

USASK COUNCIL GAZETTE

Volume II, No. 2

April 17, 2025

Check out the Bi-Yearly Council Roundup

Governance Office Updates

- Do you want to be a part of the important work happening at these Committees of Council? The opportunity to put your name forward closes on **April 18th!**
- **Presidential Search** officially opened March 12, 2025.
- Chancellor Search nearing completion



[Sign up to Serve on a Council Committee](#)

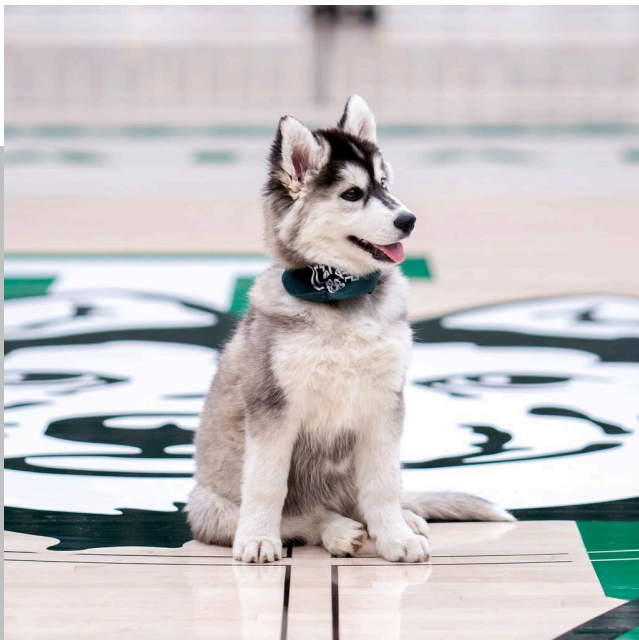


Photo Credit: Jacob Straat

Inside this Issue:

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS.....	2
TEACHING, LEARNING, AND ACADEMIC RESOURCES.....	3
SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS.....	3
RESEARCH, SCHOLARLY, AND ARTISTIC WORK.....	4
GOVERNANCE.....	4
PLANNING AND PRIORITIES.....	5
NOMINATIONS.....	6
THANK YOU CHAIRS.....	6
ENTERTAINMENT.....	9
FUN IN SONG.....	10

The USask Council Gazette was established in the Spring of 2024 as a way to be more transparent and communicate back to members on ‘what’s happening’ at the various Committees of Council. We achieve good governance through accountability, transparency, and participation.



CHAMPIONS- Academic Programs Committee

The members of the Academic Programs Committee (APC) have been busy beavers over the past few months and have lived up to their robust decision-making capabilities. Since November, APC has thoughtfully reviewed, discussed, and approved 7 new certificate programs, 8 major program revisions, 5 new or replacement programs, 5 program terminations and over 31 agenda items, totaling more than 2500 pages of agenda materials!

In addition, the Academic Programs Committee is working on revising the program proposal document. In preparation for this revision work, APC invited Acting Provost Vince Bruni-Bossio to share his thoughts on the academic vision of USask. Dr. Bruni-Bossio recognized the difficult task ahead of APC members, as USask is in a time of being more flexible and nimble, where there is a pressure to speed up but to also remain diligent. APC is a knowledgeable partner for proponents in the governance process to ensure USask is bringing forward academically sound and innovative programming.

Work continues on the revised Assessment Policy and the overhaul to the Academic Courses Policy. A progress update will be provided to APC in the late Spring.



USask students writing exams in the Education Gym
-The Star Phoenix-

For thoughts and questions on 'what's happening' at APC, connect with Danielle at danielle.rudulier@usask.ca, APC Committee Coordinator.



CONNECTORS– Teaching, Learning, and Academic Resources

The Teaching, Learning, and Academic Resources Committee have met five times since the start of September and have been actively engaged in discussions surrounding several key areas impacting teaching and learning at the University.

The committee received an update from Vice Provost, Students and Learning, Dr. Jerome Cranston, on the National Summit on Canada's Future Workforce, which touched on a skills gap due to retirements in the trades. The discussion highlighted the need for post-secondary institutions to focus on career readiness, digital literacy, and transferable skills, with an emphasis on intergenerational learning models for mentorship.

