

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:30pm.

2. Tributes

None.

3. Adoption of the agenda

(Deters/Urquhart): *That the agenda be approved as circulated.*

CARRIED.

4. Chair's Opening remarks

The Chair of Council, Dr. Jay Wilson, acknowledged that Council meets on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis, paying respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of our gathering place and reaffirming our relationship with one another. He also noted that given the remote meeting modality, that members may be connecting from other locations and that we acknowledge our shared relations with the Indigenous peoples of this land.

The chair informed Council members of the protocols for the synchronous remote meeting.

Dr. Wilson reported on the regular monthly meeting between Council chairs and the President's Executive Committee (PEC). He reported that the discussion topics were the pandemic response, strategies for supporting students, and the provincial election results.

Dr. Wilson acknowledged the recent announcement of the incoming Provost, Dr. Airini. He congratulated her and thanked Dr. Melissa Just, Interim Provost for her work.

Dr. Wilson conveyed his warmest condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of Dr. Joe Garcea from the Department of Political Studies who recently passed away.

5. Approval of Minutes of the meeting of September 17, 2020

(Chowdhury/Willoughby): *That the minutes be approved as circulated.*

CARRIED.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

7. Report of the President

President Stoicheff echoed Dr. Wilson's condolences to the family and friends of Dr. Garcea.

He expressed excitement regarding the appointment of the incoming Provost, Dr. Airini, who will begin in the role on February 1st, 2021. He thanked Dr. Melissa Just for her service as Interim Provost and VP Academic, and the members of the Provost's search committee for their excellent work.

He noted the recent elections in the United States, in the province, and in the city. He remarked on the importance of the relationships with the Provincial Government and the City of Saskatoon.

He also congratulated Dr. Pamela Downe for being awarded the YWCA Women of Distinction Award in Research and Technology.

The President announced that a new initiative called the Post-Pandemic Shift Project would soon get underway. It will be led by Dr. Debra Pozega Osburn, Vice President, University Relations, and chaired by Vince Bruni-Bossio and Candace Wasacase-Lafferty.

Dr. Pozega Osburn gave a presentation regarding the Post Pandemic Shift Project (attachment B). She emphasized that we must emerge from this pandemic stronger, as a new version of ourselves, in order to “Be the University the World Needs” as committed to in the university’s strategic plan. Vince Bruni-Bossio spoke to the planned process and timelines, and Candace Wasacase-Lafferty spoke to the principles and values that will underpin the work, in alignment with the University Plan: 2025. She indicated it will also be grounded in *wakhotowin*.

There was a comment from a Council member about the use of the term “researchers” vs. the more encompassing terminology of “research, scholarly and artistic work” in the presentation. There was another comment about the importance of ensuring the university’s relevance for the future. There was also a recommendation that the work be undertaken in a careful and considerate manner given the additional pressures on all individuals and members of the community during these difficult times.

8. Report of the Provost

Dr. Just, Interim Provost, focused her comments on feedback received from students about perceived disparities in the quality of online courses. She indicated that reports are varying, i.e., that students understand the commitment to learning and the extra efforts of faculty, but that there are also areas where there is room for improvement. She indicated that the Vice Provost, Teaching, Learning and Student Experience, Dr. Patti McDougall, was meeting with students and student leaders to better understand the issues, gather data, and provide supports. The concerns have been brought to PEC and to Deans’ Council. The Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching Excellence has been working with individual faculty and is available for further support. She suggested that the SLEQ could be used midway through courses in order to get formative feedback, and that there are other ways to get feedback during courses. She reported that there will be a university-wide survey at the end of November to inquire about students’ positive and challenging experiences with online learning.

There was a round of Q&A.

A question was raised about the report from the provost at the previous Council meeting in October indicating that the university is not abiding by the Board-approved Reserves Policy. Greg Fowler, Vice President, Finance and Resources, responded that the policy is to hold 1.5 to 6 percent of overall expenses. At one point we had reserves of over \$100 million, but at the end of the last fiscal year we were in a negative position of (\$14.8) million.

