Modernizing Research Systems

Preparations are underway to replace an aging research administration system with a more integrated, modern platform. The new system is intended to streamline approvals, reduce administrative burden, and improve tracking and reporting for researchers. Implementation will begin with animal management and ethics modules, supported by phased communication and training to ensure a smooth transition. RSAW will continue to engage as this project unfolds.

Arts Research and Creative Futures

The School for the Arts made notable progress in expanding research activity and building new partnerships while advancing plans to modernize graduate programming. Priorities include strengthening MFA programs and laying the groundwork for a future practice-based PhD aligned with international standards. These initiatives aim to better connect Saskatchewan's arts sector with research, innovation, and graduate-level training.

Travel Security and Research Protection

Research security during travel received increased attention at the RSAW table, with a focus on protecting data, devices, and intellectual property. Guidance emphasized practical risk-reduction strategies such as minimizing data stored on devices, using secure cloud storage, and exercising caution on public networks. Exploration began into a potential loaner-device program to further support secure travel. Additional centralized resources and awareness-building activities are planned.

Infrastructure and Facilities Concerns

RSAW raised concerns about research infrastructure and response times of facilities maintenance which surfaced from several different areas across campus. A meeting took place with the Associate Deans of Research (ADRs), Vice President Administration and Vice-President Research portfolios which was intentionally structured as an initial, listening-centered conversation, providing ADRs with an opportunity to share concerns and experiences from across colleges. Participants broadly viewed the discussion as a constructive first step, with senior administration listening and committing to continued dialogue.

Common themes emerging from the discussion included aging and inadequate infrastructure, reduced technical and operational staffing, and unclear delineation of responsibilities for facilities management which were identified as having direct impacts on research productivity, safety, and compliance. RSAW established that the issues raised at this meeting warrant ongoing attention and should continue to be addressed through ADR forums.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

It has been a pleasure to chair the RSAW committee for the past two years. I appreciate the time and dedication put in by every member of the committee; and their commitment to promoting and enhancing the scholarly work of all of our colleagues. I would like to thank the Governance Office staff, particularly Danielle Rudulier. They do an enormous amount of work behind the scenes to ensure that the committee is efficient and productive.

Respectfully,
Eric Lamb, Chair, Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee

Scholarship and Awards Committee Annual Report for Information

Presented by: Jason Perepelkin

Date of meeting: June 11, 2026

BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

SUMMARY

This report summarizes the activities of the Scholarships and Awards Committee for two overlapping time periods:

- 1) 2025-2026 Annual summary of centrally administered **and** college administered awards distributed to students
- 2) 2025 Calendar year description of Committee Activities

The Committee has four responsibilities and this report outlines the Committee’s activities with respect to undergraduate scholarships and awards within the framework of the four areas of responsibility.

The Student Finance and Awards Office disbursed just under \$19 million in undergraduate student awards in 2025-2026 on behalf of the Scholarships and Awards Committee of University Council, the college deans, and Huskie Athletics, up from roughly \$17 million in 2024-2025, which in turn was an increase from the roughly \$15.6 million reported in 2023-2024.¹ Most of this funding is awarded as Guaranteed Entrance Scholarships, Competitive Entrance Awards, Transfer Scholarships, and Continuing Awards (both scholarships and bursaries).

MEMBERSHIP

NINE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ACADEMIC ASSEMBLY, AT LEAST THREE OF WHOM WILL BE ELECTED MEMBERS OF COUNCIL. VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC OF THE USSU, VICE-PRESIDENT, FINANCE OF THE GSA, AN INDIGENOUS REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE VICE-PROVOST INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT.

Council Members:

Jason Perepelkin (Chair)	Pharmacy and Nutrition	2027
Kyle Anderson	Medicine	2027
Carmen Gillies	Education	2028
Veronika Makarova	Arts and Science	2027

General Academic Assembly Members:

Ratna Dhaliwal	Library	2026
Amanda Lalonde	Arts and Science	2027
Kerry Mansell	Pharmacy and Nutrition	2027
Lori Bradford	Engineering	2027

¹ The June 13, 2025 Report to Council was based on data compiled **April 19, 2025**. **\$265,827** was disbursed as part of the 2024-2025 calendar years after report data was compiled.

Indigenous Representative from OVPIE:

Trenna Vanghel

Project Manager, OVPIE

Student Members:

Sunny Bui

GSA (VP Finance & Operations)

Norah Jacob

USSU (VP Academic Affairs)

Ex-Officio:

Ashlyn Yablonski (non-voting)

Designate for Vice-President, University Relations

Leah Johnson

Designate for Dean, College of Graduate and
Postdoctoral Studies

Pirita Mattola

Designate for Vice-Provost, Students & Learning

Marjorie Delbaere

Designate for Provost and Vice-President Academic

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

- 1) Recommending to Council on matters relating to the awards, scholarships and bursaries under the control of the University.
- 2) Recommending to Council on the establishment of awards, scholarships and bursaries.
- 3) Granting awards, scholarships, and bursaries that are open to students of more than one college or school.
- 4) Recommending to Council rules and procedures to deal with appeals by students with respect to awards, scholarships and bursaries.
- 5) 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.

DISCUSSION SUMMARY:

Part A – Undergraduate

Responsibility #1: Recommending to Council on matters relating to the awards, scholarships and bursaries under the control of the University.

This Committee last reported to University Council on June 12, 2025. The Committee had five regular meetings during the 2025 and 2026 calendar years. The Committee collectively reviewed 263 Best and Brightest Scholarship applications, selecting 17 recipients who were then offered awards valued between \$30,000 and \$40,000. The Committee also formed subcommittees to select recipients for lower-valued awards with subjective criteria.

The Awards Development Liaison, Student Finance and Awards, and Development Officers within University Relations and the respective colleges work with donors to establish new scholarships, bursaries, awards, and prizes, and revise Terms of Reference for previously existing awards. During the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the University of Saskatchewan signed Terms of Reference agreements to accept donations establishing 167 new awards for undergraduate students and 12 new awards for graduate students. Of the 167 undergraduate awards, 92 are merit-based, 41 are need-based, and 34 are a combination of merit and need. Of the 12 graduate awards, all are merit-based. The 7 new awards for Indigenous students are based on a combination of merit and need.

New Awards (Graduate and Undergraduate) by College	
Agriculture and Bioresources	13
Arts and Science	16
Education	5
Engineering	12
Edwards School of Business	19
Huskie Athletics	15
Kinesiology	3
Law	19
Medicine	13
Pharmacy and Nutrition	5
Veterinary Medicine	23
Multi-College Awards	7

Graduate and Postdoctoral Awards	12
Indigenous Awards	7
Total New Awards	169

Responsibility #3: Granting awards, scholarships, and bursaries which are open to students of more than one college or school.

Four primary undergraduate award cycles exist: Entrance Awards, Transfer Scholarships, Scholarships for Continuing Students, and Bursaries for Continuing Students.

Entrance Awards

Entrance Awards are available to students who are entering the University of Saskatchewan with no previous post-secondary experience.² There were two components to the Entrance Awards cycle in 2025-2026: Guaranteed Entrance Scholarships and Competitive Entrance Awards. The Guaranteed Entrance Scholarships are distributed to students upon applying for admission and are guaranteed to students, so long as they meet the average requirements outlined in Table 1.

Students who did not proceed directly from high school to USask but had less than 18 transferable credit units were considered for Guaranteed Entrance Scholarships based on their final Grade 12 marks.

² 18 credit units or less of transferable credit if they have attended another post-secondary institution.

Table 1 - Guaranteed Entrance Scholarship Distribution for 2025-2026³

Award Tier		Number of Recipients Paid	Total Value
\$3,000 Guaranteed Entrance Scholarship (95% +)			
	Agriculture and Bioresources	40	\$120,000
	Arts and Science	382	\$1,146,000
	Education	38	\$114,000
	Engineering	114	\$342,000
	Edwards School of Business	53	\$159,000
	Kinesiology	57	\$171,000
	Total \$3,000 Guaranteed Entrance Scholarships	684	\$2,052,000
\$2,000 Guaranteed Entrance Scholarships (93 - 94.9%)			
	Agriculture and Bioresources	21	\$42,000
	Arts and Science	194	\$388,000
	Dentistry	1	\$2,000
	Education	19	\$38,000
	Engineering	58	\$116,000
	Edwards School of Business	57	\$114,000
	Kinesiology	40	\$80,000
	Total \$2,000 Guaranteed Entrance Scholarships	390	\$780,000
\$1,000 Guaranteed Entrance Scholarships (90 - 92.9%)			
	Agriculture and Bioresources	43	\$43,000
	Arts and Science	285	\$285,000
	Dentistry	1	\$1,000
	Education	27	\$27,000

³ Data as of April 9, 2026.

