

Senate Minutes
April 20, 2024, 9 am – 4 pm
Education Students' Lounge

1. Welcome

1.1. Meeting Opening and Greetings

Chancellor McCreath called the meeting to order. She provided a land acknowledgement and welcomed those joining in person to the College of Education – her home college.

She then introduced Joseph Nawtowhow, Cultural Advisor in the College of Law, to start off the meeting in a good way.

Following this welcome and prayer, Chancellor McCreath called upon Hon. Gordon Wyant, Minister of Advanced Education, to offer remarks. Minister Wyant thanked Senators for their leadership with the university and expressed his gratitude for the work that the University of Saskatchewan does for the province and its economy. He emphasized the importance of the collaborative work that USask was doing, such as with the relocation of SaskPolytechnic and in working with industry and community partners.

1.2. Introduction of New Members

Chancellor McCreath introduced members who were attending their first meeting today:

- Fungai Marowa, Saskatchewan Intercultural Association, and
- Darryl Bazylak, Métis Nation—Saskatchewan.

She also recognized members who were attending their final meeting today:

- Max Bilson, Law Society of Saskatchewan,
- Jack Walton, Saskatchewan Writers' Guild,
- Kelley Moore, Member at Large, and
- Anne Doig, District 13.

2. Agenda and Minutes

2.1. Adoption of the Agenda

Genest/Siquierra – That the agenda be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

2.2. Approval of the Minutes from November 4, 2023

Drever/Jones – That the minutes be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. Senate Bylaw Changes

3.1. Changes to the *Senate Bylaws* to Facilitate Elections to the Board

Secretary Demkiw introduced this item and provided a presentation. These bylaw changes are being presented today on the advice of the Executive Committee to accommodate the hybrid nature of Senate meetings since the pandemic and a desire to make the best use of Senate's meeting time. The current process for Senate to elect members to the Board of Governors requires written ballots and numerous rounds of voting for each of the two positions. These changes would allow for electronic voting and for both positions to be elected with one ballot. Secretary Demkiw said this makes the process more

accessible and makes a better use of Senate’s time, especially when there is a larger number of candidates. If these changes are approved, the nominee speeches would still occur today and voting would be done online. It would open on Monday and would be available for a week.

Secretary Demkiw opened it up for questions. A senator asked if it was necessary to rank all seven candidates, and Secretary Demkiw responded that it is not. The senator asked if it would be possible to share the total number of members who participated in the election, and Secretary Demkiw responded that that could be done.

A senator asked about the timing of when the videos of the candidate speeches would be made available to Senators, as there was ambiguity in the text of the proposed bylaw changes. Secretary Demkiw responded that the intent was to have this available alongside the electronic ballot, and that this could be clarified with a friendly amendment.

Goswami/Richet – That the Senate approve of the changes to the *Senate Bylaws* as included in Attachment 1, effective immediately.

CARRIED

4. President’s Address

4.1. President’s Report to Senate

President Stoicheff offered verbal remarks to supplement the written report provided. President Stoicheff said that USask enjoys a strong relationship with the provincial government, especially in light of what is going on in other provinces across the country. We enjoy predictable funding that allows for long-term planning. The university recently got an increase in funding to cover inflationary pressures as well as funding to allow for the development of new health science programming. Additionally, the federal government is increasing the money available for research funding, and this will help Canada remain competitive in the world through innovation. Only a couple of years ago USask got a record-level of research funding of \$300 million, and this year we expect to be closer to \$380 million.

President Stoicheff spoke about the cap on international student visas being granted by the federal government. Thanks to the leadership of the provincial government, the allotment of visas granted to Saskatchewan increased dramatically. Unlike some other post-secondary institutions, USask does not try to aggressively enrol international students as a means of balancing the budget, so the impacts on our university will not be as great as some others. President Stoicheff said that USask needs to be a great place for international students to attend as they add to the diversity of the university community and advance the university’s research mission. President Stoicheff also said that USask was among a group of universities that had been asked by Parliament to inform the federal government’s approach to addressing anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in the wake of the conflict in Palestine.

