

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:34pm.

**2. Tributes**

There was a tribute to Professor Joseph Garcea, Department of Political Studies, presented by Professor Neil Hibbert and Professor Loleen Berdahl.

**3. Adoption of the agenda**

(Chowdhury/Downe): *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 asked that if there was any media present that they please identify themselves. He reminded those present that no video or audio recordings of the Council meeting are permitted.

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, and the university's *Wellness Strategy*, and mental health supports for students (with Patti McDougall, Vice Provost, Teaching, Learning, and Student Experience).

He also thanked Amanda Storey, Academic Governance and Hearings Advisor in the Governance Office, for going above and beyond for the Council team this week.

Dr. Wilson reminded Council members that there would be no meeting of Council in February.

**5. Approval of Minutes of the meeting of December 17, 2020**

(Marquez-Mellidez/Downe): *That the minutes be approved with minor amendments as noted.*

CARRIED.

**6. Business Arising from the Minutes**

A Council member inquired as to the university's strategy for discussing with the province the potential move to performance-based funding. The question was deferred to question period.

## **7. Report of the President**

President Stoicheff conveyed his condolences for the passing of Professor Joe Garcea.

The President noted that January 28<sup>th</sup> is Bell Canada's "Let's Talk Day," which encourages awareness and supports for mental illness.

He spoke to key items in his report to Council: the continuation of hybrid program delivery for the spring and summer; Health Canada's recent approval of VIDO's clinical trials for a COVID-19 vaccine; and the announcement of Research Junction projects in partnership with the City of Saskatoon.

The President thanked Dr. Melissa Just for her service as Interim Provost and Vice President Academic. He also thanked Dr. Karen Chad for her service as Vice President Research over the last 12 years and highlighted several of the university's significant research accomplishments under her leadership.

There were no questions related to this report.

## **8. Report of the Provost**

On behalf of University Council, the Chair also thanked Dr. Melissa Just, Interim Provost, for her service.

Dr. Just reported on key themes in the Provost's Report as included in the Council materials, particularly government relations given the change in leadership in the Ministry of Advanced Education, and recent meetings with Ministry and university officials.

Dr. Just thanked the President for the opportunity to serve as Interim Provost and indicated that she was looking forward to working with the incoming Provost, Dr. Airini.

There were no questions related to this report.

## **9. Reflections of the Vice President Research**

The Chair welcomed Dr. Karen Chad to reflect on her service as Vice President Research for the University of Saskatchewan.

Dr. Chad shared her thoughts on the transformations at USask over the last 15 years with regard to successes in research, scholarly, and artistic works. Her early work focused on identifying areas of strength, critical mass, and local connection at USask, which through extensive consultation resulted in the *Signature Areas of Research*. She reflected that her day-to-day leadership focused on proactively promoting research, ensuring accountability for and reporting on research outcomes, and building multiple and diverse partnerships to support research, scholarly, and artistic works. She stated that we are not the same university that we were 15 years ago – we went from a local, primarily undergraduate university to an internationally recognized research institution. Many lessons were learned along the way, which we should heed into the future. She reported that she will be sharing a second document with Council with her reflections, which might be interesting and informative for the narrative going forward. She thanked the university community for granting her the privilege of serving as the Vice President Research.

## **10. PRT (Pandemic Response and Recovery Team) Report**

Dr. Patti McDougall gave the report on behalf of Dr. Darcy Marciniuk, chair of the PRT. She reported on:

- Number of positive COVID-19 rates and case prevalence rates on- and off-campus at USask.

- Announcement of the mode of delivery for the Spring and Summer sessions.
- Announcements regarding mode of delivery for Fall 2021/22 would occur soon.
- Approved on-campus research activities.
- Number of COVID-19 safety training courses that have been completed.
- Results of the recent 'Pandemic Pulse Survey.'

Dr. McDougall also reminded Council members of the Safety Resources challenge to clean out all labs and specialized freezers for a chance to win \$10K from an outside provider, which is intended to free-up potential storage spaces for the vaccine roll-out.

There were no questions related to the report.

## **11. Student Societies**

### **10.1 Report from the USSU**

Kiefer Roberts presented the report of the USSU as provided in the materials.

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.

There were no questions on the report.

## **12. Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Works Committee (RSAW)**

Dr. Marjorie Delbaere, Chair of RSAW, presented a notice of motion.