Award Tier		Number of Recipients Paid	Total Value
	Engineering	87	\$87,000
	Edwards School of Business	74	\$74,000
	Kinesiology	48	\$48,000
	Total \$1,000 Guaranteed Entrance Scholarships	565	\$565,000
\$500 Guaranteed Entrance Scholarships (85 – 89.9%)			
	Agriculture and Bioresources	60	\$30,000
	Arts and Science	396	\$198,000
	Dentistry	1	\$500
	Education	52	\$26,000
	Engineering	116	\$58,000
	Edwards School of Business	126	\$63,000
	Kinesiology	23	\$11,500
	Total \$500 Guaranteed Entrance Scholarships	774	\$387,000
	Total Guaranteed Entrance Scholarships	2,413	\$3,784,000

The Competitive Entrance Awards Program requires a separate application, and includes both centrally and donor-funded scholarships, bursaries and prizes. The majority of the awards are one-time, but there are several awards which are renewable if certain criteria are met each year. Prestigious renewable entrance awards include the George and Marsha Ivany - President's First and Best Scholarships, valued at \$40,000 over four years; the Chancellors' Scholarship, valued at \$30,000 over four years; the University of Saskatchewan Entrance Scholarship, valued at \$30,000 over four years; and the Dallas and Sandra Howe Entrance Award, valued at \$40,000 over four years.

Based on policy as approved by University Council in 2024, entering students were eligible to receive both a Guaranteed Entrance Scholarship and a Competitive Entrance Award in 2025-2026. There are also a few very specific awards which are also listed as an exception in the *Limits on Receiving Awards* section of the Undergraduate Awards Policies approved by University Council. Because of their very specific nature, these awards with subjective criteria may be distributed to students who have won another Competitive Entrance Award. Also, most college-

specific awards⁴ may be received in addition to the Guaranteed Entrance Scholarship and Competitive Entrance Awards governed by the Scholarships and Awards Committee.

Table 2 - Competitive Entrance Awards Distribution for 2025-2026⁵

	Number of Recipients	Total Value
University of Saskatchewan Funded Competitive Entrance Awards		
Arts and Science	30	\$274,109
Engineering	6	\$43,000
Edwards School of Business	1	\$7,500
Kinesiology	1	\$7,500
Total USask Funded	38	\$332,109
Donor Funded Competitive Entrance Awards		
Agriculture and Bioresources	15	\$88,800
Arts and Science	74	\$489,924
Education	13	\$82,662
Engineering	17	\$285,800
Edwards School of Business	16	\$99,500
Kinesiology	8	\$35,500
Total Donor Funded	143	\$1,082,186
Total Competitive Entrance Awards	181	\$1,414,295

⁴ College-specific entrance award recipients are selected by the Student Finance and Awards Office but are reported in Table 8 - College Administered University of Saskatchewan Undergraduate Awards.

⁵ Rounded to the nearest dollar.

Transfer Scholarships

Students who are transferring to a direct entry college at the University of Saskatchewan from another post-secondary institution are not eligible for entrance awards or awards for continuing students. Consequently, a transfer scholarship program was developed to provide scholarships, based solely on academic achievement, to students transferring to the University of Saskatchewan. Students are awarded USask Transfer Scholarships when they apply for admission. Scholarships are guaranteed to students based on their transfer average, as outlined in Table 3. Students with the highest academic average from 18 specific institutions targeted are offered Transfer Scholarships valued at \$2,500.

Table 3 - Transfer Scholarship Distribution for 2025-2026

Transfer Average	Scholarship Amount	Number of Recipients Paid	Total Distributed
Incentive Institution ⁶	\$2,500	0	\$0
85% +	\$2,000	17	\$34,000
80-84.9%	\$1,500	14	\$21,000
78-79.9%	\$1,000	12	\$12,000
TOTAL		43	\$67,000

Continuing Awards

Continuing students are defined as students who attended the University of Saskatchewan in the previous fall and winter terms (September to April) as full-time students. Students who completed 18 credit units⁷ or more in 2024-2025 were eligible for the 2025-2026 continuing scholarships and continuing bursaries. Awards are offered to these students both centrally (because the awards are open to students from multiple colleges) and from their individual colleges (because the awards are restricted to students from that specific college). Table 4 outlines the **centrally-administered awards** (excluding the Transfer Scholarships) distributed to continuing students in 2025-2026.

⁶ Incentive institutions include: Athabasca University; Beijing Institute of Technology (BIT), China (Dual degree program, flagship partner institution); Briercrest College; Camosun College; Columbia College; Coquitlam College; Douglas College; Grand Prairie Regional College; Huazhong Agricultural University (HZAU), China (Dual degree program, flagship partner institution); INTI College, Malaysia; Lakeland College; Langara College; Lethbridge Community College; Medicine Hat College; Red Deer College, Saskatchewan Polytechnic; Taylor's College, Malaysia; Xi'an Jiaotong University (XJTU), China (Dual degree program, flagship partner institution). The list of institutions is reviewed annually.

⁷ Students registered with Access and Equity Services (AES) and approved to study on a Reduced Course Load (RCL) are required to complete 12 credit units in the previous fall and winter terms.

Table 4 – Centrally-Administered⁸ Continuing Awards Distribution for 2025-2026

	Number	Total Value
University of Saskatchewan Funded Continuing Awards		
Agriculture and Bioresources	65	\$235,720
Arts and Science	617	\$1,562,235
Dentistry	29	\$30,655
Education	284	\$425,901
Edwards School of Business	151	\$374,686
Engineering	99	\$373,401
Kinesiology	33	\$144,724
Law	28	\$81,070
Medicine	58	\$108,122
Nursing	107	\$222,161
Pharmacy and Nutrition	23	\$80,900
Western College of Veterinary Medicine	60	\$250,859
Graduate Studies and Research ⁹	282	\$261,193
Total University of Saskatchewan Funded	1,836	\$4,151,626
Donor Funded Continuing Awards		
Agriculture and Bioresources	12	\$141,826
Arts and Science	149	\$691,394
Dentistry	10	\$10,000
Education	53	\$265,000
Edwards School of Business	17	\$72,850
Engineering	45	\$252,674
Kinesiology	17	\$90,000
Law	53	\$167,500
Medicine	17	\$36,000
Nursing	45	\$208,374
Pharmacy & Nutrition	40	\$128,500
Western College of Veterinary Medicine	23	\$66,000
Graduate Studies and Research ¹⁰	14	\$63,709
Total Donor Funded	495	\$2,193,826
Total Continuing Awards	2,331	\$6,345,452

University of Saskatchewan Faculty Association (USFA) Scholarship Fund Program

⁸ Some continuing awards are funded from USask funds but selected by the college/department (e.g., USask Scholarships, USask Undergraduate Scholarships, etc.). Also, the Indigenous Achievement Book Prizes and Indigenous Students with Dependent Children Bursaries are paid in two installments and counted as such.

⁹ There are a few select Continuing Awards administered by the Student Finance and Awards Office that are open to both undergraduate and graduate students. This number also includes travel awards.

¹⁰ There are a few select Continuing Awards administered by the Student Finance and Awards Office that are open to both undergraduate and graduate students.

For 2024-2025, \$375,000 was contributed to the USFA Scholarship Fund, up from \$250,000 in 2023-2024. The amount in the fund is divided by the number of credit units eligible applicants have successfully completed. In 2024-2025, 136 applications were received. Fifteen of the applicants were considered ineligible for consideration. The total paid out for the credit units completed during the 2023-2024 academic year was \$358,426. Eligible applicants received \$112.50 per credit unit they successfully completed, up from \$90 per credit unit the prior year, with a maximum award value of fees assessed in the academic year. The 2025-2026 USFA Scholarships have not been awarded yet.

Table 6 – University of Saskatchewan Faculty Association (USFA) Scholarship Fund 2024-2025 Distribution¹¹

Number of Recipients	
Undergraduate	103
Graduate	18
Total	121

Administrative and Supervisory Personnel Association (ASPA) Tuition Reimbursement Fund

In 2024-2025, there were 141 applications for the ASPA Tuition Reimbursement Fund. Twelve applicants were considered ineligible. Eligible applicants received partial tuition reimbursement for the credit units completed during the academic year of May 1, 2024-April 30, 2025. The funds available were divided among the number of eligible credit units the applicants successfully completed. Given the number of completed credit units, eligible applicants received \$65 per credit unit they successfully completed. The total payout for tuition reimbursements in 2024-2025 was \$179,509.50. The 2025-2026 ASPA Tuition Reimbursements have not been awarded yet.

¹¹ The funding source for the USFA Scholarship Fund is the University of Saskatchewan, as negotiated in the USFA Collective Agreement. The USFA Scholarship Fund awards are based on credit units completed in the 2024-2025 academic year.

Table 7 – ASPA Tuition Reimbursement Fund 2024-2025 Distribution¹²

Number of Recipients	
Undergraduate	112
Graduate	17
TOTAL	129

Responsibility #4: Recommending to Council rules and procedures to deal with appeals from students with respect to awards, scholarships and bursaries.

