UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Minutes of University Senate
9:00 am – 4:30 pm, Saturday November 4, 2023

1. Opening Remarks

Julian Demkiw, University Secretary and Chief Governance Officer welcomed everyone and acknowledged that we are on Treaty 6 Territory and the traditional homeland of the Métis. He called upon Knowledge Keeper and cultural coordinator Harvey Thunderchild who opened the meeting in a good way.

Chancellor McCreath, chair of Senate, welcomed everyone to the fall meeting including all attending via Zoom. She reviewed the highlights of today's meeting and the procedures for the hybrid meeting were explained. Quorum was confirmed and the meeting commenced.

2. Consent Agenda

The adoption of the agenda, the minutes of April 22, 2023 and businesses arising (items 2, 3, and 4) were presented via the consent agenda.

2.1 Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION – (Goswami/Walton): *That the agenda be adopted as distributed*.

CARRIED.

2.2 Approval of the minutes of April 22, 2023

An amendment was requested for the minutes: under the section on the Comprehensive Campaign, at the April meeting a video for the campaign was played, and at that time a member pointed out that the video should have more representation from the North. Vice-President Hamelin acknowledged this at the meeting, and it will be noted in the minutes.

MOTION – (MacDonald/Beach): *That the minutes be approved as amended.*

CARRIED.

2.3 Business Arising from the minutes

There was no other business arising from the minutes.

3.1 President's Address

President and Vice-Chancellor Peter Stoicheff was invited to speak. He noted some wonderful work ongoing in research. He noted an important statistic: USask is the top university in the country with respect to our increase in research funding over previous years. We have spoken frequently of the wonderful work that goes on in VIDO-Intervac and it was recently selected as one of only nine institutions in the world to be a partner with the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI). President Stoicheff noted some highlights of the President's and Chancellor's trip to Germany which was made possible because of the world-class work being done at VIDO. The Canada Foundation for Innovation has the Major Science Initiatives Program that funds the largest research infrastructure anywhere in Canada and they just gathered the leaders of the 19 facilities it funds right here in Saskatoon and the President spoke to it. They had previously never met outside of Ottawa, but as USask accounts for 25% of their funding initiatives – Saskatoon was chosen to host. We have become a real research powerhouse.

On the non-research front, to highlight some other achievements: we have achieved record enrolment – an increase of 3% – and this includes a 1.8% increase in self-declared Indigenous students. An increase every year is not usual in universities, and this speaks, in part, to the quality of our faculty and governing bodies. International student enrolment has increased by 6%. Medicine has expanded its seats from 100 to 104 with provincial funding to help this to happen. Clinical Psychology seats have also expanded. Everyone present here should have heard about the university's campaign by now and it is noted that our goal is an ambitious one – $500 million. It was set this high because of the kind of momentum this university is seeing at this time. A day of giving was held back in September and many senior leaders and students were interviewed. That day saw over $250,000 raised at USask.

In terms of Reconciliation, there is some information in the report provided in the agenda package, but President Stoicheff noted that we are happy to see President Glen McCallum, representing the Métis Nation Saskatchewan (MNS), Harvey Thunderchild, and we will be joined later by Vice-Chief Aly Bear, representing the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN). In September, USask hosted the pow wow again, and a few months ago the 6th Annual Truth and Reconciliation Forum was held on the Saskatoon campus.

President Stoicheff touched on rankings and reviewed the different types. The QS institutional rankings, ranking universities all around the world, saw USask jump up by 128 places. This is an enormous increase that is not normally seen by any university. USask was ranked in the top 20 in the world for some of the sustainability rankings. As many of the people in this room are aware, it has been announced that Saskatchewan Polytechnic has intentions to move its campus over adjacent to us on the university's land, at Innovation Place. This will be a beneficial partnership and create a great innovation hub in that area.

When there was an opportunity for questions, a senate member made note of some good work being done between the Métis Nation, Indigenous students and the university. The President's written report was distributed earlier with the agenda materials. No other questions were received on this agenda item.

