

## Report to Senate on Activities of the Senate Membership Committee

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### FOR INFORMATION

<b>PRESENTED BY:</b>	Tamara Buckwold, Chair Senate Membership Committee
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	November 4, 2023
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Report on activities
<b>SENATE ACTION:</b>	For information

#### ***Committee membership and meetings***

Members of the 2023-24 membership committee are Tamara Buckwold (chair), Chancellor Grit McCreath, Robert Henderson, Rob Maquire, and Wade Hainstock. The committee met on April 22 and on October 12, 2023.

#### ***Membership criteria for organizational members***

The committee determined that the criteria for the continued Senate membership of an organization was unclear with respect to the consequences of failure to attend by an organizational delegate. The committee concluded that suspension of membership should in general follow automatically from repeated non-attendance but that an exception should be available when, in the opinion of the committee, the circumstances are such that suspension is not warranted. The criteria also indicated that the relevant organization would be notified of a potential suspension by the chancellor while in fact any such notification is sent by the University Secretary. The criteria was accordingly amended to provide as follows (amendments indicated in underlining and strikeout):

*5. An organization whose delegate misses two consecutive senate meetings or whose delegate position remains vacant for two consecutive senate meetings will be notified by the ~~chancellor~~ University Secretary, with a copy to the delegate, that should their delegate miss the next meeting following, their membership will be revoked unless a special exemption is granted to accommodate continued membership. Organizations may designate an alternate in accordance with Bylaw XII.3 if their delegate will be unable to attend a meeting. Any organization whose membership is revoked may re-apply for membership after one year."*

#### ***Five-year review of organizational memberships***

Pursuant to section 24(4) of *The University of Saskatchewan Act, 1995*, once every five years, the Senate membership committee is to review the status of professional societies or other organizations having representatives in the Senate to determine whether they should continue to send a representative. The committee is responsible for completing this review and to determine if these representative associations should remain on Senate. The committee reviewed and updated the survey materials sent to organizational members and to University Deans and Directors to obtain information relevant to the

review. The revised material highlights the commitment of the Senate and the University to equity, diversity and inclusion. The survey will be circulated and responses considered by the committee early in 2024.

### ***Diversity and representation initiatives***

The committee continued to discuss strategies to enhance diversity and representation in the membership and workings of Senate, including through outreach to organizations that may contribute to that objective. We are pleased to report that this initiative resulted in nomination of the Saskatchewan Intercultural Association (SIA) as an organizational member. The committee reviewed the nomination material and moved unanimously to recommend acceptance of the SIA as a member of Senate. A motion to accept the SIA is before this meeting of Senate.

The committee consulted with Dr Angela Jaime, Interim Vice-Provost Indigenous Engagement, to consider avenues for better representation of Indigenous people in the membership of Senate. This work is ongoing.

The committee will continue its work in this area in the upcoming year.

### ***A word of appreciation***

The members of this committee have been actively engaged in its work and have fulfilled their roles with wisdom, insight, respect and collegiality. We have received excellent support from University Secretary Julian Demkiw and Shirley Cuschieri of the Governance Office, and from Dr Jaime. Sincere thanks to all.