In 2010, Policy #45 *Student Appeals of Revoked Awards* was implemented. As such, the Awards and Financial Aid Office, on behalf of the Scholarships and Awards Committee of University Council, adjudicates the student appeals of revoked awards. There were seven student appeals submitted to the Student Finance and Awards Office during the 2025-26 academic year, and in all seven cases, the appellant was allowed to retain their award.

¹² According to Article 12.4 of the old Collective Agreement (May 1, 2011 – April 30, 2014), “Effective 1 May 2012, the university will provide an annual allotment of \$180,000 to the TRF.” Based on this agreement, two allotments are anticipated one on May 1, 2012 and the second on May 1, 2013 for a total of \$360,000. The ASPA executive agreed to divide the \$360,000 over three years in order to provide tuition reimbursement to applicants for the 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14 academic years. In May 202, \$180,000 was received. The ASPA TRF is based on credit units completed in the 2024-2025 academic year.

Additional Section 1: 2025-2026 Total Distribution of College Administered University of Saskatchewan Undergraduate Awards

Although awards distributed by the colleges are not within the purview of the Committee except the requirement that they are created and disbursed in compliance with the Undergrad Awards Policy, the members felt it appropriate to include them in order to give an accurate picture of the total state of awards on campus. The following table indicates how many college-specific awards were given to undergraduate students in each college.

Table 8 – College-specific Awards at the University of Saskatchewan 2025-2026 ¹³

College	Total Payouts	Total Value
Agriculture and Bioresources ¹⁴	348	\$686,024
Arts and Science ¹⁵	288	\$658,210
Dentistry	16	\$108,780
Education	226	\$203,950
Edwards School of Business ¹⁶	383	\$1,004,886
Engineering ¹⁷	298	\$734,950
Kinesiology	13	\$18,000
Law	248	\$712,037
Medicine	160	\$587,640
Nursing	62	\$159,193
Pharmacy and Nutrition	79	\$86,524
Veterinary Medicine	161	\$446,450
Huskie Athletics	687	\$1,177,630
TOTAL	2,969	\$6,585,276

¹³ Number and values reported as of **April 9, 2026**. Totals are rounded to the nearest dollar.

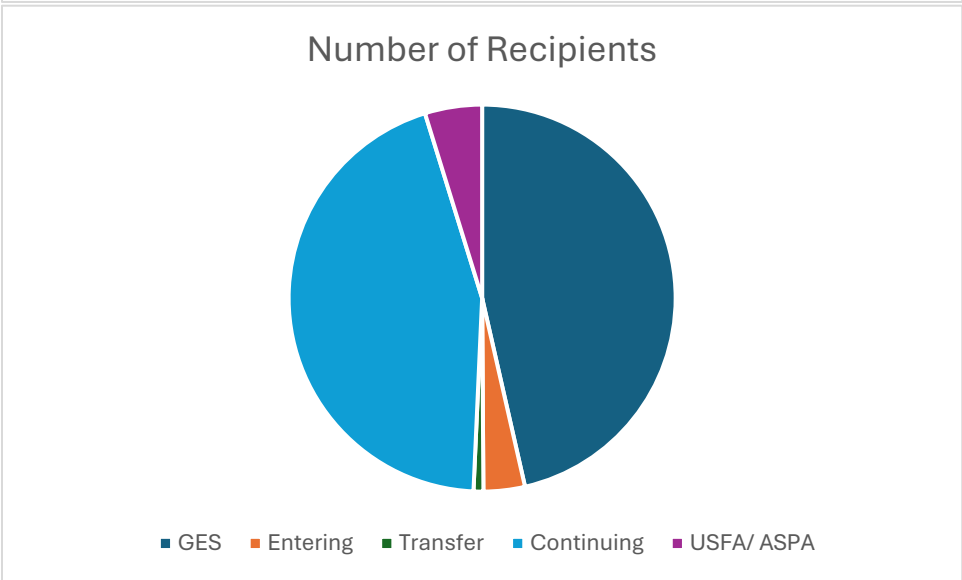
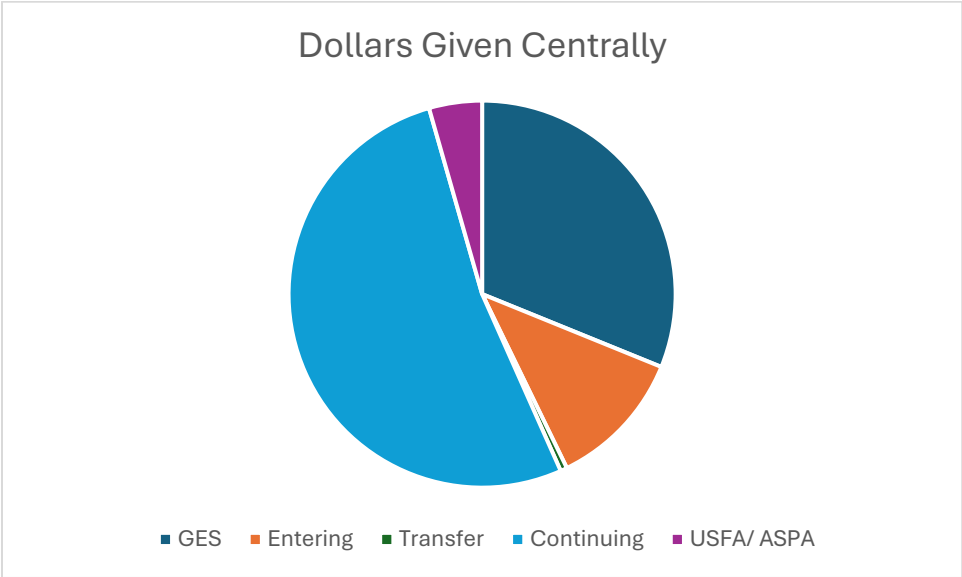
¹⁴ Numbers include awards and values for College of Agriculture and Bioresources entrance awards administered by Student Finance and Awards.

¹⁵ Number does not include Indigenous Student Learning Community Award, as the fund is under the University Registrar Organization.

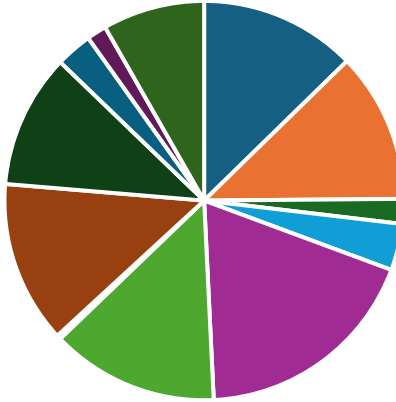
¹⁶ Numbers reported include the Edwards Undergraduate Scholarships and other Edwards-specific entrance awards administered by Student Finance and Awards.

¹⁷ Numbers include awards and values for College of Engineering entering and continuing awards administered by Student Finance and Awards.

Additional Section 2: 2025-2026 Total Distribution of College Administered University of Saskatchewan Undergraduate Awards

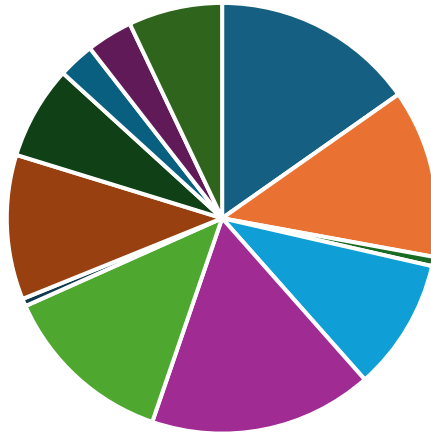


Dollars Given Out By College



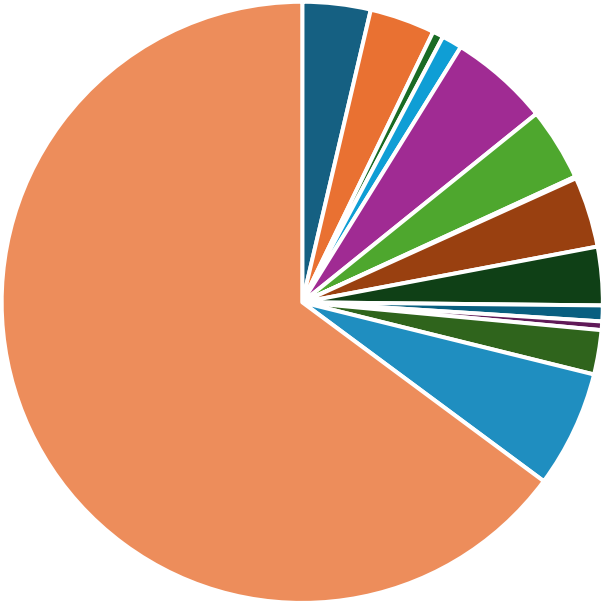
- | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| ■ Agriculture and Bioresources | ■ Arts and Science | ■ Dentistry |
| ■ Education | ■ Edwards School of Business | ■ Engineering |
| ■ Kinesiology | ■ Law | ■ Medicine |
| ■ Nursing | ■ Pharmacy and Nutrition | ■ Veterinary Medicine |

