



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Senate Minutes (Non-Confidential)

April 25, 2026, 9 am – 4 pm

Exeter Room, Marquis Hall

1. Welcome

The meeting was formally called to order by Chancellor Banda, reaffirming Senate's governance role as a key institutional body. He provided a land acknowledgment recognizing Treaty 6 Territory and the homeland of the Métis. Chancellor Banda welcomed newly appointed Senate members and acknowledged those completing their terms.

New Members:

Appointed:

- Alisha Walker-Pickering, Saskatchewan Society of Occupational Therapists
- Miguel Fenrich, Saskatchewan Writers' Guild
- Sebastian Gardulski, Ukrainian Canadian Congress

Completing Terms:

District Member

- Garfield Hnatiuk, District 9. Nipawin – Melfort – Hudson Bay

Member-at-Large

- Rhonda Gough
- Jordan Robertson

2. Agenda and Minutes

2.1. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION: (B. Richet/J. Robertson) - That the agenda be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED.

2.2. Conflict of Interest

Members were invited to declare any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest related to the agenda. **No conflicts of interest were declared.**

2.3. Approval of the Minutes from October 25, 2025

MOTION: (T. Buckwold/ S. Walsworth) - That the minutes be approved as circulated with the minor modifications.

CARRIED.

Two Abstentions online

R. Gough (Member-at-Large) appreciated the level of detail on the minutes and continues to encourage this level of detail into the future.

3. President's Address



President Vince Bruni-Bossio delivered his first report to Senate, opening by acknowledging the Chancellor's leadership, the contributions of Senate members, university leadership, and community partners, and recognizing the shared responsibility for advancing the institution's mission. He highlighted significant leadership contributions and transitions, including Cheryl Hamelin, Vice-President University Relations, who led the Be What the World Needs campaign to a successful \$572 million outcome and will be retiring; Kim Kroll-Goodwin will serve as Interim Vice-President while a search is undertaken. He also recognized Angela Jaime, Vice-Provost Indigenous Engagement, for her leadership in advancing the ohpahotân | oohpaahotaan Indigenous Strategy, gifted by Indigenous Knowledge Keepers and leaders, and noted that Dr. Amaranta Sokol will assume the role on an interim basis.

President Bruni-Bossio provided a strategic overview of the university's position within a complex global and national landscape, highlighting increasing pressures on the post-secondary sector, including declining public trust, heightened expectations for measurable impact, and constraints on international student enrolment due to federal policy changes. At the same time, he identified emerging opportunities to attract global academic talent and strengthen the university's position through its strong alignment with provincial priorities and stable funding environment. The President emphasized the university's critical role in workforce development—with approximately 70 per cent of graduates remaining in Saskatchewan—and noted emerging risks related to national research infrastructure changes, with the institution exploring opportunities to sustain key assets. He underscored the importance of focusing institutional efforts on a limited number of areas of global excellence to maximize impact and relevance.

The President framed the development of U-Plan 2035 as a central institutional priority, outlining a phased and highly consultative approach to shaping the university's future direction. He stressed the importance of aligning teaching, research, and engagement with evolving societal needs, while maintaining commitments to sustainability, reconciliation, and inclusion. Senate was positioned as an essential contributor to this process, particularly in strengthening relationships and ensuring the university remains responsive to the priorities of Saskatchewan and beyond.

Questions

R. Henderson (Member-at-Large) raised a question regarding the long-term impact and future direction of the "Be What the World Needs" campaign, particularly how its success will translate into sustained institutional momentum and alignment with future strategic priorities. President Bruni-Bossio highlighted the campaign's significant achievement—raising \$572 million—and emphasized that its success provides a strong foundation for the university to build upon. He noted that the campaign has strengthened relationships with donors, alumni, and partners. He emphasized that the next phase will focus on building on this established success by deepening its impact within Saskatchewan, ensuring that the outcomes of the campaign are more meaningfully connected to provincial communities, priorities, and partnerships.

