

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL  
PLANNING AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE  
REQUEST FOR DECISION

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**PRESENTED BY:** Dirk de Boer, chair, planning and priorities committee

**DATE OF MEETING:** October 20, 2016

**SUBJECT:** **Vision, Mission and Values of the University of Saskatchewan**

**COUNCIL ACTION:** For decision

*It is recommended:*

*That Council adopt the Vision, Mission and Values of the University of Saskatchewan as presented*

**PURPOSE:**

The planning and priorities committee is requesting that Council adopt the *Vision, Mission and Values of the University of Saskatchewan* as the new vision for the university under the leadership of President Peter Stoicheff.

**IMPLICATIONS:**

In adopting the document, Council is being asked to adopt the document in its entirety. Once adopted, there is an expectation that the university's governing bodies will implement the substance of the document, and that the next institutional integrated plan will be situated within the new vision, mission and values of the university.

**BACKGROUND:**

The university's present vision statement was approved in 1993. Upon taking up his presidency, President Stoicheff identified the need to articulate a sense of the university in its present form and what it hopes to achieve within the next decade. The planning and priorities committee has been engaged with the initiative to re-articulate the university's vision since the president established the visioning committee and consultation began in preparation for writing the document. The committee met with the co-chairs of the visioning committee on February 10 for a general discussion of the document intent; on April 27 for a presentation of the document themes, and on June 1 to review and discuss the draft document as attached. Council committee chairs and the chair and vice-chair of Council were invited to the February 10 and June 1 meetings to provide additional input.

## **CONTEXT:**

The following definitions guide the document:

### *Mission*

*Our mission is the reason for the existence of the University of Saskatchewan, the purpose it serves in society and the boundaries within which it operates.*

### *Vision*

*Vision defines what the University of Saskatchewan wants to be or become. This often involves a time horizon into the future.*

### *Values*

*Values relate to the beliefs and attitudes that guide behavior at the University of Saskatchewan. They are in some respects the commitments the institution makes to its people, and the commitments its people make to the institution and to one another.*

## **CONSULTATION:**

The process followed by the visioning committee in developing the document is available in the attached summary and at: [www.usask.ca/ourvision/the-project/defining-vision,-mission,-values.php](http://www.usask.ca/ourvision/the-project/defining-vision,-mission,-values.php). Throughout, comments and feedback on the draft document were invited and could be submitted to [ourvision@usask.ca](mailto:ourvision@usask.ca).

## **DISCUSSION SUMMARY:**

On October 5, the planning and priorities committee considered the *Vision, Mission and Values* document. The Council committee chairs and the chair and vice-chair of Council were invited to attend the meeting. At the meeting, the committee carried a motion to approve the document in principle. Nevertheless, a motion to adopt the document was defeated because the committee identified a need for grammatical corrections and clarification in the document that was significant enough to prevent a motion to adopt.

On October 12, a special meeting of the committee was called to meet with President Stoicheff to discuss the document. At the meeting, a revised document was presented by the president. The changes presented were not substantive changes but rather corrections made to clarify sections of the document, as suggested by the committee and agreed to by the president. It is this final version that is being presented to Council today for adoption, based on the motion carried by the committee at the meeting that Council adopt the document.

In presenting the document to Council, the planning and priorities committee supports the *Vision, Mission and Values of the University of Saskatchewan* as reflective of the university at this point in time and over the next decade.

## **FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED:**

The *Vision, Mission, and Values* document will be presented for adoption on October 15 to Senate, to Council on October 20, and to the Board of Governors on October 27.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. *Vision, Mission, and Values of the University of Saskatchewan* - document dated October 13, 2016.
2. Visioning committee: process for developing vision statement

## **Mission, Vision, and Values of the University of Saskatchewan**

### ***WHO WE ARE***

The University of Saskatchewan, situated in the vibrant city of Saskatoon on Treaty Six territory and the traditional homeland of the Métis, and on Canada's most beautiful campus, is grounded in the character of a dynamic, forward-looking province. We have a well-deserved reputation for creativity, collaboration, and achievement. Supported by an innovative, energetic faculty, staff, student, and alumni community, and by a research infrastructure unique in Canada, we deliver across Saskatchewan and beyond one of Canada's widest arrays of academic and professional programs.

