

## **Senate Report on University Council – April 2024**

### **Submitted by Dr. Zsuzsa Papp and Larry Wagner, non-voting representatives on the University Council**

It has been an honour to represent the Senate on University Council. As one of three governing bodies of the University of Saskatchewan, Council is responsible for overseeing and directing the university's academic affairs. They meet the third Thursday of every month between September and June. Virtual attendance is accommodated. Agenda and minutes of the meetings are public and are posted on the USask website.

Council comprises elected representatives of all colleges, members at large, students, the president, and provost. Meetings are open and guests are welcome. Current chair is Dr. Marjorie Delbaere, Associate Dean of Research and Faculty Relations, Edwards School of Business.

- Council's responsibilities include, e.g., granting academic degrees, approving programs, academic Chairs, prescribe qualifications for admission, methods for evaluating student performance, makes recommendations on physical and budgetary plans
- Council has standing reports and updates from the President, the Provost, and student societies (USSU and GSA))
- Council receives reports, requests for decision and notices of motion from their Committees: Academic Programs; Governance; Executive; Nominations; Planning and Priorities; Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work; Scholarships and Awards; Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources
- Council is also informed of and invited to comment on Strategic Planning
- Council provides representatives on major search committees for the University

Some of the items discussed and approved between November 2023 and March 2024 (three council meetings) were:

Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Works Committee (RSAW). Great reminder of the USask following their vision "to be the university the world needs".

Note: Many of the above items were forwarded to the Senate Education Committee for review and approval

Council's parallel function to Senate's Education committee is to review and approve academic policy changes at the University. Hearing the discussions around these proposals was beneficial in Larry Wagner's role on the Senate Education Committee. Where appropriate, the Senate Education Committee receives a request for a decision on many of the items listed below after approved by Council.

The following are a sample of Decision items at Council:

MBA admission requirements previously approved on January 10, 2024, to change the reference to applicants holding a PhD from a Canadian university to be a reference to applicants holding an earned doctoral degree from a Canadian university

*It is recommended that Council approve the establishment of the Department of Oncology in the College of Medicine, as outlined in the agenda material; and that, with its establishment, the Division of Oncology be disestablished.*

The College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies is proposing a clarification to their requirements for admission to specify that applicants may apply with a four-year degree from a recognized college or university and that some three-year first cycle degrees will be considered when from an institution that meets the criteria set out in the Bologna declaration.

The College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and the College of Nursing are proposing a change to the minimum pass scores for graduate-level courses used in the MN Nurse Practitioner and the Post-degree specialization certificate Nurse Practitioner programs, to increase from 60% to 70%.

The College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and the Department of Computer Science are proposing a new admission pathway to the MSc in Computer Science program.

The accelerated pathway will be available only to students in the process of completing a B.Sc (Honours) program in Computer Science at USask and students could take up to 12 credit units of graduate level work before official registration in the M.Sc program, which would occur following the completion of the undergraduate program

*Council approves the Master of Clinical Pharmacy Program*

*Council approves the termination of the Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language program*

### **Some other items presented / discussed at council:**

Report of allegations and breaches under the Responsible Conduct of Research Policy

Annual reports from the Research Ethics Boards

As a follow-up to a question about sustainability some of the report is as follows:

- One of the big pillars of USask strategy focuses on GHG emissions, of which waste only contributes 1.4% yet waste management is one of the most visible/day to day activities we notice as consumers, something we can all actively participate in and appreciate why it has been raised;
- City of Saskatoon has been working hard to implement an organics program and recently shifted focus to larger scale institutions, commercial industry. USask will have until fall of 2024 to meet expectations and implement changes regarding organics.

- Another piece of important context is about the philosophy behind USask's sustainability strategy - one of the big shifts is the desire to see sustainability within and across all units/offices across campus - this means not trying to consolidate everyone working on sustainability into one office, the last year has been spent working with each of VPs to ensure a common understanding of their roles and how each of their teams and operations are integral in achieving our sustainability goals.

Overall, it is heartening to see the completeness of council's interest in promoting the better and advancement of the university. The interest in programs, integrity, and the general operation of the university is inspiring.

*If you want further information the full text of University Council meetings. (also Senate and Board of Governors meetings) is available at: <https://governance.usask.ca/council/index.php>*