

1. Call to Order

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

The Chair, Dr. Susan Detmer summarized the meeting protocols.

No members of the media identified themselves.

2. Tributes

There was a tribute to Professor Emerita Isabelle Mills, Department of Music, presented by Professor Garry Gable.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

(Walker/Grosvenor): *That the agenda be approved as circulated.*

CARRIED.

4. Chair's Opening Remarks

Dr. Detmer 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.

The Chair reminded Council members of the date of the January 27, 2022, Council meeting, occurring on the fourth rather than the third Thursday of the month, and that there is no Council meeting in February.

Dr. Detmer reported on the regular monthly meeting between the Council Executive Committee and the President's Executive Committee (PEC). She reported that the discussion topics in December and January were the *Living Our Values Action Plan*, the *EDI Strategy and Action Plan*, and updates from Pandemic Response Team (PRT).

5. Approval of Minutes of the meeting of November 18, 2021

(Gjevre/Aitken): *That the minutes be approved.*

CARRIED.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes**6.1. Clarification of Council Decisions of November 18, 2021, regarding the *Inventions and Enterprise Creation Policy***

For the Council record, there was included in the agenda package a copy of the written clarification of the procedures from the last Council meeting that was sent on November 23, 2021.

There was no other business arising.

7. Report of the President

President Peter Stoicheff began his remarks by reflecting on the last several months and the way that students, faculty, and staff worked together to manage the pandemic. USask reached a compliance rate with the vaccination policy of over 97 percent. This shows what a community can do when its policies are clearly communicated and evidence based. He expressed thanks to the Pandemic Response and Recovery Team (PRT) for their work and the entire university community for how they responded to the policy. Meanwhile, the University continued to deliver on its mission: many health- and policy-related faculty have been engaged in the public dialogue on COVID-19; wastewater monitoring has been providing advanced data for modelling; students across the University and across disciplines have helped communities deal with the pandemic; and VIDO's vaccine candidate is at the beginning of phase 2 trials.

The President noted the 50th anniversary of Gerhard Herzberg's Nobel Prize, reporting that USask is naming both the main experimental hall of the Canadian Light Source (CLS) and a prominent physics lecture theatre on campus after the renowned scientist.

He reflected on many achievements at USask in 2021, for example:

- Enrolments increased for the 7th consecutive year, with more than 26,000 students – the highest ever.
- USask was gifted with the Indigenous Strategy, *ohpahotân | oohpaahotaan* (“Let’s Fly Up Together”) in the summer, the first of its kind in Canada.
- MOU was renewed with Wanuskeewin.
- Louise Halfe-Skydancer was named the National Poet Laureate.
- Husky student athletes performed extraordinarily well.

The University also welcomed Dr. Airini, Provost and Vice President Academic, and Dr. Singh, Vice President Research to the senior leadership team.

The Chair invited questions. There were none.

8. Report of the Provost

Dr. Airini also and acknowledged the extraordinary year it has been. She thanked members of the USask community for warm welcome she received in coming to this University.

She noted the information in her report regarding the Budget Committee, with the intention to increase openness and transparency. She welcomed the members of the newly constituted committee, which includes two senior academics appointed by the president: Professors Murray Fulton from the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, and Devan Mescall, from the Edwards School of Business.

The Chair invited questions. There were none.

9. Pandemic Response and Recovery Team (PRT) Report

Dr. Darcy Marciniuk, Associate Vice President Research and PRT Chair provided an update on the COVID-19 pandemic. He reported on the number of cases amongst the university communities, vaccination rates, preparation measures for return to on-campus learning. He also noted that requests for accommodations for the vaccination policy are being received.

He noted that Ontario and other provinces are experiencing a surge of the Omicron variant, and some are changing their restrictions and other public health measures. The PRT is actively monitoring and assessing the situation and will continue to do so over the holidays. Current measures, such as proper masking, remain in effect and are more important than ever.

Additional guidance will be provided in mid-January regarding boosters and the vaccine requirements.

On behalf of the PRT, Dr. Marciniuk conveyed sincere thanks to everyone for their responsiveness and efforts over the last several months.

The chair invited questions.

There was a question about whether affiliated colleges are included in the vaccination rate statistics, and whether they are complying with the requirements. Dr. Marciniuk confirmed both.