A Council member expressed concern over the issues raised by students about the quality of undergraduate teaching. He also noted that faculty are also being asked to do more with less and are under considerable pressure. The provost replied that it is important to acknowledge the concerns, and to

continue to have meaningful conversations in response. Dr. McDougall also pointed out that some of the concerns raised were actually about the challenges students were facing due to (perhaps overly) ambitious pedagogy, and the importance of striking the right balance. Another Council member indicated that additional support for exam delivery and processes would be appreciated. Dr. McDougall noted the work being done by a TLARC subcommittee.

9. PRT (Pandemic Response and Recovery Team) Report

Dr. Darcy Marciniuk, chair of the Pandemic Response Team, gave a verbal update on the COVID-19 situation at USask. He reported on:

- The number of positive COVID-19 rates and case prevalence rates on- and off-campus at USask.
- Planning underway for the Spring and Summer sessions, and Fall of 2020/21.
- The number of active researchers currently on campus.
- Ongoing and new pressures to procure personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies.

He requested that members complete the upcoming Pandemic Response Survey. He also reiterated that the university continues to abide by Public Health directives, and that the university mitigated risk through early action.

10. Student Societies

10.1 Report from the USSU

Autumn Larose-Smith, President of the USSU, gave the report of the USSU as provided in the materials. She expressed appreciation for the administration's responsiveness to the concerns raised by students regarding the quality of education in the online learning environment. She also acknowledged the extra time that it takes for faculty to prepare for online course delivery.

There were no questions on the report.

10.2 Report from the GSA

Humaira Inam, President of the GSA, presented the report from the GSA as provided in the materials. She reported on the GSA needs-based bursaries being awarded, on the recent graduate three-minute thesis competition, and other activities advocating for the needs of GSA members. She reminded Council of the importance of the mandatory student-supervisor agreement. She also reported a Vice President Indigenous for the GSA would be announced soon.

There were no questions on the report.

11. Academic Programs Committee (APC)

Dr. Susan Detmer, Chair of APC, presented items for decision and information as provided in the materials.

11.1 Request for Decision: Master of Sustainability Degree and Certificate Programs

- M.Ss. in Regenerative Sustainability
- M.S. in Energy Security
- Graduate degree-level Certificate in Sustainability Solutions
- Graduate degree-level Certificate in Governance Foundations for Sustainability
- Graduate degree-level Certificate in Community Energy Finance and Planning
- Graduate degree-level Certificate in Energy Transitions

(Detmer/Deters): *It is recommended:*

- *that Council approve the Master of Sustainability (M.Ss.) degree program in Regenerative Sustainability, effective May 2021.*
- *that Council approve the Master of Sustainability (M.Ss.) degree program in Energy Security, effective May 2021.*
- *That Council approve the graduate degree-level certificate in Sustainability Solutions, effective May 2021.*
- *That Council approve the graduate degree-level certificate in Governance Foundations for Sustainability, effective May 2021.*
- *That Council approve the graduate degree-level certificate in Community Energy Finance and Planning, effective May 2021.*
- *That Council approve the graduate degree-level certificate in Energy Transitions, effective May 2021.*

There was a concern raised about the use of the name “regenerative sustainability” in the programs. The Council member suggested that it may not be reflective of the content and may cause some confusion with other programs. In particular, there are differences between the social science-based content of the proposed program and the biophysical content generally associated with the term “regeneration” in other disciplines. Dr. Maureen Reed, Professor in SENS, responded that the use of the term is only for one of the streams in the program, not the program itself, and that the name of the stream had been given careful consideration and was deemed appropriate.

CARRIED.

11.2 Request for Decision: Termination of the Masters of Sustainable Environment Management

(Detmer/Deters): *It is recommended that Council approve the termination of the Master of Sustainable Environmental Management (MSEM) degree program, effective August 2021.*

CARRIED.

