



## Minutes of University Senate

**CONFIDENTIAL**

9:00 am – 3:00 pm, Saturday April 22, 2023

### 1. Opening Remarks

Julian Demkiw, University Secretary and Chief Governance Officer opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and calling upon knowledge keeper and cultural coordinator Harvey Thunderchild to open the meeting with a prayer.

Chancellor McCreath, chair of Senate, welcomed everyone to the Spring meeting including all attending via Zoom. The Chancellor acknowledged that Senate meets on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respects to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of our gathering place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

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 – (Hamilton/Genest):** *That the agenda be adopted as distributed.*

**CARRIED.**

#### 2.2 Approval of the minutes of October 29, 2022

**MOTION – (McKercher/Clarke):** *That the agenda be adopted as distributed.*

**CARRIED.**

#### 2.3 Business Arising from the minutes

There was no other business.

### 3.1 President's Statement

President Peter Stoicheff was invited to speak. Internationalization activities of the university have been robust and many of our senior leaders have been busy across the globe in important work, including an invitation to speak at the United Nations.

President Stoicheff gave a summary of the continued work on EDI (Equity, Diversity, Inclusion) and Indigenization. Very importantly, last July, the Board of Governors approved a policy for the work on Indigenous membership/citizenship verification. A question was asked about the trip to Singapore and whether there were government officials as well as on the research trip to Germany Stoicheff. No government officials were involved in Germany then, but the next trip to Berlin will most likely include people from the provincial government's office. In Singapore, the province already has a trade office there and they collaborated extensively with our delegates. The President's written report was distributed with the agenda materials. No questions were received on this item.

### 4.0 Standing Reports

#### **4.1 Report on undergraduate student activities**

University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU) president Abhineet Goswami 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 on this item. The Chancellor noted that this was Abhineet's last Senate meeting as USSU president, but has been elected as a student representative on Senate for 2023-2024, effective May 1.

#### **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. The Chancellor noted that Mostofa has been reelected as the graduate student representative on Senate for 2023-24.

#### **4.3 Report on Board of Governors**

Chancellor McCreath next introduced Joy Crawford to speak on behalf of the Board of Governors. As a Senate-elected member to the Board of Governors, she invited questions of the written report distributed with the agenda materials. No questions were received.

#### **4.4 Report on University Council activities**

Zsuzsa Papp, a Senate representative on University Council joined via Zoom. There were no questions for this item.

### **5.0 Senate Business**

#### **5.1. Establishment of a Department of Indigenous Health and Wellness - for decision**

Dr. Airini, Provost and Vice-President Academic, was invited to speak to this item. After a brief introduction, she asked the project lead for this College of Medicine department, the Vice-Dean Indigenous, Dr. Janet Tootoosis, to come up to present the proposal to the Senate.

Chancellor McCreath presented the motion and noted that at the time that this motion was written, the Board of Governors and University had not yet met, but both bodies have since voted to approve this proposal. Just before the vote was taken, there was a question regarding the seed and start-up money for this department. This is a department that will continuously need funding and the proposal did not fully address where the future funding will continue to come from. Dr. Airini acknowledged that this is an expansion, and the College of Medicine has prepared for the funding needed and has added it to their budget. There will be base funding following the establishment funding.

**MOTION: (Doig/Burshtyn):** *That Senate recommends the establishment of a Department of Indigenous Health and Wellness in the College of Medicine.*

**CARRIED.**

#### ***10 minute Break***

#### **5.2 Indigenous Land Management Institute name change to the *kihci-okâwîmâw askiy* (Mother Earth) Knowledge Centre -for information**

Dr. Airini was asked to introduce this item. She introduced Dr. Angela Bedard-Haughn to speak briefly to it. There were no questions.

### **5.3 Toxicology Centre – changes to reporting structure - for decision**

Dr. Airini noted that this recommendation to have the Toxicology Centre now report into the School of Environment and Sustainability, has the approval of University Council as well as the Board of Governors. This represents a move in reporting lines, and outlines a new academic home for the Centre.