E. Siba (District 14 Representative) asked how the university intends to sustain momentum following the success of recent engagement and fundraising efforts, specifically what

follow-up mechanisms will be in place to ensure continued engagement and long-term support from communities and partners. President Bruni-Bossio emphasized that maintaining support will require a shift from time-limited initiatives to ongoing, relationship-based engagement, grounded in consistent presence and responsiveness across Saskatchewan. He noted that the university must deepen trust by demonstrating impact at the community level and by sustaining meaningful connections with partners, and that this approach will be embedded in the implementation of U-Plan 2035 to ensure continued alignment, visibility, and support.

B. Cummins (Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities) asked how the closure of the Scott and Indian Head research facilities would affect research at the University of Saskatchewan. In response, Vice-President Research, Dr. Baljit Singh, stated that the closures are part of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's requirement to reduce expenditures by 5–10 per cent, and that despite engagement, the decision will not be changed. He further noted that, in response to the need for additional land for agricultural research, the university is exploring the possibility of acquiring some of the facilities at those stations for use by University of Saskatchewan researchers, with this work currently under consideration by the President's executive team, including the Vice-President Administration.

R. Gough (Member-at-Large) asked how current global political dynamics—particularly instability associated with U.S. leadership—are directly impacting the University of Saskatchewan, and requested examples to better understand institutional risks. President Bruni-Bossio noted that the rapidly shifting and unpredictable global policy environment is creating significant uncertainty for universities, making long-term planning more challenging. He identified key impacts including increased volatility in global decision-making, growing public scrutiny requiring universities to demonstrate their value, and more protectionist federal policies affecting areas such as international student recruitment. He also highlighted a shift in federal priorities toward defence funding, requiring the university to consider its role in that space. The President emphasized that, in this context, the institution must remain grounded in a clear sense of identity and make deliberate strategic choices aligned with its values. Dr. Patti McDougall, Interim Provost and Vice-President Academic, supplemented the response by noting that these same conditions are also creating opportunities, including increased interest from U.S.-based scholars and Canadian academics returning from abroad, as well as targeted recruitment of students, including Indigenous students from the northern United States. President Bruni-Bossio acknowledged these examples as tangible demonstrations of how the university can respond proactively within a complex global environment.

4. Engagement Session

U-PLAN 2035



The engagement session focused on informing the development of U-Plan 2035 through Senate input on how the university can strengthen its relationships and impact across Saskatchewan. Discussion emphasized the importance of aligning teaching, research, and engagement with the evolving needs of communities, industry, and Indigenous partners. Senate members shared the need for more intentional, consistent, and visible engagement across the province, with a strong focus on ensuring the university remains accessible, relevant, and responsive. The session reinforced Senate's role as a critical connector between the institution and the broader community.

Senate members also emphasized the importance of translating engagement into measurable outcomes, particularly in workforce development, research value, and community partnerships. There was a clear call for the university to strengthen its presence beyond campus, enhance communication of its contributions, and create more flexible pathways for learners and partners to engage with the institution throughout their lives.

President Bruni-Bossio noted several recurring themes that emerged across tables and online breakout groups:

- **Community Engagement and Relationship Building** – Senate members emphasized the need for sustained, proactive, and place-based engagement with communities across Saskatchewan, including rural, northern, Indigenous, and urban communities.
- **Workforce Development and Student Readiness** – Strong support was expressed for aligning academic programming, experiential learning, and professional development opportunities with current and future labour market needs.
- **Accessibility, Flexibility, and Lifelong Learning** – Senate members shared the importance of flexible pathways, micro-credentials, continuing education opportunities, and learning models that meet students where they live and work.
- **Artificial Intelligence and Technological Change** – Discussions identified AI as both a challenge and an opportunity, with calls for leadership in responsible AI use, workforce preparation, and institutional adaptation.
- **Research, Innovation, and Provincial Impact** – Senate members emphasized the need to build on Saskatchewan's strengths in areas such as agriculture, health, energy, water, mining, and Indigenous engagement while better communicating the university's contribution to the public.
- **Institutional Identity and Strategic Focus** – There was broad support for defining a clear institutional identity rooted in Saskatchewan's strengths and values, while focusing resources and efforts on areas where the university can achieve the greatest outcomes.

