

USASK COUNCIL GAZETTE

Volume III, No. 1

November 20, 2025

USask Council & Governance Office Updates

A big welcome to the new Council and Council Committee members!



Fall Senate took place on
October 25th



Spring Senate scheduled for
April 25th, 2026



GAA scheduled for April 2nd, 2026

Welcome New Chancellor

USask Senate appointed the 17th Chancellor – Scott Banda. A USask alumnus, Banda has had a distinguished 32-year career, including 12 years as CEO of Federated Co-operatives Limited, and currently chairs the Canadian Football League’s Board of Governors.

Banda is a lifelong supporter of USask and the community, recognized with multiple awards including the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal for Industry and Commerce.



He succeeds Grit McCreath, who served as chancellor since 2019 and was praised for her strong advocacy and leadership. Welcome, Scott!



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Academic Programs Committee

The Academic Programs Committee (APC) is well into a busy and productive fall term, with several important initiatives already underway.

Dr. Paul Jones, Associate Professor in the School of Environment and Sustainability, is the new Chair of APC. Nominated by Council, Paul brings a wealth of experience from his previous committee work, and his deep knowledge of academic governance is already proving invaluable.

This fall, APC officially launched its new submission forms and clarified the approval process for curricular changes and proposals. The updated, streamlined process is now available to the campus community via the Governance Channel in PAWS, under the [Curricular Approval and Changes Page](#) — making it easier to navigate academic program proposals and changes.

So far, APC has reviewed a number of proposals, including admission changes, new pathways, and certificate programs, with more expected in the coming months as activity ramps up. Nancy Turner also joined a recent meeting to provide an update on the new Assessment and Course Delivery Policies, which are currently under development and will be coming forward in the new year.

In addition to proposal reviews, APC members will be learning more about the USask Academic Program Review Process, gaining insight into how programs are evaluated and supported across the university.



For questions on APC, connect with Danielle at danielle.rudulier@usask.ca, APC Committee Coordinator.

Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Work Committee

The RSAW Committee has started the year with a clear sense of purpose and a continued commitment to supporting research and creative activity across the university.

Dr. Eric Lamb, Professor of Plant Sciences, has been nominated for a second term as Chair of RSAW. His leadership and deep understanding of the research landscape will continue to guide the committee's work effectively.

This fall, RSAW has been closely monitoring the research and funding implications stemming from recent leadership decisions in the United States. Members were reassured to learn that affected faculty and students are being kept informed and supported through these developments.

Looking ahead, the committee will be placing greater emphasis on the "AW" (artistic works) this year — a vital and vibrant part of the committee's mandate. This renewed focus aims to ensure that creative scholarship receives the attention and support it deserves.

At the upcoming November meeting, members will review the Responsible Conduct of Research Report, an important document that reinforces the university's commitment to integrity in research. The committee will also learn more about the Joint Governance Council in Academic Health Sciences and explore opportunities for collaborative use of RSAW infrastructure — a promising step toward more integrated and efficient support for research and scholarly work.

For questions on RSAW, connect with Danielle at danielle.rudulier@usask.ca, RSAW Committee Coordinator.



Teaching, Learning, and Academic Resources Committee

The Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources Committee (TLARC) is off to a strong start this year, with several exciting initiatives underway. Dr. Ralph Deters, Professor in Computer Science, has been nominated for a second term as Chair of TLARC.

One of the major areas of focus this year is the ongoing work and consultation around the new Assessment and Course Delivery Policies — currently known as the Academic Courses Policy. Members of Council can expect to see this updated policy come forward in the new year, reflecting thoughtful input, broad engagement and support from multiple committees of Council.

TLARC is also forming working groups to explore several important themes:

- ❖ Teaching Effectiveness
- ❖ Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Teaching and Learning
- ❖ Implementation of the Assessment Policy (in collaboration with APC)

These groups will help guide meaningful conversations and practical strategies in each area.

Looking ahead to November, TLARC members will hear a presentation from the College of Agriculture and Bioresources on their experience implementing microcredentials — a growing area of interest in higher education. Additionally, the Career Centre will join the meeting to share insights on upskilling and what employers are looking for in USask graduates, helping to align academic offerings with evolving workforce needs.



For questions on TLARC, connect with Danielle at danielle.rudulier@usask.ca, TLARC Committee Coordinator.

Governance Committee

The Governance Committee has smoothly stepped into the new academic cycle, keeping things organized and on track as always.

Dr. Susan Detmer, Associate Professor in the Department of Veterinary Pathology, has taken on the role of Chair, following several years of service as a committee member. Nominated by the Nominations Committee, she brings familiarity to the role.

This fall, Governance has been busy reviewing and advancing Faculty Bylaws from several colleges, ensuring alignment and clarity across academic units. The committee also worked diligently to fill a vacancy on the Nominations Committee — a task that took a few tries but ended in success!

Looking ahead, Governance will continue its work by discussing proposed changes to the Council Bylaws, helping to shape the framework that supports effective academic governance at USask.

For questions on Governance, connect with Jordan at Jordan.sherbino@usask.ca, Governance Committee Coordinator.