President Stoicheff concluded his remarks by saying that of the 97 universities in Canada that are eligible for the country’s allotted 11 Rhodes Scholarships, USask got two of them this past year.

4.2. Questions

The Chancellor opened up the floor to questions.

A senator asked about what industry could be doing to help impress upon government the importance of continued investment in research and innovation. President Stoicheff responded that it is important for universities to understand the needs and desires of industry, and this is accomplished through ongoing communication and relationship building. He said that industry can play an important role in advocating to the federal government about the importance of an innovation agenda to spur economic growth.



A senator asked about the state of student housing, especially the infrastructure owned and operated by USask. President Stoicheff responded that housing availability is an important discussion at the university, and one that he and the President's Executive Committee discuss with student leaders on a regular basis. He said that the university's housing offerings have to be competitive, accessible and meet the needs of students.

5. Standing Reports

5.1. Report on Undergraduate Student Activities

Ishita Mann, President of the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union, offered a verbal report. She said that her executive was focused on student empowerment, wellness and accessibility. The USSU hosted numerous events and campaigns on a range of areas, such as creating a sense of community, academic integrity, various social causes, and mental health. The USSU took a collaborative approach, seeking to work together with student groups, the university's administration and the student leadership of other U15 universities on issues of shared concern. She concluded by challenging the university to continue to empower students to become leaders and to recognize the strengths that students have.

5.2. Report on Graduate Student Activities

Kayla Benoit, Interim President of the Graduate Student Association, offered a verbal report. She offered her thanks to President Mann for her leadership at USask and she said it has been an honour to serve as the Interim President of the GSA since January. She said that the university was doing important work to become more welcoming and accessible for Indigenous students to create the conditions for student success. The GSA elections are currently underway, and she is confident that whoever takes over will be able to carry on the important work of the GSA.

5.3. Report on Board of Governors Activities

Joy Crawford, one of the Senate-elected members of the Board of Governors, spoke briefly to make herself available if any members of Senate have any questions about the written report. She wished good luck with the candidate speeches and said she eagerly awaits the result of the vote.

5.4. Report on University Council Activities

Larry Wagner, one of the Senate-appointed non-voting members of University Council, described the role of University Council as a body responsible for academic decision making and offered to answer any questions about the report.

5.5. Strategic Enrollment Management Update

Jerome Cranston, Vice-Provost, Students and Learning, provided a verbal report and a presentation. Highlights of the verbal report included:

- USask takes a deliberate and strategic approach to how the university grows so we can do so sustainably and in a way that serves the province.
- Undergraduate students are primarily from Saskatchewan, while 43% of graduate students come from outside the country.
- We are seeing a modest increase in Indigenous student enrolment since the decrease that happened during the pandemic.
- The student demographic dashboard is available publicly online. The university is engaged in work to decrease or improve the gender gaps that exist in various colleges.



A senator asked for gender demographic information to be highlighted more clearly. Dr. Cranston said that there is room for improving this report to Senate, especially with regard to how these various demographic factors intersect with one another.

A senator asked about the definition of 'rural' vs 'urban' for Saskatchewan students. The senator also asked what the university's goal was for Indigenous student enrolment. Dr. Cranston said that the university uses postal codes to differentiate between urban and rural and follows federal guidance on this matter. As for Indigenous student enrolment, he would like to see USask lead the country in Indigenous student enrolment with more Indigenous students choosing to come to USask and be successful here.

5.6. Be What the World Needs Campaign Update

Note: This item was delayed until the afternoon due to time constraints.

Cheryl Hamelin, Vice-President, University Relations, offered a verbal update on the university's comprehensive campaign. The campaign to raise \$500 million is going into its final year and it is currently at \$418 million. All of this money is philanthropic and it does not include any government funding. She expressed confidence that they would be successful in raising the remaining \$82 million this year and is looking at how to sustain this culture of giving post-campaign. She invited members of Senate to attend a final year celebration at Merlis Belsher Place on June 11. She encouraged Senators to promote the campaign in the community to help tell the story of USask.

