



Minutes of University Senate

NON-CONFIDENTIAL

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Saturday, April 24, 2021

The Senate meeting was held electronically via Zoom due to the ongoing COVID -19 public health guidelines restricting face-to-face gatherings.

The Senate executive committee approved the Zoom format and the following instructions were sent to members prior to the meeting:

- *Only voting members can move or second a motion or vote in an election.*
- *Use the chat function to move or second a motion, ask a question, or otherwise get the attention of the Chair. Please type the word 'mover', 'second', 'question' or 'comment' into the chat window to allow the governance team to organize the incoming messages.*
- *The polling feature will be used to vote on motions and to choose your preferred candidates in the election. Polls will be open for 30 seconds.*
- *Polling results will be shared with Senators for all agenda items except election results.*
- *Video and audio are disabled to all members. Your audio will be enabled when you are called upon to speak.*
- *Video will be enabled for presenters only.*
- *Attendance and quorum will be determined by the list of voting members that are indicated in the 'attendee' Zoom window as of 9:00 a.m.*
- *Guests will be asked to leave the meeting for the confidential items. You can log in again after the lunch break using the same link you used to initially log in. Guests are asked to not vote on any items.*

Quorum was achieved and meeting attendance is attached as Appendix A. All voting was completed using the online Zoom polling feature.

1. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chancellor McCreath began her remarks with the Indigenous Land Acknowledgement. She welcomed all members and expressed her pride in the university, its staff, students and faculty and the resilience and dedication shown in the face of the pandemic.

She thanked departing Senators Lynda Browning, Rae Mitten, Cecile Hunt, Bud Sambasivam and Christine Wesolowski for their service to the university. She also reported that Gail Jobb, District 10 Senator, has passed away and sent her condolences to her family and friends with gratitude for Ms. Jobb's two years of service on Senate.

Approval of consent agenda

2. Adoption of agenda

3. Approval of the minutes of October 24, 2020

The chair called upon members for any revisions to the agenda or minutes; there were none.

MOORE/BERG: THAT THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

4. Business arising from the minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. President's report

President Stoicheff noted his report was provided in the meeting materials and highlighted a few of the items. In terms of USask's pandemic response, he noted the university is planning for a transitional fall that will see more in-person activity and back to campus return. He reported that the plan would align with the sector partners and be guided by public health.

The President noted his enthusiastic welcome of two key members of the university's senior leadership team, Dr. Airini and Dr. Baljit Singh. He noted his thanks for the continued dedication and drive of other members of the senior leadership team, Greg Fowler and Dr. Debra Pozega Osburn, who are both leading crucial projects and portfolios throughout this pandemic, including the Post-Pandemic Shift project. Finally, he thanked Dr. Chelsea Willness and the Governance Office team who have maintained strong oversight of governance processes throughout the pandemic and ensure events like the Senate meeting continue.

The President introduced Dr. Singh and Dr. Airini to address Senate as the new vice-president research and vice-president academic and provost respectively. Each provided a short message to Senate. The Chair asked members for questions and none were received.

6. Report on undergraduate student activities

The Chair indicated that a written report was distributed with the agenda materials and that Autumn LaRose-Smith, University of Saskatchewan Students' Union president, was present at the meeting to answer any questions. There were no questions.

7. Report on graduate student activities

A written report was also provided by the graduation student president. Humaira Inam, Graduate Students' Association president, was present to answer members' questions; there were none.

8. Report on Board of Governors

The chair stated that Joy Crawford, Senate-elected member of the Board of Governors, had provided a written report and that she was present to answer any questions. There were no questions.

9. University Council Reports

Jay Wilson, Chair of University Council, was present to answer questions on the following seven items.

9.1 Annual Report on University Council activities

There were no questions or comments.

9.2 Admissions Qualifications Change – Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) Program

There were no questions or comments. The chair read the following motion for consideration:

KAMINSKI/THRONBERG: THAT SENATE CONFIRMS COUNCIL'S DECEMBER 17, 2020 APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ADMISSIONS QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE POST-DEGREE CERTIFICATE IN ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (PDCEAL) PROGRAM TO REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT OF ONE FULL YEAR OF TEACHING EXPERIENCE OR EQUIVALENT, EFFECTIVE THE 2022-23 ADMISSIONS CYCLE.