Planning and Priorities Committee

The Planning and Priorities Committee (PPC) kicked off the academic year with great energy and a clear focus on key initiatives and university priorities.

Dr. Christian Willenborg, Department Head of Plant Sciences, has been nominated for a second term as Chair of PPC. His continued leadership brings valuable experience and consistency to the committee.

In early September, PPC hit the ground running with a recommendation to establish the BRIDGE Centre — an initiative designed to foster innovation and collaboration across campus.

Financial matters have been front and centre, with CFO Deidre Henne keeping PPC well-informed. She presented several key reports, including the Annual Financial Report, Strategic Investment Fund Adjudication (a refreshed approach to resource allocation), Q1 Financial Results, and a Financial Sustainability Update.

President Peter Stoicheff also joined PPC to outline the University's priorities for the year. These priorities serve as a guiding framework for the committee's discussions and recommendations.

Members had the opportunity to hear from Vice-Presidents Greg Fowler, Cheryl Hamelin, and Baljit Singh, who shared updates on their 2024–2025 progress and outlined their unit priorities for 2025–2026. It was a great way to stay connected with what's happening across the university.

We also welcomed Dr. Marjorie Delbaere in her new role as Acting Vice-Provost, Students and Learning. She provided an enrolment update and highlighted the university's robust reporting and analytics resources. Curious about how USask tracks its goals? Visit: [Reporting and Analytics - Leadership | University of Saskatchewan](#)

Finally, PPC engaged in thoughtful discussions around presidential transitional planning. Members were invited to share feedback on the relationships and activities they believe will be important for the incoming President — a meaningful step in shaping the future leadership of USask.



*For questions on PPC, connect with Danielle at
danielle.rudulier@usask.ca, PPC Committee Coordinator.*

Scholarships and Awards Committee

The Scholarships and Awards Committee is off to a thoughtful and focused start this fall, with several key updates already shaping the year ahead.

Dr. Jason Perepelkin, Associate Professor in the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition, has been nominated for a second term as Chair of the Scholarships and Awards Committee. His continued leadership brings valuable experience and consistency to this important work.

The committee convened in early October to get reacquainted and dive into discussions, including an overview of the new USask Entrance Scholarships, which have now replaced the former Guaranteed Entrance Scholarships. This shift reflects a more tailored approach to recognizing incoming student achievement.

Members were also briefed on a newly formed subcommittee tasked with reviewing the naming and terms of reference for the Best and Brightest awards — a key step in ensuring these prestigious awards continue to reflect the values and goals of the university.

As the calendar turns toward winter, the committee is preparing for its busy adjudication period in December and January, when award decisions will be made to support and celebrate student success across campus.

*For questions on S&A, connect with Alex at alex.beldan@usask.ca,
S&A Committee Coordinator.*



Nominations Committee

We are pleased to share that Dr. Reza Fotouhi, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, was nominated as the Chair of the Nominations Committee.

The Nominations Committee has been actively supporting governance across campus this fall. Highlights include filling vacancies on Council committees and appointing a member to the search committee for the Executive Director of the Global Institute for Food Security.

The committee also completed nominations for sessional lecturers to serve on the Academic Programs, Planning and Priorities, and Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources Committees, ensuring broad representation in academic decision-making. In addition, nominations were prepared for review committees evaluating the Dean of the College of Nursing and the Dean of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine.

Looking ahead, the committee will continue to appoint members to upcoming search committees, and in the new year, a call for interest will be sent out for those wishing to serve on Council committees.



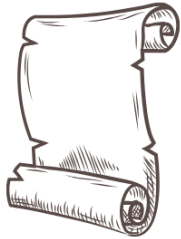
For questions on Nominations, connect with Danny at danny.freire@usask.ca, Nominations Committee Coordinator.



Ever Wonder How Items Make Their Way to Council?

**It's not a mystery-it's a well-orchestrated game of
delegation and teamwork!**

Here's how it all comes together:



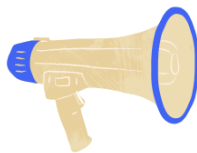
The *University of Saskatchewan Act, 1995* lays out what Council is responsible for. To get it all done, Council created eight committees, each with their own playbook (aka Terms of Reference) to guide their work.



In the summer, Lissa works her scheduling magic to set up **over 110** committee meetings. Yes, you read that right — 110!



Each committee has a coordinator who works with the Chair, plans the topics, invites guest speakers, and puts together the agenda packages.



From there, items discussed in committee meetings are brought to Council — either to share information or to make decisions.



And here's a fun fact: Council members like you can bring forward your own items for consideration! Just send them to the Executive Committee and voilà — your topic could be on the agenda!

Meet Your Council Support Team



Danielle Rudulier | Governance Officer

Danielle grew up in Saskatoon and considers the USask her home away from home, having spent more than half her life on campus. She earned both her Bachelor of Education and Master of Educational Administration degrees from USask.