6. Senate Elections to the Board of Governors – Confidential

Doig/Martens – That Senate move *in camera* and that the candidates to the Board and the current members of the Board of Governors be allowed to remain in the room. **CARRIED**

6.1. Introduction to Election Process

6.2. Introduction to Candidates and Candidates' Presentations

Bedard-Haughn/Robertson – That Senate move out of the *in camera* session. **CARRIED**

7. Senate Education Sessions

7.1. Progress Towards USask's Sustainability Strategy

Janelle Hutchinson, Chief Sustainability Officer, provided a presentation to supplement the written report. She said that her office was responsible for reporting on progress, coordinating activities and telling the story of sustainability at USask. She said that when we talk about sustainability at USask, it's a very holistic approach – not just about the sustainability of the physical environment but also things like education, wellness, equity, and justice, and the USask Sustainability Strategy reflects this broad understanding.

She provided an overview of progress and challenges in fulfilling USask's Sustainability Strategy, including:

- Being part of a working group on developing a national urban park in or around Saskatoon.
- The university's reliance on the SaskPower electrical grid and the challenges of aging infrastructure for heating and cooling systems.
- Creating an inventory of sustainability-related courses offered at USask, and roughly 15% of current courses have a sustainability focus.
- Many of USask's signature research areas focus on sustainability.
- USask takes a collaborative approach with local and international organizations in working toward sustainability goals.



- USask is moving up the global rankings in terms of sustainability and is being recognized as a leader in this globally.

A senator asked about what role Senate can play in advancing sustainability, given that so much of the decision-making on this matter is about resource allocation and managing aging infrastructure. Ms. Hutchinson responded that financial pressures of achieving goals around decarbonization are significant. The process to decarbonize heating and cooling will happen between 2030 and 2050, and a technical study on this is currently underway. Prior to this, there is work being done to make buildings more energy efficient. In terms of lobbying support, although there are many federal programs to promote sustainability, very few of them are designed to work well for universities given the age of our infrastructure.

7.2. Fostering a Sustainable Future Through Education

Nancy Turner, Associate Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning, provided a presentation to supplement the written report. One pillar of the USask Sustainability Strategy is focused on teaching and learning, and this involves curriculum development, community-engaged learning, and equipping faculty and staff to excel in this area. The goal is to make sustainability experiences meaningful and applied through experiential learning.

Aditi Garg, Educational Development Specialist, continued the presentation. She said that sustainability in a post-secondary environment is not just about putting solar panels onto buildings, but its about creating solutions for a sustainable and regenerative future by empowering students with knowledge. It is about connecting students in the classroom to real-world problems and situations and providing opportunities for engaged learning on sustainability. She then instructed the room to break out into table discussions with notetakers to answer pre-circulated questions on how the university could work with community to develop competencies in sustainability amongst students.

After the in-person and online breakout discussions were done, Janelle Hutchinson provided concluding remarks. She said that next steps would be to collate the notes that were taken and to provide a report back to Senate on actions that are being taken on this matter in response to and as a follow-up on these conversations. She offered to discuss these matters individually with Senators should anyone be interested.

7.3. Update on the Use of AI by the University Community

Airini, Provost and Vice-President Academic, provided a verbal report to supplement the written report. The university has established three task forces on generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) to ascertain what next steps will be. The goal is to have a coordinated and intentional approach to how we handle GenAI and to ensure this work is done in line with our values and goals as a university.

8. Senate Business

8.1. Establishment of the Department of Oncology in the College of Medicine

Airini presented this item for Senate's decision. This work has been decades in the making. The Division of Oncology has been making significant contributions to Saskatchewan for decades, and this move to a department will enable it to sustain a residency program. This change signifies a confidence on an commitment to the university's work in advancing cancer research and treatment in the province. This decision is supported by the many external partners and has already gone through Council and the Board of Governors.



Marilyn Baetz, Interim Dean of the College of Medicine, added that this is a significant move forward in the recruitment and retention of high-quality oncologists in the province.

Gable/Wagner – That Senate confirm the establishment of the Department of Oncology in the College of Medicine; and that, with its establishment, the Division of Oncology be disestablished.