Number of Awards



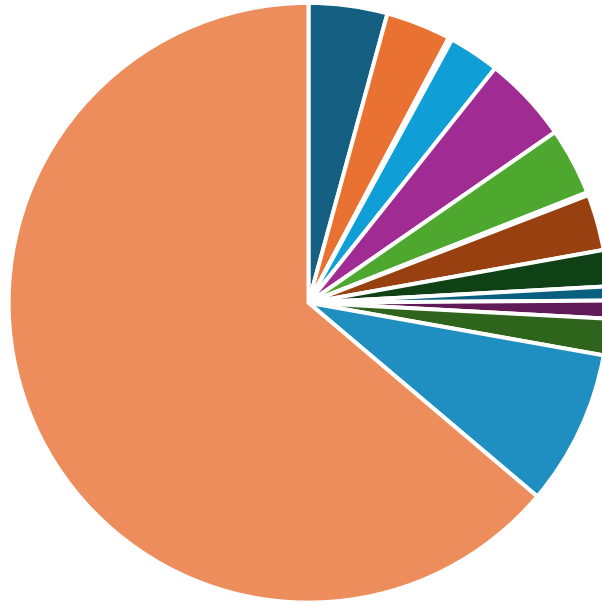
- | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| ■ Agriculture and Bioresources | ■ Arts and Science | ■ Dentistry |
| ■ Education | ■ Edwards School of Business | ■ Engineering |
| ■ Kinesiology | ■ Law | ■ Medicine |
| ■ Nursing | ■ Pharmacy and Nutrition | ■ Veterinary Medicine |

Award Dollars per Unit



- Agriculture and Bioresources
- Arts and Science
- Dentistry
- Education
- Edwards School of Business
- Engineering
- Kinesiology
- Law
- Medicine
- Nursing
- Pharmacy and Nutrition
- Veterinary Medicine
- Huskie Athletics
- Central

Number of Awards



- Agriculture and Bioresources
- Arts and Science
- Dentistry
- Education
- Edwards School of Business
- Engineering
- Kinesiology
- Law
- Medicine
- Nursing
- Pharmacy and Nutrition
- Veterinary Medicine
- Huskie Athletics
- Central

Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources Committee (TLARC) Annual Report for Information

Presented by: Ralph Deters
Date of meeting: June 11, 2026

SUMMARY

The Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources Committee (TLARC) of University Council aims to provide pedagogical oversight and teaching excellence by reviewing methods and practice of teaching as well as providing support and resources for teaching and learning. The committee has had many meaningful conversations throughout the year spanning from academic integrity to micro-credentials, workforce skills, career readiness and flexible learning as well as work of three separate working groups.

TLARC met on 8 occasions throughout 2025-26. Additionally, the working groups met on several separate occasions. The Chair of TLARC also served on the Executive Committee of Council.

MEMBERSHIP

ELEVEN MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ACADEMIC ASSEMBLY, AT LEAST FIVE OF WHOM WILL BE ELECTED MEMBERS OF COUNCIL, NORMALLY ONE OF WHOM WILL BE CHAIR. AT LEAST ONE MEMBER FROM THE GENERAL ACADEMIC ASSEMBLY WITH SOME EXPERTISE IN INDIGENOUS TEACHING AND LEARNING. ONE SESSIONAL LECTURER, ONE GRADUATE STUDENT APPOINTED BY THE GSA, ONE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT APPOINTED BY THE USSU AND THE VICE-PROVOST, STUDENTS AND LEARNING OR DESIGNATE.

Council Members:

Ralph Deters (Chair)	Arts and Science	2023-2026
Kate Congreves	Agriculture and Bioresources	2024-2027
John Gjevre	Medicine	2023-2026
Natasha Hubbard Murdoch	Nursing	2024-2027
Marguerite Koole	Education	2025-2028

General Academic Assembly Members:

Natacha Hogan (Vice-chair)	Agriculture and Bioresources	2023-2026
Gurpreet Kaur Aulakh	WCVM	2025-2028
Melanie Hamilton	Education	2025-2028
Maha Kumaran	Library	2025-2028
Ken MacKenzie	Arts and Science	2024-2027
Greg Malin	Medicine	2023-2026

Sessional:

Corinna Bar Gar

2025

Student Members:

Sunny Bai

GSA (VP Finance & Operations)

Norah Jacob

USSU (VP Operations & Finance)

Ex-Officio:

Nancy Turner

Designate for Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

1. Commissioning, receiving and reviewing scholarship and reports related to teaching, learning and academic resources, with a view to supporting the delivery of academic programs and services at the University of Saskatchewan.
2. Making recommendations to Council and the Planning and Priorities Committee on policies, activities and priorities to enhance the effectiveness, evaluation and scholarship of teaching, learning and academic resources at the University of Saskatchewan.
3. Promoting student, instructor and institutional commitments and responsibilities, as set out in the University of Saskatchewan Learning Charter and as reflected in the priority areas of the University of Saskatchewan integrated plans.
4. 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.
5. The Committee will carry out all of the above in the spirit and philosophy of equitable participation and an appreciation of the contributions of all people. As one of the university's priority areas is Indigenization, this includes rigorous and supportive programs for Indigenous student success, engagement with Indigenous communities, and the creation of learning outcomes tied to Indigenous content and experiences grounded in Indigenous world views. In this context, Indigenous refers to First Nations, Métis and Inuit people of Canada. In addition, the prioritization of internationalization calls the committee to a focus on intercultural and international engagement among students, educators, and staff.

Enhancing Teaching & Learning

The Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources Committee engaged in thoughtful discussion throughout the year on university supports for students, instructors, and the wider workforce. Topics of discussions included:

Micro-credentials and Workforce Skills

Micro-credentials continue to generate strong interest as short, flexible learning options designed to address specific workforce and labour market needs. Examples from the College of Agriculture and Bioresources illustrated how industry-identified skill gaps are shaping program design. These offerings typically combine online, non-credit learning with an optional assessment leading to a recognized credential. While delivery models continue to evolve, discussions emphasized that micro-credentials are intended to complement, not replace, traditional degrees and certificates, and to respond directly to real-world workforce demands.

Upskilling, Reskilling, and Career Readiness

Ongoing conversations highlighted the importance of both upskilling—deepening existing competencies—and reskilling to prepare for new roles. Employers continue to place high value on human skills such as communication, problem solving, and collaboration, alongside a growing demand for technological fluency, including AI and data-related skills. Career Services shared how their role has expanded beyond résumé support to include skill development, career exploration, and helping students and alumni navigate emerging workforce trends.

Accessibility Planning

Work is underway on the development of a new [Accessibility Plan](#) grounded in principles of universal design and intersectionality. The plan spans multiple areas, including student experience, [teaching and learning](#), research, employee experience, institutional systems, and physical spaces. A key takeaway was the importance of embedding accessibility into everyday practices, policies, and environments rather than treating it as an add-on. Student feedback reinforced the plan's priorities and emphasized the value of transparency and sustained engagement.

Understanding Graduate Outcomes

Efforts are ongoing to better understand graduate career pathways and how learned skills align with labour market needs. Data from Statistics Canada and provincial partners is helping USask build a more comprehensive picture of employment outcomes, mobility, and trends. While survey response rates continue to be an area for improvement, the available data is already informing institutional planning and decision-making.

Student Connection and Loneliness

A thoughtful discussion explored student loneliness and the importance of relationship-rich learning environments. Contributing factors included large class sizes, online learning formats, busy schedules, and limited opportunities for meaningful connection. Proposed approaches ranged from learning communities and welcoming spaces to more interactive

classroom practices and expanded mentorship opportunities. The overarching message was clear: connection plays a critical role in learning, wellbeing, and student success, and fostering it is a shared responsibility.

Academic Integrity and Assessment

Progress is being made on revisions to the Academic Misconduct Regulations. Discussions around academic integrity focused on understanding why misconduct occurs and how thoughtful teaching practices, assessment design, clarity of expectations, and proactive supports can reduce pressure and misunderstanding—particularly in the context of generative AI. The revised regulations emphasize consistency, education, and creating learning conditions that support student success.

Flexible Learning and Pathways

Flexible learning continues to expand, offering students greater choice in how, when, and where they learn. While this growth increases access, discussions highlighted the need for intentional course design, strong learner supports, and a continued focus on student connection—especially in asynchronous or remote formats. Ongoing evaluation will be important to understand long-term impacts on retention, completion, and professional readiness.

TLARC Working Groups

Several TLARC working groups have been actively advancing key teaching and learning priorities. One group is reviewing research and institutional practices related to teaching effectiveness, including how student learning experience data is used across post-secondary institutions. Another is focused on generative AI, examining campus-wide needs, barriers, and defining appropriate expectations for AI literacy among different user groups. A joint working group is also supporting the rollout of the updated Academic Courses Policy, with a strong emphasis on practical guidance and change management to ensure instructors and colleges are supported—not just compliant—as new policies are implemented.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

As the 2025-2026 academic year comes to a close, I want to express my gratitude to each and every one of you for your dedication and hard work.