11.3 Request for Decision: Graduate degree-level certificates – Water Security program

- Graduate degree-level certificate in Water Resources
- Graduate degree-level certificate in Water Science
- Graduate degree-level certificate in Sustainable Water Management

(Detmer/Deters): *It is recommended:*

- *That Council approve the graduate degree-level certificate in Water Resources, effective May 2021.*
- *That Council approve the graduate degree-level certificate in Water Science, effective May 2021*
- *That Council approve the graduate degree-level certificate in Sustainable Water Management, effective May 2021*

CARRIED.

11.4 Request for Decision: Admissions Qualifications Change – PharmD

(Detmer/Deters): *It is recommended that Council approve the proposed changes to the admissions qualifications for the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) program, effective the 2021-22 admissions cycle.*

There was a question about the number of students that may be interested in the new class. Dr. Shevchuk, Associate Dean, Pharmacy & Nutrition, responded that there could be up to 90 students.

There was a suggestion that these kinds of details, such as the specific references to the new Math/Statistics class, should be included in the motion or at least on the covering memo. Dr. Detmer thanked the member for the comment and indicated she would bring the question back to the Office of the University Secretary and the committee [Table 1. action item 1].

CARRIED.

11.5 Request for Decision: Graduate programs in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning

- Master of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (MSoTL)
- Certificate in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning

Dr. Wilson recused himself from chairing the meeting due to a conflict of interest. Dr. Pam Downe, Vice Chair of Council, took over as chair.

(Detmer/Deters): *It is recommended:*

- *That Council approve Master of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, effective May 2021.*
- *That Council approve the Graduate degree-level certificate in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, effective May 2021.*

CARRIED.

11.6 Report for Information: Degree-level Certificate in Catholic Studies

Dr. Wilson resumed chairing the meeting.

There were no questions related to the report.

11.7 Report for Information: Degree-level Certificate in Urban Design

There were no questions related to the report.

11.8 Report for Information: Degree-level Certificate in Water Science

There were no questions related to the report.

12. Governance Committee

Dr. Terry Wotherspoon, Chair of the Governance Committee, presented two requests for decision.

12.1 Request for Decision: College of Education Faculty Council Membership

Dr. Wotherspoon gave an overview of the rationale for the proposed changes, including the need to change the balance of representation of non-faculty representatives and of student societies.

(Wotherspoon/Larre): *It is recommended that Council approve the membership of the College of Education's Faculty Council effective immediately, as Part III section V.1. (A&B) of the Council Bylaws.*

CARRIED.

12.2 Request for Decision: Planning and Priorities Committee Terms of Reference

(Wotherspoon/Larre): *It is recommended that Council approve the addition of the standing subcommittee on centres to the Planning and Priorities Committee (PPC) of Council's terms of reference as part two, section V of the Council bylaws, effective immediately.*

Dr. Wotherspoon reported that this change was precipitated by the revisions to the Centres Policy.

CARRIED.

13. Planning and Priorities Committee (PPC)

Dr. Darrell Mousseau, the Chair of PPC, presented one item for decision.

13.1 Request for Decision: Department of Psychology Name Change

(Mousseau/Wotherspoon): *It is recommended that Council approve the name change of the Department of Psychology to the Department of Psychology and Health Studies.*

There were two questions about the choice of the terminology "Health Studies" rather than "Mental Health." Dr. Sarty, Head of the Department of Psychology, responded that the Health Studies program focuses on more than mental health therefore the name is appropriate. He also indicated that department has hosted the program since its inception. Dr. Gordon DesBrisay, Vice Dean, Academic, College of Arts & Science, added that the college has found that interdisciplinary programs such as this thrive when they have a departmental home, and that the college is fully supportive of the proposal.

CARRIED.

14. Annual Report on Research Output, Performance and Opportunities

Dr. Karen Chad, Vice-President Research, gave a report on the university's research output, performance, and opportunities (attachment C).

Dr. Chad highlighted achievements in research, scholarly and artistic work at USask. She reported that in March 2020 her office shifted their focus and adapted to remote work arrangements while ensuring resources and supports were provided to USask researchers. She also reported that a "researching remotely" website had been created, and that they had worked with Library, ICT, and Communications to create a one-stop-shop to support research needs through the research lifecycle. In addition, a grants calendar would go online soon to communicate research deadlines across campus.

