

Senate report on University Council, October, 2024

Submitted by Dr. Zsuzsa Papp and Rory Picklyk, non-voting representatives on the University Council

It has been an honour to represent 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. Vicki Squires, Associate Dean in the College of Education.

- 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 May 16, June 13, and Sept 26, 2024 (three council meetings) were:

Siemens EDA chair in the College of Engineering: clarification was provided to the Council on the role of the proposed Chair in the research and innovation in integrated circuits and computer chips. In response and in addition to the debate on April 18th, several council members provided their expert opinion on the subject and assured council members of the immense opportunity this provides for teaching and research at the USask, the importance of this Chair in USask's leading role in the subject and the policies and practices the university already has in order to provide oversight. After a series of votes on procedures and related matters, University Council approved the Siemens EDA Chair in the College of Engineering. As representative of Senate I would like to express my admiration and congratulations to the Council Chair, Secretary and the Governance office staff to professionally, patiently and efficiently facilitating this interesting debate and process.

Program approvals and changes –

Council approved the Doctor of Philosophy in Public Health, effective September 2024.

Termination of Post-Degree Certificate in Career and Guidance Studies

Change to Admissions Qualifications for the Large Animal Clinical Sciences – Remote Swine Residency concentration

Additional highlights, information:

Diefenbaker Canada Centre Review was provided.

Significant updates to the University Council Bylaws and Regulations were adopted.

.....

Overall it has been a pleasure to attend these meetings and affirm that our University is active in keeping its member involved and informed.

Rory Picklyk and Zsuzsa Papp