10. Student Societies

10.1. Report from the USSU

Tauqeer Iftikhar, Vice President Academic, presented the USSU report. He acknowledged that it is a stressful time of year for students and that the USSU is offering several support initiatives. He noted that the USSU strongly encourages vaccination and is also assisting students who need help with the accommodations process. Current USSU efforts are focused on helping student groups with governance structures and advocacy; supporting undergraduate research opportunities; providing increased tutoring access; and more library hours. They will also be constituting an Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression Committee. A transit survey will be launched to assess accessibility issues on campus.

The chair invited questions. There were none.

10.2. Report from the GSA

Rifat Zahan, GSA President, presented the report from the GSA. She noted that they are organizing a 'holiday hangout' for graduate students during the holidays. Approximately 400 students have signed up to pick up food, but will also maintain distancing and other guidelines. Winter orientation is planned for January. Their efforts are focused on student mental health and wellbeing supports through workshops, advocacy, and services. The GSA is also providing advocacy on 'degree delay', i.e., why students are delayed in completing their degrees.

The chair invited questions. There were none.

11. Academic Programs Committee

Dr. Alison Oates, chair of APC, presented the items.

11.1. Request for Decision: Graduate degree-level Certificate in Hydrology
(Oates/Deters): *It is recommended that Council approve graduate degree-level certificate in Hydrology, effective May 2022.*

CARRIED.

11.2. Request for Decision: Graduate degree-level certificate in Science and Innovation Policy

(Oates/Deters): *It is recommended that Council approve graduate degree-level certificate in Science and Innovation Policy, effective May 2022.*

CARRIED.

- 11.3. Request for Decision: Change to Admissions Qualification – Master of Nursing Thesis-based program

(Oates/Deters): *It is recommended that Council approve change to the admissions qualification for the Master of Nursing thesis-based program.*

CARRIED.

- 11.4. Request for Decision: Program Name Change – Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics to Master of Arts in Linguistics

(Oates/Deters): *It is recommended that Council approve change the change of the name of the Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics program to the Master of Arts in Linguistics, effective May 2022.*

CARRIED.

- 11.5. Report for information: Academic Calendar 2022-23

Dr. Oates summarized the report as provided in the materials. There were no questions.

- 11.6. Report for information: Academic Courses Policy Clause 1.2 – Changes to Syllabi

Dr. Oates summarized the report as provided in the materials. There were no questions.

- 11.7. Report for information: Senate Delegation of Approval Authority for Admissions Qualifications Changes

Dr. Oates summarized the report as provided in the materials. There were no questions.

12. Governance Committee

Dr. Terry Wetherspoons, Chair of the Governance Committee, presented the items.

- 12.1. Report for information: Summary of Kerr & King (1996) Common Council Procedures

Dr. Wotherspoon reported that the Governance Office provided a summary of Kerr & King's key directives on meeting procedures to members of Council earlier this week. He acknowledged that since Council has moved to a virtual format there have been questions or sometimes uncertainty about some procedural matters. There was a request at the last Council meeting to make the Kerr & King (1996) procedural manual more widely available, as it is not available in e-book and is costly. In response, Drs. Wotherspoon, Detmer, Willness, and Dr. Jacquie Thomarat, Director of Academic Governance, all met to discuss, and Dr. Thomarat prepared the summary. Dr. Wotherspoon noted copyright considerations, which require that access to the summary is restricted to Council members or Council committee members. He also reported that the Governance Committee is working with Governance Office to consider another procedural manual to supplement the Council Bylaws.

- 12.2. Report for information: Duty to Accommodate Policy

Dr. Wotherspoon noted the fitting tribute to Isabelle Mills, whose work was related to this updated *Duty to Accommodate Policy*. He reported that significant revisions have been made to ensure the policy is aligned with legislation and other current policies.

Dr. Jay Wilson, Interim Vice Provost, Teaching, Learning and Student Experience, presented a summary of the changes and acknowledged the great work of the AES team, and in particular Maxine Kinakin and Chelsea Kreuger. He noted that previously, the policy was focused solely on 'disability' whereas now it focuses on 'accessibility' which broadens its scope and ensures that we are not only accommodating for medical needs, but everything under the *Human Rights Code*. It now also considers contexts outside the classroom including practica, residences, Huskies Athletics, etc. The dispute resolution process has also been updated. He reported that the Board of Governors approved the policy on December 14, 2021.

13. Other business

There were two updates by Dr. Chelsea Willness.

13.1. Report for information: Call for Nominations for Two Member-at-Large Vacancies on Council

There are two member-at-large positions vacant. The call for nominations closes December 21, 2021.