A few questions were raised: Does this have any impact on the way other schools are structured and funded at the university, specifically with inter-disciplinary or cross-college collaboration. This is a singular initiative. It will change one part of the funding arrangements - tied into the centres policy. Currently, the funding for the toxicology work, does not come directly into the academic unit, but now it will. What sources of funding does the centre rely on? External funding plays a role but the goal is to have centres eventually become self-sustaining after receiving support from the Office of the Vice-President Research.

**MOTION: (Moore/Jaisee):** *That Senate recommends the change in reporting structure for the Toxicology Centre such that the Toxicology Centre will report into the School of Environment and Sustainability (SENS).*

**CARRIED.**

### **5.4 Name change of the Canadian Centre for Health and Safety in Agriculture to “The Canadian Centre for Rural and Agricultural Health - for information**

Dr. Airini spoke to this item on behalf of Dr. Baljit Singh, Vice-President, Research, who was unable to be here today. There were no questions.

## **6 Senate Committee Reports**

### **6.1 Senate Executive Committee**

#### **6.1.1 Report on Activities**

President Stoicheff, vice-chair of this committee was called up to speak. He reviewed the membership of this committee and thanked them for their work. The building of the agenda was noted, as well as the continued desire to make it as interactive as possible. No questions were received for this item.

#### **6.1.2 Update on standards for student conduct in non-academic matters**

Secretary Demkiw spoke on this item and referred to the draft set of the Terms of Reference that was included with the agenda package for this process. The current process is very formal with not a lot of conflict resolution or restorative processes for the “before” stage. This includes accommodating EDI considerations withing the standards of conduct. A call will be sent out to have people work on this review and update. No questions were received for this item.

#### **6.1.3 Nominations for Senate Nominations committee**

President Stoicheff was asked to present on the nominees to the Nominations Committee of Senate.

**MOTION: (Bratvold/Buckwold):** *That Senate approves the recommendation of the Senate executive committee and appoints the following Senate members to the Senate nominations committee for*

*one-year terms beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024: Barb Gustafson, Aaron Genest, Rhonda Gough, and Jordan Robertson*

**CARRIED.**

## **6.2 Nominations Committee**

Grant McKercher, chair of the Nominations Committee, was asked to speak to this item.

### **6.2.1 Nominations for Senate committees 2023-2024**

**MOTION (Genest/Drever):** *That Senate approves the appointments to Senate committees as indicated in the attached schedule for 2023-2024, effective July 1, 2023.*

**CARRIED.**

## **6.3 Membership Committee**

### **6.3.1 Report on Activities**

Tamara Buckwold, chair of the Membership Committee, spoke to this item. She briefly reviewed the mandate of this committee. The process of review depends greatly on applications coming in, a reactive process. In striving to include a greater diversity of membership on the university Senate, this committee has initiated work to enhance this diversity, and be more proactive in pursuing that diverse membership. This committee will be initiating the statutory five-year review of organizational memberships. This will be reported on at the fall Senate.

No questions were received for this item.

## **6.4 Education Committee**

### **6.4.1 Report on Activities**

Kathy Gable presented on behalf of the chair, Larry Wagner who could not be in attendance. She noted that there is an invitation to Senators for a symposium on Sustainability. The details and invitation are included in the agenda package.

No questions were received for this item.

### **6.4.2 Academic Admission Changes**

Senator Gable noted that this report is included in the agenda package. No questions were received for this item.

## **6.5 CONFIDENTIAL (Guests exited the room)**

### **6.5.1 Report of the Senate Honorary Degrees Committee – *for decision***

President Stoicheff was asked to introduce this next item. It concerns the approval of revisions to the honorary degrees guidelines. He noted the few changes and edits to the guidelines, specifically with regards to the need to revoke honorary degrees, if it was deemed necessary.

A question from the floor was asked about where USask is situated in comparison with other universities. President Stoicheff noted that among the 97 universities that can offer honorary degrees, there many that do and do not have this process in place. Many are working towards this process.