The President noted that input gathered during the engagement session would inform the ongoing development of U-Plan 2035 and contribute to the identification of institutional priorities and areas of focus. The university will continue consultation activities with internal and external stakeholders across Saskatchewan and will return to Senate during subsequent planning phases to refine and validate the emerging strategic directions. Participants emphasized the importance of sustained community engagement, workforce development, accessibility, research impact, and institutional focus as priorities for future consideration.



5. Student Reports

5.1. Report on Undergraduate Student Activities

USSU President Emma Wintermute reflected on the significant learning and growth experienced by the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU) executive team during the past year as they navigated student governance, advocacy, and institutional leadership. She emphasized the importance of engaging directly with students, university leadership, and community partners to better understand the complexities of the student experience and to ensure that student needs remained central to decision-making. Throughout the year, the USSU focused on student-centred advocacy grounded in collaboration, accountability, and meaningful engagement with both academic and non-academic aspects of student life.

USSU President Wintermute described the USSU's efforts to advance discussions on student financial and academic supports, housing, food security, transit, undergraduate research, policy renewal, anti-racism and anti-oppressive practices, and commitments to Indigenous students and Truth and Reconciliation. She also noted work to strengthen connections between students at the Saskatoon and Prince Albert campuses and emphasized the importance of ensuring students have representation and support within their own communities. The report concluded with acknowledgement of the incoming USSU executive team and appreciation for the collaborative relationships developed across the university during the year.

Questions:

T. Buckwold (Member-at-Large) congratulated the USSU executive team on the breadth of work undertaken during the year and asked about the significance of ratifying more than 180 student groups. In response, Emma Wintermute, USSU President, explained that ratification is a formal recognition process requiring support from undergraduate students and approval through the Campus Groups Committee. Ratified groups gain access to resources such as funding opportunities, space bookings, insurance coverage, and promotional opportunities, providing a foundation for student engagement and enhancing the visibility and sustainability of student-led initiatives.

T. Buckwold also asked about the implications of Saskatoon's new transit system for university students. E. Wintermute noted that the USSU has been actively engaged in consultation with the City of Saskatoon regarding transit changes, including presentations to Student Council. While acknowledging concerns related to construction, route changes, and uncertainty among students who rely on transit, she indicated that the USSU is optimistic about the long-term benefits of the Link system. She noted the potential for improved accessibility, increased transit use, and more sustainable transportation options for students, while recognizing that the transition period may present challenges as students adapt to the new system.



R. Gough (Member-at-Large) asked for an update on efforts to review the university's Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Prevention Policy, noting concerns that a significant period had elapsed since the policy was last comprehensively reviewed and inquiring about discussions with the Ministry of Advanced Education regarding a requirement for periodic policy reviews. In response, Emma Wintermute, USSU President, reported that the USSU had worked closely with university administration throughout the year to identify areas for improvement, bring forward student experiences, and advocate for policy renewal. She noted that while the USSU had raised with the Ministry the possibility of requiring post-secondary institutions to undertake policy reviews every three to five years, similar to practices in some other provinces, the Ministry was not pursuing that approach at this time. The issue continues to be raised in discussions with Advanced Education.

Dr. Marjorie Delbaere, Interim Vice-Provost Students and Learning, supplemented the response by noting that the university regularly reviews and updates associated procedures to align with student needs and emerging best practices. She advised that a draft revised policy is currently being finalized and will proceed to a broader internal consultation process involving students, faculty, and staff. She also indicated that the university is committed to adopting a regular review cycle, with a goal of reviewing the policy every three years. R. Gough expressed appreciation for the collaborative work undertaken by the USSU and the university, including partnerships with community organizations, and acknowledged the importance of maintaining strong, constructive relationships between student leadership and the institution.

5.2. Report on Graduate Student Activities

Graduate Student Association President (GSA) Palash Roy reported on key priorities and developments within the Graduate Student Association, highlighting progress in strengthening the organization's financial sustainability and governance capacity, including the restoration of its non-profit status and the introduction of an investment strategy. He noted increased demand for graduate student supports, particularly financial assistance, with bursary applications significantly exceeding available resources.