4.0 Standing Reports

4.1 Report on undergraduate student activities
University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU) president Ishita Mann invited questions of the written report distributed with the agenda materials after speaking to a summary of the past year's activities. Wellness, empowerment, and accessibility are three main themes of the USSU's work this year. One question from a senate member addressed whether students were struggling with housing issues. Ishita noted that the USSU was working with student housing on campus as well as addressing this with the city. One concern with Saskatchewan Polytechnic moving their campus so close will be the possible issue of housing.

4.2 Report on graduate student activities
Graduate Student Association (GSA) president, Mostofa Kamal, invited questions of the written report distributed with the agenda materials after a brief summary of the past year's activities. No questions were received.

4.3 Report on Board of Governors
Chancellor McCreath next introduced Joy Crawford to provide an update from the Board of Governors. As a Senate-elected member to the Board of Governors, Joy pointed to the upcoming election of the two senate-elected members of the Board. She commented on what the Board of Governors works on, what the role of Board member requires, and the time commitment involved. Committee chairing and involvement as a Board member is also part of the work.

A senate member asked about strengthening the relationship between Board of Governors and Senate, and whether there is a mechanism to do this. Another senate member asked about the transparency from the Board of Governors and the reporting of what can be shared. The Nominations Committee of Senate is looking at exploring further the strengthening of the relationship between the Board of Governors Senate-appointed member and that person's history and experience on Senate.

4.4 Report on University Council activities

Zsuzsa Papp, one of two Senate representatives on University Council was called up to speak to this item. She highlighted some main points from the report. There were no questions for this item.

4.5 Strategic Enrolment Management (SEM) Report

The Chair called upon Dr. Airini to introduce this item. The chair also noted that we want to ensure each Senate meeting includes something around enrolment. Dr. Airini summarized the work done to-date on the strategic enrolment plan, along with what is to come to the spring Senate. The USask graphic weave of the elements in our key aspirations was shown on screen and they drive the goals of SEM work.

Dr. Patti McDougall was called up at this point. She gave an overview regarding comprehensive planning that involve the strategies, priorities and requirements identified to support enrolment activities and student success. The Learning, Teaching and Student Experience (LTSE) Plan that works with SEM is still ongoing. We are almost at 90% to our target of 29, 316 students. Non-degree students are included in this, and this is where micro-credentials programming comes in. Diversity targets and actual numbers were reviewed. Dr. McDougall spoke about the drivers of SEM, setting the foundation, and developing SEM strategy and road map.

Questions for this item included:
In terms of increases in enrolment, is there also a planned increase in services, such as student health and wellness? There has been growth and investment in these services and funding has been built in to support the impact of these increases.

Why do we not have targets set by gender? As we engage in this refresh of the plan it is possible to think of equity in gender in a different and ongoing way. The interim dean of the College of Engineering added to Dr. McDougall's response regarding what progress has been made in their unit. The senator who asked this question recommended that this information be easily assessible and easy to find in Senate materials as well as online at usask.ca.

Regarding international statistics – is there any opportunity, with the recent trips to Europe and beyond by the President and the Vice-President, Research, to look at further expanding our enrolment in global efforts? There are a host of challenges and opportunities in this area, and the university is continuing to look at these.

 The slide presentation was uploaded to the agenda materials area on the Governance website.

5.0 Senate Discussions

5.1. Arts & Science: Fine Arts merger of Departments

Dr. Airini, Provost and Vice-President Academic, was invited to speak to this item. She highlighted a few points of context for this decision. The amalgamation of these departments into one college-level school with the College of Arts and Science will magnify their voice in the larger community and on campus. This was approved by University Council in June and by the Board of Governors in July. There will be no impact to current students' programs, no imminent changes to arts programs, nor any faculty or staff positions eliminated with this amalgamation.

Questions included:

Concern was conveyed about the three separate department heads now only having one representative for the entire school. There were concerns brought forward which were addressed, but this school remains within the College of Arts and Science, and it was noted that there may be more opportunities with the combining of resources. The dean of the College of Arts and Science added more comments to the question on department heads and the ongoing work to make this happen. Students will still be graduating with parchments recognizing their own particular area of study.