CARRIED

8.2. Senate Engagement Update

Jordan Sherbino, Governance Officer, provided a verbal report to supplement the written report. Highlights he discussed were:

- Enhancing Senator onboarding, and doing this collaboratively through conversation with existing Senators.
- Creating Senator profiles to help tell the story of Senate.
- Establishing a working group to advance Senate engagement and pursue the idea of a standing committee on engagement.

A senator asked expressed their appreciation for the work going on around Senate engagement, and asked for further work on creating mechanisms for Senators to connect with one another outside of Senate meetings. Mr. Sherbino responded that creating some sort of avenue for this to happen in a way that respects privacy concerns would be pursued.

9. Senate Committee Reports

9.1. Executive Committee

Secretary Demkiw presented this report. No questions were received.

9.1.1. Nominations to the Nominations Committee

Pursuant to the *Senate Bylaws*, there was a call for nominations from the floor and none were received.

Drever/Buckwold – That Senate appoint the following Senate members to the Nominations Committee for one-year terms beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025:

- Rhonda Gough, chair
- Barb Gustafson
- Aaron Genest
- Jordan Robertson

CARRIED

9.2. Nominations Committee

Rhonda Gough, Chair of the Nominations Committee, presented this report. No questions were received.

9.2.1. Nominations to Standing and Special Committees

Chair Gough provided an overview of the work of the committee in providing its recommendations, including the requirements of the *Senate Bylaws*, the information garnered in the call for interest, a balance of continuity and turnover, and diversity considerations on committees. She said this year there was more interest in committees than there were spaces on committees.



Pursuant to the *Senate Bylaws*, there was a call for nominations from the floor and none were received.

Robertson/Goswami – That Senate approve the appointments to standing and special committees as detailed in the attachment, effective July 1, 2024.

CARRIED

9.3. Membership Committee

Tamara Buckwold, Chair of the Membership Committee, presented this report. She said that the statutorily required five-year review of association memberships will be completed by the fall Senate meeting. She also highlighted the ongoing work of the committee in regard to diversity and inclusion.

A senator said that the goals of inclusion were commendable, but that this was not necessarily achieved by having a retirees association as part of Senate as many older people are already on Senate. Chair Buckwold took this point and said that equity has many facets, and that no current Senators were here in the capacity of specifically representing older people.

A senator asked about how the associations represented on Senate could be involved in the process. Chair Buckwold responded that the University Act restricts the decision making on admitting new association members to Senate to the Senators elected by Convocation. She said that there may be some way for the Membership Committee to include the associations in their work, especially in regard to its equity work.

A senator asked for clarification about what constitutes an ‘association’ under the Act. Chair Buckwold responded that historically it referred to a professional association, but recently there has been a move to consider community organizations. She added that having a more robust definition of ‘association’ would be a good topic for the Membership Committee to consider in depth, especially in how this relates to or restricts the goal of having greater diversity on Senate.

9.3.1. Decision on New Organizational Member

Chair Buckwold introduced this item to designate the University of Saskatchewan Retirees Association as an association member of Senate.

Gough/Maguire – 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.

CARRIED

9.4. Education Committee

Larry Wagner, Chair of the Education Committee, presented this report. He said that the Education Committee has two roles: to put forward ideas of education sessions such as the one today and to review changes to admission requirements for programs, and this is outlined in the written report. No questions were received.

9.5. Working Group on Non-Academic Misconduct

Secretary Demkiw provided a verbal report to supplement the written report. He said that regulating non-academic misconduct was one of the topics that was solely the purview of Senate at USask. There is work underway to revise the university’s approach to non-academic misconduct – both some smaller procedural changes and also some more substantive, philosophical pieces about the university’s general approach to these matters. He encouraged senators to reach out to the Governance Office if they were interested as this work progresses.

9.6. Honorary Degrees Committee – Confidential

Mover inaudible from recording/Seconder inaudible from recording – That Senate move in camera.

CARRIED

Goswami/Gable – That Senate move out of the *in camera* session.

CARRIED

10. Closing

10.1. Other Business and Question Period

A senator asked if it would be possible for the Governance Office to request the consent of individual senators to provide their email addresses to everyone on Senate. Secretary Demkiw responded that it was and that the Governance Office would coordinate this.