13.2. Report for information: Call for Nominations for Faculty Representative on the USask Board of Governors

Dr. Willness reported that the term of the current faculty (GAA) representative on the Board of Governors, Dr. Jay Kalra's second and final term ends June 30, 2022. In the New Year there will be a call for nominations for the new faculty representative, who is elected by the GAA. Further details will be forthcoming in the New Year.

There was no other business.

14. Question period

There was a question in reference to last meeting of Council regarding the timing of when the Provost and President's office's were informed of the alleged claims of misrepresentation of Indigenous identity by Dr. Carrie Bourassa. Dr. Airini reported that the question had been answered by email following the November Council meeting and referred to those dates in her response.

There was a question about the timelines for budget projections and reporting of actual variances for the 2020-21 fiscal year. Greg Fowler, Vice President Finance and Resources, responded that quarterly financial updates are provided to the Board of Governors. He noted that regular Financial Townhalls and information reports on university finances are also provided to Council. Greg Fowler agreed to report back on those dates (Table 1. Action item 1).

There was a comment on software and IT security policies which have placed constraints on research. The Council member asked if the Office of the Vice President Research and the Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Works (RSAW) Committee were planning to evaluate these policies as they related to faculty research, productivity, collaboration, and obligations to funding agencies. There was also a request for an assessment of the value-add of administrative controls over computers and equipment for faculty and researchers, and another concern with Concur and travel and expense claims processing. Dr. Airini responded that she would like to hear about challenges experienced by researchers by IT and other policies, and she volunteered to engage the Vice President Research and others to initiate a discussion (Table 1. Action item 2). Dr. Detmer noted that this would also be referred to RSAW, via the Chair, Dr. Marjorie Delbaere (Table 1. Action item 3).

15. Adjournment

(Grosvenor): The meeting was properly adjourned at 3:57pm.

Table 1. Action Items

Pg. Sec.	Item	Action	Responsible
p.5 s.14	2020-21 Variances	Report on timing of variance reports for 2020-21	Greg Fowler
p.5 s.14	IT Policies & Research	Initiate discussion with VP Research	Dr. Airini
p.5 s.14	IT Policies & Research	Initiate discussion with RSAW	Dr. Delbaere

Appendix A: Listing of members in attendance

COUNCIL ATTENDANCE 2020-2021

Attendance Summary - Voting Participants

Sep 16, 2021 - meetings are being held via Zoom and attendance is taken as per the participant list while meeting is on.

Last Name	First Name	Sept 16	Oct 21	Nov 18	Dec 16	Jan 27	No Mtng	Mar 17	Apr 21	May 19	Jun 16
.	Airini	P	P	P	P						
Adl	Sina	P	P	P	A						
Aitken	Alec	R	R	R	P						
Akintola-student	Olusola	P	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Alcorn	Jane	P	P	P	P						
Augusta	Carolyn	P	P	P	P						
Bally	Jill	P	P	P	P						
Bauman-student	Elisabeth	P	P	A	R						
Bedard-Haughn	Angela	P	P	P	P						
Bedard-student	Derek	A	A	A	A						
Bell	Scott	P	P	P	P						
Bhatti-student rep	Haseeb	A	A	A	A						
Bilson	Beth	P	P	P	P						
Boden	Catherine	P	P	P	A						
Boland	Mark	P	P	P	P						
Bonham-Smith	Peta	P	P	P	P						
Bradley	Michael	R	R	R	R						
Brothwell	Doug	A	P	P	P						
Burshtyn	Deborah	P	P	P	P						
Card	Claire	A	P	P	P						
Chernoff	Egan	P	P	P	P						
Chowdhury	Nurul	P	A	P	A						
Cooper	David	P	P	R	P						
Dadachova	Kate	P	P	P	P						
DaSilva	Keith	P	P	P	P						
Dawson	DeDe	P	P	P	P						
de Boer	Dirk	P	P	A	P						
Delbaere	Majorie	P	P	P	A						
Deters	Ralph	P	P	P	P						
Detmer	Susan	P	P	P	P						
Downe	Pamela	P	P	P	P						
Gabriel	Andrew	P	A	A	A						
Gebreab-student	Henok	A	A	A	A						
Gjevre	John	P	P	P	P						
Grosvenor	Andrew	P	P	P	P						
Gyurcsik	Nancy	P	P	P	P						
Harasymchuk	Robert	P	P	P	P						
Harrison	William	A	A	P	A						
Hogan	Natacha	P	A	P	A						
Jacob-student rep	Sharon	A	A	A	A						
Jamali	Nadeem	P	P	P	P						
James-Cavan	Kathleen	P	P	P	P						
Jensen	Gordon	P	P	P	P						
Jones	Paul	P	P	P	P						
Just	Melissa	R	P	P	P						
Kahn-student rep	Maria	R	A	P	A						
Kalra	Jay	P	R	P	P						
Khandelwal	Ramji	P	P	P	P						
Kim-student rep	David	A	A	A	A						
Kovacs-student rep	Karen	A	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Kresta	Suzanne	R	P	P	A						
Lamb	Eric	R	R	R	R						
Larre	Tamara	P	P	P	A						
Lindenschmidt	Karl-Enrich	P	A	P	P						
London	Chad	P	P	R	P						
Lovick	Olga	P	P	P	P						
Luke	Iain	A	R	R	A						