To all the committee members, thank you for generously dedicating your time and insightful perspectives during our committee meetings as well as to those of you who participated on the working groups in addition to the committee. Your input on various teaching and learning matters, policies, and processes has been influential in achieving the committee's objectives. I also extend a special thanks to our executive members, Vice-Chair Natacha Hogan and Nancy Turner, for their ongoing leadership throughout the year.

Thank you to the Governance Office for your support in ensuring the committee's smooth functioning and success as well as all of the presenters who willingly shared their expertise and time with the committee.

Respectfully,
Ralph Deters, Chair, Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

June 2026

June has been a time of connection and celebration across our campuses. I've had the opportunity to meet with faculty, staff, students, and partners from across Saskatchewan, and these conversations continue to shape my understanding of the opportunities ahead and the shared commitment that defines the University of Saskatchewan.

The first week of June, I took part in my first Spring Convocation as President. This was a meaningful moment as it marked my official installation as USask's 12th president and vice-chancellor. The oath I took reminded me of the importance of listening to the people in this organization and across the province. With this in mind, I spoke directly to the importance of the USask community in helping us achieve our goals. I am grateful to everyone who took part and contributed to the sense of community and purpose that guides our work.

With summer beginning, I want to highlight developments that speak to the energy and progress I'm seeing across our campuses.

SPRING CONVOCATION AND INSTALLATION

This year's Spring Convocation brought our community together to celebrate nearly 4,000 graduates from across USask. Over five days of ceremonies at Merlis Belsher Place, students from every college joined the [Class of 2026](#) in marking this milestone. I was also honoured to be formally installed as USask's 12th president and vice-chancellor during the opening ceremony, supported by colleagues, Elders and Wise Ones, students, alumni, and partners.

Convocation also included [honorary degrees](#) for Murad Al-Katib and Dr. Gagandeep Kang, whose contributions to global food security and public health reflect the values that guide USask. Murad's message was powerful and deeply aligned with USask's commitment to local-to-global impact and Saskatchewan's importance to the world. Dr. Kang spoke about the importance of collaboration in driving meaningful change, highlighting how

breakthroughs in public health depend on people working together across disciplines and communities — an approach that mirrors USask’s own commitment to partnership-driven discovery. It was a week that highlighted both achievement and the strong sense of community that defines our university.

PROVOST SEARCH

The university is preparing to launch the search for our next Provost and Vice-President Academic, a position central to advancing USask’s academic mission. As part of this early phase, members of our campus community have been invited to share their perspectives on the qualities and leadership attributes that will be essential in our next Provost. Feedback is being gathered through a confidential survey administered by Odgers, our executive search partner, and will be used to help shape the candidate profile.

The Provost plays a critical role in advancing academic strategy, aligning resources and academic units, and providing strong people and institutional leadership. As a key member of the executive team, the Provost is expected to mentor leaders, support major institutional initiatives, engage with external partners and communicate transparently and effectively.

Community input is an important part of this process, and I want to thank everyone who has taken the time to contribute. Updates on the search, including opportunities for further engagement, will continue to be shared as the process moves forward.

PRINCE ALBERT MOU

USask and the City of Prince Albert have signed their first Memorandum of Understanding, formalizing a partnership focused on community development, health and wellness, transportation, and recreation. The agreement strengthens a relationship more than 40 years in the making and aligns with the city’s 2026–2029 Strategic Plan.

The MOU includes a shared research funding model and a joint working group that will identify collaborative projects and track progress. As I noted at the signing, our success as a university is tied to the strength of Saskatchewan’s communities, and this partnership reflects our commitment to working alongside Prince Albert to support a sustainable and thriving future.

PRIDE MONTH

June is Pride Month, a time to celebrate 2SLGBTQIA+ communities and reaffirm our commitment to creating a campus where everyone feels a sense of belonging. Throughout

the month, the [USask Spotlight page](#) is sharing stories, events, and learning resources that highlight the experiences, leadership, and contributions of 2SLGBTQIA+ students, faculty, staff, and alumni. These reflections underscore both the diversity within our community and the ongoing work required to foster inclusion.

I want to thank the organizers, volunteers, and participants who help ensure that Pride at USask is both joyful and grounded in our shared responsibility to support equity and belonging across our campuses.

INDIGENOUS HISTORY MONTH/INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

It is also National Indigenous History Month in June, a time to honour the histories, cultures, and contributions of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples. On June 21, USask will join communities across the country in recognizing National Indigenous Peoples Day. Stories, events, and learning opportunities [are being shared throughout the month](#), and I encourage our campus community to take part and reflect on our responsibilities to truth, reconciliation, and respectful partnership.

TOP RESEARCHERS RECOGNIZED

USask has recognized [three outstanding researchers](#) for their contributions to scholarship and discovery. Dr. Wendy Roy has been named the university's Distinguished Researcher for 2026, honoured for her nationally and internationally recognized work in speculative fiction, women's writing, and power relations in Canadian literature.

Two emerging scientists were also celebrated: Dr. Deborah Adewole, an expert in non-ruminant nutrition, and Dr. Arinjay Banerjee, a virologist whose work focuses on zoonotic viruses and One Health research.

All three were recognized during Spring Convocation for their significant contributions to research and innovation at USask.

HUSKIE ATHLETICS

June is a quieter month for Huskie Athletics as teams transition out of their competitive seasons and begin preparations for fall. Training, recruitment, and community programming continue through the summer, and the athletics calendar will ramp up again as we approach the start of the 2026–27 season. I encourage our campus community to stay connected with Huskie Athletics and support our student-athletes as they prepare for the year ahead.

CLOSING REMARKS

As summer unfolds, I am encouraged by the focus and generosity I see across our campuses. The work taking place in our classrooms, research spaces, clinics, and community settings reflects a university that shows up for Saskatchewan and for one another. Thank you for the leadership you bring to this work and for the support you offer to our students and colleagues. I look forward to continuing this shared effort to strengthen the University of Saskatchewan and to build on the momentum we are creating together.



Interim Provost's Report to Council

June 2026

GENERAL REMARKS

We marked an exciting Spring Convocation from June 1-5 that celebrated 3,976 new USask graduates. I was especially honoured to present the Distinguished Teacher Award to Cheryl Besse, associate professor in the College of Nursing, during the June 4 ceremony. Cheryl has devoted more than 30 years to nursing education, creating inclusive, supportive learning environments that foster critical thinking and professional growth, and it was such a pleasure to recognize her with this award.

I also want to extend my congratulations to those named Distinguished Professors, and to the recipients of the Provost's Teaching Awards for the 2025-26 academic year. Each of you contributes to USask's learning and discovery environment in profound ways, and we look forward to honouring you at special events in June. You can read more about each of the educators we are celebrating below.

I would also like to highlight one new and one renewed advisory committee to the provost's portfolio. Thank you in advance to colleagues who have agreed to serve on these advisory committees.

On December 3, 2025, USask published its first university-wide [Accessibility Plan](#), as part of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Framework for Action. The Accessibility Plan expresses USask's commitment to "strive to create spaces where everyone can take part in learning, working, and community life" and recognizes that "accessibility means removing physical, social, and systemic barriers caused by ableism. It also means designing spaces, systems, and services with and for disabled people — including those with visible, invisible, episodic, or contested disabilities." To inform next steps for the plan, the new Provost's Advisory Committee on the Accessibility Plan (PAC-AP) will provide advice to the Provost and Vice-President Academic. It will involve reviewing policies, processes, and practices and providing recommendations to further accessibility.

The 2026-27 committee members include:

- Loleen Berdahl, Office of the Provost and Vice President Academic (co-chair)

- Azul Gonzalez Avila, University of Saskatchewan Students' Union
- Lori Bradford, College of Engineering
- Sunny Bui, Graduate Student Association
- Paul Fraser, Capital and Business Planning
- Tasnim Jaisee, Office of the Provost and Vice President Academic
- Maxine Kinakin, Access and Equity Services
- Solina Richter, College of Nursing
- Jim Walters, Planning Design and Construction

The Provost's Advisory Committee on Gender and Sexual Diversity (PAC-GSD) is an established forum that assists USask in creating a community that embraces gender and sexual diversity. We are now once again meeting as a committee to continue this work. The group works to ensure equitable, respectful, and inclusive treatment for all members by proactively addressing intersectional issues related to gender and sexual diversity within and surrounding the campus community, including students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Additionally, the PAC-GSD works to increase visibility and amplify the voices of the diverse gender and sexual groups in the campus community, affirming those who have not been equitably represented within the dominant culture of our community. This includes, but is not limited to, Two-Spirit people, transgender and nonbinary people, lesbian women, gay men, bisexual, pansexual, asexual, intersex, queer, and questioning people.