**MOTION (Hermiston/McKercher):** *That Senate approves the revisions to the Honorary Degrees Guidelines as presented.*

**CARRIED.**

### **6.5.2 Honorary Degree – Nominee – for decision**

President Stoicheff spoke to this item. A question was asked about why Doctor of Laws was chosen for nominee. This degree is the one of the two that are bestowed, that are not exclusively for academic work and research. The other honorary degree is a Doctor of Letters. There will be five, including Ellen Remai if she accepts, total honorary degrees being awarded during the Spring 2023 Convocation.

**MOTION - (Jones/Gable):** *That Senate approves the awarding of the Honorary Doctor of Laws degree to Ellen Remai.*

**CARRIED.**

## **7. Senate Education Session (Workshop)**

### **7.1 Senate Education Topic: Micro-credentials**

Dr. Nancy Turner was introduced and joined the Senate via Zoom. She gave a presentation on this topic and began with an overview of what micro-credentials are, and what the possibilities are for what it can offer people in the province. Dr. Turner reviewed the background, assessment, and processes being proposed for the USask micro-credentials. After the presentation, she took questions and asked attendees to break out into discussion groups - to hear “your micro-credentials story”.

Dr. Turner organized those attending virtually into Zoom discussion rooms. Prior to discussions commencing, attendees asked several questions.

Questions that came up:

- *What are we calling these credentials? How do these differ from the non-degree certificates already being offered?*
  - We are calling these **micro-credentials** - a new space for the university. A series of possible pathways have been created to help with decisions on how these are stacked or positioned. You will not receive a certificate, but rather a digital badge that confirms you have completed the micro-credential.
- *Are all these post-degree credentials? The examples all mentioned people with degrees.*
  - The intention is to attract a much broader audience - degree not required to engage with these micro-credentials.
- *Who will be instructing in these courses?*
  - Broad spectrum - internal and external to the university. The decision will be made by the academic home of the micro-credential.
- *Accessibility to the program - concern about the cost; would the university be able to offer relief to those who do not have an employer paying for the courses?*
  - In the pilot, we were able to trial the offering of certain bursaries; needing to think carefully about opening up access to certain groups. We have had interest from certain groups wanting to provide funding for access to certain learners.
- *How is your particular mission fitting into the mosaic of potential customers, providers and what this means for the university - regarding meeting financial needs and as a U15 member?*

- Much work has been done with identifying the needs of many types of employers and professional associations; what kinds of formats, costs, benchmarks and ideas. Finding those niches where there is need, and not duplicating and those areas that fit with what the university offers. We are aware also that our colleges have ongoing and long-standing relationships with these organizations -which is a key place to grow and understand our needs.
- *Question on the sector - not duplicating and focusing on our institutional strengths; will the courses running out of JS GS become micro-credentials now?*
  - There is opportunity for some of this work to migrate into the micro-credential space. It would need to align with the competency-based requirements.

Micro-credentials provide the learner with a currency, like a certificate or degree - this is something the learner would put on their resume. After questions were answered, the breakout discussions commenced. People discussed answers to two questions:

1. What opportunities do you see for this programming in your space?
2. What challenges should we be aware of?

After group discussions were completed, Chancellor McCreath thanked Dr. Turner for her presentation and Liz Kuley for her help with the discussions in person.

## **8. Senate Business** (continued)

### **8.1 Equitable Allocation of Resources: What are the resource allocations to Huskies Women's Athletics and Huskie Men's Athletics? Are the human resources and budgets equitable?**

Senator Rhonda Gough submitted this request for an agenda item for information at this Senate meeting. Historically, this ties in to a gender-equity (sex discrimination) case with the Human Rights Commission regarding equitable distribution of resources at the university that Senator Gough participated in. The hard work to get to where we are today in ensuring that resources are equitable still requires us to review this from time to time.

Shannon Chinn, the university's Chief Athletics Officer, was then introduced and asked to come up to the podium. She reported on the funding that the university's teams receive as well as the gender representation of the coaching staff. Her numbers reflected an equitable position in funding for teams and coaching. No questions were received for this item.