Dr. Chad reported that in June 2020, due to budget adjustment measures, the number of departments and staff in her office were reduced but with a focus on maintaining foundational levels of support, and streamlining resources.

Dr. Chad also reported that her office was continuing to play leading role in the university's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The ethics team worked extended hours and on weekends to ensure COVID-

19 research projects could get underway. She also reported that over a two-year period, there has been an increase of 20% in ethics applications, and that year-over-year rates have increased by 30% in biomedical ethics applications, and 31% in behavioural ethics applications. By offering new ethics workshops, they have reached about 700 participants. In addition, she commended the animal care and research support teams that maintained over 100,000 research animals during the COVID-19 shut-down.

Dr. Chad thanked and recognized fabulous research leaders on campus.

There were no questions related to the report.

15. Other business

None.

16. Question period

There were questions about when Council would receive updates on the resource allocation process, tuition rate-setting, and potential changes to the TABBS model. The provost responded that there were no changes being contemplated to the TABBS model for this year, and that an update on tuition rates and resource allocation would be provided to Council in April after the budget is approved by the Board of Governors [Table 1. action item 2].

There was a question about potential differences between first- and upper-year student experiences in the online learning environment. Dr. McDougall responded that the student survey will allow for such analysis, as well as comparison between undergraduate and graduate student experiences. The focus will be to ask students about their own successes and challenges rather than trying to link the survey results to other outcomes data.

A student Council member inquired as to how to ensure the confidentiality of students in engagement surveys at the college and department levels. Dr. McDougall offered to provide support following the Council meeting.

17. Adjournment

(Jones): *Adjourned.*

Table 1. Action Items

Pg. and no.	Action item	Responsibility	Timeline
p.5 s.11.4	1. Specific wording of APC motions	Dr. Detmer	TBD
p.7 s.16	2. Report on tuition rates and resource allocation	Provost	April 2021

Appendix A: Listing of members in attendance

Appendix B: Post Pandemic Shift presentation

Appendix C: Presentation on Research Output, Performance and Opportunities

Next Council meeting is December 17, 2020 – Please send regrets to Michelle.Kjargaard@usask.ca

COUNCIL ATTENDANCE 2020-2021

Attendance Summary - Voting Participants

Sep 17, 2020 - meetings are being held via Webex and attendance is taken as per the participant list while meeting is on.

Last Name	First Name	Sept 17	Oct 15	Nov 19	Dec 17	Jan 28	No Mtng	Mar 18	Apr 15	May 20	Jun 17
Adl	Sina	A	P	P							
Aitken	Alec	R	P	P							
Alcorn	Jane	A	A	A							
Augusta	Carolyn	P	P	P							
Bedard	Derek	n/a	n/a	A							
Bedard-Haughn	Angela	P	P	P							
Bell	Scott	P	A	P							
Boland	Mark	R	A	A							
Bonham-Smith	Peta	P	P	P							
Brook	Ryan	A	P	P							
Brothwell	Doug	P	P	P							
Bruni-Bossio	Vince	P	P	P							
Burgess	David	P	P	A							
Burshtyn	Deborah	P	P	P							
Card	Claire	P	P	P							
Chernoff	Egan	R	R	R							
Chibbar	Ravindra	P	P	P							
Chowdhury	Nurul	P	P	P							
Cooper	David	P	P	P							
Cross	Emma	n/a	n/a	P							
Dadachova	Kate (Ekaterina)	P	P	P							
DaSilva	Keith	P	P	P							
Dawson	DeDe	P	P	P							
de Boer	Dirk	A	A	P							
Delbaere	Majorie	P	P	P							
Deters	Ralph	P	P	P							
Detmer	Susan	A	P	P							
Dick	Rainer	P	A	A							
Downe	Pamela	P	P	P							
Flynn	Kevin	A	P	A							
Fotohui	Reza	A	A	A							
Gabriel	Andrew	A	A	P							
Gillis	Glen	P	P	P							
Gjevre	John	P	P	P							
Gyurcsik	Nancy	P	P	P							
Harrison	William	A	P	A							
Harvey	Evan	n/a	n/a	P							
Hu	Katie	A	A	A							
Illing	Kate	n/a	n/a	A							
Jacob	Sharon	n/a	n/a	P							
Jamali	Nadeem	P	P	P							
James-Cavan	Kathleen	R	P	P							
Jensen	Gordon	P	P	P							
Jones	Paul	P	P	P							
Just	Melissa	P	P	P							
Kahn	Maria	n/a	n/a	P							
Kalra	Jay	A	A	A							
Keller	Taylor	n/a	n/a	P							
Kelly	Timothy	P	P	P							
Khandelwal	Ramji	P	P	P							
Kim	David	n/a	n/a	A							
Koechl	Natasha Martina	P	P	P							
Kresta	Suzanne	P	P	R							
Kumaran	Arul	P	P	P							
Lamb	Eric	A	P	P							
Langhorst	Barbara	P	A	P							
Larre	Tamara	P	P	P							

