

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Tributes**

There was a tribute to Professor Emeritus Che Kan Leong, College of Education, presented by Dr. Michelle Prytula.

**3. Adoption of the agenda**

(Gjevre/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 if there were any media present. Bryn Levy from the Saskatoon Star Phoenix and Fiza Baloch from the Sheaf identified themselves. The chair reminded those present that no video or audio recordings of the Council meeting are permitted.

The chair noted that it has been one year since Council moved to a virtual meeting format. He thanked Council members and the many groups that have supported the work of Council during the past year, especially those in the Governance Office, PEC support persons, and ICT including Terry Lingl for ensuring the work of Council has continued despite the challenges.

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 Provost Airini's and Vice President Singh's visions and priorities, and the Advanced Education performance framework.

**5. Approval of Minutes of the meeting of January 28, 2021**

(Smith/Wotherspoon): *That the minutes be approved.*

CARRIED.

**6. Business Arising from the Minutes**

None.

**7. Report of the President**

President Stoicheff recognized the one-year anniversary of USask's first response to the COVID-19 pandemic. He thanked the members of Council and the campus community, including students, faculty

and staff, for their perseverance and collegiality in the face of adversity. He also thanked the Pandemic Response Team, noting that none of the university's strategies would have been successful without the support of everyone on campus.

The President highlighted the exceptional accomplishments that were achieved nonetheless, including extraordinary research, online teaching, and health-related colleges working on the frontlines to control the pandemic. He also noted that Merlis Belsher Place is operational as a mass vaccination clinic.

The President announced that the fifth annual internal Truth and Reconciliation Forum would be held (virtually) on March 26, 2021. He recalled that the first national forum was hosted by USask six years ago. It has since been hosted by several Canadian universities.

President Stoicheff recognized the good work being done on the Sustainability Strategy and the Memorandum of Understanding on Sustainability with the USSU.

He provided a brief update on the Post-Pandemic Shift Project and thanked Vice President, University Relations, Debra Pozega Osburn for her leadership, and the team for their efforts.

The President also introduced and welcomed the two new vice presidents, Dr. Airini and Dr. Singh, to USask and to Council.

There was a round of Q&A.

There was a question about whether the work on the vaccine trials at VIDO could have any impact on the return-to-campus timelines for students, faculty and staff. The President responded that the current estimates are that the vaccine may be manufacturable by 2022, and that by then USask would also have manufacturing capacity at VIDO's pilot manufacturing facility currently under construction.

There was a comment that the university should provide reassurance to faculty and staff as job cuts have been underway since the pandemic. The President thanked the Council member for the comment and replied that the university is always in flux in opening and closing positions. He also welcomed the opportunity to recognize people on campus all deserving of thanks, noting that he can never find enough ways to extend his appreciation.

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

Dr. Airini, Provost, expressed thanks for the opportunity to present her first report to Council. She thanked members of the campus community for their warm welcomes and expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to serve USask in this capacity. She reported that she spent her first month focusing on connecting, learning, and listening. She looks forward to developing an academic agenda that will help USask to 'Be the University the World Needs', and that is responsive to our priorities within our means.

Dr. Airini noted her current projects underway, including developing a performance framework with Advanced Education, tuition consultation and planning, a TABBS 'refresh', new programs continuing to be approved, and the search for a Deputy Provost (as noted in the Council agenda). She also commended the School of Public Health for the recent renewal of their accreditation.

She recognized the efforts and compassion needed to get through this year of pandemic. She called on the gifted principle in the *University Plan: 2025* of connectivity as a source of resilience. In the spirit of

connection and genuine respect for the actions of leadership, for service, and for kindness, she joined the President in thanking the university community. There was a round of Q&A.

There was a question about whether faculty have been consulted regarding tuition rates. Dr. Airini responded that the recommendations come from deans and executive directors, and that they engage with the colleges and schools in consultations regarding tuition rates.

There was a question about how the Provost plans to engage with Council in conversations about resources, noting that there has been a lack of information on resources coming to Council. Dr. Airini responded that she intends to be as transparent as possible regarding the university's finances. She noted there would be a preliminary presentation on the provincial budget at the April Council meeting, with a more detailed analysis in May. She also noted that the matter is included in terms of reference for the Planning and Priorities Committee and committed to also engaging at that level. She agreed that timely, relevant engagement with Council on the topic is important.