Deputy Provost McDougall provided an update to a previous question in the morning about student housing. She said that the residence fees USask charges are benchmarked at 90% of the going market rate, and it incorporates all amenities provided by the university. University leaders responsible for residence meet with student leadership throughout the year to proactively discuss matters of concerns and fees. USask currently has 2,274 residence beds – which is middle of the pack for U15 universities, despite us being the second smallest U15 university.

Dr. McDougall added for Senate's information that there is work underway on outreach efforts for honorary degree nominations, especially concerning reaching out to underrepresented groups.

10.2. Adjournment

Chancellor McCreath thanked everyone for attending and for being so passionate about the university.

With nothing remaining on the agenda, the meeting was properly adjourned at 4:01 pm.



Senate Attendance, April 20, 2024

Appointed Members		District Members		Ex Officio Members	
Andy Allen	P	Eric Wilmot	P	Airini	P
Rod Amaya	P	Wade Hainstock	P	Jane Alcorn	P
Beverly Balaski	Z	Alishia Beach	P	Marilyn Baetz	P
Donna Banks	Z	Darlene Clarke	P	Angela Bedard-Haughn	P
Darryl Bazylak	P	Michelle MacDonald	R	Lisa Bird-Wilson	R
Aly Bear	A	Dion Martens	P	Debby Burshtyn	P
Johanna Bergerman	P	Faith Nash	R	Rebecca Carter	R
Twyla Bergstrom	P	Garfield Hnatiuk	P	Jerome Cranston	P
Max Bilson	R	Cathy Wheaton	P	Blaine Favel	A
Keshia Caplette	Z	Barb Gustafson	P	Greg Fowler	A
Richard Côté	P	Walter Smith	A	Cheryl Hamelin	P
Lindsey Crook	Z	Anne Doig	P	Robert Harasymchuk	Z
Shankar Das	P	Colleen Matthews	P	William Harrison	A
Bev Dubois	Z			Russell Isinger	P
Kathy Gable	P	Members at Large		Angela Jaime	Z
Laurianne Gabruch	A	Nathalie Atanasova	Z	Charlene Sorensen	R
Roberta Gallagher	P	Jessica Borich	P	Joel Lanovaz	P
Sharon Garratt	P	Tamara Buckwold	P	Iain Luke	R
Hélène Grimard	P	Brooks DeCillia	Z	Richard Manley-Tannis	R
Judy Harwood	R	Kyle Drever	P	Jeromey Martini	A
Michael Jones	P	Aaron Genest	P	Grit McCreath	P
Terry Lebiel	R	Rhonda Gough	P	Patti McDougall	P
Amanda Lepage	R	Scott Gust	R	Peggy McKercher	A
Andrew Loken	P	Robert Henderson	A	Brooke Milne	Z
Jane MacLeod	R	Rob Maguire	P	Gillian Muir	P
Fungai Marowa	Z	Kelley Moore	P	Julia Paulson	R
Gail May-Melin	P	Zsuzsa Papp	P	Michael Pawelke	A
Pamela Meiers	R	Bruce Richet	P	Vera Pezer	A
Jodie Mirosovsky	R	Jordan Robertson	P	Martin Phillipson	R
Brenda Mishak	Z			Meghna Ramaswamy	R
Shawn Moen	Z	Student Members		Solina Richter	P
Tracy Muggli	P	Kayla Benoit	Z	Roy Romanow	A
Rebecca Newson	P	Abhineet Goswami	P	Carey Simonson	P
Kent Peterson	A	Sharon Jacob	P	Baljit Singh	R
Rory Picklyk	P	Eileen Knox	P	Walter Siqueira	P
Elizabeth Rackow	P	Punya Miglani	A	Carl Still	Z
Sandeep Sharma	R	Shahmeer Ahmed	A	Peter Stoicheff	P
Larry Wagner	P	Kyungsoo Ryu	A	Scott Walsworth	P
Jack Walton	P	<i>A = Absent</i>		Keith Willoughby	P
Dean Weninger	R	<i>P = Present</i>		Gordon Wyant	P
Bernie White	A	<i>R = Regrets</i>		Non-Voting	
		<i>Z = Zoom</i>		Julian Demkiw	P