The 2026-27 committee members include:

- Loleen Berdahl, Office of the Provost and Vice President Academic (co-chair)
- Azul Gonzalez Avila, University of Saskatchewan Students' Union
- Dani Brittain, College of Kinesiology
- Sunny Bui, Graduate Student Association
- Jean Ketterling, College of Arts and Science
- Elliott Klassen, University of Saskatchewan Students' Union Pride Centre
- Tasnim Jaisee, Office of the Provost and Vice President Academic
- Jocelyn Orb, Student Wellness Centre
- Jocelyn Ormerod, Edwards School of Business
- Joshua Shaw, College of Law

Thank you for your engagement with our Reports to Council this year. This will be our final update until University Council resumes in September. I wish you all a restful summer.

USASK UPDATES

2026 DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORS

USask has named five scholars as distinguished professors, the university's highest honour for lifetime achievement in research, scholarly, and artistic work. Selected through a rigorous review process resulting in approval by both the Provost and Vice-President Academic and the Vice-President Research, the award recognizes sustained excellence, leadership, and impact across disciplines, as well as significant contributions to teaching, mentorship, and service. The 2026 recipients reflect excellence in multiple forms, with achievements spanning health, engineering, structural biology, agriculture, and law, and advancing knowledge at local and global levels.

Thank you to the Vice-Provost, Faculty Relations team for leadership and stewardship in managing the distinguished professorship process.

2026 Distinguished Professors

Dr. Claire Card, Western College of Veterinary Medicine
Dr. Daniel Chen, College of Engineering
Dr. Miroslaw (Mirek) Cygler, College of Medicine
Dr. Curtis Pozniak, College of Agriculture and Bioresources
Dr. Barbara von Tigerstrom, College of Law

PROVOST'S TEACHING AWARDS

The [Provost's Teaching Awards](#) recognize outstanding contributions to teaching and learning through a comprehensive, adjudicated process spanning institutional and college-level awards. The program honours excellence, innovation, and impact on student learning across a range of roles, from faculty and sessional lecturers to graduate student instructors and staff who support teaching and learning. Recipients are selected through peer review and are celebrated annually at the Staff and Faculty Awards event. Together, these awards highlight the breadth of teaching excellence across USask and its impact on student success. Congratulations to the 21 recipients below on your achievements and extraordinary impact.

2025/26 Recipients

Institutional awards

Provost's Outstanding Teacher Award: Dr. Alec Aitken (Arts and Science)

Provost's New Teacher Awards: Dr. Valerie Caron (Medicine); Dr. Madison Ricard (Veterinary Medicine)

Provost's Award for Support of Teaching and Learning: Natalya Mason (Medicine)

Provost's Graduate Student Teacher Awards: Dr. Gabrielle Achtymichuk (Veterinary Medicine); Andrew Hartman (Arts and Science)

Sylvia Wallace Sessional Lecturer Award: Dr. Jordan Raymond (Education)

College and school awards for outstanding teaching

Agriculture and Bioresources: Dr. Katherine Stewart

Arts and Science: Dr. Kyle McLeister; Dr. Matthew Toohey

Dentistry: Dr. Michelle Siqueira

Education: Dr. Jing Xiao

Edwards School of Business: Brooke Klassen

Engineering: Brad Schmid

Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy: Dr. Michelle Bussiere-Prytula

Kinesiology: Shannon Forrester

Law: Dr. Clayton Bangsund

Medicine (Rehabilitation Science): Dr. Stan Bardal

Nursing: Jill Zdunich

Pharmacy and Nutrition: Dr. Jason Perepelkin

Veterinary Medicine: Dr. Michael Wu

ACADEMIC HEALTH SCIENCES

The Academic Health Sciences (AHS) brings together the strengths of diverse disciplines to advance health through education, research, and community engagement. The Joint Governance Council of the Academic Health Sciences (JGCAHS) provides strategic direction and oversight for shared priorities across the AHS.

The Health Sciences Education Strategy Committee (HSESC), a committee of the JGCAHS, supports and guides shared health science education initiatives and programs that involve more than one department, school, or program, including interprofessional education. The HSESC meets on a regular basis and helps identify priorities, coordinate and support implementation, and evaluate shared education initiatives and programming within this mandate, providing recommendations to the JGCAHS for decision making. Its work supports collaboration across colleges while respecting their distinct academic mission.

Current membership for the 2026/27 year includes:

- Dr. Amrinderbir Singh – College of Dentistry
- Dr. Joel Lanovaz – College of Kinesiology
- Dr. Meredith McKague – College of Medicine
- Dr. Marnie Kramer – College of Nursing
- Dr. Charity Evans – College of Pharmacy and Nutrition
- Dr. Bruce Wobeser – Western College of Veterinary Medicine
- Dr. Michael Szafron – School of Public Health
- Dr. Jennifer Lang – Clinical Psychology, College of Arts and Science
- Zach Berardi – Health Science Student Association representative
- Dr. Loleen Berdahl – Acting Deputy Provost

LIBRARIES, MUSEUMS, GALLERIES, AND THE DIEFENBAKER CANADA CENTRE UPDATE

Effective May 1, 2026, the university's museums, galleries, and the Diefenbaker Canada Centre joined the University Library to form a unified cultural heritage organization. Together, the Museum of Natural Sciences, Museum of Antiquities, College Art Galleries, Gordon Snelgrove Gallery, Kenderdine Art Gallery, the Diefenbaker Canada Centre, and USask Library will create a connected ecosystem that supports teaching, learning, research, and engagement both on campus and beyond.

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS HISTORY MONTH

June is National Indigenous History Month and June 21 is National Indigenous Peoples Day, which recognizes and celebrates the history and diverse cultures of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples across Canada. Over this month, we will be sharing stories celebrating Indigenous members of the USask community and are encouraging those who are able to attend community events.

On June 21, and every day, members of the University of Saskatchewan (USask) community can learn about Indigenization, decolonization, and the history of Indigenous Peoples and cultures through the Office of the Vice-Provost, Indigenous Engagement's [website](#) and the University Library's [I-Portal: Indigenous Studies Portal](#).

PRIDE MONTH

At USask, creating a welcoming, respectful, and inclusive environment is central to our ambition to be the university the world needs. June is Pride Month, and the USask community is invited to participate in events, explore learning resources, and read stories that highlight the experiences and contributions of 2SLGBTQIA+ students, staff, faculty,

and alumni. With planning support from the provost's office, the annual USask Pride flag raising ceremony took place on May 28, where we welcomed student leaders and senior leadership, including President Vince Bruni-Bossio, to give remarks and recognize the meaning of Pride Month on our campuses. Please join us at the Saskatoon Pride Parade on June 28, where the University of Saskatchewan has been accepted to walk as a group in the parade procession.

COLLEGE AND SCHOOL UPDATES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND MILESTONES

A selection of recent accomplishments, achievements and milestones for USask's college and school community are shared below.

EDWARDS EXECUTIVE EDUCATION EARNS GLOBAL RECOGNITION FOR THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR IN FINANCIAL TIMES RANKINGS

Edwards Executive Education has once again been [recognized by the Financial Times \(FT\)](#) as one of the world's top executive education providers. This marks its third consecutive year on the prestigious list and reinforces its position among leading global providers in professional development and leadership training. To qualify for FT ranking, business schools must hold AACSB or EFMD accreditation and report at least \$1million in annual revenue from custom or open programs. The ranking evaluates open enrolment programs based on factors such as participant quality, teaching, skills gained, and more. This recognition reflects Edwards' commitment to delivering relevant, high-impact learning experiences that meet the evolving needs of professionals and organizations. Looking ahead, [Edwards Executive Education](#) is excited to continue expanding offerings, developing new programs, and strengthening partnerships. Congratulations to the Edwards School of Business on this achievement!

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE GROWTH STRENGTHENS SASKATCHEWAN'S HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE

Undergraduate and Postgraduate Medical Education:

The Government of Saskatchewan is supporting a new College of Medicine expansion, adding 20 undergraduate medical training seats (increasing from 108 to 128) and 10 residency seats (increasing from 150 to 160). This expansion highlights the colleges continued commitment to growing training capacity to best serve the province. [Read the full release.](#)

The undergraduate expansion will be implemented for the current admissions cycle and incoming class. Twelve of the new seats will be at the college's Regina campus (52 seats

total) and eight at the Saskatoon campus (76 seats total). The college is working with government to target 95 per cent of medical school admission for Saskatchewan students. The new residency seats were included in the 2026 Canadian Resident Matching Service (CaRMS) match. All residency [seats offered were successfully filled](#), and learners will begin training on July 1, 2026.

Physician Assistant Studies:

The first [Master of Physician Assistant Studies](#) (MPAS) cohort is completing its third term of case-based and team-based learning. This fall, students will begin their second year and start clinical placements in urban and rural sites across the province. Interest in the program remains strong, as the admissions process just finished for the new incoming class, and offer letters were sent out in May to top candidates.