Dr. Scott Walsworth, Vice Provost Faculty Relations, attended a meeting regarding revisions of the Standards for the New Tenure Track Teaching Stream. Topics of discussion included, but were not limited to, teaching loads, educational leadership time, and aligning the standards with decolonization and Indigenization.

Many committee discussions focused on the rapidly evolving landscape of Generative AI. The committee reviewed the results of a faculty survey on AI literacy and use, which highlighted the need for literacy supports, examples for AI use, and clearer guidelines. The role of Integrity Supports in the context of AI was discussed, emphasizing the need for clarity on AI expectations for students and the challenges of addressing academic misconduct. The committee also addressed the complexities of assessment security with AI, and considered strategies such as redesigning assignments and focusing on clear communication with students.

For thoughts and questions on 'what's happening' at TLARC, connect with Lissa at lissa.defreitas@usask.ca, TLARC Committee Coordinator.

GAMECHANGERS– Scholarships and Awards

The small but mighty Scholarships and Awards Committee recently finished its annual task of adjudicating USask's highest-value entrance awards, consisting of 17 awards totaling \$560,000 in value, requiring a review of approximately 240 applicants. This essential and important work for students will be reported on at the April Council Meeting.

For thoughts and questions on 'what's happening' at S&A, connect with Alex at alex.beldan@usask.ca, S&A Committee Coordinator.





INNOVATORS- Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Work

The Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Work Committee has worked to engage with a number of units that support the research, scholarly and artistic mission of the university. The committee met with the Vice-Provost, Faculty Relations regarding changes to standards for promotion and tenure in December. The committee engaged with the Associate Vice-President, Research for annual reporting on breaches of the Responsible Conduct of Research Policy and discussed supports for researchers to conduct themselves with integrity.



A Busy Day in a BC Bee Yard

By: Maria Janser, Undergraduate student, Biomedical Sciences, College of Arts and Science
Grand Prize Winner 2025 Images of Research Contest

In the new year, the committee participated in discussions with the Vice-President

Research for a mid-year update on their plans and initiatives, and discussed domestic recruitment of graduate students and undergraduate research initiatives at USask in the face of external challenges for international recruitment. RSAW discussed the AI guidelines that are under development and their implications for the research, scholarly, and artistic initiatives at USask.

In its forthcoming meetings, RSAW will discuss faculty complement planning, research in the new School for the Arts as well as receive the annual reporting on tri-council success from the Office of the Vice-President Research and the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.



PROTECTORS- Governance Committee

The Governance Committee has been working in support of better and clearer processes, including reviewing the timelines established for the nomination and election of University Council Chair, approving changes to the Centres Subcommittee Terms of Reference, and providing feedback on Faculty Council Bylaw changes. Looking forward, the Governance Committee will be discussing additional proposed changes to the Council Bylaws and to the Rules of Order for University Council and its committees.

For thoughts and questions on 'what's happening' at RSAW or Governance, connect with Amanda at amanda.storey@usask.ca, RSAW and Governance Committee Coordinator.



EXPLORERS- Planning and Priorities Committee

The Planning and Priorities Committee continues to move forward expeditiously! Members have heard from CFO, Dee Henne, on multiple occasions, including quarterly budget comparison reports, and the budget planning cycle for 2025-2026. Early in April, members will review the draft comprehensive budget as well as the approved tuition with an opportunity to provide feedback on these items to the Board of Governors.

Members have heard updates on the EDI Framework for Action, Indigenous Engagement Strategy, Student Enrolment Planning (SEM) and Sustainability Plan Progress. Information has also been provided to members on the International Student Strategy/PALs, Seminary Crescent Demolition and the Space Optimization Project in Health Sciences.

Fun fact: USask is one of the only institutions in Canada to have almost all health science disciplines within a single University. The Health Science Building renovations will bring nearly all USask health science units under one roof.

Members were actively engaged in a presentation regarding USask's Capital Projects and Prioritization. The item first heard in January will be coming back to PPC in late spring for further discussion.

In addition, the Centres Subcommittee has been reviewing and providing recommendations on new centers and closures. So far this year, PPC has approved one centre closure and provisional status for two centres. The Centres Subcommittee also made some revisions to their Terms of Reference, which will be coming forward to Council in the next few months.

Later in the term, PPC will be asked to provide input and discuss the USask/Saskatchewan Polytechnic project, and Vice-President Greg Fowler will provide updates on the Link including: pedestrian safety, crosswalks, bike lanes and composting plans as mentioned at the March Council meeting.