The university displays remarkable resilience and a commitment to problem solving, attributes drawn from our prairie roots and from the outstanding contributions by members of our community from around the world. Our university's unique spirit has transformed the lives of those who have experienced it.

### ***OUR MISSION***

The University of Saskatchewan advances the aspirations of the people of the province and beyond through interdisciplinary and collaborative approaches to discovering, teaching, sharing, integrating, preserving, and applying knowledge, including the creative arts, to build a rich cultural community. An innovative, accessible, and welcoming place for students, educators, and researchers from around the world, we serve the public good by connecting discovery, teaching, and outreach, by promoting diversity and meaningful change, and by preparing students for enriching careers and fulfilling lives as engaged global citizens.

### ***OUR VISION***

We will contribute to a sustainable future by being among the best in the world in areas of special and emerging strengths, through outstanding research, scholarly, and artistic work that addresses the needs and aspirations of our region and the world, and through exceptional teaching and engagement.

We will be an outstanding institution of research, learning, knowledge-keeping, reconciliation, and inclusion with and by Indigenous and Métis peoples and communities.

## ***OUR PRINCIPLES AND VALUES***

A belief in principles vital to our institution and a commitment to key values—ways of conducting ourselves—constitute the life force of our mission and vision.

The University of Saskatchewan community believes in the following principles:

- Academic freedom
- Collaboration
- Commitment to community
- Different ways of knowing, learning, and being
- Diversity, equality, and human dignity
- Excellence
- A healthy work and learning environment
- Innovation, curiosity, and creativity
- Openness, transparency, and accountability
- Reconciliation
- Sustainability

The University of Saskatchewan community is committed to acting in accordance with the following values:

- Collegiality
- Fairness and equitable treatment
- Inclusiveness
- Integrity, honesty, and ethical behaviour
- Respect

## U OF S VISIONING COMMITTEE: PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING VISION STATEMENT

### The goal:

- To provide the University of Saskatchewan with a proposed new vision, mission and values document, building on the history of institutional dialogue and planning that has shaped the university's aspirations over the past twenty-three years.
- The document is to be less than 2 pages in length with a high-level institutional focus (not integrated planning).

### Process overview:

- Committee membership: Brent Cotter and Liz Harrison (co-chairs/faculty); Lee Ahenakew (Board); Karen Prisciak (Senate); Harry Lafond (Elder); Wendy Roy (Council/faculty); Scott Adams (student) Liz Duret (staff); Tom Cross (staff)
- Consultation from January to June 2016 informed the draft document
  - In person: visioning meetings, presidential transition meetings
  - February survey: determined themes
  - April survey: confirm support for themes
  - Emails sent to ourvision@usask.ca
  - Review of institutional documents
  - Mission, vision and values statements for our colleges, schools and units
- Draft released on June 14, 2016
  - Presented to University Council (June 23) and Board of Governors (June 27)
  - Communications sent to University Senate, faculty, students, staff and alumni with request for feedback
  - Discussion of draft with the Graduate Students' Association, University of Saskatchewan Students' Union and Indigenous Students' Council
  - Feedback accepted via email to ourvision@usask.ca
- Final document drafted in early September 2016 based on feedback received
- Meetings with committee and president to finalize document in September 2016
- Final document presented to President Stoicheff on September 15, 2016

### Reach of consultation:

- Over 1,000 individuals participated in meetings (small groups to larger)
  - Internal – faculty, staff, students, retirees, alumni
  - External – government (provincial, municipal); health (Saskatoon, Regina); arts; Aboriginal community groups
- Surveys – more than 4,000 responses
- Online tools and resources: website, email, PAWS announcements
- News articles in university and alumni communications

### Final steps:

- Presented in October to planning and priorities committee of University Council (October 5), University Senate (October 15), University Council (October 20) and Board of Governors (late October) for approval