CARRIED

9.3 Admissions Qualifications Change - Post-degree certificate in English as an Additional Language (PDCEAL) program

There were no questions or comments. The chair read the following motion for consideration:

KAMINSKI/THRONBERG: THAT SENATE CONFIRMS COUNCIL'S DECEMBER 17, 2020 APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ADMISSIONS QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE POST-DEGREE CERTIFICATE IN ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (PDCEAL) PROGRAM TO REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT OF ONE FULL YEAR OF TEACHING EXPERIENCE OR EQUIVALENT, EFFECTIVE THE 2022-23 ADMISSIONS CYCLE.

CARRIED

9.4 Admissions Qualifications Change – for the graduate degree level certificates in 1) Quality Health Professions Education and 2) Improving Teaching and Learning in Health Professions Ed.

There were no questions or comments. The chair read the following motion for consideration:

KAMINSKI/THRONBERG: THAT SENATE CONFIRMS COUNCIL'S DECEMBER 17, 2020 APPROVAL OF CHANGES TO THE ADMISSIONS QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE GRADUATE DEGREE-LEVEL CERTIFICATES IN IMPROVING TEACHING AND LEARNING IN HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION AND QUALITY TEACHING IN HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION TO REDUCE THE ADMISSIONS AVERAGE FROM 70% TO 65%, EFFECTIVE FOR THE 2022-23 ADMISSION CYCLE.

CARRIED

9.5 Admissions Qualifications Change – Graduate Programs in Music

There were no questions or comments. The chair read the following motion for consideration:

KAMINSKI/THRONBERG: THAT SENATE CONFIRM COUNCIL'S APRIL 5, 2021 APPROVAL OF THE CHANGE TO THE ADMISSIONS AVERAGE FROM 80% TO 70% FOR GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN MUSIC, EFFECTIVE THE 2022-23 ADMISSIONS CYCLE.

CARRIED

9.6 Admissions Qualifications Change – Graduate Programs in Agricultural Economics

There were no questions or comments. The chair read the following motion for consideration:

KAMINSKI/THRONBERG: IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT SENATE CONFIRM COUNCIL'S APRIL 15, 2021 APPROVAL OF THE ADDITION OF THE GRADUATE RECORD EXAM (GRE) GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, EFFECTIVE THE 2022-23 ADMISSIONS CYCLE.

CARRIED

9.7 Admissions Qualifications Change – Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) program in Applied Economics

There were no questions or comments. The chair read the following motion for consideration:

KAMINSKI/THRONBERG: IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT SENATE CONFIRM COUNCIL'S APRIL 15, 2021 APPROVAL OF THE ADDITION OF THE GRADUATE RECORD EXAM (GRE) AND/OR THE GRADUATE MANAGEMENT ADMISSIONS TEST (GMAT) FOR THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PH.D) PROGRAM IN APPLIED ECONOMICS, EFFECTIVE MAY 2021.

CARRIED

The chair called a 10 minute break, returning at 10:00 a.m.

10. Senate Committee Reports

The chair noted that the following agenda items were from Senate committees and that President Stoicheff was available to answer any questions on the following four executive committee reports and the honorary degrees committee report.

10.1 Senate Executive Committee Reports

10.1.1 Report on activities

The chair invited questions or comments; there were none.

10.1.2 Nominations to the Nominations Committee

The chair introduced this item noting the process for the call for nominations from the floor and that nominations could be made using the Zoom chat feature. The chair called for nominations three times and hearing none, read the following motion for consideration:

SAMBASIVAM/BERGSTROM: THAT SENATE APPROVE THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE SENATE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE FOR A ONE-YEAR TERM BEGINNING JULY 1, 2021 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2022: BROOKS DECILLIA, SUSANNE BERG, DON HAMILTON AND MICHELLE MACDONALD, WITH DON HAMILTON REMAINING AS CHAIR.