There was a follow-up question about whether previous years' resource allocations to colleges could be released. The Provost recalled that the 'T' in TABBS is for transparency and that the connection of resources to achieving our academic priorities is critical.

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

Dr. Patti McDougall, Vice Provost, Teaching, Learning and Student Experience, 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.
- Number of COVID-19 safety training courses that have been completed.
- Number of researchers working on campus.

She reported that the PRT has paused approvals of new requests to access campus given the recent increases in positive COVID cases in Saskatchewan. She also reported that support services for students are still open even while the campus is closed.

Dr. McDougall reported that spring and summer in-person course delivery would remain limited, and that the plans for the fall would be determined based on the constantly evolving environment and in alignment with the direction of the Saskatchewan Health Authority for the post-secondary sector. She reported that a return to normal operations is anticipated in January 2022. She assured Council that the reopening plans will follow public health guidelines and that space use is currently being analyzed to inform the plans for fall and winter.

Dr. McDougall encouraged everyone to get the vaccine and expressed thanks for helping to keep community members as safe as possible.

There was a question about when information would be forthcoming to determine fall faculty assignment of duties. Dr. McDougall responded that within the next two weeks the recommendations of PRT and PEC would be provided to colleges and schools to assist in decision making.

Some concerns were expressed about the Pandemic Engagement Survey, specifically regarding potentially offensive language for identifying whether respondents were of Indigenous ancestry, problems with the

scales, and that there was no neutral response option. There was also a question about why the survey was contracted to an external organization when there are award winning surveyors at USask. Dr. McDougall committed to refer the questions and concerns to HR for consideration.

## **10. Student Societies**

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

Autumn LaRose-Smith presented the report of the USSU as provided in the materials. She reported on several events hosted by the USSU over the last two months. She also indicated that the USSU elections were underway and that results would be posted after March 25<sup>th</sup>.

She reported on concerns that have been raised by students on the quality of education in the remote learning environment, and that students are worried about their skills going into the job market. She highlighted the reports of lack of communication between teachers and students and reported that she has spoken the USFA about the concerns. She also inquired about oversight of instructor performance.

Ms. LaRose-Smith raised concerns about the lack of engagement and transparency in the tuition consultations with the colleges. She asked that the 'Appendix D' reports from the Tuition Policy be shared with the USSU.

There was a question from a Council member about how the USSU is addressing increases in academic dishonesty, and how the USSU can support students in ensuring academic integrity. Ms. LaRose-Smith acknowledged that the USSU has also noticed the increases in allegations of academic dishonesty and recognized the increased pressure that this puts on instructors.

### **10.2 Report from the GSA**

Humaira Inam, President of the GSA, presented the report from the GSA as provided in the materials.

Ms. Inam raised concerns about the proposed tuition rate changes, especially for the international differential and graduate studies. She argued that the proposed changes are out of alignment with the principles articulated in the Tuition Policy. She remarked that the 'Tuition Townhalls' were poorly attended. She reported that these concerns have been raised with the Provost, but that there would still be a letter submitted to the Board of Governors by the GSA in opposition to the proposed changes and that there was a petition in circulation online.

Dr. Airini responded that she is confident that the principles for tuition-setting are being followed. She thanked the GSA for their engagement in the matter, noting that the sixth meeting between the GSA and members of Provost's Office was coming up. She agreed to verify the use of Appendix D. She reminded Ms. Inam about the invitation to the GSA to participate in a working group on tuition consultation. She also noted that USask continues to lag in our tuition rates in comparison to peers, and noted that this has a negative impact on the university's financial sustainability.

Ms. Inam disagreed with the comparison to the U15 as the university's peer set and responded that low international differentials help attract international students. She agreed to talking further about the working group.

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

Dr. Marjorie Delbaere, Chair of RSAW, presented a request for decision.

### **11.1 Request for Decision: Designation of Active/Inactive Researchers in TABBS**

*(Sarty/Waldner): 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 Institutional 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.*

A Council member asked whether the motion is intended to distinguish between people who are or are not producing research, or the way that they are performing research, scholarly or artistic work. Dr. Delbaere responded that the designation of inactive researcher in TABBS is in question. It is separate from collegial processes, and only used for budgeting purposes.

