



# Interim Provost's Report to Council

April 2026

## GENERAL REMARKS

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge an upcoming change in the portfolio. The Vice-Provost Indigenous Engagement, Dr. Angela Jaime, will be taking on a role at the University of Victoria as Vice President Indigenous. She will conclude her role on April 30<sup>th</sup>, before transitioning to her new role. As I think about Angela's impact on USask - I think about the word "enduring". This thought stems from major initiatives she has worked on and from her commitment to a courageous approach. Angela and the team she created, led the understanding and implementation of the ohpahotân | oohpaahotaan "Let's Fly Up Together" Indigenous Strategy. Her leadership was also critical in the creation and implementation of the deybwewin | taapwaywin | tapwewin: Indigenous Truth policy, which protects space in the institution for Indigenous people through the verification of Indigenous membership/citizenship. I thank Angela and wish her the best in what's ahead.

I also want to extend my congratulations to Dr. Gillian Muir and Dr. Solina Richter, who have been reappointed as deans in the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) and the College of Nursing, respectively. Please join me in congratulating them both on these well-deserved reappointments. The review of senior leaders being considered for reappointment is rigorous and extensive. Considerable work is undertaken by review committees and in this instance, I want to express my gratitude to the colleagues who invested their time and energy into ensuring the integrity of these recent reviews.

As dean of WCVM, Dr. Muir has provided thoughtful, strategic and dedicated leadership that has advanced the college's priorities and strengthened its foundation for the future, including playing a central role in growing and enhancing the undergraduate program and contributing significantly to the renewal of the college's interprovincial agreement in 2025.

Dr. Solina Richter has championed the USask College of Nursing vision to become a global leader in nursing education since her initial appointment in 2021. Under her leadership, the USask College of Nursing has achieved significant milestones, including notable growth within the college's unique "Learn Where You Live" model. Dr. Richter has also guided the

college's active role in the Government of Saskatchewan Health Human Resources expansion plan.

My final note is an Access and Equity Services update on exam delivery. A recent announcement that Access and Equity Services would be making a change to the service provided in returning completed exams to department/college offices effective May 1st has been revisited and **exam delivery services will not be changed**. As Access and Equity Services has seen a 30 per cent increase over the past two years in the number of exams they are administering for students who require accommodations (e.g., over 4,000 exams in April 2026), the university will explore possibilities for addressing the increased workload of administering exams for students while minimizing impacts on departments and faculty members.

## USASK UPDATES

### QS SUBJECT RANKINGS

In the QS World University Rankings by Subject for 2026, USask was listed among the top 50 universities in the world for veterinary science and earned a spot at 49th overall, and ranked 54th in the world in agriculture and forestry. USask also climbed the rankings in four other subject areas: geophysics, chemistry, electrical and electronic engineering, as well as physics and astronomy.

Overall, USask placed in the top 300 institutions in the world in the subject areas of veterinary science, agriculture and forestry, environmental sciences (151-200 tier), geophysics (151-200 tier), geology (201-250 tier) and Earth and marine sciences (201-275 tier).

These accomplishments are a testament to the faculty and staff who pursue impactful research and scholarship, the students whose curiosity and commitment drive discovery, and the teams who support teaching, research, data stewardship, and institutional reporting. Together, these contributions strengthen USask's global reputation and demonstrate our shared commitment to excellence. Thank you for the role you play in helping USask continue to rise.

### USASK ASSESSMENT CONFERENCE: APRIL 29-30

The USask Assessment Conference offers academic leaders, educators, and teaching support staff a flexible way to engage with assessment redesign through peer-led discussion. The conference opens with a 90-minute live online keynote on April 29,

followed by a full-day, in-person conference on April 30. This conference will be led by the 2026 USask Assessment Champions:

- **Harold Bull**, Associate Professor, Biochemistry, Microbiology and Immunology, College of Medicine
- **Michelle Bussière-Prytula**, Associate Professor, Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy
- **Jan Gelech**, Lecturer, Psychology and Health Studies, College of Arts and Science
- **Michel Gravel**, Professor, Chemistry, College of Arts & Science
- **Elaina Guilmette**, Assistant Professor, School of Environment and Sustainability
- **Mark Klassen**, Associate Professor and Associate Dean, Strategy and Professional Programs, Edwards School of Business
- **Jennifer Loewen**, Associate Professor, Small Animal Clinical Sciences, Western College of Veterinary Medicine
- **Greg Malin**, Associate Professor, Academic Family Medicine, College of Medicine
- **Ella Ophir**, Associate Professor and Undergraduate Chair, College of Arts & Science
- **Taylor Raiche**, Director, Pharmacy Experiential Learning (EL), College of Pharmacy and Nutrition
- **Jordan Raymond**, Lecturer, Educational Foundations, College of Education
- **Randi Strunk**, Lecturer, Ron and Jane Graham School of Professional Development, College of Engineering

Sessions focus on classroom- and program-level conversations grounded in real USask practice. Participation in one or both days is welcome. Registration is free, and lunch and breaks are provided for the in-person day. [Learn more and register.](#)

## COLLEGE UPDATES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND MILESTONES

A selection of recent accomplishments, achievements and milestones for USask's college and school community are shared below.