CARRIED

10.1.3 Changes to the Senate Bylaws: Appendix E, "Voting Procedures for the Election of a Candidate to the Board of Governors"

No questions or comments were received after a call from the chair. The following motion was presented:

MCKERCHER/BERG: THAT SENATE ADOPT AMENDMENTS TO THE SENATE BYLAWS APPENDIX E, PROCEDURE FOR THE ELECTION OF A CANDIDATE TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS AT THE APRIL 24, 2021 SENATE MEETING, AS A ONE-TIME REVISION TO ACCOMMODATE ELECTRONIC VOTING.

CARRIED

10.1.4 Conferral of degrees for Spring 2021 Convocation

The chair called for questions for President Stoicheff. No questions or comments were received.

BERGSTROM/SAMBASIVAM: THAT SENATE APPROVE THE CONFERRAL OF DEGREES, DIPLOMAS, AND CERTIFICATES IN ABSENTIA AND ADMIT GRADUANDS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN, WITH POWERS PROVIDED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWA ACT, 1995.

BY WAY OF THIS MOTION, ALL CANDIDATES HAVING FULFILLED THEIR REQUIREMENTS MAY BE ADMITTED TO THE DEGREES, DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES TO WHICH THEY ARE ENTITLED AND TO VEST THEM WITH ALL THE POWERS, RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES PERTAINING THERETO. THESE DEGREES, DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES WILL BE GRANTED ON THE DATE OF THEIR ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED CONVOCATION CEREMONY.

CARRIED

10.2 Honorary Degrees Committee Report

As all items remaining on the agenda before the lunch break were confidential, the chair asked guests to leave the meeting and to login again after the break. President Stoicheff, chair of the honorary degrees committee, was invited to provide remarks in addition to the written report.

MINUTES FOR THIS CONFIDENTIAL ITEM HAVE BEEN REMOVED.

10.3 Nominations Committee

10.3.1 Nominations for Senate Committees

Dr. Don Hamilton, chair of the nominations committee, was in attendance to answer any questions, but no questions were asked.

The chair notified that a call for nominations could be made from the floor via the Zoom chat feature. The chair called for nominations three times and hearing none read the following motion:

HAMILTON/MACDONALD: THAT SENATE APPROVE THE APPOINTMENTS TO SENATE COMMITTEES AS INDICATED IN THE SCHEDULE FOR 2021/22, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2021.

CARRIED

10.3.2 Senate-elected members to the Board of Governors

MINUTES FOR THIS CONFIDENTIAL ITEM HAVE BEEN REMOVED.

11. Sustainability Strategy

Chancellor McCreath introduced the Sustainability Strategy agenda item, noting this decision item was presented by way of a written report as well as a link to the video presentation by Dr. Irena Creed at the October 2020 Senate meeting. The strategy was adopted by University Council on January 28, 2021 and by the Board of Governors on March 23, 2021. The strategy will replace the previous Campus Sustainability Plan developed in 2014, and will remain in place until 2030.

President Stoicheff and Julian Demkiw, Senior Strategist in the President's Office, were available to answer questions. As there were no questions, the chair read the following motion for consideration:

STOICHEFF/MOORE: THAT SENATE ADOPT THE "CRITICAL PATH TO SUSTAINABILITY: THE UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY (2021-2030)" EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

CARRIED

12. Items for Information

The chair noted the next three items were for information only.

12.1 Post-pandemic Shift Project Update

The chair welcomed Dr. Debra Pozega Osburn, vice-president university relations. Dr. Pozega Osburn presented "The Post-Pandemic Way Forward," highlighting the opportunities for evolutionary change as a result of the global pandemic. She reported that university relations has been in consultation with community members from November 2020 through March 2021. The results of these consultations will provide the framework for the Post-Pandemic Shift Commission, which will include principles to guide decision making going forward. The external consultations connected close to 200 individuals from three areas: community, industry and Indigenous peoples. The internal engagement process has three phases: Phase 1 – Campus Wide Survey; Phase 2 – Virtual Engagement Circles; and Phase 3 – Virtual Workshops. A report of these insights will be presented to President Stoicheff by the end of June. That report will be used as a resource by decision-makers at the university as they prepare for the future.

Dr. Pozega Osburn reported she had been impressed with the response to requests for conversations and those contacted expressed gratitude for being a part of the process.

She spoke to how the plan will be shared with the community to see how their contributions are evident in this plan forward and thanked Senate for allowing her to update members on the post-pandemic shift project.

