University of Saskatchewan

AGENDA ITEM NO: 11.1

Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships Annual Report for Information

Presented by: Dr. Scott Walsworth
Date of meeting: October 2026

BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

SUMMARY

The University of Saskatchewan encourages the establishment of Chairs and Professorships in order to develop and enhance specific areas of teaching, research and service, including outreach and engagement activity. The areas of development and enhancement must support the overarching goals and objectives of the university, the college or school, and the department and contribute to their achievement. They must be premised upon, and contribute to, the principles inherent within foundational documents such as the University of Saskatchewan's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy, ohpahotân | oohpaahotaan (Indigenization Strategy), and the International Blueprint.

The University of Saskatchewan Act, 1995, Section 61.1 states that Council may " ...where it considers it appropriate on academic grounds, authorize the Board to provide for (i) the establishment of any college, school, department, chair, endowed chair or institute." As the establishment of a Chair or Professorship has a financial consequence, the Board's role in approving the establishment of a Chair is required. The Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships (JCCP) between the Board/Council was established to bring both approving bodies to the table, thus ensuring that academic and financial concerns are considered in conjunction with one another.

Membership

• The Provost and Vice-President Academic or designate – co-chair;

• The Vice-President Research or designate – co-chair;

• Two members of Council appointed by Council; one at-large member and one member representing the Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Work Committee;

• One member of the Board of Governors appointed by the Board;

• The University Secretary or designate;

• The Vice-President University Relations or designate;

• the Vice-President Finance and Resources or designate.

Committee Members:

Dawn Wallin (Co-chair)	Vice-President Research designate	2025, 2026
Scott Walsworth (Co-chair)	Provost and Vice-President Academic designate	2025, 2026
Lori Bradford	College of Engineering	2025, 2026
Steve Milosavlijevic	College of Medicine	2025

Shandi Boser	Vice-President University Relations designate	2025
Trevor Batters	Vice-president Finance and Resources designate	2025
Julian Demkiw	University Secretary	2025, 2026
Lisa Birke	College of Arts and Science	2026
Kimberly Kroll-Goodwin	Interim Vice-President University Relations	2026
Chantel Laventure	Vice-President Finance and Resources designate	2026
Grant Devine	Member of the Board of Governors appointed by the Board	2025, 2026

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

Preamble:

Specific provision for Council's role is provided within *The University of Saskatchewan Act, 1995, Section 61*, which describes the powers of Council. Section 61.1 states that Council may " … where it considers it appropriate on academic grounds, authorize the Board to provide for (i) the establishment of any college, school, department, chair, endowed chair or institute." As the establishment of a Chair or Professorship has a financial consequence, the board's role in approving the establishment of a Chair is required.

Purpose:

The purpose of establishing a joint Board/Council committee on chairs and professorships is to bring both approving bodies to the table, thus ensuring that academic and financial concerns are considered in conjunction with one another.

1.0 Membership:

• The Provost and Vice-President Academic or designate – co-chair;

• The Vice-President Research or designate – co-chair;

• Two members of Council appointed by Council; one at-large member and one member representing the Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Work Committee;

• One member of the Board of Governors appointed by the Board;

• The University Secretary or designate;

• The Vice-President University Relations or designate;

• the Vice-President Finance and Resources or designate.

2.0 Responsibilities:

• to develop and review procedures and guidelines relating to the establishment, funding, and on-going administration of Chairs at the University of Saskatchewan;

• to receive and review proposals for the establishment of all Chairs and Professorships, assessing compliance with university aims and objectives, administrative processes, and financial integrity;

• to recommend to Council approval of proposed Chairs, and subsequently to recommend 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;

• to receive notice of changes to the names of Chairs in accordance with the university's policy on Naming of University Assets;

• to monitor the reporting requirements related to Chair oversight and fiduciary responsibilities and report on the extent to which these are met, and;

• to submit an annual report to Council and the Board on the activities of the Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships;

• to hold at least one meeting annually.

guidelines-for-chairs-and-professorships.pdf

Chairs and Professorships - Policies | University of Saskatchewan

STRATEGIC and INTEGRATED PLANNING

NEW CHAIRS FOR APPROVAL

Chair Title	College
Beef Cattle Health Chair	Western College of Veterinary Medicine
Buckwold Milani Enhancement Chair in Commercial Law	College of Law
HRF Pediatrics Chair in Origins of Health and Disease	College of Medicine
KPMG Chair in Environmental, Social and Governance	Edwards School of Business

The Beef Cattle Health Chair was created and approved to provide strategic leadership in beef cattle health for the Canadian beef industry, with a range of funded and targeted research initiatives including: factors limiting the production of cow-calf herds (funded Canadian Cow-Calf Health and Productivity Enhancement Network), the use of genomic technologies to inform antimicrobial stewardship in the beef industry, and finally, micronutrient deficiencies in fall-placed calves, increased risk of respiratory disease and response to vaccination early in the feeding period in cattle. This chair position aims to increase the critical mass of highly qualified personnel as leaders in beef cattle health in Canada, working in research, industry, government and veterinary groups.