### USASK STUDENTS TAKE SUSTAINABILITY BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

USask undergraduate students from the College of Agriculture and Bioresources (AgBio), the College of Arts and Science, Edwards School of Business, and through the School of Environment and Sustainability (SENS)'s Undergraduate Certificate program, presented their capstone projects at the annual Sustainability Trade Show on April 2. Across the EVSC 485.3 Environmental Science Capstone and ENVS 401.3 Sustainability in Action courses, 50 students came together to explore eight unique projects and applied their learning to real-

world sustainability challenges. These interdisciplinary projects go beyond environmental science to include community engagement, culture, and systems thinking, showing how social, cultural, and economic factors shape long-term sustainability. Together, they showcase the range of sustainability efforts on campus, and the impact students can have in creating practical, community-focused solutions. Thank you to the faculty members and instructors who make teaching moments like this possible for our students.

### **USASK ARTS AND SCIENCE DRAMA PROGRAM CELEBRATES 80 YEARS**

For 80 years, USask's drama program and Greystone Theatre company have been at the heart of Canadian theatre. To commemorate 80 years, the USask School for the Arts Department of Drama commissioned five alumni of the program to create five brand-new one-act plays. These original works, directed by Skye Brandon (BFA '00, MFA '19) and Ken MacKenzie (current faculty member) were premiered and performed in the Emrys Jones Theatre from March 19-28, 2026. [Find more information about the anniversary celebration.](#)

### **EDWARDS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS WELCOMES MITACS INTERNS**

Edwards welcomed two international Mitacs interns to collaborate with Dr. Mohammadreza Nematollahi, PhD, Assistant Professor of Management Science at the Edwards School of Business, on research examining how AI-driven pricing strategies can reduce food waste and support more sustainable retail decision-making. Through the [Mitacs Globalink Research Internship \(GRI\) program](#), visiting students Paola Perez Tostado from the University of the Americas Puebla and Sol Baik from Korea Aerospace University worked with Dr. Nematollahi to develop a computer model analyzing how pricing, quality and promotion strategies influence consumer demand for perishable foods. Over four months, the students gained hands-on research experience while contributing to applied research outcomes, demonstrating the Mitacs GRI program as a practical and rewarding way for faculty, particularly early-career researchers, to advance research and mentor international talent.

### **RELOCATION OF EDWARDS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS RAWLINSON CENTRE FOR INDIGENOUS BUSINESS STUDENTS**

Last month, the Edwards School of Business officially unveiled the newly relocated Rawlinson Centre for Indigenous Business Students, one of the only dedicated spaces of its kind in Canada designed to support Indigenous business students. The centre is now located in a central space near the Moeller Resource Room and includes three areas: a large gathering space that can be adapted for ceremony, a meeting and Elder space, and the Indigenous Business Students' Society office. Purposefully designed to create a

welcoming and culturally grounded environment, the Centre provides students with access to community, resources and academic support while strengthening visibility and accessibility for Indigenous learners. The new location was made possible through a generous gift from Edwards alumnus, Gordon Rawlinson.

### **USASK LIBRARY TAKE A BREAK PROGRAM**

*Take a Break* is a long-standing University Library program designed to support students' health and well-being when academic pressure is at its highest. The program has grown steadily over the years as students increasingly take advantage of opportunities to pause, reset, and return to their studies with renewed energy and focus. Offered during exam periods, *Take a Break* provides simple, accessible ways for students to step away from their work for a short time to reset and reenergize. Students engage in a range of activities that include puzzles, colouring, therapy dog visits, and enjoying access to free snacks and special events such as movie days. As final exam season is in full swing, all are encouraged to let students know of these opportunities and support them in taking part. To see the full schedule for this season's *Take a Break* program, visit the [library's events page](#). In April, *Take a Break* is generously supported by The Grit and Scott McCreath Library Student Success Fund.

### **RECENT APPOINTMENTS**

Dr. Gillian Muir has been re-appointed as Dean, Western College of Veterinary Medicine for a five-year term, beginning July 1, 2026.

Dr. Solina Richter has been re-appointed as Dean, College of Nursing for a five-year term, beginning July 1, 2026.

### **ACTIVE SEARCHES AND REVIEWS**

#### **Searches:**

- Dean, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition
- Dean, College of Law
- Executive Director, Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy

#### **Active reviews:**

There are no active reviews at this time.

Please see [here](#) for information on searches and reviews.