There were no questions or comments for Dr. Pozega Osburn.

12.3 Student Enrolment Update

The chair welcomed Dr. Patti McDougall, vice-provost, teaching, learning and student experience, to provide a summary of her report and to answer any questions members may have.

Dr. McDougall highlighted that she was very pleased to see strong enrolment this year despite great uncertainty. She responded to a question received by a Senator before the meeting took place about gender distribution. For the last 10 years the majority of students are female in many of the colleges at both undergraduate and graduate levels. There is a strong majority of female students in nursing and veterinary medicine, and more males in the STEM fields.

For the upcoming year, we are seeing direct entry applications are up, as are admissions and confirmed admissions. In non-direct entry undergraduate programs, there are more applicants than spots available. Graduate admissions are also looking favorable.

A question was received through the Zoom chat about steps the university is taking to encourage woman into the STEM fields and males into nursing. Dr. McDougall called upon the Dean of Engineering to further respond. Dean Kresta reported that the College of Engineering has tripled its number of women faculty and are now above the national average. She reported that the first year program has been redesigned and has resulted in a 38% increase in females in the incoming class and 20% female applicants, which is a significant increase. The College of Engineering is shifting its messaging about engineering, communicating that it is an inclusive place for everyone. The engineering association is actively reimagining the accreditation process for the profession, and looking at specific recruiting messages to attract Indigenous students.

A member asked whether future reporting would include the QBIPOC (Queer, Black, Indigenous and People of Colour) as there are many equity, diversity and inclusion efforts being made for these groups. Dr. McDougall reported that the new provost is moving toward more robust data collection and is hopeful that will be publicly available on the university's website.

President Stoicheff commented that there are only three provinces in the country where student enrolment numbers increased during the pandemic and we were one. This could not be possible without the work of deans, faculty, student leadership, people working on campus to make conditions for small number of students that are taking their programming face-to-face, and so many more. He thanked Senate as what they say as ambassadors as the university is instilling confidence in people wanting to study here and we are on the way to achieving our enrolment goals.

12.3 Senate Election Update

Dr. Chelsea Willness, university secretary and chief governance officer reported that the Senate election call for nominations closed on March 1 resulting in the following acclamations:

District members acclaimed to three-year terms, July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2024

District 5 – Michelle MacDonald (second term)

District 6 – Lisa Hermiston (second term)

District 13 – Anne Doig (second term)

Members-at-large acclaimed to three-year terms, July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024

Brooks DeCillia (second term)

Kelley Moore (second term)

Robert Henderson

Rob Maguire

Zsuzsa Papp

A second call for district 1 and 2 closed April 13 and voting will take place from May 12 to June 9.

No questions were received on this item.

13. Question Period

A member asked for an update on the College of Education issue and what has transpired since the last update at the Fall meeting, and whether there was some resolution. Dr. Airini responded that she has been in several meetings with College of Education faculty, staff and faculty council since arriving on campus. In these discussions, she has heard about the importance of strength-based approaches and how we must do more to highlight the College of Education's strengths as a national and courageous leader in education, teaching, research and service and to deliver on all five aspirations in the 2025 plan notably aspiration "transformative decolonization leading to reconciliation." Second, the university as a whole is taking action toward reconciliation following the president's June 2020 address on actions against racism and oppression. Today's President's report to Senate describes many of those actions and outcomes. Third, something Senators can report when contacted informally is that more is being done on Indigenous advancement. For example, the Senate minutes describe one step and that's the sharing circles with Indigenous faculty and staff that took place in fall 2020 and that the president, provost and vice-provost Indigenous engagement attended all seven of the circles; recommendations are noted in the draft report from this initiative, and actions will come out of that report.

Change in the College of Education is coming from a two-part process that was put in place in the fall of 2020. The first was a workplace assessment and second is a restorative process. The assessment has been completed and a summary with suggested actions and next steps has been provided to the college. The summary is an internal document and plans for change will come from within the college and will take time as it will include various consultations supported by a steering committee that includes the College of Education faculty and staff, dean, vice-provost Indigenous engagement and associate vice-president human resources.