A senator who was involved in the consultation process noted that there may be an impact on enrolment if a program such as music (for example) was not identified as a separate program but rather as an offering within a school for the arts. The enrolment impact piece will be part of the evaluation of this endeavour. There is a communications strategy also being developed that will help market the offerings to students in such a way that they will find their programs, not just a school. The University Registrar noted that students will still apply to a program and not to a school, so this will not change.

Another senator asked about a concern raised from the community and has not seen this reflected in the package material. They encouraged a very vigorous evaluation process, hoping that adjustments would be considered depending on what the outcomes of the evaluation are. The concerns as they have come up in the consultations have been addressed.

The last question asked for a summary of the positions of the respective department heads and what they think of the change. Dr. Airini noted that the leadership is in favour.

MOTION – (Mann/Wagner) *To recommend to University Council and the Board of Governors the establishment of a college-level interdisciplinary school in the College of Arts & Science temporarily called "the school." The school will consist of the amalgamated departments of Art & Art History, Drama, and Music; these departments will be disestablished once the school is established. The interdisciplinary school will be the new academic authority for the existing programs in the disestablished departments of Art & Art History, Drama, and Music.*

CARRIED.

Lunch Break – Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre

5.2 Senate Engagement Plan Update
Note: This item was discussed later in the meeting following the items on Senate committee reports.

Julian Demkiw, University Secretary and Chief Governance Officer, spoke to this item. He provided background information on the Senate Engagement Plan, a document that has been instrumental to planning and preparing for this meeting. Updates on Senate engagement include:
- Providing documents and strategies to Senate earlier in the process for input.
- A shift in how Senate elections will be conducted to have them more accessible to alumni.
- Having engagement opportunities outside of the regular meetings times and structures.
- Looking at ways of connecting Senators with one another to share contact information or discuss issues of mutual interest.
- The creation of a draft purpose statement for Senate and a draft definition of Senate engagement. The Governance Office will send out a survey on these drafts to solicit the feedback of Senators.

A senator asked about the creation of a standing committee on Senate engagement. Secretary Demkiw said that this would absolutely be a consideration and that it would need to be done intentionally and in a way that would serve the university into the future.

6 Senate Education Sessions
6.1 Generative Artificial Intelligence and USask
The members of Senate were sent a survey in advance of the meeting.

Dr. Airini introduced this item. This discussion will help inform a taskforce on AI at USask in the near future. She reviewed the timeline – beginning and up to now – in the development and use of generative AI software. Dr. Airini introduced Dr. Nancy Turner to speak on this item. She introduced four of her colleagues that were present at the Senate meeting. Dr. Turner gave a presentation, which was uploaded later to the Senate agenda section of the Governance website. She reviewed the progress made in Generative AI as well as the concerns around copyright.

The survey results about senators' use of Generative AI (GenAI) were shown on screen, and this included concerns, opportunities, and implications. Dr. Wendy James then led a demonstration of ChatGPT with the room, sharing the screen for online attendees. The question/prompt that that was suggested in the room was "How do you define sustainable agriculture?". ChatGPT was instructed to "assume you are a university professor teaching a class" (a prompt to make ChatGPT give a more detailed and comprehensive response), "and create a prompt for an essay assignment about soil science." It was then asked to generate an essay in response to the prompt. Further instructions were given to "use more academic language and increase detail." Dr. James asked for feedback from senators on the accuracy of the essay. She took questions at this point about what ChatGPT could be asked to create. Assessment (immediate), Teaching Design (medium term) and Curriculum for GenAI Literacy and Ethics (longer term) are the three buckets of GenAI work ahead that we have to think about now at USask. One of the items to address is "How are we supporting our students to be prepared for entering a workforce where GenAI will be used more and more?"