Last Name	First Name	Sept 17	Oct 15	Nov 19	Dec 17	Jan 28	No Mtng	Mar 18	Apr 15	May 20	Jun 17
Lies	Madelyn	n/a	n/a	A							
Lindenschmidt	Karl	P	P	P							
London	Chad	P	P	P							
Lovick	Olga	P	P	P							
Luke	Iain	P	P	A							
Lummerding	Dominique	A	A	A							
Macfarlane	Cal	A	A	A							
Makarova	Veronika	P	P	P							
Mamun	Abdullah	P	R	P							
Manley-Tannis	Richard	R	A	A							
Marquez	Carmen	P	P	P							
Mousseau	Darrell	P	P	P							
Muir	Gillian	R	A	A							
Murphy	JoAnn	P	P	P							
Neufeld	Matthew	P	P	P							
O'Connell	Ryan	P	P	A							
Palmer	Sue	n/a	n/a	A							
Papagerakis	Petros	P	A	P							
Paslawski	Teresa	P	P	P							
Peternej-Taylor	Cindy	A	P	P							
Phillipson	Martin	P	P	A							
Pocha	Sheila	A	P	A							
Poettcker	Grant	A	A	A							
Pomazon	Alisha	P	P	P							
Prytula	Michelle	P	P	P							
Racine	Louise	A	A	A							
Rayan	Steven	P	P	P							
Ripley	Laura	n/a	n/a	P							
Risling	Tracie	P	P	P							
Sarjeant-Jenkins	Rachel	P	P	P							
Sarty	Gordon	P	P	P							
Shevchuk	Yvonne	P	P	P							
Shin	Hyunjung	R	R	R							
Singh	Jaswant	P	A	P							
Smith	Martha	P	P	P							
Smith	Preston	P	P	P							
Smyth	Stuart	P	P	P							
Somerville	Kara	P	P	A							
Sorensen	Charlene	P	P	P							
Spurr	Shelley	P	P	P							
Squires	Vicki	P	P	P							
Steele	Tom	P	P	P							
Stoicheff	Peter	P	P	P							
Stuart	Glenn	A	P	P							
Urquhart	Stephen	P	P	P							
Waldner	Cheryl	P	P	P							
Walker	Keith	P	P	P							
Wallace	Alexa	n/a	n/a	A							
Willenborg	Christian	P	P	P							
Willoughby	Keith	R	A	P							
Wilson	Jay	P	P	P							
Woods	Phil	A	R	P							
Wotherspoon	Terry	P	P	P							
Xiao	Jing	P	P	P							
Yao	Yansun	P	A	A							
Zhang	Chris	A	P	P							