### **12.1 Notice of Motion: Designation of Active/Inactive Researchers in TABBS**

*It is recommended that University Council support in principle a) the rejection of the use of "active/inactive" designations for researchers and b) the request that the Integrated Planning and Assessment Office and all other administrative units abandon the concept of and metrics associated with the designation of individual faculty members as "active" or "inactive" researchers for all planning and budgetary allocation purposes.*

Dr. Delbaere provided the background and context for the motion. At the October 15, 2020 meeting of University Council, a concern was raised about the active/inactive researcher designation, and the RSAW committee was asked to look into it. The Provost's Office was invited to present to the committee on November 19, 2020. On December 10, 2020, the committee passed the motion that is now before Council.

There was a round of Q&A.

The Dean of the Edwards School of Business indicated on behalf of the School that there is alignment between the designation of research activity for their accreditation purposes.

A Council member noted that there are other accreditation processes that do not require this kind of institutional-level assessment, and that it is not necessary for financial planning purposes.

Another Council member stated that Council is not informed of the use of the TABBS metrics in a timely or proactive manner. The Chair of RSAW noted the Provost's and Institutional Planning and Assessment's (IPA) timely response to the committee's request.

Several committee members asked about the alternatives and potential implications of not using this indicator or the TABBS model would be. There was a suggestion that perhaps more information was needed. The RSAW Chair noted the 'in principle' nature of the motion as the basis for the level of information that was provided in the Council materials.

A Council member commented that using this metric at the individual level is not necessary, and that the label of 'inactive' could be insulting or demoralizing. Dr. Just responded that this is not the spirit behind the metric, and that faculty members could speak to their deans about any other uses of the metric, which for administrative purposes is only used for budgeting.

### **13. Academic Programs Committee (APC)**

Dr. Alison Oates, Vice Chair of APC, presented items for decision and information as provided in the materials.

#### **13.1 Request for Decision: Graduate degree-level certificate in Veterinary Diagnostic Pathology**

(Neufeld/Papagerakis): *It is recommended that Council approve the graduate degree-level certificate in Veterinary Diagnostic Pathology, effective May 2021.*

CARRIED.

#### **13.1 Report for Information: Second Degree Policy – College of Engineering**

#### **13.2 Report for Information: Academic Calendar 2021-22**

#### **13.3 Report for Information: Change to the 2020-21 Academic Calendar**

Dr. Wilson asked if there were questions on the reports that were presented for information by APC.

There was one question on item 13.2, i.e., since the common core courses could be used toward a second degree, what is the timeline within which someone would have to start the second degree? It is important that the courses from the first degree remain current. The Chair of Council responded that the question would be referred back to APC or to an associate dean in the College of Engineering.

### **14. Planning and Priorities Committee (PPC)**

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

#### **14.1 Request for Decision: Request to adopt the Sustainability Strategy**

(Mousseau/Burgess): *It is recommended that Council adopt the "Critical Path to Sustainability: The University of Saskatchewan Sustainability Strategy (2021-2030)" effective immediately.*

There were questions about the potential financial implications of implementing the strategy and about the transparency related to the costs. Dr. Irena Creed, Special Advisor to the President on Sustainability, responded that this is a ten-year strategy, and that the next stage of the project is to develop an implementation plan. They are committed to transparency with the university's governing bodies about potential costs when these plans are developed. Greg Fowler, Vice President Finance and Resources, added that his unit will be supporting the costing work that will occur in the next phase of the project and that there may be opportunities for federal funding.

There was another question about how the action plan will address the university's greenhouse gas emissions. Dr. Creed acknowledged the challenges this presents for the university, and that the university's target is even higher than the federal government's target. Yet, it also brings hopefulness and momentum to the initiative.

There was another question about whether the overall strategy is bold enough. Dr. Creed responded that each commitment will have detailed plans to meet the targets.

The President added that the Federal Liberal Government may develop mechanisms for funding green infrastructure at universities, but nothing has been announced. USask will be far better positioned to compete in accessing this kind of funding with an approved strategy such as this. He reiterated that there will be transparency in the decision-making around the implementation, but that the *Sustainability Strategy* itself first needed to be decided on.

CARRIED.

## **15. Governance Committee**

Dr. Terry Wotherspoon, the Chair of the committee, presented one request for decision.

### **13.1 Request for Decision: SENS Faculty Council Membership**

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

CARRIED.