The report also emphasized ongoing advocacy in areas affecting graduate student experience, including affordability, childcare access, and transit, alongside continued efforts to enhance student supports and engagement in partnership with the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. The GSA remains focused on addressing systemic barriers and ensuring that graduate student needs are effectively represented within institutional decision-making.

6. Senate Committee Reports

6.1. Nominations Committee

Robert Henderson, chair of the Nominations Committee, presented the report, noting enhancements to the nominations process, including the introduction of curriculum vitae submissions to better align members' skills and experience with committee roles. The



updated approach was identified as strengthening the effectiveness and composition of Senate committees.

6.1.1. Nominations to Senate standing committees and appointment to other committees

MOTION: (R. Henderson/R. Gough) – That Senate approve the appointments to Senate Committees as indicated in the attached schedule for 2026 – 2027, effective July 1, 2026
CARRIED.

6.2. Education Committee

Robert Henderson, chair of the Education Committee, presented the report, noting the committee's focus on Strategic Enrolment Management (SEM), admissions processes, flexible learning initiatives and evolving approaches to teaching and learning. Discussion highlighted the need to better align enrolment strategies with institutional priorities and labour market demand, while maintaining accessibility and student success outcomes. The committee also strengthened connections with University Council's Academic Programs Committee (APC) to enhance Senate's understanding of academic governance and decision-making. The committee also discussed concerns related to situational judgement tests in admissions, including cost and potential bias, noting that some programs have begun moving away from their use. Ongoing work includes strengthening alignment between Senate and University Council processes on academic matters and continuing to monitor emerging trends in student access, admissions, and program delivery.

Questions

T. Buckwold (Member-at-Large) asked about the university's Flexible Learning Initiative and the use of CVs in admissions processes. In response, R. Henderson noted that the Education Committee has begun exploring the use of CVs across programs, recognizing that practices vary widely and that further review may be required. Dr. Patti McDougall explained that the Flexible Learning Initiative is designed to increase accessibility and responsiveness to student needs through greater flexibility in delivery mode, pace, location, learning pathways, and teaching practices. Dr. Debby Burshtyn added that CVs remain an established component of holistic admissions in many programs, providing applicants with an opportunity to demonstrate experiences beyond academic grades while acknowledging that all admissions measures have inherent strengths and limitations.

6.3. Membership Committee

Lorne Vanin, Chair of the Membership Committee, reported that the committee recommended the addition of the College of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists of Saskatchewan as a Senate member organization, concluding that the organization would provide valuable professional representation within Senate. The committee also continued discussions regarding the recognition of Indigenous governments within Senate structures, including the potential creation of a distinct membership category through amendments to the Senate Bylaws. Members were advised that this work is expected to continue through



the Executive Committee, with further recommendations anticipated for consideration at a future Senate meeting.

6.3.1. New Association Membership

MOTION: (L. Vanin/K. Gable) – That Senate approve the College of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists of Saskatchewan as a new association member of Senate effective immediately.

CARRIED.

One Abstention online

6.4. Engagement Committee

Tamara Buckwold, Chair of the Engagement Committee, reported on two key initiatives undertaken by the committee since the October meeting. The committee completed development of a Senate Handbook, designed as a comprehensive resource for current and future Senate members that provides information on the university, governance structures, Senate responsibilities, and engagement opportunities. The handbook is intended to support member orientation and effectiveness and will be made available electronically, with ongoing review and updates to ensure currency and relevance.

The committee also began work on a Senate engagement survey that will seek feedback from Senate members on how they can be better supported in fulfilling their roles and contributing to Senate's purpose. Additional outreach is planned with university units to better understand existing relationships with Senate and identify opportunities for greater engagement and collaboration. T. Buckwold also highlighted the value of enhanced Senate minutes in supporting communication and reporting by Senate members to their organizations and constituencies, noting that strengthening engagement remains a shared responsibility across Senate committees and members.

