

## Report of Membership Committee

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### FOR DECISION

- PRESENTED BY:** Tamara Buckwold, Chair, Membership Committee
- DATE OF MEETING:** April 20, 2024
- SUBJECT:** **Decision on New Organizational Member**
- DECISION REQUESTED:** That the University of Saskatchewan Retirees Association be designated a member of Senate pursuant to section 24(3) of *The University of Saskatchewan Act, 1995*, effective July 1, 2024.

### BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY:

The *Senate Bylaws* provide that the Membership Committee is responsible for considering applications by associations for Senate membership and to make recommendations to Senate on these matters. Membership by organizations is governed by *The University of Saskatchewan Act, 1995* and the committee's criteria for membership.

The Membership Committee's criteria for membership includes the following provision:

- "4) Cultural and business organizations may be considered for membership if they meet the criteria in the Act and
- a) Their members represent a significant constituency of stakeholders within Saskatchewan, and
  - b) The goals and aims of the organization are consistent with the strategic direction of the university."

Section 24(3) of *The University of Saskatchewan Act, 1995* says that:

- "[T]he members of the senate mentioned in clauses (1)(b) and (c) may designate professional societies or other organizations that, in the opinion of those members:
- (a) contribute in a significant way to the social, economic and cultural welfare of Saskatchewan; and
  - (b) have a demonstrated interest in furthering the goals of higher education and research at the university."

Note: The members of senate mentioned in clauses 24(1)(b) and (c) are the individuals elected by convocation; namely, district representatives and members at large.

At its March 27, 2024 meeting, the Membership Committee reviewed the nomination to Senate of the University of Saskatchewan Retirees Association with supporting material including the Memorandum of Understanding between the Association and the university and the Association's constitution and bylaws. The Committee voted to recommend to Senate that the University of Saskatchewan Retirees Association be designated a member of Senate.

### ATTACHMENTS:

- 1) Nomination Form for the University of Saskatchewan Retirees Association

**UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN**  
**NOMINATION TO THE UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN SENATE**

The *University of Saskatchewan Act 1995* (24.3) provides for membership on the University of Saskatchewan Senate by professional societies or other organizations that, in the opinion of Senate, (a) contribute in a significant way to the social, economic and cultural welfare of Saskatchewan; and (b) have a demonstrated interest in furthering the goals of higher education and research at the university.

Nominations for Senate must be made by either an elected member of Senate or by three members of the University's Convocation, who should complete the form with the assistance of and in consultation with the nominee. Nomination for membership is reviewed by the Membership Committee, which will forward its recommendation to a full meeting of the Senate.

**A. NOMINATION**

I/we the undersigned hereby nominate the University of Saskatchewan Retirees Association for membership on the University of Saskatchewan Senate. I/we have confirmed that this organization is interested in such membership and willing to appoint a delegate to participate in twice-yearly meetings of the Senate.

Name and email (please print): **Merry Beazely** [REDACTED]

I am an elected member of Senate or Convocation of the University of Saskatchewan

Signature Merry Beazely

Name and email (please print): **Bryan Harvey** [REDACTED]

I am an elected member of Senate or Convocation of the University of Saskatchewan

Signature Bryan Harvey

Name and email (please print): **Beryl Radcliffe** [REDACTED]

I am an elected member of Senate or Convocation of the University of Saskatchewan

Signature B Radcliffe

Date: November 16, 2023

## B. ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

Name of Organization: **University of Saskatchewan Retirees Association (USRA)**

Address: 221 Cumberland Ave N, Saskatoon, SK S7N 1M3  
[ss.usra@usask.ca](mailto:ss.usra@usask.ca), 306-966-6618

Name of contact individual: Merry Beazely [REDACTED]  
Position: Co-President of the USRA for 2023-2024

Number of Members in the organization: 420

***Criteria for membership:***

Membership in the USRA is open to anyone who has retired from faculty or staff positions at the University of Saskatchewan and its federated and affiliated colleges, including those employed under research grants and contracts.

Also eligible are persons who have been employed by the University of Saskatchewan for 6 or more years and have reached the age of 55 years.

***Please review the attached list of current organizations, which are members of Senate, and comment on the extent to which your organization's constituency and membership may already be represented on the Senate:***

We understand that our Association, if approved, will fall into "representatives of professional societies, groups or organizations in the province which in the opinion of the Senate contribute in a significant way to the social, economic and cultural welfare of the Province and have a demonstrated interest in furthering the goals of higher education and research at the university."

We reviewed the list of organizations represented on Senate and believe that those closest to the USRA are the USask and UR Alumni Associations, as below:

- USRA goals are similar to those of the USask Alumni Association, in that we also aim to add value to lives of members through benefits and services; build community among members; encourage the relationship with the University; and celebrate and encourage success of members.
- The criteria for Alumni membership overlaps with the USRA, in that many of our USRA members are Ordinary Members of the USask Alumni Association. Retirees, who are not USask grads, can be considered Associate Members of the Alumni Association.

- It is noted in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which exists between USask and the USRA, that the Alumni Association wishes to engage with and support the USRA to the best of its abilities.
- USRA's formal link with the University is through the Vice-President University Relations, whose responsibilities include alumni engagement.