School of Rehabilitation Science (SRS):

The School of Rehabilitation Science is finalizing preparations for the August launch of the [Master of Occupational Therapy](#) (MOT) and [Master of Speech-Language Pathology](#) (MSLP) programs. Key priorities include hiring faculty and staff, continuing clinical community engagement, ongoing development of curricula, and working on accreditation for the new programs and the existing MPT program. Both programs received high interest from applicants in the recent admissions process and offer letters have been extended to successful candidates. A ceremony is being planned to formally welcome the inaugural MOT and MSLP student cohorts, alongside the MPT student cohort, in late August.

SASKATCHEWAN LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Four outstanding Saskatchewan graduate and post graduate students are being recognized for their academic excellence and leadership through the 2026-27 Saskatchewan Lieutenant Governor Scholarship and the Saskatchewan Lieutenant Governor Indigenous Scholarship. Each award provides \$20,000 to support graduate and post graduate students in Saskatchewan who are advancing research excellence and leadership within their disciplines. This year, for the first time, two additional \$20,000 scholarships have been awarded, totaling \$80,000 in student support. The 2026-27 recipients from USask are Mehdi Khalaj, a PhD student in Computer Science (Quantum Bioinformatics) within the College of Arts and Science, and Katie Tolley, a PhD student in the School of Public Health. Congratulations to both of our USask recipients on their hard work and impactful research that earned them this recognition.

RECENT APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Martha Smith has been appointed as Interim Executive Director, Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy for a one-year term, beginning July 1, 2026 up to June 30, 2027.

Dr. Bobbi Helgason has been appointed as Head, Department of Soil Science, College of Agriculture and Bioresources, for a five-year term, beginning July 1, 2026 and up to June 30, 2031.

Dr. Gill White has been extended as Associate Dean, Regina Campus, College of Medicine for a term up to six months, beginning July 1, 2026 up to December 31, 2026 or until a new Associate Dean, Regina Campus is appointed, whichever occurs first.

Dr. Paula MacDowell has been appointed as Associate Dean, Research, Graduate Support and International Initiatives, College of Education for a five-year term, beginning July 1, 2026 up to June 30, 2031.

Dr. Eric Micheels has been appointed as Head, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, College of Agriculture and Bioresources for a five-year term, beginning July 1, 2026 up to June 30, 2031.

Dr. Robert Laprairie has been appointed as Assistant Dean, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition for a five-year term, beginning July 1, 2026 up to June 30, 2031.

Dr. Natacha Hogan has been appointed as Associate Dean, Academic, College of Agriculture and Bioresources, for a five-year term, beginning July 1, 2027 up to June 30, 2032.

ACTIVE SEARCHES AND REVIEWS

Searches:

- Dean, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition
- Dean, College of Law

Please see [here](#) for information on searches and reviews.



Dear University Council Members,

I would like to begin by expressing my sincere thanks to Council, the Graduate Students' Association, and the broader university community as I begin my term as President of the Graduate Students' Association. I am grateful for the trust placed in me to serve graduate students at the University of Saskatchewan, and I look forward to working constructively with Council over the coming year.

Although the university-wide announcement has not yet gone out, an announcement has been shared with graduate students. I also want to acknowledge the supervisors of the current executive, Drs. Alison Oates, Bishnu Acharya, Michael Szafron, and Kurtis Boyer, for their support as we take on this responsibility alongside our academic work.

One of our main goals this year is to increase graduate student engagement across every area of the GSA's work. This includes holding more events, but it also means paying closer attention to the quality, purpose, and value of those events. Over many years as a student, I have learned the importance of stretching each dollar: creating value with the resources available, building opportunities that are tied to specific skills and learning experiences, and ensuring that GSA programming contributes to graduate student success.

Engagement is also necessary for the larger initiatives we are undertaking. The GSA cannot advance ambitious priorities such as childcare, awards reform, anti-racism work, graduate student funding, and professional development without a strong and connected graduate student community behind us. Building that community is what makes advocacy possible.

Continuing the Childcare Initiative

One of our major priorities this year will be continuing the GSA's advocacy for accessible and affordable childcare for graduate students. The previous Executive initiated a five-year strategic plan for graduate student childcare in collaboration with senior university leadership and CGPS, while MBA students began developing a business plan for sustainable childcare delivery.

Our intention is to move this work from planning into sustained government engagement. This month, the GSA is scheduled to meet with the federal government through the Office of the Secretary of State, Buckley Belanger. Buckley Belanger and the Minister of Education, Everett Hindley were responsible for announcing the five-year extension of the Canada-Saskatchewan early learning and childcare agreements. Through these extended agreements, the federal government will provide more than \$1.6 billion to Saskatchewan

over five years. This funding is intended to support high-quality, affordable, flexible, and inclusive early learning and childcare programs and services across the province, with a 3% annual funding increase to support sustainability. The agreements also extend infrastructure funding for an additional year, until 2026–27, to support projects in underserved communities.

While these are significant investments for families across Saskatchewan, the University of Saskatchewan was not specifically identified in the recent announcements. That omission is important for our advocacy. Graduate students at USask include researchers, lecturers, student parents, international students, and highly skilled contributors to Saskatoon and Saskatchewan. As the university and province continue to grow, childcare must be understood as an academic success issue, a recruitment and retention issue, and a workforce development issue.

In addition, while the GSA Executive is in Montreal for health plan training, we are making efforts to arrange meetings with local Members of Parliament who remain in Ottawa during the summer recess. These conversations will focus on how federal and provincial childcare programs can be better aligned with the realities of graduate students at USask. Accessible childcare directly affects whether graduate student parents can fully participate in academic, professional, and community life. This is especially important for women in academia, who should not have to choose between pursuing graduate education, contributing to research and teaching, and caring for their families.

For the GSA, childcare is also an engagement issue. When graduate student parents are excluded from campus life because childcare is unavailable, unaffordable, or misaligned with their schedules, the university loses part of what those students have to contribute. Our goal this year is to advocate for a model that recognizes the family unit as part of graduate student success and positions childcare as a necessary tool for attracting, retaining, and supporting the talent that USask, Saskatoon, and Saskatchewan need.

Long-Term Sustainability for the GSA Awards

Another priority is the continued review of the GSA Awards. The previous Executive opened nominations for the annual GSA Awards to recognize outstanding contributions by graduate students, faculty, and staff to the graduate student community.

This year, we plan to survey our members regarding the awards and identify areas of improvement. We will also be engaging with the Office of the Vice-President University Relations, including Kimberly Kroll-Goodwin, and the Chief Financial Officer, Dee Henne,



to explore an endowed funding model for the GSA Awards. The goal is to move beyond year-to-year fundraising and establish funds attached directly to the awards themselves. This would support financial sustainability, protect the long-term future of the awards, and create a meaningful legacy for graduate student recognition at USask.

We intend to properly establish an awards review committee with representatives from the GSA, CGPS, and other contributors to this initiative. Such a committee would help ensure that the awards remain transparent, sustainable, and aligned with the values of graduate student achievement, leadership, research, service, and community contribution.

The awards are also part of engagement. Recognition helps students see themselves in the institution and helps departments, colleges, faculty, staff, and students celebrate graduate student excellence together. A stronger awards model would allow the GSA to stretch limited resources into lasting value for the graduate student community.

Anti-Racism, Professional Development, and Campus Culture

The GSA will also continue to prioritize equity, inclusion, and anti-racism. The previous Executive reported work toward an Anti-Racism Memorandum of Understanding with the University and the USSU and also discussed engagement with the President's Executive Committee on equity, diversity, and inclusion.

The increased number of racist incidents on campus and in the broader community, including more visible online racism as we return more fully to physical attendance and in-person community life, must be addressed directly. As we prepare to sign the Anti-Racism MOU with the University and the USSU, the GSA will approach anti-racism as a response, as education, prevention, and institutional culture.

This will include anti-racism events, but it must also extend into professional development. Graduate students are future researchers, instructors, professionals, public servants, entrepreneurs, and community leaders. Professional development must therefore include the skills needed to engage with civility, openness, and respect for different perspectives. Anti-racism work is part of what excellence requires in academic and professional excellence.

This is also where engagement matters most. The GSA must create spaces where students are willing to show up, learn from one another, and build the trust needed for difficult conversations. Our goal is to create meaningful opportunities for graduate students to



develop the personal, professional, and civic skills required for success during and after graduate studies.

Creating Value for Graduate Students

A central theme of this year will be creating more value for graduate students through the GSA. That means being careful with resources, stretching the dollar where possible, and designing programming that meets real needs. Social connection matters, but so do opportunities that help students build skills, navigate academic life, access support, prepare for careers, and participate fully in the university community.

The previous Executive made important progress in rebuilding engagement after the pandemic, including student-informed programming, community events, financial literacy sessions, Graduate Voices, and expanded opportunities for students to connect with one another and university leadership. This year, the current Executive will continue that work with a focus on quality, accessibility, and long-term impact.

Carrying the Work Forward

The University of Saskatchewan asks us to “Be What the World Needs.” The GSA has a responsibility to ensure that graduate students are supported in becoming exactly that. We are also part of a university community that values disruption as a way of challenging assumptions, improving systems, and building what does not yet exist.