6.4.1. Senate Engagement Definitions

MOTION : (B. Richet/R. Gough) – That Senate approve the Senate Purpose statement and definition of Senate Engagement with the amendment outlined.

CARRIED.

Question

Rhonda Gough (Member-at-Large) raised concerns about the ability of Senate members to communicate with one another outside of formal meetings, noting that limited access to contact information can hinder engagement, networking, and collaboration among members. In response, Tamara Buckwold, Chair of the Engagement Committee, acknowledged the concern and indicated that the committee would consider the issue further, including through the planned Senate engagement survey. She noted that any solution would need to balance the goal of improving communication among Senate members with privacy and information protection requirements

6.5. Executive Committee

Julian Demkiw, University secretary, reported on the work of the Executive Committee, noting its ongoing role in supporting Senate governance through agenda approval, nominations oversight, and review of matters requiring Senate consideration. He emphasized the importance of committee participation and thanked Senate members who volunteered their time to support Senate governance and committee work throughout the year.

The report noted ongoing work to review and modernize the Senate election process for Board of Governors representatives. University Secretary Demkiw explained that the current process requires updating to address issues identified during recent elections, including the absence of provisions for online voting and elections conducted outside Senate meetings. The Executive Committee is examining options to improve the process and ensure it remains effective, transparent, and aligned with current governance practices before the next Board election cycle.

6.5.1. Nominations to the Nominations Committee

MOTION: (T. Buckwold/K. Caplette) – That Senate approve the appointment of Lorne Vanin, Kyle Drever, Karen Mitzel, and Robert Henderson (Chair) to the nominations committee for a one-year term beginning July 1, 2026 and ending on June 30, 2027.

CARRIED.

6.5.2. Administrative Updates to Standard of Student Conduct in Non-Academic Matters

Julian Demkiw, University secretary, provided context for the proposed administrative updates to the Standard of Student Conduct in Non-Academic Matters, noting that Senate holds a unique statutory responsibility under The University of Saskatchewan Act for policies governing non-academic student conduct. He advised that the policy has not undergone a comprehensive review in approximately ten years and that the amendments before Senate were primarily administrative in nature, intended to improve operational effectiveness while a broader policy review is undertaken. The proposed changes focused on updating outdated references, increasing flexibility within alternative dispute resolution processes, and adjusting procedural timelines where necessary. University Secretary Demkiw emphasized that more substantive revisions are anticipated following further consultation with campus stakeholders and Senate, with additional recommendations expected to be brought forward at the Fall 2026 meeting.

MOTION: (L. Vanin/D. Mandeville) – That Senate approve the changes to the Standard of Student Conduct in Non-Academic Matters effective immediately.

CARRIED.

6.5.3. Appointment of the Chief Financial Officer to the Senate Member list

President Vince Bruni-Bossio introduced the recommendation to appoint the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) as an ex officio member of Senate. He noted that while the University of Saskatchewan Act identifies specific Senate members, the university has



previously added positions that were not originally contemplated in the legislation, such as the Vice-Provost Indigenous Engagement and Deputy Provost, to reflect evolving leadership structures. The President emphasized that the CFO serves as a vice-presidential level leader with responsibilities that span the institution and plays a key role in strategic decision-making. He indicated that Senate would benefit from the CFO's ongoing participation in discussions, ability to respond to questions, and contribution to governance deliberations, while also recognizing the importance and unique nature of the position within the university's leadership structure.

Question

Robert Henderson (Elected Member) noted his support for the proposed appointment of the Chief Financial Officer as an ex officio member of Senate and observed that, while The University of Saskatchewan Act allows Senate membership to evolve through additional appointed positions, it maintains a fixed number of elected members. He suggested that this creates challenges in maintaining the balance originally contemplated when the legislation was drafted. In response, University Secretary Demkiw acknowledged that the Act contains detailed and, in some cases, highly prescriptive provisions regarding Senate membership and governance, some of which may no longer fully reflect the institution's current context. President Vince Bruni-Bossio added that, while such observations are important, amending the Act would be a complex undertaking for both the university and government, and that it is generally preferable to work within the existing legislative framework where possible.

