

**Board of Governors - Report to Senate – for November 4, 2023 Senate Meeting
Submitted by Joy Crawford, Senate-elected member of the Board of Governors – October 22,
2023**

As I committed to when first elected by Senate and subsequently re-elected, here is an update on the activities of the Board of Governors. Please feel free to contact me at joy.crawford@usask.ca with questions and comments.

To begin with, I just want to reiterate that I find the unique tricameral governance structure at the University of Saskatchewan to be very exciting as it acknowledges both the role the academy and the prominent position the university holds within Saskatchewan society. While other Canadian institutions have similarly named bodies, the actual roles differ from what is seen at the University of Saskatchewan. At the University of Saskatchewan, the roles are as follows:

- University Council is responsible for overseeing and directing the University's academic affairs.
- Senate is responsible for recommendations regarding the establishment or disestablishment of any college, school, or department; appointing examiners for and making bylaws respecting the conduct of examinations for professional societies; the granting of honorary degrees; and non-academic student discipline.
- The Board of Governors is responsible for overseeing and directing all matters respecting the management, administration and control of the university's property, revenues and financial affairs.

BOARD COMPOSITION

The Board of Governors meets approximately six times a year and consists of eleven members:

- Chancellor Grit McCreath
- President Peter Stoicheff
- Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council appointees - Shelley Brown, Grant Devine, Keith Martel, Marty Seymour, and, recently appointed, Herb McFaull
- Senate elected members – Louise Simard and Joy Crawford
- Student member –Ishita Mann, USSU President
- Faculty member – Nadeem Jamali

Shelley Brown serves as chair of the board, and Keith Martell is vice chair. I chair the Audit & Finance committee; Keith Martell chairs the Governance & Executive committee; Louise Simard chairs the Human Resources committee; and Marty Seymour chairs the Land & Facilities committee.

Of note, public minutes of the board meetings are now be posted on the University Secretary web page. This is something that was requested for quite some time, and I am delighted to announce that as of July 2019, this was put in place. Currently, the most recent minutes published are from July 2023.

SENATE ELECTIONS

This report will be a bit different. At the spring Senate meeting, senators will be electing two members to the Board of Governors. My third, 3-year term will be complete at the end of June 2024 and I am ineligible to seek re-election.

As senators prepare for the election and contemplate candidates, I thought it might be helpful to provide some items for considerations based on my experience. Some of these items are my opinion only, so please take it as such.

1. **Time Commitment:** The board of governors meets at least 6 times equaling 10 days per year. On top of this is the time required to review materials and prepare for meetings. Initially, this was a 1-to-2-day venture per meeting, however with time, I can now prepare in about ½ day. These meetings are held on weekdays, often with events into the evening. In my previous employment position, I bought and used vacation time to meet this commitment. In addition, board of governor members serve on additional university committees, such as senior position search committees which can add an additional 10+ hours of meetings per year.
2. **Expertise:** The Board of Governors is responsible for overseeing and directing all matters respecting the management, administration and control of the university's property, revenues and financial affairs. This includes:
 - construction and maintenance of buildings, equipment and capital assets;
 - appointing the president and other senior officers of the university and fixing salaries;
 - compensation and terms of employment for all employees, and pension plans for retirees;
 - overseeing the university's finances, investments and pension plans;
 - providing for the establishment and/or disestablishment of colleges, schools, departments, endowed chairs and institutes;
 - affiliation and federation with other educational institutions;
 - setting of tuition and other fees; and
 - establishment and oversight of good governance practices, including regulating the conduct of its meetings, establishing its committees and making bylaws respecting matters over which it has responsibility.

To this end, important consideration should be given to the appropriate education, skill set and expertise in areas such as financial, human resources, governance, project management, and so on.

3. **Senate Commitment:** The senate elected member are NOT members of Senate and have no obligation to attend Senate meetings and report to senators. I would encourage any potential candidates to voluntarily participate with senate and senators. Note: Successfully elected governors are responsible for keeping track of Senate meetings, requesting time on the agenda and preparing any reports.
4. **Ambassador Role:** I always felt honored to serve on the board of governors and felt an obligation to be an ambassador for the University and to be visible and accessible to the wider university community. I attend as many events including convocations, sporting events, banquets, etc. as I possible can from both a time and a financial perspective.

5. **Financial Obligation:** While not mandatory, I would suggest that members of the board of governors should include the University in their charitable giving activities.
6. **Committee Leadership:** There is a strong possibility of chairing a board committee. This will require comfort with governance and leading meetings, as well as additional time to meet and prepare with university management and resource people in advance of committee and board meetings.

If anyone would like to discuss further, please reach out to me.

PERSONAL ENGAGEMENT

For my 3rd term on the board, I also have been appointed to sit on the following committees:

- The presidential review committee – complete
- The campaign advisory committee – complete
- The review committee for the Dean of Kinesiology - complete
- The joint committee for the conflict-of-interest policy review – complete
- The search committee for the executive director of SENS – complete
- The joint committee for the Chancellor - complete
- The review committee for the Dean of Edwards School of Business – complete
- Vice chair, board of governors – complete
- Chair, governance & executive committee – complete
- Chair, audit & finance committee - ongoing
- The search committee for the Dean of Kinesiology – underway
- The search committee for the Chief Information Officer – just starting
- The search committee for the Chief Financial Officer – just starting

In 2019, I joined the executive of the Canadian University Boards Association (CUBA). After a year as interim president, I was elected in April 2021 to the president role for 2 years. This was a doubly exciting role as the University of Saskatchewan hosted the annual CUBA convention in Saskatoon in May. I represent the University of Saskatchewan in this way, with thanks to Senate and their confidence in me, as Senate-elected board of governor.

In closing, I look forward to meeting with you in November.

Respectfully submitted,
Joy Crawford
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