The Buckwold Milani Enhancement Chair in Commercial Law was created to award demonstrated achievement in advancing the field of commercial law through research and teaching. The Chair will assist the College of Law in recruiting and retaining outstanding faculty who have made sustained contributions to the field of commercial law through their teaching and scholarly work.

The Hospitals of Regina Foundation Pediatrics Research Chair was created to support a visionary and internationally recognized clinician-scientist who will lead the development of a high-impact research consortium focused on advancing knowledge about the early-life origins of chronic diseases. The Chair will forge collaborations with other researchers investigating early life genetic, environmental, psychosocial, and lifestyle determinants of chronic conditions such as diabetes, asthma, obesity, and autoimmune and cardiovascular disorders, with the goal of advancing prevention strategies and improving health outcomes.

The KPMG Chair in Environmental, Social and Governance was created to assist the Edwards School of Business in retaining talented, high potential faculty with strong research and scholarship, and who may be at risk to accept a job offer from another institution. The KPMG Chair in ESG position is expressly invested in the School's research profile and reputation through publications in academic accounting outlets related to ESG, supervision of accounting

graduate and/or undergraduate honours students, and to acknowledge outstanding service to the accounting academy and profession.

RENEWALS

Name	College	Chair Title	Renewal Date	Term End Date
Dr. Bruce Eglington	College of Arts & Science	Murray W. Pyke Chair in Geological Sciences	1-Jul-25	30-Jun-30
Dr. Allyson Stevenson	College of Arts & Science	Gabriel Dumont Research Chair in Metis Studies	1-Jul-25	30-Jun-30
Dr. Gabriela Mangano	College of Arts & Science	George McLeod Enhancement Chair in Geology	1-May-26	30-Apr-31
Dr. Oscar Zapata	School of Environment and Sustainability	Community Energy Development Chair	1-May-26	30-Apr-31

APPOINTMENTS

Name	College	Chair Title	Appointment Date	Term End Date
Dr. Leanne Grieves	College of Arts & Science	Stuart and Mary Houston Professorship in Ornithology	1-Jul-25	No End Date
Dr. Marc-Andre Pigeon	Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy	Co-operative Retailing System (CRS) Chair in Cooperative Governance	1-Jul-25	30-Jun-29
Dr. Devan Mescall	Edwards School of Business	Edwards Enhancement Chair in Business	1-Jul-25	30-Jun-28
Dr. Dev Mishra	Edwards School of Business	Edwards Enhancement Chair in Business	1-Jul-25	30-Jun-28
Dr. Hamed Samarghandi	Edwards School of Business	Edwards Enhancement Chair in Business	1-Jul-25	30-Jun-28
Dr. Joseph Schmidt	Edwards School of Business	Edwards Enhancement Chair in Business	1-Jul-25	30-Jun-28
Dr. Lee Swanson	Edwards School of Business	Edwards Enhancement Chair in Business	1-Jul-25	30-Jun-28

Dr. Michael Wynes	Edwards School of Business	CPA Scholar	1-Jul-25	30-Jun-27
Dr. Valentyna Klymiuk	College of Agriculture and Bioresources	SK Wheat Development Commission Applied Genomics and Pre-Breeding Cereals Chair	1-Aug-25	No End Date
Dr. Clayton Bangsund	College of Law	Buckwold Milani Chair in Commercial Law	10-Oct-25	30-Sep-30