For thoughts and questions on 'what's happening' at PPC, connect with Danielle at danielle.rudulier@usask.ca, PPC Committee Coordinator.



INSTIGATORS– Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee of Council continues to carry out their essential work of populating membership of Council and Council committees. The committee issued a call for nominations for University Council on February 24, 2025, for 16 Member-at-Large positions, following a second call on March 10, 2025, where all positions were acclaimed.

The Committee is now preparing for their work in April and May to populate the committees of Council. A call for interest to join a University Council committee was sent to all members of University Council and the General Academic Assembly on March 31st. The Nominations Committee encourages members to get involved in a committee that supports the work of Council.

The call for interest survey will *close on April 18, 2025*.

[Sign up to Serve on a Council Committee](#)



LEADERS– Thank you Chairs

Vicki Squires | Council Chair



Dr. Squires is a tenured Associate Professor in Educational Administration at USask, focusing on leadership education in post-secondary institutions. She began her career as a special education teacher and vice-principal before completing her PhD and moving to the university to serve in various administrative roles. Vicki has been on campus for 15 years and has been a part of Council and Council Committees for the past 5 years including Nominations and Planning and Priorities. Vicki enjoys working with colleagues from across campus, hearing other perspectives, feeling a sense of contribution to the governance of the university, upholding collegial governance while helping to ensure there is transparency, accountability, sustainability and innovation in the academic work of USask.

Reza Fotouhi | Council Vice-Chair



Dr. Fotouhi is a Professor of Mechanical Engineering, specializing in robotics, structural dynamics and vibrations, computational mechanics, and biomechanics. He holds a BSc and MSc from Iran, as well as an MSc and PhD from USask, and is a licensed Professional Engineer (PEng). Reza has been on campus for 23 years, serving on Council and Council Committees for 7 years including the Academic Programs and Nominations Committees. Reza enjoys being involved as it is a great way to meet colleagues, learn how the university functions as well as the pros and cons of higher education systems in Canada.

Carolyn Augusta | Academic Programs Committee Chair



Dr. Augusta is a lecturer in the Edwards School of Business and passionately teaches, and develops business statistics courses for undergraduate and graduate students. She completed her BMath at the University of Waterloo and both her MSc and PhD at the University of Guelph. Carolyn has been around campus for 7 years; began her interactions on Council 5 years ago and is serving her second term with the Academic Programs Committee. Carolyn enjoys the fulfillment of being involved, especially the discussions and debates on academic programs. She even enjoys everyone laughing at her jokes!

Scott Bell | Nominations Committee Chair



Dr. Bell is a Professor of Geography and Planning and teaches GIS, Cartography, and human geography. He has expertise in advanced applications of GIS and GIS training for academic research. He completed a MA and PhD in Geography from the University of California, Santa Barbara and has collaborated on interdisciplinary health, environmental, social science, and cognitive science research during his career.

Jason Perepelkin | Scholarships & Awards Committee Chair



Dr. Perepelkin is an Associate Professor with a BA, BComm, MSc, and PhD, and serves as an Associate Member in the Edwards School of Business, Department of Management and Marketing. His research interests span various areas, including burnout and work engagement, patient experiences with IV ketamine, 2SLGBTQIA+ symbolism in pharmacies, and pharmacy owner succession planning. Jason has been on campus for over 17 years, having served on the Scholarships and Awards Committee since 2021 and Council since 2023. Jason enjoys meeting people from across campus, seeing what good work is being done for the betterment of the campus community and USask stakeholders.

Roy Dobson | Governance Committee Chair



Dr. Dobson is a Professor of Social and Administrative Pharmacy and Graduate Chair in the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition. He teaches various topics across the pharmacy undergraduate program, including comparative health systems, pharmacy management, pharmacoeconomics, and health and pharmacy policy. Roy has been on campus for 25 years and has served on Council for 13 of those years, including the position of Vice-Chair from 2015-2017. Roy has been a part of the Academic Programs Committee, and served as chair from 2012-2015. He was a member of the Nominations Committee from 2017-2020 and has been the Chair of the Governance Committee for the past 3 years. Roy enjoys the opportunity to work with colleagues across campus who are committed to good governance for the University.

