

Board of Governors**Report to Senate****April 2, 2024****Submitted by Joy Crawford, Senate-elected member of the Board of Governors**

As I committed to when first elected by Senate and subsequently re-elected, here is an update on the activities of the Board of Governors. Please feel free to contact me at joy.crawford@usask.ca with questions and comments.

To begin with, I just want to reiterate that I find the unique tricameral governance structure at the University of Saskatchewan to be very exciting as it acknowledges both the role the academy and the prominent position the university holds within Saskatchewan society. While other Canadian institutions have similarly named bodies, the actual roles differ from what is seen at the University of Saskatchewan. At the University of Saskatchewan, the roles are as follows:

- University Council is responsible for overseeing and directing the University's academic affairs.
- Senate is responsible for recommendations regarding the establishment or disestablishment of any college, school, or department; appointing examiners for and making bylaws respecting the conduct of examinations for professional societies; the granting of honorary degrees; and non-academic student discipline.
- The Board of Governors is responsible for overseeing and directing all matters respecting the management, administration and control of the university's property, revenues and financial affairs.

BOARD COMPOSITION

The Board of Governors meets approximately six times a year and consists of eleven members:

- Chancellor Grit McCreath
- President Peter Stoicheff
- Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council appointees - Shelley Brown, Grant Devine, Keith Martell Marty Seymour, and Herb McFaull
- Senate elected members – Louise Simard and Joy Crawford
- Student member –Ishita Mann, USSU President
- Faculty member – Nadeem Jamali

Shelley Brown serves as chair of the board, and Keith Martell is vice chair. I chair the Audit & Finance committee; Keith Martell chairs the Governance & Executive committee; Louise Simard chairs the Human Resources committee; and Marty Seymour chairs the Land & Facilities committee.

Of note, public minutes of the board meetings are now be posted on the University Secretary web page. This is something that was requested for quite some time, and I am delighted to announce that as of July 2019, this was put in place. Currently, the most recent minutes published are from October 2023.

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

The University of Saskatchewan Board of Governors held two board meetings – December 11 & 12, April 8 & 9. As this report was prepared prior to the April meeting, this report covers the December meeting.

Special Guest

At the December meeting, the board met with special guest, Piotr Luszczuk, Director of New Products and Services at Canadian Universities Reciprocal Insurance Exchange (CURIE). CURIE is a specialized insurance option specifically designed for universities and colleges across Canada.

President's statement

The president provided updates on the following topics:

- There were two Rhodes Scholars awarded in the past year.
- VIDO was selected by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) foundation as one of the top labs.
- USask working with a food security program in Bangladesh, with a strong relationship to Canada.
- Research relationship with the University of Bonn and the recent visit to Germany.
- COP 28 UN Climate Conference in Dubai and the importance of Saskatchewan's presence there.

Update on Process for Stewardship of Heritage Buildings

The Board of Governors approved the following updated Heritage Principles:

1. The best way to preserve buildings and sites is to ensure they have a use that meets the USask teaching and research mandate.
2. The best way to preserve a building that is no longer meeting the USask mandate, is to identify a financially feasible re-use that meets the USask mandate.
3. Operating buildings as museums unto themselves is not part of the USask mandate, but some buildings may be a feasible landscape feature.
4. USask has reputational obligations to buildings and sites that have existing external designations but will not seek new external designations unless there are financial and usage advantages.

PERSONAL ENGAGEMENT

For my 3rd term on the board, I also have been appointed to sit on the following committees:

- The presidential review committee – complete
- The campaign advisory committee – complete
- The review committee for the Dean of Kinesiology - complete
- The joint committee for the conflict-of-interest policy review – complete
- The search committee for the executive director of SENS – complete
- The joint committee for the Chancellor - complete
- The review committee for the Dean of Edwards School of Business – complete
- Vice chair, board of governors – complete
- Chair, governance & executive committee – complete
- Chair, audit & finance committee - ongoing
- The search committee for the Dean of Kinesiology – Complete
- The search committee for the Chief Information Officer – Complete
- The search committee for the Chief Financial Officer – Complete
- Past chairperson of the Canadian University Boards Association (CUBA) - Ongoing

This is my final Senate meeting. It has truly been an honor to serve the University of Saskatchewan for these past 27 years - the first 10 years as an alumni volunteer and as president of the Alumni Association (2005-2006); years 2008 through 2014 as an elected Member-at-large on Senate and since 2014 as Senate-elected member of the Board of Governors. It will feel very strange come the fall of September 2024, as I will not be part of the fall return to campus. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy Crawford

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