The provost noted the forthcoming Indigenous strategy, the appointment of special advisor to president on anti-racism and anti-oppression, MOU between the university and First Nations and the Metis Nation, and the internal forum on truth and reconciliation. Within five years, there will be increased recruitment and retention of faculty and staff and growth in Indigenous research. Performance measures include closing education gaps experienced by Indigenous students. USask is redefining what it means to be a world class university that does this work and leads with respect. Provost Airini welcomed questions from Senators at any time.

14. Other Business

There was no other business.

15. Adjournment

The chair thanked the staff of the Governance Office for all of their work putting the meeting together and Senators for participating. She noted the next meeting is scheduled for October 30th and to stay tuned for information on how that meeting may be delivered.

DOIG: That the meeting be adjourned (1:35 p.m.).

ATTACHMENT A

APPOINTED MEMBERS		DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP		EX-OFFICIO	
Balaski, Beverly	P	Clarke, Darlene	P	Airini	P
Bayduza, Audrey	P	Doig, Anne	P	Alcorn, Jane	P
Beck, Richard	R	Gillies, Sandra	P	Beaudry-Mellor, Tina	R
Bergerman, Johanna	P	Gustafson, Barb	P	Bedard-Haughn, Angela	P
Bergstrom, Twyla	P	Hall, Lee	R	Bilson, Beth	P
Berry, Alpha	P	Hermiston, Lisa	P	Bonham-Smith, Peta	P
Bilson, Max	P	Hnatiuk, Garfield	P	Brothwell, Doug	P
Bratvold, Robert	P	MacDonald, Michelle	p	Burshytn, Debby	P
Browning, Lynda	P	Matthews, Colleen	p	Favel, Blaine	R
Buydens, Norma	P	Mitten, Rae	R	Fowler, Greg	P
Claypool, Tim	P	Smuk, Shawna	R	Gillian Muir	R
Cooley, Carol	P	Usunier, Marc	p	Harasmychuk, Robert	R
Cote, Richard	P	TBD		Harrison, William	P
de la Gorgendiere, M.	P	TBD		Isinger, Russell	P
Dick, Bethany	R	ELECTED MEMBERS-AT-LARGE		Kresta, Suzanne	P
Fox, Stephanie	R	Berg, Susanne	P	London, Chad	P
Garven, Stuart	R	Conan, Nicole	R	Luke, Iain	P
Hamilton, Don	P	DeCillia, Brooks	P	Manley-Tannis, Richard	R
Harvey, Eileen Mae	P	Gough, Rhonda	P	Martini, Jeromey	R
Harwood, Judy	P	Howie, Leah	P	McCaffrey, Geordy	P
Hrudka, Christine	P	Hunt, Cecile	P	McCreath, Grit	P
Jones, Michael	P	Kaminski, Nicholas	P	McDougall, Patti	P
Kreuger, Monica	P	Kelly, David	P	McKercher, Peggy	R
Leis, Tim	R	Kobes, Brent	P	McLoughlin, Mark	R
Loken, Andrew	P	Moore, Kelley	P	Ottmann, Jackie	R
McKercher, Grant	P	Robertson, Jordan	P	Pawelke, Michael	R
Michalishen, Doria	R	Sambasivam, Bud	P	Peternelj-Taylor, Cindy	P
Notay, Jay	R	Wesolowski, Christine	P	Pezer, Vera	R
Peterson, Kent	P	Wesolowski, Fred	P	Phillipson, Martin	P
Pilat Burns, Charlotte	R	STUDENTS		Pozega Osburn, Debra	P
Rozdilsky, John	P	Ding, Jimmy	R	Ramaswany, Meghna	R
Sharma, Sandeep	R	Henderson, Robert	R	Romanow, Roy	R
Taypotat, Evan	R	Iftikhar, Tauqeer	P	Singh, Baljit	P
Thronberg, John	P	Inam, Humaira, GSA	P	Smith, Preston	R
Wagner, Larry	P	Jain, Rishit	P	Sorenson, Charlene	P
Walton, Jack	P	McLachlan, Taryn	R	Still, Carl	P
Weninger, Dean	R	TBA		Stoicheff, Peter	P
Yee, Tim	P	P=present		Willoughby, Keith	R
		R=regrets		NON-VOTING	
		A=absent		Willness, Chelsea	P