

Report of the Governance Office

FOR INFORMATION

Presented by: Julian Demkiw, University Secretary and Chief Governance Officer

Date of Meeting: October 26, 2024

Subject: **Chancellor Selection Process**

Background:

The appointment process for the Chancellor of the University of Saskatchewan is set forth in *The University of Saskatchewan Act, 1995*, section 17:

“17(1) The senate shall appoint the chancellor in accordance with this section.

(2) A nomination committee composed of three members of the senate and two members of the board shall nominate a person as chancellor.

(3) The senate may request an alternative nomination from the nomination committee mentioned in subsection (2).

(4) Only persons who have been members of the convocation for at least 10 years before nomination are eligible to be appointed as chancellor.

(5) The chancellor holds office for a term of three years and until his or her successor is appointed.

(6) The chancellor may be appointed to serve office for a second term, but no person may serve more than two consecutive terms as chancellor.”

As such, the appointment of the USask Chancellor rests with the Senate, and the recommendation that comes to Senate on this matter comes from a joint committee of the Senate and the Board of Governors. The *Senate Bylaws* provide further requirements for the membership of this joint committee:

“In accordance with Section 17 of the *University of Saskatchewan Act 1995*, the committee shall be composed of three members of the Senate and two members of the Board. The Board shall be invited to nominate two persons. The members of the Senate shall be nominated by the Nominations Committee as follows:

- (i) The President, in his/her capacity as vice-chancellor and vice-chair of the Senate.
- (ii) Two members of the Senate who have been elected under Section 24(1)(b) or 24(1)(c) of the *Act* (i.e. elected Senators) nominated by the Nominations Committee and elected annually by Senate.” (section V, part 7, clause a).

With Chancellor McCreath at the end of her second three-year term, a recommendation on who should serve as the next USask Chancellor will be coming to Senate at its next meeting on April 26, 2025. Similar to the granting of honorary degrees, this agenda item will be handled *in camera* in April.

Next Steps and Timeline:

A general overview of next steps on this matter are as follows:

- 1) *Populate the Joint Nomination Committee for Chancellor (JNCC)*: The appointees from Senate to the JNCC will be happening at Item 5.2.1 on this meeting's agenda. At the time of writing this report, the Board appointees are unknown, but it is anticipated that these two people will be selected at the Board of Governors meeting on October 23, so they should be able to be made available at the time the Senate meeting.
- 2) *Conduct a Call for Nominations for the Position of Chancellor*: The JNCC will meet to determine certain parameters for the call for nominations for the position of Chancellor. As per the *Senate Bylaws*, "The names of candidates for nomination to the position of Chancellor must be proposed in writing, endorsed by 7 members of Convocation, and submitted to the Secretary. The submission must include the written consent of the person being proposed" (section II, part 2, clause a).
The bylaws also require that the call for nominations to be sent to members of Convocation on or before November 30 in the final year of the Chancellor's term (section II, part 2, clause c). Other communications and engagement channels can be considered by the JNCC.
- 3) *Make a Singular Nomination*: After the call for nominations has concluded, the JNCC will convene to arrive at a recommendation for one person to serve as the next Chancellor.
- 4) *Present Nomination to Senate for Approval*: Following the *Senate Bylaws*, the nominee proposed by the JNCC will be approved by a majority vote of the Senate at its meeting on April 26, 2025. Upon approval, the new Chancellor's term would be set to begin on July 1, 2025. If the nominee is not approved by Senate, the JNCC will put forward an alternative nomination at the next meeting of Senate.