MOTION: (J. Paslawski/K. Drever) – That Senate approve the appointment of the Chief Financial Officer as an ex officio member of Senate, effective immediately.

CARRIED.

7. Reports

7.1. Report on Board of Governors Activities

Corinna Stevenson, Senate-Elected Board Member, provided an overview of the Board of Governors' activities since the October Senate meeting, highlighting the Board's focus on governance, financial sustainability, strategic planning, human resources, capital projects, and institutional risk management. The Board approved several capital and infrastructure initiatives supporting research, teaching, health sciences, and campus resilience, while also addressing matters related to senior leadership recruitment, labour relations, workplace wellness, compensation, and collective bargaining. C. Stevenson noted that the Board held a strategic retreat focused on establishing effective working relationships with the new President and Vice-Chancellor and supporting the early stages of U-Plan 2035 development. C. Stevenson emphasized the Board's continued focus on long-term institutional sustainability, research competitiveness, critical infrastructure, and alignment with provincial, national, and global priorities. She encouraged Senate members to serve as ambassadors for the university by sharing key messages about USask's impact, including its multi-year provincial funding agreement, its approximately \$2 billion annual contribution to Saskatchewan's economy, and its support of more than 13,000 jobs. She noted that

strengthening financial sustainability, strategic positioning, and risk oversight remain key priorities for the Board as it works to support the university's long-term success and relevance.

Questions

B. Richet (Member-at-Large) commended the Board of Governors, Senate, and University Council reception as a valuable opportunity for engagement and relationship building, and then asked for an update on the progress of the USask Land Sector Plan and property development initiatives, specifically referencing the Sutherland lands and previously identified development opportunities. In response, C. Stevenson noted that the USask Land Trust has undertaken significant consultation and planning work. President Bruni-Bossio and Chief Financial Officer Deidre Henne advised that development planning is progressing through collaboration among the university, the Land Trust, the City of Saskatoon, and development partners. Henne reported that the Sutherland development is the most advanced project, with a proposed head lease expected to be brought forward for Board consideration in June, while planning for the health campus lands at Preston Avenue and College Drive is also progressing and may advance to the Board in the near future. Both emphasized that the projects represent significant long-term opportunities for the university and continue to undergo due diligence and planning.

7.2. Report on University Council Activities

Rory Picklyk, Saskatchewan Association of Architects, reported University Council's ongoing role in supporting academic governance and ensuring academic programs remain responsive to the needs of students, professions, and industry. He noted the continual renewal of academic programs and recognized ongoing efforts to strengthen governance processes, led by the University Secretary's office, which have resulted in meaningful improvements to Council operations and decision-making.

R. Picklyk also emphasized the value of the collaborative relationship between the academic community and university administration, noting that Council provides an important forum for discussion and consideration of academic matters. He further highlighted the significant contributions of undergraduate and graduate student representatives, whose perspectives are not only heard but meaningfully considered in Council deliberations.

7.3. Strategic Enrolment Management

Dr. Patti McDougall, Interim Provost and Vice-President Academic, positioned Strategic Enrolment Management as a key component of the university's future academic strategy and noted that Senate receives regular updates on enrolment trends and planning priorities. She emphasized that insights gathered through the U-Plan 2035 engagement process will help inform future work related to enrolment management, flexible learning, academic programming, and long-term academic planning. She also acknowledged the contributions of Senate members who participated in recent dean review and renewal processes.



Dr. Marjorie Delbaere, Interim Vice-Provost Students and Learning, presented the annual enrolment update, reporting that overall enrolment increased by nearly 1 per cent, driven primarily by growth in domestic students from Saskatchewan and other provinces. Self-declared Indigenous student enrolment increased by 4 per cent, representing 13 per cent of the total student population, returning to pre-pandemic levels. International student enrolment continued to decline, with a 26 per cent decrease in undergraduate international enrolment, an 8 per cent decrease in graduate international enrolment, and an overall decline of 16 per cent across all international students. Despite these challenges, graduate enrolment outlooks remain cautiously optimistic due to recent changes to federal immigration requirements. The report also noted improvements in first-to-second-year student retention, a 2.6 per cent increase in credit unit activity since the previous year, and ongoing efforts to better understand and respond to enrolment and retention trends. In addition, Dr. Delbaere highlighted the availability of a new public reporting dashboard that provides detailed demographic and enrolment data by college and student population.