## **16. Nominations Committee**

Dr. Paul Jones, Chair of the Committee, presented one request for input.

### **16.1 Request for Decision: Academic Programs Committee membership**

(Jones/Lamb): *It is recommended that Council approve the nomination of Jing Xiao, Department of Education Administration effective January 31, 2021 until June 30, 2021.*

Dr. Wilson called for nominations from the floor three times. There were none.

CARRIED.

## **17. Other business**

None.

### **18. Question period**

A Council member repeated his inquiry [from business arising] as to the university's strategy for discussing with province the potential move to performance-based funding.

Dr. Just responded that this is an issue of greater concern in provinces with several universities, like Ontario, whereas we only have two under the current funding model in Saskatchewan. Her office has been working to identify measures/metrics that would position USask well if the province moved in this direction. That said, there has been no specific mention of it, and the university will engage in good dialogue with the province given the opportunity.

There was a question about remote workspace regulations for faculty. The chair responded that this is covered in university policy on services and information technology.

### **19. Adjournment**

(Flynn): *Adjourned.*

### **Action Items**

NA

Appendix A: Listing of members in attendance

*Next Council meeting is March 18, 2021 – Please send regrets to [Michelle.Kjargaard@usask.ca](mailto:Michelle.Kjargaard@usask.ca)*

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	P	P					
Aitken	Alec	R	P	P	P	P					
Alcorn	Jane	A	A	A	P	A					
Augusta	Carolyn	P	P	P	R	P					
Bedard	Derek	n/a	n/a	A	A	A					
Bedard-Haughn	Angela	P	P	P	P	R					
Bell	Scott	P	A	P	P	A					
Bilson	Beth	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	P					
Boland	Mark	R	A	A	A	P					
Bonham-Smith	Peta	P	P	P	P	P					
Brook	Ryan	A	P	P	P	Sabbatical - Jan 1 - Jun 30, 2021					
Brothwell	Doug	P	P	P	P	P					
Bruni-Bossio	Vince	P	P	P	P	P					
Burgess	David	P	P	A	P	P	Resigned Council position Feb 4/21				
Burshtyn	Deborah	P	P	P	P	P					
Card	Claire	P	P	P	A	P					
Chernoff	Egan	R	R	R	P	P					
Chibbar	Ravindra	P	P	P	A	P					
Chowdhury	Nurul	P	P	P	P	P					
Cooper	David	P	P	P	P	P					
Cross	Emma	n/a	n/a	P	R	P					
Dadachova	Kate (Ekaterina)	P	P	P	A	P					
DaSilva	Keith	P	P	P	P	P					
Dawson	DeDe	P	P	P	P	P					
de Boer	Dirk	A	A	P	P	P					
Delbaere	Majorie	P	P	P	P	P					
Deters	Ralph	P	P	P	P	P					
Detmer	Susan	A	P	P	P	P					
Dick	Rainer	P	A	A	P	P					
Downe	Pamela	P	P	P	P	P	Sabbatical - Jan 1 - Jun 30, 2022				
Flynn	Kevin	A	P	A	P	P					
Fotohui	Reza	A	A	A	A	P					
Gabriel	Andrew	A	A	P	P	A					
Gillis	Glen	P	P	P	A	P					
Gjevre	John	P	P	P	P	P					
Gyurcsik	Nancy	P	P	P	P	P					
Harrison	William	A	P	A	A	P					
Harvey	Evan	n/a	n/a	P	A	A					
Hu	Katie	A	A	A	A	A					
Illing	Kate	n/a	n/a	A	A	A					
Jacob	Sharon	n/a	n/a	P	A	A					
Jamali	Nadeem	P	P	P	R	P					
James-Cavan	Kathleen	R	P	P	P	P					
Jensen	Gordon	P	P	P	P	Sabbatical - Jan 1 - Jun 30, 2021					
Jones	Paul	P	P	P	P	P					
Just	Melissa	P	P	P	P	P					
Kahn	Maria	n/a	n/a	P	A	A					
Kalra	Jay	A	P	P	P	P					
Keller	Taylor	n/a	n/a	P	P	P					
Kelly	Timothy	P	P	P	P	P					
Khandelwal	Ramji	P	P	P	P	P					
Kim	David	n/a	n/a	A	A	A					
Koechl	Natasha Martina	P	P	P	P	P					
Kresta	Suzanne	P	P	R	P	R					
Kumaran	Arul	P	P	P	P	P					
Lamb	Eric	A	P	P	P	P					
Langhorst	Barbara	P	A	P	P	A					