COMPLETED TERMS

Name	College	Chair Title	Term End Date
Dr. Dionne Pohler	Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy	Co-op Retailing System (CRS) Chair in Cooperative Governance	30-Jun-25
Dr. Maureen Bourassa	Edwards School of Business	Edwards Enhancement Chair in Business	30-Jun-25
Dr. Min Maung	Edwards School of Business	Edwards Enhancement Chair in Business	30-Jun-25
Dr. Devan Mescall	Edwards School of Business	Edwards Enhancement Chair in Business	30-Jun-25
Dr. Hamed Samarghandi	Edwards School of Business	Edwards Enhancement Chair in Business	30-Jun-25
Dr. Joseph Schmidt	Edwards School of Business	Edwards Enhancement Chair in Business	30-Jun-25
Dr. Mamun Abdullah	Edwards School of Business	Dembroski Scholar	30-Jun-25
Professor Dino Kritsiotis	College of Law	Ariel Sallows Chair in Human Rights	30-Jun-25
Dr. Francesco Ferranti	College of Engineering	Siemens Electronics Design Automation (EDA) Chair	1-Sep-25
Dr. Kerri Froc	College of Law	Law Foundation of Saskatchewan H. Robert Arscott Chair	31-Dec-25

Dr. Mansfield Mela	College of Medicine	Iver and Joyce Graham Small Indiana Professorship in Psychiatry	30-Apr-26
Dr. Andrew Sharpe	Global Institute for Food Security	Bangabandhu Research Chair in Food Security	30-Apr-26
Professor Gail Henderson	College of Law	Estey Chair in Business Law	30-Jun-26
Dr. Nicholas Tyack	College of Agriculture and Bioresources	Van Vliet Visiting Professorship in Agricultural Economics	30-Jun-26

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIPS

Name	College
Dr. Claire Card	Western College of Veterinary Medicine
Dr. Daniel Chen	College of Engineering
Dr. Miroslaw Cygler (Emerit)	College of Medicine
Dr. Curtis Pozniak	College of Agriculture and Bioresources
Dr. Barbara von Tigerstrom	College of Law

ACTIONS COMING FROM A REVIEW OF JCCP PROCESSES

Efforts have been made to strengthen and streamline JCCP processes through a collaborative partnership between the Research Office, the Provost's Office, University Governance, University Relations and the Board of Governors. The joint approach connects academic and research considerations, with administrative functions such as fundraising, financial stewardship and governance, creating a more balanced and effective framework for decision-making.

A key area of focus has been increasing communication and transparency with committee members at every stage. Regular updates, clearer expectations, and more opportunities for dialogue help ensure that participants remain informed, engaged, and aligned throughout the review process. New initiative includes a scheduled set of meetings and submissions deadlines to allow committee members a better opportunity to review and discuss approval items.

JCCP STRUCTURE

As part of a broader committee review, JCCP considered whether its responsibilities could be more effectively carried out by another committee. In doing so, members reflected on both

the committee's role and its demonstrated efficiency, noting that the infrequency of meetings and the limited time required for Council consideration of JCCP items are indicators of an effective process rather than evidence of redundancy. Following discussion, the committee unanimously concluded that its responsibilities should remain within JCCP. Members emphasized that the committee's unique structure, bringing together representatives from University Relations, the Provost's Office, Research, Finance, the Governance Office, the Board, and faculty, provides a valuable forum for considering the academic, financial, governance, donor-relations, and collective agreement implications of chairs and professorships. The committee also noted an interest in strengthening faculty representation to ensure that faculty perspectives remain prominent as the University's portfolio of chairs and professorships continues to grow.

FOCUS FOR THE 2026-2027 ACADEMIC YEAR

For the 2026-2027 academic year, the JCCP will focus on developing a formalized process for the nomination, review, and appointment of Honorary Chairs. This work will establish clear criteria, defined roles and responsibilities, and transparent procedures to ensure consistency, fairness, and confidence in the process across the university community.

The JCCP will also prioritize aligning its work with the University of Saskatchewan's new strategic plan. By reviewing committee practices and priorities through the lens of the institutional strategy, the committee can help ensure that its decisions and initiatives support the university's long-term goals, values, and commitment to excellence in research, teaching, and engagement.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Members of the Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships included Scott Walsworth, Dawn Wallin, Lori Bradford, Steve Milosavljevic, Shandi Boser, Trevor Batters, Julian Demkiw, Lisa Birke, Kimberly Kroll-Goodwin, Chantel Laventure and Grant Devine. Appreciation is noted for the critical reviews of documents, and for attending to committee requests in a timely and detailed manner.

The committee wishes to recognize and honour Steve Milosavlijevic's dedicated service, thoughtful contributions, and unwavering commitment to the University. Steve passed away peacefully on July 30, 2026. His expertise, leadership, and collegial spirit greatly enriched the work of the Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships, and his contributions will be remembered with gratitude and respect. The committee extends its sincere condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues and acknowledges the lasting impact he has made on the University community.