There was a comment that performance is already assessed through collegial processes and that no further assessment is needed for budgetary purposes. The member suggested that there are more negative effects to the inactive researcher designation than there are marginal positive effects.

The Provost inquired whether the commitment to a refresh of the TABBS model would help to address the concern. She committed to seeking advice from PPC and RSAW on the TABBS refresh. Dr. Delbaere replied that the committee would welcome this engagement. [Table 1. Action Items]

The President of the University of Saskatchewan Faculty Association was recognized by the Chair of Council. She asked if Dr. Delbaere, as Chair of RSAW, was aware of the negative impacts of the designation on faculty and units, or the racist applications and implications for assessments of research, scholarly and artistic works. Dr. Delbaere responded that she had no direct knowledge of such occurrences, but acknowledged that these potentially negative implications were part of the reason that the motion was brought forward.

CARRIED.

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

Dr. Susan Detmer, Chair of APC, presented one item for decision.

### **12.1 Request for Decision: Master of Music (M.Mus) in Music Education**

*(Detmer/Papagerakis): It is recommended that Council approve the Master of Music (M.Mus) in Music Education, effective May 2021.*

CARRIED.

## **13. Nominations Committee**

Dr. Paul Jones, Chair of the committee, presented the request for decision.

### **13.1 Request for Decision: Council Nominees to Deputy Provost Search Committee**

(Jones/Lamb): *It is recommended that Council approve the nominees to the Deputy Provost Search Committee, effective immediately:*

- One senior administrator who is also a Council member:
  - Suzanne Kresta, Dean, College of Engineering
- Four members of the General Academic Assembly:
  - Erica Carleton, Edwards School of Business
  - Som Niyogi, Department of Biology
  - Darrin Oehlerking, Department of Music
  - Holly Mansell, College of Pharmacy & Nutrition

The Chair of Council called for nominations from the floor.

Ms. Autumn LaRose-Smith nominated Ryan O’Connell, as student council member. Dr. Wilson responded that Ryan O’Connell was not a faculty member of the GAA and therefore was not eligible under this criterion of the Search and Review Procedures.

There was a comment that the addition of the position of Deputy Provost is unnecessary.

CARRIED.

[April 8, 2021 Annotation – This motion and ruling of the chair are under review for procedural and substantive accuracy. The decision may be rescinded at the April 15, 2021 Council meeting.]

### **14. Governance Committee**

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

#### **14.1 Request for Input: Postdoctoral Fellows (PDF) Policy Revisions**

Dr. Wotherspoon summarized the proposed changes and the process followed by CGPS to draft the revisions.

There was a question about whether any consideration was given to the possibility of extended lengths of terms for PDFs. Dr. Debby Burshtyn, Dean of the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (CGPS), responded that there are already provisions for this in the college’s procedures and that requests are considered on a case-by-case basis.

### **15. Other business**

None.

### **16. Question period**

There was a question about how CGPS can better engage with the GSA on developing tuition recommendations. Dr. Burshtyn responded that the main concern heard in the consultations was lack of predictability. She noted the tuition offset for students currently enrolled would partially address this, and that further consideration of the meaning of ‘predictability’ is needed.

There was a question from a student Council member about how the university is dealing with increases in academic dishonesty in the remote learning environment. Dr. McDougall thanked the student for raising the issue. She responded that the university is focused primarily on prevention and academic integrity. There are also supports for faculty to amend their assessment strategies to accommodate the changes to course modality. There are also informal and formal procedures for addressing cases of academic dishonesty. Dr. Nancy Turner of the Gwenna Moss Centre also reported that they recently hosted an Academic Integrity Forum for faculty.

There was a request for access to data on all academic matters. Dr. Wilson agreed to take the request back to Shari Baraniuk, CIO & Associate Vice President, Information and Communications Technology.

A faculty member commented on the validity of open book exams as an assessment method.

There was a request to discuss tuition and fees (as separate costs) together, rather than separately.

Ms. Inam reiterated the GSA's concerns about the lack of tuition predictability.

A Council member commented that Arts & Science does not have sufficient funding to cover its program offerings next year. He recalled that the President reported that most of the university's parking revenue was put toward the construction of the Gordon Oakes Red Bear Aboriginal Students' Centre. He asked whether we could similarly use parking revenue to fund college operating deficits. Greg Fowler, Vice President Finance and Resources, responded that he could report back to Council on the capital funding sources for the student centre, and on operating funding for Consumer Services (which includes parking revenue and it has gone down significantly due to the pandemic) [Table 1. Action Items].