Dr. Susan Bens was introduced to discuss the Assessment bucket. Regarding academic integrity and academic misconduct, GenAI was an immediate concern. The institution wanted to know whether students would use this tool, and how could one tell if they had. Banning this tool would override autonomy of instructors, and so it would need to happen at the course level, not at the university

level. Faculty set the expectations and requirements for their assessments. The current definition of academic misconduct works for GenAI. In reconsidering assessment design, does GenAI: replace, hinder, or help the intended learning? Dr. Bens had some suggestions for instructors who are considering these issues.

Dr. Scott Tunison was introduced to discuss the "Teaching Design" bucket. Students learn best when learning destination is clearly articulated; multiple opportunities for feedback and practice are provided; regular reflection about progress is offered and the learning is applied to novel situations; and lastly, that technology is leveraged authentically to enhance the process.

Dr. Jane Alcorn, dean, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition, was asked to speak next to what is being used in her college with regards to GenAI. She reviewed VERSO learning software and how it is working with her students.

Dr. Nancy Turner concluded the presentation and invited any questions. Questions included:
What about admissions applications and what is being accepted or reviewed with this in mind. Dr. Debby Burshtyn commented that at the graduate level, writing samples are very important. For these early days, we are trying to help develop programs that will anticipate future needs as well as working with other institutions.

Will GenAI start to be more opened up, or will there be firewalls created around some written work. Compared to other universities, how are we doing in terms of AI research or forwarding or progressing in AI use? Is it true that the "essay is dead"? The essay is our tradition and it is used as a proxy for asking a student to explain a concept or idea; perhaps traditions will evolve. Defining the core values in the learning will be essential. Ongoing work is still to come.

7   Senate Committee Reports

7.1   Executive Committee
President Stoicheff, vice-chair of this committee, was called up to speak. He thanked the committee for their work and provided an overview of the report.

No questions were received for this item.

7.2   Nominations Committee
Rhonda Gough, chair of the Nominations Committee, was asked to speak to this item. She pointed to the highlights in the report, including the choice of Senate member Richard Côté to join the CFO Search Committee.

The chair noted that there would be work upcoming on various items that will need reviewing, including the re-appointment of Senate committee members on an annual basis.

7.3 <u>Membership Committee</u>

7.3.1 Report on Activities
Tamara Buckwold, chair of the Membership Committee, briefly reviewed the report submitted for the agenda. The five-year review of organizational memberships as guided by *The University of Saskatchewan Act, 1995* will be happening in the new year. Additionally, in order to increase the diversity of Senate, there has been an active effort to reach out to organizations that fit the EDI mandate to invite them to become members of Senate.

The committee will continue to work with Dr. Angela Jaime, interim Vice-Provost Indigenous Engagement, in reviewing other possible avenues for better representation of Indigenous peoples. A question was asked regarding term lengths, and it was clarified that there are individual term limits but not for the organization itself.

7.3.2 Recommendation for New Organizational Member
The chair of the committee noted some highlights of the Saskatchewan Intercultural Association and the work they do. She also pointed out that only elected members of Senate are allowed to vote (district representatives and members-at-large) on this type of decision.

MOTION – (Gough/Maguire): *That the Saskatchewan Intercultural Association is designated a member of Senate pursuant to section 24(3) of* The University of Saskatchewan Act*, effective November 4, 2023.*

CARRIED*.*

7.4 <u>Education Committee</u>

7.4.1 Report on Activities
Larry Wagner, chair of this committee, spoke to this item and invited members of Senate to suggest additional topics of interest for future education sessions at Senate meetings.

7.4.2 Academic Admission Changes
One of the main priorities of the Education Committee is to approve admission changes to programs, and this is described in the written report.

A Senator asked about changes to prerequisites for entry to the College of Nursing. Chair Wagner explained that this change was intended to respond to a shifting post-secondary landscape. Dr. Airini added that changes to professional education programs require that the university demonstrate qualifications with external stakeholders, and this is an expectation within the Council review process to continually review the quality of programs to ensure student and stakeholder needs are being met.