For the GSA this year, that means carrying forward the work we have inherited while planning for the long term. It means ensuring that childcare advocacy plan progresses, that awards become financially sustainable, that anti-racism work is embedded into the culture of our organization, and that graduate students receive the support they need to thrive in Saskatoon, in Saskatchewan, and beyond.

The current Executive understands the importance of continuity. We are prepared to carry these initiatives forward with care, maturity, and accountability. We will do this by increasing engagement, creating value, stretching our resources responsibly, and building the graduate student community required to support the ambitious work ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sunny Bui'.



**Graduate Students'
Association (GSA)
University Council Report**

June 2026

Sunny Bui

President, Graduate Students' Association 2026/27

University of Saskatchewan

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL REPORT

JUNE 2026



Room 110, 1 Campus Drive
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
S7N 5A3



Telephone: (306) 966-6960
Fax: (306) 966-6978
E-mail: contactus@ussu.ca
Website: www.ussu.ca

University Council June 2026 Report

Over the past month, the USSU Executive, President Abtin Safaeian, Vice-President Operations and Finance Elmer Vincent, Vice-President Academic Affairs Ashley Mendez Rosales, and Vice-President Student Affairs Azul Gonzalez Avila have been focused on student advocacy, engagement, and collaboration. Through meetings with students, university leaders, and community partners, we continue to prioritize initiatives that support student success, accessibility, affordability and belonging.

Our team is working closely with USSU staff and senior management to review governance documents, strengthen student engagement opportunities, and plan initiatives for the year ahead, including preparations for Welcome Week and other student-focused programming.

On behalf of the 2026–27 USSU Executive Team, thank you for the opportunity to share updates on our work. We remain committed to advocating for students and working in partnership with the University of Saskatchewan to enhance the student experience.

Reflections from VP Gonzalez Avila (she/her)



“As the USSU concludes its first official month of the term, I have been focused on building relationships across campus, supporting student-centred initiatives, and developing long-term programming plans for the upcoming academic year. This month has been a valuable opportunity to better understand students' needs and to begin laying the foundation for initiatives that promote inclusion, community engagement, and student well-being.

Throughout May, I participated in several initiatives connected to awareness, advocacy, and community support. In recognition of Sexual Violence Awareness Month, our team worked on outreach and educational efforts, including the creation of social media video content aimed at encouraging conversation and awareness surrounding sexual violence and consent. I also attended the Pride Flag Raising ceremony on campus in support of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community and participated in conversations surrounding Jewish Heritage Month and the importance of recognizing and celebrating diverse student communities on campus.

In addition to ongoing programming efforts, I have begun developing a broader year-long events and engagement plan focused on creating accessible, creative, and community-oriented experiences for students throughout the academic year. Planning has also begun for Welcome Week, where I have been collaborating with fellow executives and campus partners to explore ways to create an engaging and welcoming environment for both new and returning students.

This month, I also had the opportunity to meet with several campus support centres and committees, including the Women's Centre, Pride Centre, and Help Centre, to better understand the services and advocacy work being done across campus and identify opportunities for collaboration moving forward. Additionally, I attended meetings with the USSU Childcare Centre Committee, and Parking Committee, which provided valuable insight into ongoing student concerns and university operations that impact student life.

Part of my role this month has also involved responding to and supporting students with concerns related to residence experiences and campus life. While I continue learning the responsibilities of the Vice-President Student Affairs position, these experiences have helped me better understand the importance of advocacy, communication, and student support within this role. I look forward to continuing to strengthen relationships with students and campus partners while developing programming and initiatives that foster a stronger sense of belonging and community throughout the year.”

Reflections from VP Mendez Rosales (she/her)



“The month of May has been a very insightful and eye-opening time as the new VP of Academic Affairs. On the very first day, I had to jump in to help students with their grievances, academic and non-academic. I knew this would be the case, so I made it my goal to understand the student grievance processes before my first official day of work.

I understand the crucial role I play in a student's academic career, I plan on respecting that role and the relationship I carry with students. I can't interact with every undergraduate that studies here at USASK, but for those that I do, I try to do everything in my power to help them understand and navigate the world of appeals and hearings. Directly or indirectly, the work I do as the VP of Academic Affairs affects students.

Once I was able to to sort and help students I was able to focus on the long term projects that come with the job such as planning for Academic Awareness Week, fleshing out how I'll execute what I campaigned on, understanding the different Committees I sit in, and being part of the Provost and Vice-President Academic Search Committee, this list goes on as the days pass but these are one of the things I worked the most on in May.

As part of my campaign, I plan to contact Colleges and Departments throughout my term to discuss the course weight of a final exam and how it affects students' academic and personal well-being. Students deserve various ways of showing their understanding. I believe that with a combination of assignments, exams, quizzes and hands-on work, students will have a rich and diverse learning environment. I will be in contact with the Gwenna Moss Center for Teaching and Learning to figure out a way to best approach and deliver my plan.”

Reflections from VP Vincent (he/him)



“My first month as VP Operations and Finance has been a significant learning experience, and I am excited to continue fulfilling the expectations of this role throughout the year. Following my predecessor’s term, I worked to resolve the remaining disbursement requests from April. Six requests were processed, allowing us to wrap up the 2025–2026 academic year and ensure that outstanding financial matters were addressed.

At the time of writing, six campus groups have completed their ratification, with two additional groups ratified provisionally. Many of these groups are already planning events for the summer months, which is encouraging to see, as these initiatives will help build community and student engagement ahead of the fall semester. As part of my work with campus groups, I have also updated the campus group policy. These updates are intended to make the ratification process more accessible, including significantly lowering ratification rates to better support clubs and keep the process affordable for student leaders.

As for Transit, I have continued to monitor the updates being provided by the City, especially as temporary service adjustments are now affecting student routes. The City has announced ongoing Link rapid transit infrastructure work, which has led to temporary changes on routes including 16, 17, 4/40s, and 517. Route 16 is temporarily ending at the University, while Route 517 is operating as a temporary shuttle between Clarence Avenue and Place Riel.

Additionally, I am monitoring updates to the Link system as construction continues. While progress in transit advocacy was limited this month, the changes underway will directly impact how students move to and from campus. As these projects continue, I hope to keep students informed and continue advocating for a transit system that is reliable, accessible, and responsive to the needs of the university community.”

Reflections from President Safaeian (he/him)



“Over the past month, my work has centred on completing my onboarding as President, advancing student affordability, strengthening relationships across the University of Saskatchewan, and supporting student advocacy and campus engagement.

As an incoming President, I undertook a comprehensive onboarding with senior management and staff to develop a thorough understanding of the organization. This included sessions on governance and procedures, the responsibilities of the President's role, accounting, facilities, operations and student services, communications, and events and campaigns, as well as a detailed review of USSU bylaws and policies across the executive, operations and finance, human resources, and University Students' Council portfolios. I also completed a Centre's orientation, reviewed directors' liability, and received an introduction to the Board of Governors from Keith Martell.

I continued to advance several key affordability initiatives, including a prospective USSU discount partnership program to reduce everyday student costs and preliminary planning for a potential textbook exchange. Student affordability is the main focus for us this year. I was recently interviewed by Global News about students' cost-of-living concerns, and these projects reflect my ongoing commitment to easing the financial pressures students face.

I represented USSU at the University Council in Convocation Hall, where I delivered remarks on behalf of students. Serving on the Financial Appeal Review Committee and the Governance Committee, I participated in the bi-weekly *mistatimôk* committee, contributed to Board preparation, and consulted with the administration on Academic Misconduct Regulations, including meeting with Susan Bens. I have also begun planning for the University Students' Council fall term.

We were fortunate to attend a number of community-building events, including the President's Welcome, the USSU retreat, the Pride Flag Raising with the executive team and the Centres, and the Prince Albert Pride Walk. I was fortunate to attend Spring Convocation 2026 and the Gairdner Connects Lecture featuring Dr. Kang, and we began planning for Welcome Week. In collaboration with Azul and the USSU executive team, we supported the development of social media content, including a video promoting Sexual Violence Awareness.

One of my main goals coming into this role was to connect with former USSU presidents and initiate outreach to other student union presidents across Canada to exchange ideas and best practices. I also introduced the executive team to university leaders, including Scott Banda, Jay Wilson, Dr. Sarah Forgie, and Keith Martell, and strengthened relationships with deans and senior leaders across campus. We also began training in anti-racism, Indigenous history, and Robert's Rules of Order, and started working on a platform to promote Indigenous history learning.

I look forward to continuing this work and to building further initiatives that support students at USask throughout the year.”

Respectfully submitted,



Abtin Safaeian
President, USSU



Elmer Vincent
VP Operations and Finance, USSU



Ashley Mendez Rozalez
VP Academic, USSU



Azul González Avila
VP Student Affairs, USSU



Telephone: (306) 966-6960
Fax: (306) 966-6978
E-mail: contactus@ussu.ca
Website: www.ussu.ca