## 17. Adjournment

(Jones): *Adjourned.*

**Table 1. Action Items**

Page	Action Item	Responsible
p.5 s.11.1	Consult with RSAW and PPC on TABBS 'refresh'	Dr. Airini
p.7 s.16	Request for access to all academic data	Dr. Wilson
p.7 s.16	Report on parking revenue and capital funding for the Gordon Oakes Red Bear Students' Centre	Greg Fowler

Appendix A: Listing of members in attendance

Next Council meeting is April 15, 2021 – Please send regrets to [Michelle.Kjargaard@usask.ca](mailto: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
.	Airini	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		P			
Adl	Sina	A	P	P	P	P		P			
Aitken	Alec	R	P	P	P	P		P			
Alcorn	Jane	A	A	A	P	A		P			
Augusta	Carolyn	P	P	P	R	P		P			
Bedard	Derek	n/a	n/a	A	A	A		A			
Bedard-Haughn	Angela	P	P	P	P	R		P			
Bell	Scott	P	A	P	P	A		A			
Bilson	Beth	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	P		P			
Boland	Mark	R	A	A	A	P		P			
Bonham-Smith	Peta	P	P	P	P	P		P			
Brook	Ryan	A	P	P	P	R. Brook Sabbatical - Jan 1 - Jun 30, 2021					
Brothwell	Doug	P	P	P	P	P		R			
Bruni-Bossio	Vince	P	P	P	P	P		P			
Burgess	David	P	P	A	P	P	D. Burgess Resigned Council position Feb 4/21				
Burshtyn	Deborah	P	P	P	P	P		P			
Card	Claire	P	P	P	A	P		P			
Chernoff	Egan	R	R	R	P	P		P			
Chibbar	Ravindra	P	P	P	A	P		P			
Chowdhury	Nurul	P	P	P	P	P		P			
Cooper	David	P	P	P	P	P		P			
Cross	Emma	n/a	n/a	P	R	P		P			
Dadachova	Kate (Ekaterina)	P	P	P	A	P		P			
DaSilva	Keith	P	P	P	P	P		P			
Dawson	DeDe	P	P	P	P	P		P			
de Boer	Dirk	A	A	P	P	P		A			
Delbaere	Majorie	P	P	P	P	P		P			
Deters	Ralph	P	P	P	P	P		P			
Detmer	Susan	A	P	P	P	P		P			
Dick	Rainer	P	A	A	P	P		P			
Downe	Pamela	P	P	P	P	P		P	P. Downe Sabbatical - Jan 1 - Jun 30, 2021		
Flynn	Kevin	A	P	A	P	P		P			
Fotohui	Reza	A	A	A	A	P		A			
Gabriel	Andrew	A	A	P	P	A		R			
Gillis	Glen	P	P	P	A	P		P			
Gjevre	John	P	P	P	P	P		P			
Gyurcsik	Nancy	P	P	P	P	P		P			
Harrison	William	A	P	A	A	P		A			
Harvey	Evan	n/a	n/a	P	A	A		A			
Hu	Katie	A	A	A	A	A		A			
Illing	Kate	n/a	n/a	A	A	A		A			
Jacob	Sharon	n/a	n/a	P	A	A		A			
Jamali	Nadeem	P	P	P	R	P		P			
James-Cavan	Kathleen	R	P	P	P	P		P			
Jensen	Gordon	P	P	P	P	G. Jensen Sabbatical - Jan 1 - Jun 30, 2021					
Jones	Paul	P	P	P	P	P		P			
Just	Melissa	P	P	P	P	P	M. Just completed Interim Provost role (Jan 31, 2021)				
Kahn	Maria	n/a	n/a	P	A	A		A			
Kalra	Jay	A	P	P	P	P		P			
Keller	Taylor	n/a	n/a	P	P	P		P			
Kelly	Timothy	P	P	P	P	P		A			
Khandelwal	Ramji	P	P	P	P	P		P			
Kim	David	n/a	n/a	A	A	A		A			
Koechl	Natasha Martina	P	P	P	P	P		P			
Kresta	Suzanne	P	P	R	P	R		P			