7.5 <u>Ad-Hoc Committee on Non-Academic Discipline Policy</u>

Amanda Storey of the Governance Office spoke to this item. She provided an overview of the written report, speaking to the complexity of the complaints received. She explained that the work of the ad hoc review committee is proceeding and that the university is doing this in an intentional way to ensure that there is an alignment between the non-academic and academic discipline processes and decision making.

A senator suggested that with the preponderance of generative artificial intelligence, that the university may want to consider alternative responses other than requiring essays from students found guilty of non-academic misconduct, given that they could be easily fabricated. Amanda Storey responded that she would take this concern back to those involved in this work. Dr. McDougall added that there has been a shift from outright essays to other more reflective exercises that are tailored to the student's unique situation.

A student asked about what support systems are in place to assist students who are going through these processes, especially supports to address underlying issues that may be contributing to the alleged misconduct. Amanda Storey explained that in non-academic misconduct matters, only the most serious of incidents go to a hearing panel. Because of this, the involved students have often been in contact with various student services prior to this point.

7.6 Honorary Degree Committee

7.6.1 Discussion regarding Honorary Degrees Process

President Stoicheff was asked to introduce this next item. Prior to speaking to the item, he said that there was an interest in working with the representatives of professional associations on Senate as to what naming opportunities exist within their field and associated schools and colleges as the university continues to work toward achieving the goals of its comprehensive campaign.

He thanked the members of the committee and said that this report from the committee was atypical as at this time the committee was not putting forward any recommended recipients of honorary degrees – the highest honour the university can bestow. He encouraged members of Senate to put forward names and to discuss this with others. Granting an honorary degree is not something taken lightly by the committee or the university. The committee is looking for individuals who can inspire students and can enhance the reputation of USask.

A Senator asked if it would be possible to add on the names of the committee members into the reports. It was agreed that this could happen. The Senator had a second question of how to contact other members of Senate. Secretary Demkiw said he would address this in the update on Senate engagement.

8 Senate Education Sessions - continued

8.1 Growth of USask Health Programs

Provost Airini introduced this item. She said that the goal of expanding health education was rooted in the university's mission, vision, and values, is tied to the strengths of the university, and is connected to the needs of the province. This work of expansion must be methodical, sustainable in the long-term, and able to meet the future needs of those the university serves.

Dr. McDougall presented the rest of this item. She said that previously, the Government of Saskatchewan approached USask about the possibility of expanding certain existing programs and establishing certain new programs: speech language pathology, occupational therapy, and a physician assistant program. The university's goal in support of the province's vision is to graduate

and train highly skilled healthcare professionals and in so doing contribute to the research agenda of the university in areas of significant value to the province.

She explained the impacts of expanded health programming, including: requiring specialized faculty, increased demand on the healthcare system for clinical placements, ensuring a qualified applicant pool, and ensuring adequate space for instruction. Although these factors are common to all expansions or new programs, each expanded or new program comes with its own set of challenges to address and resourcing requirements. Dr. McDougall outlined all of these in her presentation. She mentioned that for the proposed new programs of speech language pathology and occupational therapy, that it was great to see so much support within these professional associations in Saskatchewan for the expansion work that USask was undertaking.

Collectively, the cumulative impact of all proposed new and expanded programs is projected to be: 517 additional students, 50 additional faculty, 62 additional staff, $29.6M in incremental annual operating costs, and over 250,000 incremental clinical training hours.

A senator asked about the university's commitment to supporting the expansion of the nursing program given the rise of online learning and the impacts it has on the sense of community within the college. Dr. McDougall responded that the College of Nursing is undergoing a curriculum revision, and as part of this review process there will be an analysis of the mode of course delivery. She will take this concern back to the college.

Another senator asked about the retention of healthcare professionals, and asked if a commitment to remain in Saskatchewan is a factor in either admission or the provision of financial supports. Dr. McDougall said that this is an ongoing discussion, but that the data on using these tools as means of retention have not been overly effective, so work remains ongoing with the province to pursue other opportunities. A different Senator mentioned that having program provision distributed in communities was an important means of proactive retention.