Questions

Tamara Buckwold (Member-at-Large) asked whether the decline in international student enrolment is primarily the result of federal limits on international student admissions or a decrease in applications received by the university. In response, Dr. Marjorie Delbaere, Interim Vice-Provost Students and Learning, indicated that the university currently has capacity to enrol more international students and that provincial attestation letter allocations are not the primary constraint. Rather, the university has experienced a decline in international applications, reflecting broader challenges affecting Canada's attractiveness as a study destination, particularly in smaller provinces. She noted that the university is responding by refining recruitment strategies, strengthening support throughout the application process, and focusing on attracting applicants who have a strong likelihood of both obtaining study permits and succeeding academically at USask.

R. Gough (Member-at-Large) commended the increased accessibility of enrolment data and described the growth in Indigenous student enrolment, noting that Indigenous students now comprise 13 per cent of the student population, approaching the provincial demographic proportion. She then raised concerns about the persistent gender imbalance in the College of Engineering, observing that female enrolment has increased only marginally over the past decade and asking what actions the university and College of Engineering are taking to attract and retain more women in the profession. Dr. Delbaere acknowledged the concern and invited Dr. Michael Bradley, Dean of Engineering, to respond. Dr. Bradley confirmed that women currently represent approximately 19–20 per cent of engineering enrolment, a level broadly consistent with engineering programs across Canada, and noted that the college is working toward the national “30 by 30” goal. He highlighted efforts including

partnerships with industry organizations, mentorship opportunities, outreach activities, leadership opportunities for female students, and initiatives led by Women in Mining and Women in Nuclear. R. Gough challenged the university to accelerate progress and pursue more significant change. Bruce Richet (Member-at-Large) supplemented the discussion by outlining outreach efforts underway through engineering organizations, industry partners, mentorship programs, and K–12 engagement initiatives aimed at increasing awareness of engineering careers among young women and improving future participation in the profession.

7.4. USask’s research, scholarly and artistic works (RSAW) impact across Saskatchewan

Dr. Baljit Singh, Vice-President Research, shared the University of Saskatchewan’s role as one of Canada’s leading research-intensive universities and emphasized that the institution’s research, scholarly and artistic works are closely aligned with the needs and priorities of Saskatchewan communities. He reported that annual research funding has grown from approximately \$200 million in 2017-18 to more than \$300 million annually, supporting research across nine signature areas, including Indigenous Peoples, agriculture, food, water, energy, health, and emerging technologies. He noted that USask’s research strength is supported by major infrastructure and partnerships that enhance innovation, graduate student training, and community impact.

The report showcased examples of research addressing provincial challenges and opportunities, including digital health tools for rural communities, mental health supports for frontline workers, water sustainability initiatives, agricultural genomics, Indigenous historical research, mining innovation, and sustainable land-use practices. Dr. Singh emphasized the university’s strong connections with industry, government, Indigenous communities, and international partners, citing new collaborations in India, Brazil, and Germany. He concluded by noting that USask research continues to generate economic, social, and community benefits across Saskatchewan while strengthening the university’s national and international reputation.

7.5. Be What the World Needs Campaign Highlights

Cheryl Hamelin, Vice-President University Relations, reported the successful completion of the “Be What the World Needs” campaign, which achieved a total of \$572 million in philanthropic support, marking a significant milestone for the university. The campaign engaged a broad donor base, including alumni, community members, and institutional partners, strengthening long-term relationships and support for the university’s mission. The campaign’s contribution was noted across key priority areas, including student support, research excellence, and community and global engagement initiatives. C. Hamelin emphasized that beyond fundraising outcomes, the campaign has enhanced the university’s visibility and reputation, and established a strong foundation for future advancement efforts, with a continued focus on translating philanthropic success into sustained institutional and provincial impact.