Last Name	First Name	Sept 17	Oct 15	Nov 19	Dec 17	Jan 28	No Mtng	Mar 18	Apr 15	May 20	Jun 17
Larre	Tamara	P	P	P	P	P					
Lies	Madelyn	n/a	n/a	A	A	A					
Lindenschmidt	Karl-Enrich	P	P	P	P	P					
London	Chad	P	P	P	A	P					
Lovick	Olga	P	P	P	P	P					
Luke	Iain	P	P	A	R	A					
Lummerding	Dominque	A	A	A	A	A					
Macfarlane	Cal	A	A	A	A	A					
Makarova	Veronika	P	P	P	P	P					
Mamun	Abdullah	P	R	P	P	A					
Manley-Tannis	Richard	R	A	A	A	P					
Marquez	Carmen	P	P	P	P	P					
Mousseau	Darrell	P	P	P	A	P					
Muir	Gillian	R	A	A	R	R					
Murphy	JoAnn	P	P	P	P	P					
Neufeld	Matthew	P	P	P	P	P					
O'Connell	Ryan	P	P	A	P	P					
Palmer	Sue	n/a	n/a	A	A	A					
Papagerakis	Petros	P	A	P	P	P					
Paslawski	Teresa	P	P	P	P	P					
Peternej-Taylor	Cindy	A	P	P	P	P					
Phillipson	Martin	P	P	A	P	P					
Pocha	Sheila	A	P	A	A	A					
Poettcker	Grant	A	A	A	A	A					
Pomazon	Alisha	P	P	P	P	P					
Prytula	Michelle	P	P	P	P	Beth Bilson is the Interim Dean of Education (Jan 18/21)					
Rayan	Steven	P	P	P	P	P					
Ripley	Laura	n/a	n/a	P	P	A					
Risling	Tracie	P	P	P	P	P					
Sarjeant-Jenkins	Rachel	P	P	P	P	P					
Sarty	Gordon	P	P	P	P	P					
Shevchuk	Yvonne	P	P	P	P	P					
Shin	Hyunjung	R	R	R	P	A					
Singh	Jaswant	P	A	P	P	P					
Smith	Martha	P	P	P	P	P					
Smith	Preston	P	P	P	A	A					
Smyth	Stuart	P	P	P	A	P					
Somerville	Kara	P	P	A	A	P					
Sorensen	Charlene	P	P	P	P	P					
Spurr	Shelley	P	P	P	P	P					
Squires	Vicki	P	P	P	P	P					
Steele	Tom	P	P	P	A	P					
Stoicheff	Peter	P	P	P	P	P					
Stuart	Glenn	A	P	P	P	P					
Urquhart	Stephen	P	P	P	P	P					
Waldner	Cheryl	P	P	P	P	P					
Walker	Keith	P	P	P	P	P					
Wallace	Alexa	n/a	n/a	A	A	A					
Willenborg	Christian	P	P	P	P	P					
Willoughby	Keith	R	A	P	P	P					
Wilson	Jay	P	P	P	P	P					
Woods	Phil	A	R	P	A	P					
Wotherspoon	Terry	P	P	P	P	P					
Xiao	Jing	P	P	P	P	P					
Yao	Yansun	P	A	A	A	A					
Zhang	Chris	A	P	P	A	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	
Chad	Karen	P	P	P	P	P	Dr. Chad has completed her VP Research as of Jan 31, 2021					
Fowler	Greg	P	P	P	P	P						
Gill	Qasim	A	A	A	A	P						
Inam	Humaira	P	P	P	P	P						
Isinger	Russell	P	P	P	A	P						
Kaminski	Nicholas	P	P	P	P	P						
LaRose-Smith	Autumn	P	P	P	A	P						
McDougall	Patricia	P	P	P	P	P						
Osburn	Debra Pozega	P	P	P	p	P						
Ottmann	Jacqueline	A	A	A	P	P						
Roberts	Kiefer	P	R	P	P	P						
Singh	Baljit	Dr. Singh to begin as VP Research Feb 1, 2021										
Still	Carl	P	P	P	P	P						
Thronberg	John	P	P	A	P	A						
Willness	Chelsea	P	P	P	p	P						