

Senate Report on University Council - Nov 2023

Submitted by Dr. Zsuzsa Papp and Larry Wagner, non-voting representatives on the University Council

It has been an honour to represent Senate on University Council. As one of three governing bodies of the University of Saskatchewan, Council is responsible for overseeing and directing the university's academic affairs. They meet the third Thursday of every month between September and June. Virtual attendance is accommodated. Agenda and minutes of the meetings are public and are posted on the USask website.

Council comprises elected representatives of all colleges, members at large, students, the president and provost. Meetings are open and guests are welcome. Current chair is Dr. Marjorie Delbaere, Associate Dean Research and Faculty Relations, Edwards School of Business.

- Council's responsibilities include, e.g., granting academic degrees, approving programs, academic Chairs, prescribe qualifications for admission, methods for evaluating student performance, makes recommendations on physical and budgetary plans
- Council has standing reports and updates from the President, the Provost and student societies (USSU and GSA)
- Council receives reports, requests for decision and notices of motion from their Committees: Academic Programs; Governance; Executive; Nominations; Planning and Priorities; Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work; Scholarships and Awards; Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources
- Council is also informed of and invited to comment on Strategic Planning
- Council provides representatives on major search committees for the University

Some of the items discussed and approved between May 2023 and October 19th 2023 (four council meetings) were:

- Merger of Departments of Art and Art History, Drama, and Music into New College-level School (not named yet)
- A University for Everyone: Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Framework for Action
- Micro-credential Framework and Nomenclature Policy
- Program approvals and changes –
 - Master of Science (M.Sc) in Management (the existing M.Sc. programs in Marketing and Finance will eventually be phased out)
 - Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy in Statistics
 - Graduate Degree-level Certificate in Substance Use Health and Wellbeing
 - Grade Descriptor change for the B.Sc. in Nutrition
- Program Name Changes
 - Canadian Centre for Health and Safety in Agriculture to Canadian Centre for Rural and Agricultural Health

- Revisions:
 - College of Arts and Science Council Bylaws Revisions
 - College of Nursing Faculty Council Bylaws Revisions
 - Academic Courses Policy

- Change to Admissions Qualifications for the
 - Master of Business Administration
 - Master of Music (Music Education)
 - Master of Arts in Linguistics
 - Grade Degree-level Certificate in Veterinary Diagnostic Pathology
 - Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy programs

- College Name Changes
 - name change for a College-level School in the College of Arts and Science from “The School” to the “School for the Arts”.

- Change to Admissions Qualification
 - change to the grade descriptors for the Bachelor of Science in Nutrition program
 - changes to the admissions qualifications for the graduate degree-level Certificate in Veterinary Diagnostic Pathology
 - changes to the admissions qualifications for the Master of Arts in Linguistics (thesis-based) program

Additional highlights, information:

- Recent announcement of \$200 million to move Saskatchewan Polytechnic to Innovation Place, next to the University of Saskatchewan, a great opportunity for SK to support student learning, innovation, and research. President Stoicheff noted his support and expressed that USask has a wonderful situation developing with these three coming together- a creative and innovative undertaking, rare in Canada
- The USask community was encouraged to participate in a week of reflection on the history of Truth and Reconciliation (end of September)
- Two new vice-provosts began five-year terms at the University of Saskatchewan on Aug. 1, 2023. Dr. Jerome Cranston (PhD) has been appointed as vice-provost, students and learning, and Dr. Scott Walswoth (PhD) has been appointed as vice-provost, faculty relations.
- Faculty raised how artificial intelligence such as Chat GPT is used by students
- **USask helps science be accessible to the public: USask concert connects music and math.**
 At a free concert at USask, we were witness to a bold experiment in conveying mathematical meaning through music: on Sept. 20, 2023, the Saskatoon Jazz Orchestra and guest musicians debuted new music by Canadian composer Jeff Presslaff, based on the work of USask quantum science researcher Dr. Steven Rayan (PhD), who is also University Council member, chair of the

Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Works Committee (RSAW). Great reminder of the USask following their vision “to be the university the world needs”

Note: Many of the above items were forwarded to the Senate Education Committee for review and approval

Council’s parallel function to Senate’s Education committee is to review and approve Academic policy changes at the University. Hearing the discussions around these proposals was beneficial in Larry Wagner’s role on the Senate Education Committee. Where appropriate, the Senate Education Committee receives a request for a decision on many of the items listed below after approved by Council.

Overall, it has been a pleasure to attend these meetings and affirm that our University is active in keeping its member involved and informed.

Larry Wagner and Zsuzsa Papp