COUNCIL ATTENDANCE 2020-2021

Attendance Summary - Non-voting participants

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Last Name	First Name	Sep 17	Oct 15	Nov 19	Dec 17	Jan 28	No Mtng	Mar 18	Apr 15	May 20	Jun 17
Baljit	Singh	Dr. Singh to begin as VP Research Feb 1, 2021									
Chad	Karen	P	P	P			Dr. Chad has completed her VP Research as of Jan 31, 2021				
Fowler	Greg	P	P	P							
Gill	Qasim	A	A	A							
Inam	Humaira	P	P	P							
Isinger	Russell	P	P	P							
Kaminski	Nicholas	P	P	P							
LaRose-Smith	Autumn	P	P	P							
McDougall	Patricia	P	P	P							
Osburn	Debra Pozega	P	P	P							
Ottmann	Jacqueline	A	A	A							
Roberts	Kiefer	P	R	P							
Still	Carl	P	P	P							
Thronberg	John	P	P	A							
Willness	Chelsea	P	P	P							



UNIVERSITY OF
SASKATCHEWAN

Post-Pandemic Shift Project

University Council
November 19, 2020


Project Goal

The Post-Pandemic Shift Project (PPSP) will help ensure our University is well informed as it makes decisions about how to be the university the world needs in a post-pandemic world.

Discussions with stakeholders

Through wide-ranging discussions with stakeholders about how their lives have changed – their work, their communities, their families, their futures – we can better understand what the world needs.

The project will then link the genuine voice of the broader community with the critical thinking, pedagogic expertise, and informed experience of the USask academic community to inform our planning for a post-pandemic world.





UNIVERSITY OF
SASKATCHEWAN

Society

Inspire Communities &
Amplify Value

USask

Vice-President, University Relations

Commission

**Individual
Citizens**

Thematic Voices
(e.g. Health
Care,
Families,
Economy)

**Organizational
Partners**

Circles of Voice

Grounded in the principles of *wahkotowin*.
Our shared kinship, our interdependence
will shape our future.

Deans

Elders

Staff

Researchers

Students

Faculty

Engagement Groups

Final Report
(Resource & Guidance)