So, while there are connections, the USRA represents a decidedly different community from that of the Alumni Association, notably:

- USRA is the sole organization that represents all former employees of the University. It represents 'official' retirees plus others who have left the University after a specified period of time.
- A great many USask retirees are not USask grads. Retirees had a different relationship with the institution while they were working than students do, and they seek a different relationship with the University.
- How USRA goes about achieving its goals is different as well. Where alumni celebrate by travelling to be with their graduating class or college, USRA activities are primarily local, with regularly scheduled educational/intellectual and social events.
- USRA's relationship with the University is unique as set out in the MOU, which includes specific areas of collaboration and articles of agreement. Please see <https://usra.usask.ca/documents/mou-final-signed.pdf>.

***Mandate of your organization (please attach a copy of your mission statement, charter or other document describing your mandate)***

USRA's purpose is to promote and safeguard the interests and welfare of University of Saskatchewan retirees and to provide a means of sustaining a continuing relationship among retirees and between retirees and the University. The objectives of the Association are as follows, with those contributing specifically to the University in bold:

- 1. To conduct activities which foster a continuing association among members and between members and the University;**
2. to promote the economic interests and welfare of retirees;
3. to provide programs of intellectual and social activities for members;
4. to collectively represent all retirees, whether members or not, in appropriate forums;
- 5. to be a channel of communication between the University and its retirees for purposes of responding to the academic and other needs of the University;**
- 6. to promote the Association and its objectives among employees of the University approaching retirement or who are leaving the University and meet USRA eligibility requirements;**
- 7. to provide opportunities for retirees, administrative officials, academic staff and other employees of the University (and their associations) to discuss and otherwise pursue matters of common interest; and**

8. to cooperate with, assist, and join together with retiree associations at other universities in areas of mutual concern.

The USRA's Constitution, Bylaws, and Policies and Procedures can be found at: [About - Retirees Association \(USRA\) - University of Saskatchewan | University of Saskatchewan \(usask.ca\)](#).

***In what way does your organization contribute in a significant way to the social, economic and cultural welfare of Saskatchewan?***

The USRA's purpose and objectives do not mention provincial social, economic and cultural welfare, but do focus on the economic interests and welfare of a specific group – the USask retirees, wherever they are.

- The majority of USask retirees are citizens of Saskatchewan, and the USRA works to promote their economic interests and welfare.
- USRA provides these Saskatchewan folks with programs of intellectual and social activities.
- USRA associates with SCOA (Saskatoon Council on Aging), an organization that provides opportunities to participate and benefit with other older adults in an 'age-friendly' community. This involves SCOA and USRA members in the health of the community through the annual SCOA *Globe Walk* and recent *Spotlight on Seniors* trade show.
- USRA is a member association of the College and University Retirees of Canada and has representatives on two of its working committees. These focus on areas of common concern to seniors, and their work is shared Canada-wide. The committees are Benefits, Health Care Policy, Pensions and Life-Long Learning.

Broadly speaking, the USRA contributes to the province through its support and contributions to the University, which in turn contributes in a major way to the social, economic and cultural welfare of Saskatchewan.

***In what way does your organization have a demonstrated interest in furthering the goals of higher education and research at the University?***

Highlighted below are USRA goals and principles agreed to in the MOU, which demonstrate our sincere interest in furthering the goals of the University.

- The USRA aims to be a channel of communication between the University and its retirees for the purposes of responding to the academic and other needs of the University.
- Retirees have a continuing interest in the welfare of the University and many of them wish to continue to participate in the lives of the University and to contribute to its success. Many USRA members are Professors Emeriti and continue to be

directly and closely involved in research and graduate student/trainee supervision.

- To the best of its abilities, the USRA aims to represent the perspectives of all retirees and to keep them informed of opportunities to engage with the University.
- The USRA and the University will aim to collaborate in the development and delivery of programming that will seek to grow retiree engagement in support of university priorities.
- The USRA and the University work together to host and update USRA membership contact information in the University's CRM Engage database.
- The USRA assists the *People and Resources* unit and others in the University in planning and delivery of events for prospective retirees (e.g., December 2022 presentation to faculty contemplating retirement; USRA involvement in reviewing and providing input for the "USask Retirement Channel").
- With the support of the University, the USRA recently hosted the national conference of College and University Retiree Associations of Canada; this successful initiative shone a spotlight on the excellence of USask scholars and research.

In turn, the University welcomes the participation of USRA members in the University community (e.g., Chancellor's Platform for Convocation and the annual Employee Appreciation Picnic) and agrees to promote and support their continued scholarly, creative, professional or volunteer activities (e.g., providing ICT services, Library services, access to educational opportunities on campus).

***How would your organization benefit by being a member of the University of Saskatchewan Senate?***

Based on the positive experiences of members of our USRA Board, who have been on Senate in other capacities in the past, the major benefits include:

- Increasing our understanding of the scope and depth of the University, its mission, goals, strategies, activities, issues, successes, through the biannual comprehensive reporting at Senate meetings.
- Opportunity to take a "deeper dive" into important issues for the University.
- Opportunity through the question period and in other discussions to bring forward and contribute USRA/retiree points of view and ideas.
- Increased visibility for the USRA among the professional associations in the province, the district, elected and student members, and notably the senior leaders of the University.

***Return to:*** Governance Office  
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