

September 2, 2021

Dear Council members,

On behalf of the Governance Office, welcome to the 2021-22 academic year! We look forward to continuing to work with you to move USask's academic priorities and plans forward. This message is to update members on some important details related to Council in the coming months, including the Council chair, elections, meeting modality, and orientation.

As you will have seen, Dr. Jay Wilson has accepted the position of Interim Vice Provost, Teaching, Learning and Student Experience. Therefore, he has resigned as a Council member and as Council Chair. We wish to congratulate Dr. Wilson on this appointment and to thank him for his service to Council over the last number of years. Dr. Pamela Downe, Council Vice Chair, has agreed to step in as Acting Council Chair for September and October until a new Council Chair has been elected. The Nominations Committee will present a nomination for an Acting Vice Chair at the September 16, 2021, Council meeting.

The election for a new Council Chair will take place on October 21st. Per the Council Bylaws (2021), nominations for candidates will be open for 30 days from September 8th to October 8th. Nominations received by the Governance Office will be communicated to Council members on October 11th and posted for 10 days. Following the election on October 21st (which will take place via PAWS), the results will be communicated to Council members on October 22nd. Further details, including forms, nominations requirements, and instructions for voting will be forthcoming.

We also wish to inform Council members and guests that all Council and Council committee meetings will continue to take place virtually, via Zoom, for the fall semester. This meeting modality will allow for accommodation of safe return to work plans that have been communicated to the campus community by the Pandemic Response and Recovery Team. The meeting modality will be reevaluated for the winter term and communicated to Council members once the appropriate approach has been determined.

Finally, we would also like to inform incoming and continuing Council members that an orientation to Council will be held toward the end of September or early October. The orientation will include remarks from the President and Provost, an overview of Council's role and regulations, and introductions to the roles of Council committees. Further details including the date and time will be forthcoming.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me or Dr. Jacquie Thomarat, Director of Academic Governance, if you have any questions regarding University Council.

Kind regards,
Dr. Chelsea Willness
University Secretary and Chief Governance Officer