

USASK COUNCIL GAZETTE

Volume I, No. 1

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Planning and Priorities Looks at the Big Picture

The Planning and Priorities (PPC) Committee of Council has had several engaging presentations and conversations over the past few months with the opportunity to provide recommendations and provide a wide range of perspectives across camps.

Presentations and updates have included unit priorities from all the Vice-President Portfolios with opportunities to review and provide feedback on the Travel Policy revision. Deputy Provost Patti McDougall provided information about tuition consultations and setting tuition for 2024/2025. In addition, PPC has had multiple touch points on financials and budgeting from Devan Mescall, Chief Financial Officer to provide an understanding of the process and the opportunity to provide recommendations to the Board of Governors on the 2024/2025 budget.

The AI Task Force led by Vince Bruni-Bossio, Interim Associate Vice-Provost, Strategic Priorities and Nancy Turner, Associate Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning presented preliminary plans where members were asked to provide feedback and recommendations on the vision and proposed structure of the task force. The AI Task Force team will be coming back to PPC in May for a further update.

We cannot be mere consumers of good governance; we must be participants; we must be co-creators.

-Rohini Nilekani

Presentations and fulsome discussions have occurred on the Integrated Service Renewal Project (ISR) led by Greg Fowler Vice-President Administration and CIO, and the Administrative Service Renewal Project (ASR) led by Vince Bruni-Bossio. Members were informed of the importance of both these projects and the way they intersect. USask is in a critical state with outdated enterprise systems; however, new systems provide less opportunity to customize. A change in systems will require a change in processes.

PPC only has a few meetings left with plenty of information to come. Some of the topics and discussion ahead include Faculty Complement Planning (which will also go to TLARC and RSAW), Strategic Enrolment Management, Institutional Space Framework and a follow up to the ISR and Capital Prioritization Project.

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

Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources Explores Learning in the Rapid Changing World

The Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources Committee (TLARC) has come together five times since the beginning of the academic year and has hosted a total of seven guest speakers. The committee receives a variety of working group updates, presentations, and robust discussions.

Presentations and updates have included survey results for teaching practices and proposed changes to SLEQ, TLARC Assessment/Academic Programs Committee joint working group for Assessment Policy and Procedure development and revision of academic courses policy.



[USask Council Committee Chairs](#)

The committee has been focusing on the evolution of Artificial Intelligence including AI use, integrity implications, and proactive responses as well as the development of assessments that support discipline-specific uses of AI and how we support faculty on its use.

The Academic Integrity Taskforce is focused on providing recommendations on Gen AI and Chat GPT.

Discussion topics have included EDI Principles and language surrounding Indigenization and Decolonization and fostering agency and dissemination of TLARC's work. Provost Airini joined TLARC as a guest.

TLARC has been working on a Terms of Reference Review including the access and resources available to commission reports and seek out information on topics being brought forward from Council.

Chair Malin had the opportunity to attend Deans Council in regards to Student Learning Competencies. Discussions were focused around the required resources for the integration of competencies into program frameworks.

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



Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work is *Researching* New Heights

Over the last few months, the Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work (RSAW) Committee has been engaged in several discussions with proponents of various projects and aspirational initiatives intended to improve institutional policies, facilitate and uplift research, scholarly, and artistic work around campus and in the wider community.

RSAW engagements have included a conversation with Scott Walsworth, Vice-Provost Faculty Relations, about University standards focusing on RSAW evidence for tenure and promotion. Trever Crowe stopped by and shared the College of Agriculture and Bioresources' guidelines on best practices and procedures for conducting research within teams.

The Dean of the College of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies (CGPS), Debby Burshtyn, discussed CGPS Generative AI Framework and members were able to provide feedback and share their experience with AI and generative AI in their RSAW networks. In addition, Dawn Wallin, Associate Vice-President Research, engaged with RSAW regarding the development of Key Performance Indicators and measures of success for RSAW. Members were keen to provide feedback as they learned about this initiative.



[2024 Grand Prize winner](#), A Curious Male Honeybee
(Photo: Marina Carla Bezerra da Silva)

Furthermore, the committee had the opportunity to provide feedback on the preliminary stages of the travel policy development with a focus on the impact it will have on a wide spectrum of RSAW-related activities as well as introduced to, and consulted with, regarding the work of the USask Generative AI Task Force. The topic of AI continues to be a prompt for much discussion within the committee.

RSAW and PPC received a progress update on the USask Sustainability Strategy from Janelle Hutchinson, Chief Sustainability Officer. The committee noted significant intersections with RSAW-related activities on campus and beyond.

The committee also received annual reports related to the Responsible Conduct of Research policy, delivered by Darcy Marciniuk, Associate Vice President Research; Diane Martz, Responsible Conduct of Research Specialist; and Trever Crowe, Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Studies. In addition, RSAW received the annual report on animal and human ethics from the Research Ethics Board, delivered by Robert Laprarie, Saskatchewan-GSK Chair in Drug Discovery and Development; Kurtis Swekla, University Veterinarian and Director of Animal Ethics Research Ethics and Infrastructure; and Gordon McKay, Interim Director of Human Ethics.

For thoughts and questions on ‘what’s happening’ at RSAW, connect with Anna at anna.okapiec@usask.ca, RSAW Committee Coordinator.



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ◆ Do you want to get involved on the Committees of Council? Nominations close tomorrow. [Fill out the nomination form today!](#)
- ◆ GAA took place on April 4th – thank you to all who attended.
- ◆ Senate meeting on Saturday April 20th.



ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

Reminder to take time to pause...

“Life is what happens when you’re busy making other plans.”

— John Lennon

NOVELS

Classic Reads:

Dune by Frank Herbert
Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte
War and Peace by Leo Tolstoy

Reads That Make You Think:

The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho
Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro
When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi

ON THE SCREEN

For the Scholars:

Dead Poets Society
The Great Debaters
Lorenzo’s Oil

For the Stats Lover:

Moneyball
21
Minority Report

For the Language Lover:

Beautiful
Parasite
The Kid With a Bike

Governance Office Pick of the Month:

Legally Blonde | You Never Know When Fashion Is Going To Save The Day!

Do you have an announcement, book, movie or podcast to share? We would love to hear it!
Connect with us at governance.office@usask.ca

BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS