

# Minutes of a meeting of the USask Board of Governors

July 29, 2020

Via WebEx

**Present:** Joy Crawford (acting chair), Grant Devine, Jay Kalra, Ritu Malhotra, Keith Martell, Grit McCreath, Autumn LaRose-Smith, Peter Stoicheff

**Resource Officers:** Greg Fowler, Melissa Just, Chelsea Willness (secretary)

**Guests:** Provincial Auditor's Office: Jason Wandy, Kristen Young, Trevor St. John, Stephanie Russell

**Also in attendance:** Dara Hrytzak, Dailene Kells, Terry Summers, Sheena Tait-Rowan

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## 1. Call to order and chair's remarks

The vice-chair acted as chair (hereafter referred to as 'chair') and called the meeting to order at 9:00 am for an in-camera session; management was invited to join the meeting at 9:15 am. The chair declared the meeting properly constituted for the transaction of business, with herself as chair and the university secretary and chief governance officer as secretary, and she noted the Indigenous Land Acknowledgement. She noted Keith Martell was in attendance and extended a warm welcome to him on behalf of the Board.

## 2. *In-camera session – board only*

*Management joined meeting at 9:15 am*

## 3. President's statement

The President welcomed Keith Martell to the Board. USask pandemic planning and implementation continues to proceed well, including preliminary planning for the winter term (January - April 2021) and the provincial government's release of guidelines for the post-secondary sector. Further highlights noted include the focus of VIDO-InterVAC research being recognized nationally and an update on the university's renewed presence at Station 20 West.

## 4. Declaration of conflicts of interest

The Chair called on members to identify any conflicts of interest. A Board member declared a potential conflict of interest, but the Chair and Board deemed the circumstances acceptable.

*The Board adjourned and Committee meetings commenced at 9:30 am.*

*The Board was reconvened, and the Chair called the meeting to order at 10:45 am.*

## 7. Approval of the agenda

The following resolution was moved and seconded.

**That the Board of Governors agenda be approved.**

**CARRIED**

## 8. Approval of consent agenda

All committee motions were approved by the Board as part of the following consent agenda:

#	Agenda Item
<b>Governance &amp; Executive Committee</b>	
5.1	Appointment of new members to standing committees  That the Board of Governors approves the appointment of members and chairs to the standing and ad hoc Board committees as set out in the schedule, effective immediately.
<b>Audit &amp; Finance Committee</b>	
6.7	Approval of draft response regarding Provincial Auditor letter on University of Saskatchewan pension plans  That the Board of Governors approves the draft response to the Provincial Auditor letter of University of Saskatchewan Pension Plans—Results of December 31, 2019 Annual Integrated Audit and that management be authorized to forward the response to the Provincial Auditor, with the condition that the final letter does not contain any significant changes.
6.8	Approval of draft response to Provincial Auditor letter on University of Saskatchewan annual integrated audit results  That the Board of Governors approves the draft response to the Provincial Auditor letter regarding University of Saskatchewan Annual Integrated Audit Results and that management be authorized to forward the response to the Provincial Auditor, with the condition that the final memorandum does not contain any significant changes.
6.9	Approval of defined benefit pension plan financial statements  That the Board of Governors approves the draft financial statements, as distributed and presented for the year ended December 31, 2019, subject to completion of the audit and receipt of the Auditor's final report from the Provincial Auditor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• University of Saskatchewan 1999 Academic Pension Plan;</li><li>• University of Saskatchewan and Federated Colleges Non-Academic Pension Plan (closed September 1, 2019);</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>University of Saskatchewan Academic Employees' Pension Plan (Retirees Plan)</li> </ul>
6.10	<p>Approval of defined contribution pension plan financial statements</p> <p>That the Board of Governors approves the draft financial statements, as distributed and presented for the year ended December 31, 2019, subject to completion of the audit and receipt of the Auditor's final report from the Provincial Auditor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the University of Saskatchewan 2000 Academic Money Purchase Pension Plan (MPP Plan);</li> <li>the Pension Plan for the Eligible Employees at the University of Saskatchewan (Research Plan)</li> </ul>
6.11	<p>Approval of University of Saskatchewan audited year-end financial statements</p> <p>That the Board of Governors approves:</p> <p>a) That the draft financial statements, as distributed and presented for the year ended April 30, 2020 be approved subject to completion of the audit, and subject to approval of the financial statement format by Treasury Board and receipt of the Auditor's Report from the Provincial Auditor; and</p> <p>b) That upon receipt of the Auditor's Report, the financial statements be signed on behalf of the Board, and that the Provincial Auditor be authorized to forward a copy of the signed financial statements to the Minister of Advanced Education for presentation to the Legislature.</p>
6.12	<p>Approval of 2019-2020 annual financial report including management discussion and analysis</p> <p>That the Board of Governors approves the 2019/20 Annual Financial Report including Management's Discussion &amp; Analysis.</p>

The following resolution was moved and seconded.

**That the Board of Governors approves the consent agenda item(s).**

**CARRIED**

### **9. Approval of Vice-President Research appointment**

The President described the search and selection process. He noted the significant progress and accomplishments under Dr. Karen Chad, and that this will be discussed in greater detail at the next Board meeting. The search committee puts forward its recommendation unanimously and enthusiastically to appoint Dr. Baljit Singh, who has a superb record of research, teaching, and administration.

The following resolution was moved and seconded.

**That the Board of Governors approves the appointment of Dr. Baljit Singh to the position of Vice-President Research at the University of Saskatchewan, pending the results of background references that the Geldart Group will conduct.**

**CARRIED**

*The board adjourned to in-camera at 10:58 am.*

**10. In-camera session – with the President**

*The President departed at 11:10 am.*

**11. In-camera session – Board only**

*The Board adjourned by motion at 11:12 am.*