

# Minutes of a meeting of the USask Board of Governors

**March 23, 2020**  
**Via Teleconference**

**Present:** Shelley Brown (chair), Allan Adam, Joy Crawford, Grant Devine, Jay Kalra, Ritu Malhotra, Grit McCreath, Regan Ratt-Misponas, Peter Stoicheff

**Resource Officers:** Karen Chad, Greg Fowler, Debra Pozega Osburn, Tony Vannelli, Chelsea Willness (secretary)

**Guests:** Gord Hunchak, Volker Gerdts, Dena McMartin, Trever Crowe, Jennifer Beck, Patti McDougall

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## 1. Call to Order and Chair's Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 8:36 am on Monday, March 23. A roll call was taken as the meeting was held via teleconference, due to physical distancing protocols required by the COVID-19 pandemic.

## 2. Conflicts of Interest

A Board member declared a potential conflict of interest but the Chair and Board deemed the circumstances acceptable.

## 3. *In camera* Session – Board Only

## 4. President's Statement

The President thanked everyone for their preparation work and for board members' participation at this challenging time. He noted that it was the first official board meeting of the new University Secretary and Chief Governance Officer.

President Stoicheff observed that the current COVID-19 pandemic has been dominating everyone's thinking, as it is truly an unprecedented time. He provided an update on the university's response and noted that the management team and senior leadership have been focused on this and are operating very effectively.

The president concluded by providing a number of recent highlights, including the receipt of significant funding for VIDO-InterVAC, the successful organization of the 3rd annual Internal Reconciliation Forum, and congratulatory mention of Brent Cotter, former Dean of the College of Law who was recently appointed to the Senate.

## 5. Consent agenda

The following resolution was moved and seconded.

**That the consent agenda items be received and approved by the Board of Governors, minus items 8.2.6 and 8.3.17 (deferred to July), and item 8.3.10, which was extracted for later discussion and/or decision.**

**CARRIED**

## **5.1 Approval of public minutes**

June 2019

July 2019

October 2019

## **5.2 Minutes of the Board meeting of December 16 & 17, 2019 followed by standing committees**

### **8.1 Governance and Executive**

#### 8.1.3 Board representative to the provost and vice-president academic search

On the recommendation of the Governance and Executive Committee, that the Board of Governors appoint Grant Devine to the search committee for the provost and vice-president academic, effective immediately.

#### 8.1.6 Chancellor's budget 2020-21

On recommendation of the governance and executive committee, the Board of Governors approves the Chancellor's budget for 2020-2021 expenses, as presented.

### **8.2 Land and Facilities**

#### 8.2.3.5 VIDO InterVac Vaccine Manufacturing facility

On recommendation of the Land and Facilities committee, the Board of Governors grant updated final approval (Board 2A) of the final project programme, design, schedule, estimated capital costs, and building operating (negligible) budgets for the VIDO–InterVac Vaccine Manufacturing Facility project.

#### 8.2.4 Learning Management Systems renewal

On recommendation of the Land and Facilities Committee, the Board of Governors provides approval to initiate the implementation of a Learning Management System.

#### 8.2.5 Preparation of Kenderdine Campus for future vision – information only

#### 8.2.6 Okema Beach lot near Kenderdine Campus - Deferred

#### 8.2.7 Preparations of former Beef Feedlot land for future use

On the recommendation of the Land and Facilities Committee, the Board of Governors approves the preparation for future uses.

### **8.3 Audit and Finance**

#### 8.3.4 2020-21 Comprehensive budget

On recommendation of the Finance and Investment Committee, the Board of Governors approves the 2020/21 comprehensive budget.

#### 8.3.10 St. Thomas More and USask agreement - Extracted

On recommendation of the Provost Advisory Committee (PAC), the Board of Governors approves the Academic and Financial Partnership Agreement between St. Thomas More (STM) College, and the University of Saskatchewan (USask) effective May 1, 2020 till April 30, 2025.

#### 8.3.16 2020-2021 Internal Audit Plan

On recommendation of the Audit and Finance Committee, the Board of Governors approves the 2020-2021 Internal Audit Plan and budget as presented effective March 23, 2020.

#### 8.3.17 Audit Services Charter - Deferred

### **8.4 Human Resources**

#### 8.4.3 Animals on Campus policy

On recommendation of the HR committee, the Board of Governors approves the Animals on Campus Policy effective March 24, 2020.

#### 8.4.7 Renewal, tenure and promotion

On recommendation of the HR committee, the Board of Governors approves the award of renewal of probation, tenure and promotion to faculty who have received recommendations effective July 1, 2020.

### **11. Items from Council**

The Wolfe– Saskatchewan Fellowship At-Large for Outstanding Newly Recruited Research Scholars

That the Board of Governors approves the establishment of the Wolfe-Saskatchewan Fellowship At-Large for Outstanding Newly Recruited Research Scholars, effective July 1, 2020. The Fellowship has been approved by both the Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships and University Council.

### **6. Approval of Agenda**

The following resolution was moved and seconded.

**That the agenda be approved as circulated.**

**CARRIED**

### **7. Business Arising from the Minutes**

No items of business arising were identified.

## **8. Extracted Decision Items from Standing Committees (see consent agenda)**

### **8.3.10 St. Thomas Moore and University of Saskatchewan Agreement**

The Chair introduced the item and asked the Provost to provide context. Dena McMartin (IPA) provided information, stating that this is the first formal agreement between STM and USask.

The following resolution was moved and seconded.

**That the agreement with STM be approved as circulated/presented in the consent agenda.**

**CARRIED**

## **9. Comprehensive Campaign**

Debra Pozega Osburn, VP University Relations, presented on this item, highlighting market research on the draft case for support (different than a feasibility study) that focuses on building engagement among key stakeholders of the campaign. It is also intended to establish the connection between UPlan commitments, the comprehensive campaign, and case for support. This research was undertaken to understand our donor community's willingness to support the campaign, whether the campaign resonates with them, and their overall feelings toward the university.

## **10. Correspondence – for information**

The Board discussed correspondence received regarding the heritage buildings and graduate student tuition; and a letter received from the Ministry regarding two new board appointments.

## **11. Items from Council (see consent agenda)**

The Wolfe– Saskatchewan Fellowship At-Large for Outstanding Newly Recruited Research Scholars

The Provost described the chair position and the funding associated with it, and he noted that it has received positive support to date. There were no questions.

## **12. Items approved electronically**

The Chair noted the approval of new CLS director appointments, previously approved electronically, and asked that the motion be confirmed:

The following resolution was moved and seconded.

**That the appointment of the CLS directors be approved.**

**CARRIED**

The Board meeting was adjourned to in-camera 2:25 pm.

## **13. In camera Session – Board with President**

## **14. In camera Session – Board Only**

## **15. Adjournment**