8. Closing



8.1.1. USask 120 or USask 125 – for information

This item was not discussed and the chair acknowledged that USask 125 will be planned for celebrations at the University.

8.1.2. Minimizing food waste at USask

Greg Fowler, Vice-President Administration, provided an update on efforts related to minimizing food waste at the University of Saskatchewan. The discussion noted this as an area of operational and sustainability focus, with initiatives being considered and/or implemented across the institution.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 pm.

Senate attendance, April 25, 2026

Appointed Members		District Members		Ex Officio Members	
A.J. Fox	Z	Eric Wilmot	P	Angela Bedard-Haughn	P
Alisha Walker-Pickering	Z	Wade Hainstock	A	Angela Jaime	P
Aly Bear	A	Alishia Beach	R	Baljit Singh	P
Amanda Lepage	A	Cheryl Lee Vertefeuille	Z	Bernon Lee	A
Amee Joshi	Z	Karen Mitzel	P	Blaine Favel	A
Andrew Loken	Z	Sebastian Prost	Z	Brett Vandale	R
Andy Allen	P	Scott Burrant	P	Brooke Milne	A
Beverly Balaski	Z	Faith Nash	Z	Carl Still	Z
Blair Cummins	P	Garfield Hnatiuk	Z	Cheryl Hamelin	P
Brett Kitchen	Z	Cathy Wheaton	A	Danielle Brittain	R
Chris Etcheverry	A	Mark Guidinger	Z	Debby Burshtyn	P
Daniel Burke	P	Paula Marsh	A	Gillian Muir	P
Darryl Bazylak	R	Karen Mosier	P	Greg Fowler	P
David Mandeville	P	Eryn Siba	Z	Grit McCreath	A
Dean Weninger	R			Iain Luke	A
Dean Zimmer	A			Jane Alcorn	Z
Elizabeth Rackow	P	Aaron Genest	A	Jeromey Martini	A
Gail May-Melin	P	Audrey Hestand	Z	Julia Paulson	P
Gerald Aalbers	R	Janice Paslawski	P	Keith Willoughby	R
Hélène Grimard	R	Bruce Richet	P	Ken Cheveldayoff	R
James Rugg	P	Jessica Borich	P	Loleen Berdahl	P
Jane MacLeod	Z	Jordan Robertson	P	Lori Birrel	R
Johanna Bergerman	A	Kyle Drever	P	Louise Michaud	R
Kathy Gable	P	Lorne Vanin	P	Marjorie Delbaere	P
Kendra Townsend	P	Monica Iron	P	Martin Phillipson	R
Kent Peterson	A	Rhonda Gough	P	Meghna Ramaswamy	Z
Keshia Caplette	P	Robert Henderson	P	Michael Bradley	P
Kimberly Greyeyes	Z	Scott Gust	A	Michael Pawelke	A
Kirsten Marcia	A	Tamara Buckwold	P	Patti McDougall	P
Letitia Russell	P	Zsuzsa Papp	R	Peggy McKercher	A
Miguel Fenrich	P			Robert Harasymchuk	Z
Pamela Meiers	A	Student Members		Roy Romanow	A
Rebecca Newson	A	Chang Ge	A	Salome Ries	R
Roberta Gallagher	P	Brock Neufeldt	P	Sarah Forgie	R
Rory Picklyk	P	Jasmin Luu	P	Scott Banda	P
Sebastian Gardulski	Z	Palash Roy	P	Scott Walsworth	P
Shankar Das	P	Sharon Jacob	A	Solina Richter	P
Terry Leibel	Z	Ritu Patel	P	Vera Pezer	A
Andrea Fiss Proxy for Darryl Bazylak	P	Spencer Possberg	A	Vince Bruni-Bossio	P
		<i>A = Absent</i> <i>P = Present</i> <i>R = Regrets</i> <i>Z = Zoom</i>		Walter Siqueira	P
				William Harrison	A
				Non-Voting Member	
				Julian Demkiw	P