Eric Lamb | Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Works Committee Chair



Dr. Lamb is a Professor in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources. He holds a BSc from the University of British Columbia, an MSc from Lakehead University and a PhD from the University of Alberta. He is a plant ecologist with research interests including mechanisms structuring plant diversity, plant - soil interactions, plant competition, statistical ecology, and natural history. Eric has been on campus for 15 years and on Council for longer than he can remember! He has also been the Chair for the Nominations Committee of Council and enjoys being able to work with colleagues from outside his college noting that it is really easy to get siloed in ones department/college. Eric enjoys that Council is an opportunity to work with great people from across campus.

Christian Willenborg | Planning & Priorities Committee Chair



Dr. Willenborg is a Professor and the Department Head of Plant Sciences, with an adjunct professorship in the Department of Agriculture, Food, and Nutritional Sciences at the University of Alberta. He holds a BSc and MSc in Agronomy and Weed Science from the USask, and a PhD in Weed Science from the University of Manitoba. His research focuses on the biology, ecology, and management of weeds in agroecosystems, specifically examining weed ecology, population biology, and conservation biological control. Christian has been on campus for over 13 years and on Council for over half his time here. In addition, Christian has served on the Conflict of Interest Committee of Senate, and the Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources Committee. Christian enjoys the important work that leads to positive outcomes for the University, having the opportunity to play a role in good governance, connecting with colleagues who have similar interests in making the university a strong, dynamic institution.

Ralph Deters | Teaching, Learning, and Academic Resources Chair

Dr. Deters is a Professor in the Department of Computer Science, College of Arts and Science. He holds a BS in Computer Science from the Technical University Berlin, an MS (Diploma) in Computer Science, Technical University Berlin and a PhD in Computer Science, Federal Armed Forces University Munich . His research interests include multi-agent systems, scalability & dependability of distributed systems and mobile & ubiquitous computing.

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

GOOD READS

What Universities Owe Democracy by Ronald J. Daniels, Grant Shreve and Phillip Spector
The Help by Kathryn Stockett
Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly

Reminder to take time to pause as Chair Vicki Squires said
*“be kind to yourselves and others; treat each other with humanity and compassion
and look after your own wellbeing in the ways that are important to you.”*

ON THE SCREEN

The Wild Robot
The First Kid
Mona Lisa Smile

Governance Office Pick of the Month: Monsters University



USask Act

To be sung to a tune of Leonard Cohen
Adapted from the University Act, 1995 by Microsoft Copilot

(Verse 1)

In the heart of Saskatchewan, where the prairies lie so wide,
Stands a place of learning, where knowledge does abide.
The **Board of Governors**, with duties to uphold,
Guides the institution, with wisdom pure and bold.

(Chorus)

Oh, **University of Saskatchewan**, where dreams are born anew,
With wisdom in your corridors, and skies of endless blue.
From the **Chancellor** to the students, each plays a vital part,
In the tapestry of learning, woven deep within the heart.

(Verse 2)

The **President** oversees, both the academic and the day,
With the **Council** and **Assembly**, they chart the university's way.
The **Senate** meets to ponder, on matters great and small,
From degrees to affiliations, they carefully consider all.

(Chorus)

Oh, **University of Saskatchewan**, where dreams are born anew,
With wisdom in your corridors, and skies of endless blue.
From the **Chancellor** to the students, each plays a vital part,
In the tapestry of learning, woven deep within the heart.

(Bridge)

The **Chancellor** confers degrees, with honour and with grace,
While the **Senate** shapes the bylaws, for a better, brighter place.
The **Board** ensures the finances, are managed with great care,
And the **Council** steers the courses, for students everywhere.

(Verse 3)

From the halls of convocation, to the fields of research bright,
The quest for truth and knowledge, is a never-ending fight.
With powers to expropriate, and immunity from blame,
The University stands steadfast, in its noble, honored name.

(Chorus)

Oh, **University of Saskatchewan**, where dreams are born anew,
With wisdom in your corridors, and skies of endless blue.
From the **Chancellor** to the students, each plays a vital part,
In the tapestry of learning, woven deep within the heart.

(Outro)

So here's to the institution, where minds are set aflame,
In the pursuit of knowledge, in the honor of its name.
The **University of Saskatchewan**, forever may you stand,
A beacon of enlightenment, in this vast and noble land.