### **8.2 Comprehensive Campaign**

Cheryl Hamelin, Vice-President, University Relations, was introduced to speak on the comprehensive campaign. A summary of the ongoing activities, relationships built, goals still to reach and achievements - was presented. The public launch took place on Tues April 18<sup>th</sup>. Vice-President Hamelin announced that the university is currently at \$322,894,498 funds raised on the \$500,000,000 goal. Confirmation to come in for approximately \$40,000,000 more by May. The summary of this item ended with the viewing of the five-minute launch video. Senators were asked to think about how they can contribute individually and collectively. Ideas included a senate-funded bursary or scholarship, a small room or program named, and a group initiative through a senator's professional organization, association, or district.

**8.3 A University for Everyone - Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Framework for Action – for decision**

This item is being taken through all three governing bodies. The Chancellor called upon President Stoicheff to speak to this item. Senate is being asked for their endorsement of this framework for action, and this is the first of the three collegial bodies to see it. It will proceed to University Council and then to the Board of Governors. Kelly McInnes was introduced and asked to speak further on this work.

Questions and feedback included:

- *Gaps and consistent challenges exist from outside the university: There is an existing strong call to action to work with the K-12 population, but what about seeing the university going outside its walls to promote equity of access in the community?*
- *What does the reference to “investments” made in the document mean – is there any budgetary allocation for this? There has been budget put aside for this work over the past few years and the right people in place now. The framework will help us determine the scope of the work ahead.*

**MOTION - (Dubois/Buckwold):** *That Senate endorses ‘A University for Everyone – Equity, Diversity, Inclusion Framework for Action.*

**CARRIED.**

**8.4 Student Enrolment Report – for information**

Russell Isinger, Interim Vice-Provost TLSE, and University Registrar was invited to come up to speak to this item. He gave a summary of activity and growth in enrolment and plans for the future. Reports included in the package were reviewed briefly.

Questions were taken and they included:

- *Gender representation inquiry: is there information you can include on gender balance and equity?*
- *What is the vision for enrolment for micro-credentials and the numbers, and how would they appear in the snapshot information? This will be defined further in the coming months.*
- *What are the supports in place for indigenous students and support for ones that are parents? Childcare spots are through lease agreements but through this – 75% are asked to be reserved for students, and within that a certain allocation for indigenous students as well as graduate students.*

**8.5 Senate Engagement Plan – verbal update**

Secretary Demkiw gave an update on this item. A Senate Engagement Advisory group was created, with focus groups set up, and a presentation of engagement strategy shown and approved at the April 2022 Senate. Next steps and goals were identified:

- Building meaningful and mutually beneficial engagement from a clear and inspiring purpose of Senate
- Idea of positioning the Senate as a champion and ally around EDI strategies
- Ensure meaningful contributions through strengthened relationships
- Co-create mission driven engagement opportunities: how to partner within the university setting on activities.

Meeting formats, onboarding of senators, and legislative changes are topics being reviewed. One of the actions also includes senate composition handled by the Senate Membership Committee. An Outreach and Engagement Committee is in the process of being developed. Wanting to ensure that Senate is involved more at the beginning of processes is also a key action item. A call will be put out for membership on the Senate Engagement Working Group, with an update or report in the fall. No questions were received for this item.

### **8.6 Senate election update**

Secretary Demkiw gave a brief update on this item. Elections are coming up. We have one acclamation to announce: congratulations to Garfield Hnatiuk from District 9. We have five Members-at-large positions to fill and seven nominees have put their name forward. The information is included in the agenda package. No questions were received for this item.

## **9 Closing**

### **9.1 Other Business**

There was no other business.

### **9.2 Question Period**

- Dr. Patti McDougall addressed senators in question period regarding a concern that was expressed about the certificate in Indigenous Drama. This is still in place and will continue.
- A member of Senate suggested that more northern representation be seen at this university.
- Question on fundraising to-date: are federal contributions included in the total funds raised? Vice-President Hamelin confirmed that no contract research or government funding is included in the campaign fundraising totals. Dr. Airini addressed government funding and updated Senate on this work. President Stoicheff concluded the responses to this question by noting that major research funding comes from federal grants.
- Dr. Airini noted that there is a plan underway to allow the covid convicators to have their own ceremony, in September.

### **9.3 Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm.

#### Attachments:

1. Senate Attendance April 2023
2. Senate Education Presentation April 2023