Last Name	First Name	Sept 16	Oct 21	Nov 18	Dec 16	Jan 27	No Mtng	Mar 17	Apr 21	May 19	Jun 16
Lummerding-	Dominique	A	A	A	A						
Macfarlane	Cal	A	A	A	A						
Maguire-student	Robert	n/a	P	P	P						
Makarova	Veronika	P	P	P	A						
Mamun	Abdullah	P	P	R	P						
Manley-Tannis	Richard	R	R	R	P						
Marche	Tammy	P	P	P	A						
Martin	Stephanie	P	P	P	R						
Martina-Koechl	Natasha	P	P	P	P						
Meda	Venkatesh	P	P	P	P						
Mousseau	Darrell	P	P	A	P						
Muir	Gillian	P	R	P	A						
Murphy	JoAnn	P	P	P	P						
Neufeld	Matthew	P	A	P	P						
Oates	Alison	P	P	P	P						
Paslawski	Teresa	A	P	P	P						
Peacock	Shelley	P	P	P	P						
Perrault-student	Levi	A	A	A	A						
Phillipson	Martin	P	A	A	P						
Pocha	Sheila	P	P	A	A						
Poettcker	Grant	A	A	A	A						
Pomazon	Alisha	P	P	P	P						
Rayan	Steven	P	P	P	P						
Richter	Solina	P	P	P	P						
Rohs-student rep	Jesse	A	A	A	A						
Ross-student rep	Cassidy	A	P	P	P						
Sarjeant-Jenkins	Rachel	P	P	P	P						
Shevchuk	Yvonne	P	P	P	P						
Singh	Jaswant	P	A	R	P						
Smith	Preston	P	P	P	P						
Smyth	Stuart	P	P	A	P						
Somerville	Kara	P	P	P	P						
Sorensen	Charlene	P	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Spurr	Shelley	P	P	P	P						
Squires	Vicki	P	P	P	P						
Steele	Tom	P	P	R	P						
Stoicheff	Peter	P	P	R	P						
Stuart	Glenn	P	P	P	P						
Szmigielski	Jacek	P	P	P	P						
Vassileva	Julita	P	P	P	P						
Waldner	Cheryl	P	P	P	P						
Walker	Keith	P	A	P	P						
Willenborg	Christian	P	P	P	A						
Willoughby	Keith	P	P	P	P						
Woods	Phil	P	P	R	P						
Wotherspoon	Terry	P	P	P	P						
Wu	FangXiang	P	P	P	A						
Xiao	Jing	P	P	P	P						
Yao	Yansun	P	A	P	A						
Yu-student rep	Angela	A	A	A	A						
Zhang	Lifeng	P	P	R	P						

COUNCIL ATTENDANCE 2020-2021

Attendance Summary - Non-voting participants

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Last Name	First Name	Sep 16	Oct 21	Nov 18	Dec 16	Jan 27	No Mtng	Mar 17	Apr 21	May 19	Jun 16	
Akintola-GSA VP 2021-22	Olusola	P	As of Sep 17th-O. Akintola resigned GSA						n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Fowler	Greg	P	P	P	P							
Iftikhar-USSU VP 2021-22	Tauqeer	P	P	P	P							
Isinger	Russell	P	P	P	A							
Jaisee-USSU President 2021-22	Tasnim	P	P	P	A							
Jamie	Angela	A	A	A	P							
Kaminski-Senate rep	Nicholas	P	A	P	A							
Pozega Osburn	Debra	R	P	P	P							
Singh	Baljit	A	P	A	A							
Still	Carl	P	P	P	P							
Thronberg-Senate rep	John	P	P	A	A							
Willness	Chelsea	P	P	P	P							
Wilson	Jay	P	P	A	P							
Zahan-GSA Pres 2021-22	Rifat	P	P	P	P							