Questions



Bi-Annual Report

**Karen Chad
Vice-President Research**

**University Council
November 19, 2020**

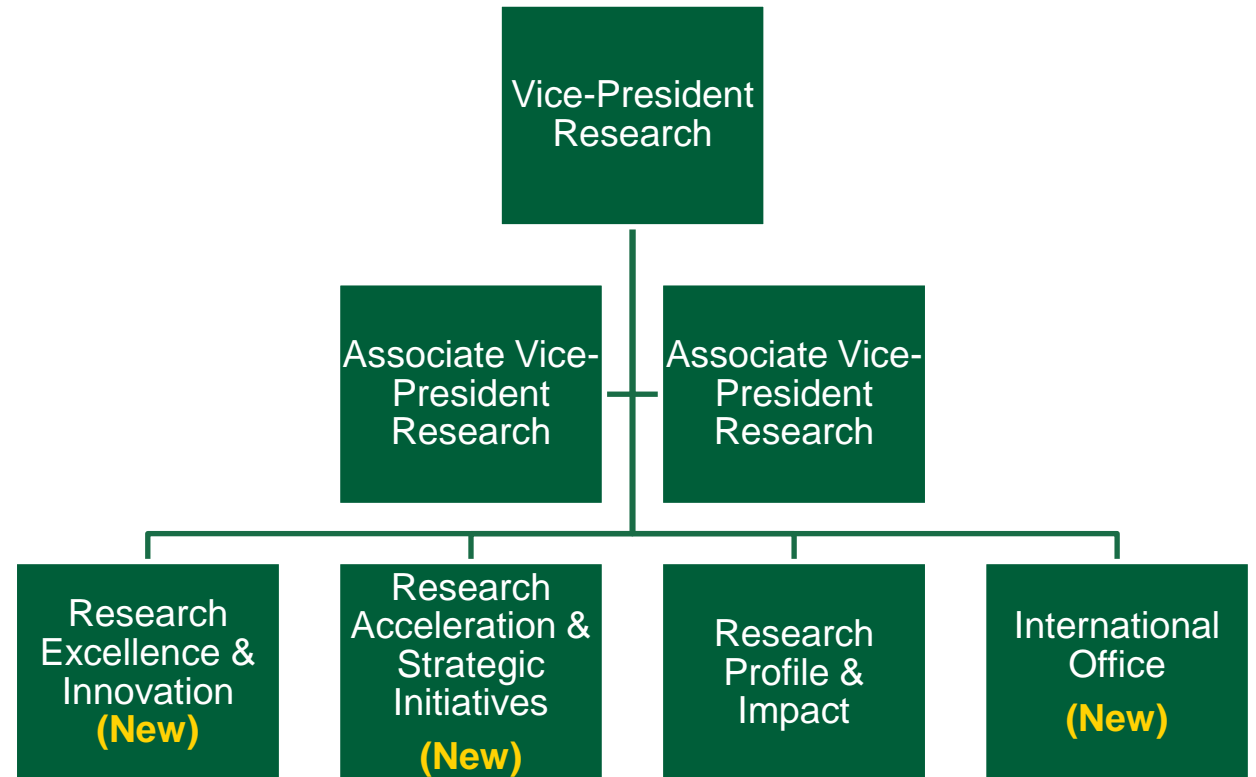
Overview



Photo: Images of Research - "Oh the Places You'll Go"

Organizational Change

- Significant change over the past six months.
- Scaled back research programs, services, and supports, given significant budgetary adjustments.
- Leading a seamless transition for USask's next Vice-President Research.



Pandemic Planning

- OVPR plays a leading role in pandemic planning activities and response
- Prioritized research activity as on-campus activities were restored beginning in spring

843 research projects supported during the pandemic

3,247 named individuals participating in these projects

20% faculty

35% graduate students

11% undergraduate students

27% staff

\$1.96M+ Canada Research Continuity Emergency Funding
(approximately **\$3M** left on the table)

Research Success

- Maintained strong performance in our tri-agency research revenue:
 - **NSERC:** \$17.59M* ↓ 9% (from 18-19)
 - **CIHR:** \$18.95M* ↑ 11% (from 18-19)
 - **SSHRC:** \$4.03M* ↑ 8% (from 18-19)
 - **Total:** \$41.4M* ↑ 2% (from 18-19)
- USask researchers continue to receive large-scale grants and investments.



Photo: Images of Research - "Bioprospect Bloom"

Research Awards

- USask faculty recognized:
 - **Royal Society of Canada** - *Valerie Korinek, Alison Norlen, Christy Morrissey*
 - **Bancroft Award** - *Irena Creed*
 - **Miroslaw Romanowski Medal** - *Ajay Dalai*
 - **Canadian Academy of Health Sciences** - *Marek Radomski*
 - **Distinguished Researcher Award** - *Kate Dadachova, Alex Wilson*
 - **New Researcher Award** - *Helen Baulch, Charity Evans*



Photo: Images of Research - "The Moment"

COVID-19 Research

- USask's leading role in Canada's fight against COVID-19.
 - **College of Medicine** researchers (*Lavender, Wilson*) explore therapeutics to fight COVID-19.
 - **Interdisciplinary USask researchers** (*Giesy, McPhedran, Brinkmann*), SHA, and City are developing a COVID-19 early warning system via water sampling.
 - **VIDO-InterVac** has received over \$50M in investment to lead Canada's vaccine development and manufacturing efforts.



Photo: Dr. Volker Gerdts, Director of VIDO-InterVac

Many, many, more examples of us leading discovery the world needs.

Strategic Initiatives

- Several strategic initiatives are underway at our institution:
 - Agricultural Technology Hub
 - Collaborative Use of Infrastructure
 - International Indigenous Health Research and Training Centre
 - Wanuskewin Centre of Excellence
 - Canada's "Centre for Pandemic Research"
 - Policy Development and Revisions
 - Centres, IP, and Responsible Conduct of Research
 - Publicly Engaged Scholarship Initiative
 - Signature Areas Report
 - Open Access Initiative



Photo: Images of Research - "Monet Impression: Duck out of Water"

Thank You