

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

## May 2026

Over the past several weeks, I have had the opportunity to meet with many members of our campus community. These conversations continue to shape my understanding of the work ahead and the strengths that define USask. This month also included my official welcome event as USask's 12th president and vice-chancellor. It was a meaningful moment to gather, reflect on the foundation we share, and look toward the possibilities in front of us. I am grateful to everyone who joined in person or through the livestream, and for the thoughtful perspectives that continue to guide our collective work.

As we look ahead to the coming months, I want to share several updates that reflect the activity and momentum across our campuses.

### UPLAN 2035: UPDATE

We have completed a major round of internal engagement through campus conversations and surveys with faculty, staff, and students, with well over 3,000 people participating to date, and are now moving into the advisory phase. Engagement will continue through the fall with internal groups and key external partners, and early input is pointing to themes around identity, our core mission, and how we work together. The next stage will focus on aligning these perspectives to shape a clear path forward. The approval and implementation of UPlan 2035 is expected in winter 2027.

### FINANCIAL TOWN HALL

To begin, I want to acknowledge the [financial town hall](#) held in April. The session provided an important update on USask's fiscal position and the work underway to ensure long-term sustainability. It offered clarity on the pressures we are facing, the steps being taken to manage resources responsibly, and the need to align financial decisions with our academic mission and strategic priorities.

I want to thank the faculty and staff who participated and contributed thoughtful questions. Your engagement supports a transparent and collaborative approach as we navigate a challenging financial environment together.

## CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY UPDATES

As we shift from financial planning to community activity, I want to highlight several initiatives taking place across campus.

### Asian Heritage Month

Throughout May, USask is highlighting Asian Heritage Month through a [Spotlight page](#) that features stories, learning resources, and reflections from across the campus community. This collection offers opportunities to learn about the histories, cultures, and contributions of Asian communities in Canada and at USask. I am grateful to those who contributed their time and perspectives to this work.

### Spring convocation and honorary degrees

Preparations are underway for Spring Convocation, where USask will recognize two [honorary degree recipients](#) whose achievements reflect the university's global reach and impact. This year's recipients are Murad Al-Katib, a USask business graduate and founder, president, and CEO of AGT Foods, and Dr. Gagandeep Kang, a leading vaccine and public health researcher based in India. Their work in global food security and infectious disease research has improved lives around the world and exemplifies the values that guide USask. Convocation remains one of the most significant moments in our academic year, and I look forward to celebrating with our students and their families.

### College of Dentistry: New clinic opening

Another important milestone this month is the opening of the College of Dentistry's state-of-the-art [dental clinic](#), part of a major renovation and expansion of the college's facilities. The renewed space includes modernized clinical and teaching areas, technology-enhanced learning spaces, and improvements designed to support a better patient experience. This investment strengthens clinical education, expands community care capacity, and reinforces USask's role in advancing oral health in Saskatchewan.

## RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

USask researchers continue to advance work with the potential to improve health, strengthen food systems, and deepen scientific understanding. Recent projects include progress toward [earlier detection of Parkinson's](#) disease through a promising new blood-test approach, as well as a [discovery in cattle reproduction](#) that offers important insight into early embryo development and could support more sustainable livestock production. [Another study](#) has clarified how SARS-CoV-2 interacts with a key antiviral defence in human cells, contributing to a better understanding of the virus and its limits. Together, these developments reflect the strength of USask's research community and the collaborative environment that drives discovery across disciplines.

## HUSKIE ATHLETICS

Before closing, I want to recognize the ongoing efforts of Huskie Athletics. As teams transition between seasons, student-athletes, coaches, and staff remain deeply engaged in training, community involvement, and academic achievement.

This month also included a [special moment](#) for our women's basketball team. The national champions were recognized in the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly, a tribute that reflects both their remarkable season and the pride they bring to our province. Their achievement continues to inspire our community and highlights the strength of Huskie Athletics on the national stage.

Their contributions, on and off the court, strengthen the university's presence in the community and reflect the resilience and spirit of the Huskie program.

## CLOSING REMARKS

As we move through the spring term, I am encouraged by the focus and collaboration I see across our campuses. The work taking place in classrooms, labs, clinics, and community spaces reflects a university that is committed to serving Saskatchewan and contributing to a stronger future. Thank you for the leadership you bring to this institution and for the care you show for our students, colleagues, and partners. I look forward to continuing this work together in the months ahead.