Kumaran	Arul	P	P	P	P	P		P			
Lamb	Eric	A	P	P	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
Langhorst	Barbara	P	A	P	P	A		A			
Larre	Tamara	P	P	P	P	P		P			
Lies	Madelyn	n/a	n/a	A	A	A		A			
Lindenschmidt	Karl-Enrich	P	P	P	P	P		P			
London	Chad	P	P	P	A	P		P			
Lovick	Olga	P	P	P	P	P		P			
Luke	Iain	P	P	A	R	A		R			
Lummerding	Dominique	A	A	A	A	A		A			
Macfarlane	Cal	A	A	A	A	A		A			
Makarova	Veronika	P	P	P	P	P		A			
Mamun	Abdullah	P	R	P	P	A		R			
Manley-Tannis	Richard	R	A	A	A	P		A			
Marquez	Carmen	P	P	P	P	P		P			
Mousseau	Darrell	P	P	P	A	P		P			
Muir	Gillian	R	A	A	R	R		R			
Murphy	JoAnn	P	P	P	P	P		P			
Neufeld	Matthew	P	P	P	P	P		P			
O'Connell	Ryan	P	P	A	P	P		P			
Palmer	Sue	n/a	n/a	A	A	A		A			
Papagerakis	Petros	P	A	P	P	P		P			
Paslawski	Teresa	P	P	P	P	P		P			
Peternelj-Taylor	Cindy	A	P	P	P	P		P			
Phillipson	Martin	P	P	A	P	P		P			
Pocha	Sheila	A	P	A	A	A		A			
Poettcker	Grant	A	A	A	A	A		A			
Pomazon	Alisha	P	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		P			
Ripley	Laura	n/a	n/a	P	P	A		A			
Risling	Tracie	P	P	P	P	P		P			
Sarjeant-Jenkins	Rachel	P	P	P	P	P		P			
Sarty	Gordon	P	P	P	P	P		P			
Shevchuk	Yvonne	P	P	P	P	P		P			
Shin	Hyunjung	R	R	R	P	A		A			
Singh	Jaswant	P	A	P	P	P		A			
Smith	Martha	P	P	P	P	P		P			
Smith	Preston	P	P	P	A	A		P			
Smyth	Stuart	P	P	P	A	P		P			
Somerville	Kara	P	P	A	A	P		P			
Sorensen	Charlene	P	P	P	P	P		P			
Spurr	Shelley	P	P	P	P	P		R			
Squires	Vicki	P	P	P	P	P		P			
Steele	Tom	P	P	P	A	P		P			
Stoicheff	Peter	P	P	P	P	P		P			
Stuart	Glenn	A	P	P	P	P		A			
Urquhart	Stephen	P	P	P	P	P		P			
Waldner	Cheryl	P	P	P	P	P		P			
Walker	Keith	P	P	P	P	P		P			
Wallace	Alexa	n/a	n/a	A	A	A		A			
Willenborg	Christian	P	P	P	P	P		P			
Willoughby	Keith	R	A	P	P	P		P			
Wilson	Jay	P	P	P	P	P		A			
Woods	Phil	A	R	P	A	P		R			
Wotherspoon	Terry	P	P	P	P	P		P			
Xiao	Jing	P	P	P	P	P		P			
Yao	Yansun	P	A	A	A	A		A			
Zhang	Chris	A	P	P	A	P		A			

COUNCIL ATTENDANCE 2020-2021

Attendance Summary - Non-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	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		P			
Gill	Qasim	A	A	A	A	P		A			
Inam	Humaira	P	P	P	P	P		P			
Isinger	Russell	P	P	P	A	P		P			
Kaminski	Nicholas	P	P	P	P	P		P			
LaRose-Smith	Autumn	P	P	P	A	P		P			
McDougall	Patricia	P	P	P	P	P		P			
Ottmann	Jacqueline	A	A	A	P	P		A			
Pozega Osburn	Debra	P	P	P	p	P		P			
Roberts	Kiefer	P	R	P	P	P		R			
Singh	Baljit	Dr. Singh to begin as VP Research Feb 1, 2021						P			
Still	Carl	P	P	P	P	P		P			
Thronberg	John	P	P	A	P	A		A			
Willness	Chelsea	P	P	P	p	P		P			