A senator asked about resourcing for clinical placements and the potential increased burden placed on clinicians, in particular family doctors. Dr. McDougall said that this was a concern that the university was working on with the Saskatchewan Health Authority, as this was a common area of concern in all health science programming.

Chancellor McCreath thanked Dr. McDougall and Dr. Airini for the presentation.

9 Closing

9.1 Other Business
There was no other business.

9.2 Question Period
There were no questions asked.

9.3 Adjournment
With the agenda concluded, the meeting was properly adjourned by J. Robertson.

Senate Attendance – November 4, 2023

APPOINTED MEMBERS		DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP		EX-OFFICIO	
Andy Allen	P	Eric Wilmot	P	Airini	P
Rod Amaya	A	Wade Hainstock	Z	Jane Alcorn	P
Beverly Balaski	P	Alishia Beach	P	Angela Bedard-Haughn	P
Donna Banks	Z	Darlene Clarke	A	Debby Burshtyn	P
Aly Bear	P	Michelle MacDonald	P	Jerome Cranston	P
Johanna Bergerman	P	Dion Martens	P	Blaine Favel	A
Twyla Bergstrom	A	Faith Nash	Z	Greg Fowler	R
Max Bilson	P	Garfield Hnatiuk	P	Cheryl Hamelin	P
Keshia Caplette	P	Cathy Wheaton	Z	Robert Harasymchuk	P
Richard Côté	Z	Barb Gustafson	Z	William Harrison	A
Lindsey Crook	Z	Walter Smith	A	Russell Isinger	P
Shankar Das	P	Anne Doig	P	Angela Jaime	P
Bev Dubois	Z	Colleen Matthews	P	Charlene Sorensen	P
Kathy Gable	Z			Joel Lanovaz	P
Laurianne Gabruch	A	**ELECTED MEMBERS-AT-LARGE**		Iain Luke	A
Roberta Gallagher	P	Nathalie Atanasova	Z	Denise Macza	A
Sharon Garratt	P	Jessica Borich	P	Richard Manley-Tannis	R
Helene Grimard	P	Tamara Buckwold	P	Jeromey Martini	A
Judy Harwood	Z	Brooks DeCillia	Z	Geordy McCaffrey	A
Michael Jones	P	Kyle Drever	P	Grit McCreath	P
Terry Lebiel	P	Aaron Genest	P	Patti McDougall	P
Amanda Lepage	P	Rhonda Gough	P	Peggy McKercher	A
Andrew Loken	P	Scott Gust	R	Brooke Milne	Z
Jane MacLeod	P	Robert Henderson	Z	Gillian Muir	R
Gail May-Melin	P	Rob Maguire	R	Julia Paulson	P
Glen McCallum	P	Kelley Moore	R	Michael Pawelke	A
Pamela Meiers	R	Zsuzsa Papp	P	Vera Pezer	A
Jodie Mirosovsky	P	Bruce Richet	P	Martin Phillipson	P
Brenda Mishak	R	Jordan Robertson	P	Meghna Ramaswamy	P
Shawn Moen	P			Solina Richter	P
Tracy Muggli	P	**STUDENTS**		Roy Romanow	A
Rebecca Newson	P	Abhineet Goswami	P	Carey Simonson	P
Kent Peterson	P	Sharon Jacob	P	Baljit Singh	P
Rory Picklyk	P	Mostofa Kamal	P	Walter Siqueira	P
Elizabeth Rackow	P	Eileen Knox	P	Preston Smith	R
Sandeep Sharma	P	Punya Miglani	P	Carl Still	P
Larry Wagner	P	Shahmeer Ahmed	P	Peter Stoicheff	P
Jack Walton	P	Kyungsoo Ryu	P	Scott Walsworth	P
Dean Weninger	P	*P = Present*		Keith Willoughby	P
Bernie White	R	*R = Regrets*		Gordon Wyant	R
		A = Absent		**NON-VOTING**	
		Z = Zoom		Demkiw, Julian	P