Her campus career started with summer jobs that included everything from testing the (New) Banner system and filing papers in Admissions, to helping in Student Central and Convocation. She even gave up her gig driving the ball picker machine at Wilson's to dive into USask work life! After graduating, Danielle spent 18 years in the Registrar's Office, taking on a variety of roles some of which include coordinating Convocation, Examinations, and Space Booking. She later joined the Edwards School of Business as Student Services Manager before landing in the Governance Office in 2023, where she serves as Council Coordinator. Outside of work, Danielle loves crafting and baking—and runs a small side business that allows her share her creativity with others.

Danny Freire | Governance Officer

Danny is a higher education professional with over 15 years of experience in student recruitment, strategic enrolment management, registrar services, and governance. Originally from Ecuador, Danny began his career in international education, living in Osaka, Japan and Shanghai, China before joining the University of Saskatchewan. He played a key role in supporting Latin American students in choosing Saskatchewan's cold climate and USask as their academic home. He also supported the implementation of the Relationship Management System (RMS) at the University. He later served as Director of Enrolment Services and Registrar at Saskatchewan Polytechnic, leading modernization initiatives like digital credentials (MyCreds) and Customer Relationship Management (CRM) implementation.

Now in the Governance Office at USask, he supports Senate - *the university's window on the province and the province's window on the university* and policy development processes. A proud girl dad with a secret superpower: he can braid hair (somewhat!) and multilingual communicator in - Spanish, English, Japanese, French, Portuguese, Norwegian (table manners), and a touch of Mandarin.



Meet Your Council Support Team

Jordan Sherbino | Governance Officer

Jordan (he/him) was born and raised in Biggar, Saskatchewan and came to Saskatoon to attend USask. After taking a few different majors out for a test drive, he graduated with a bachelor's degree in political studies before moving to Victoria to pursue a master's where his research focused on the intersection of Canadian constitutional politics and the politics of redress. He's also currently pursuing an MBA through Edwards (only 11 classes to go!).

Throughout his career, he's worked in the fields of governance, policy development, Indigenous engagement, communications, project management, and political advising. Jordan lives in Riversdale with his fiancé, Mitchell. He enjoys curling, baking, reading fantasy books, and convincing himself that he also likes going to the gym.



Lissa de Freitas | Administrative Assistant

Born and raised in Saskatoon, Lissa is a proud first-generation Brazilian-Canadian. A self-described "city girl," she unexpectedly found her way into agriculture, which led to part-time work in the Department of Soil Science while pursuing a B.Sc. in Agribusiness at USask. Before joining the Governance Office, Lissa gained valuable experience at Dow AgroSciences and Bayer CropScience, building a strong foundation in canola breeding, chemical efficacy research, and regulatory archiving. Her role as Archivist allowed her to support data integrity via Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) and OECD guidelines for crop protection product submissions.

Fluent in Portuguese, Lissa travels to São Paulo whenever possible to visit family. Outside of work, she enjoys cheering on her twin five-year-old boys at their sports games, practicing yoga, or spending time on the lake fishing.





Winter Reads

Into Thin Air | Sebastian Junger
Little Women | Louisa May Alcott
The Frozen River | Ariel Lawhon
The Great Alone | Kristin Hannah

SPOT 5 DIFFERENCES



HOLIDAYS IN THE CITY

Saskatoon truly comes alive during the holiday season, offering plenty of festive outings for those staying close to home. Whether you're looking for twinkling lights, cozy markets, or outdoor fun, the city has something for everyone to enjoy over the holiday season.

BHP Enchanted Forest

It wouldn't feel like the holidays without a visit to the Enchanted Forest, one of Canada's most spectacular drive-through light displays. Pile into the car with family or friends, sip on some hot cocoa, and enjoy millions of dazzling lights synchronized to classic holiday carols on the radio. A magical tradition for kids and adults alike!

Glow Saskatoon

Step inside a winter wonderland at Prairieland Park, where Glow Saskatoon transforms the space into a sparkling indoor holiday festival. Wander through light tunnels, explore themed displays, shop at the holiday market, and keep little ones entertained with interactive play zones and activities. It's the perfect spot to escape the cold and soak up the holiday cheer.

Black Fox Farm & Distillery

If you're in the mood to get crafty, Black Fox Farm & Distillery offers festive workshops where you can create your own holiday wreaths or centerpieces with fresh greens. Their cozy, rustic setting makes it a great outing for friends or family looking to make something special together. While you're there, browse their gift shop for local spirits, seasonal décor, and unique holiday gifts.

Cameco Meewasin Skating Rink

Bundle up and head downtown for a classic winter activity at the Cameco Meewasin Skating Rink beside the Bessborough Hotel. With festive lights strung overhead and free skate rentals available, it's the perfect way to embrace the season. Whether you're a seasoned skater or just out for a glide, the rink is a Saskatoon holiday must-do.



Photo Credits: Discover Saskatoon

Holiday Performances

Enjoy a festive night out with Saskatoon's vibrant arts scene. The **Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra** offers magical holiday concerts filled with seasonal classics, while **Persephone Theatre** brings heartwarming productions to the stage, perfect for a family outing or a special date night. Together, they provide the perfect mix of music and theatre to celebrate the season.