

## Report of the Senate Executive Committee

### FOR INFORMATION

**Presented by:** Peter Stoicheff, Vice-Chair, Executive Committee

**Date of Meeting:** October 26, 2024

**Subject:** Executive Committee – Report on Activities

#### Summary of Activities:

The members of the Executive Committee are:

- Chancellor: Grit McCreath (chair)
- President or designate: Peter Stoicheff (vice-chair)
- Three appointed members: Darryl Bazylak, Keshia Caplette, Gail May-Melin
- Three elected members: Barb Gustafson, Jordan Robertson, Rhonda Gough
- Two *ex officio* members: Brooke Milne, Angela Jaime
- One student member: Abhineet Goswami
- Chief Governance Officer: Julian Demkiw (non-voting member)

Since the time of the last Senate meeting, the Executive Committee met on September 27, and the following is an overview of the committee's work.

#### ***Senate Agenda Approval***

One of the responsibilities of the Executive Committee is to approve the agenda for each Senate meeting. In response to previous feedback provided by Senators, various changes have been made to this meeting:

- Having fewer reports presented to Senate that do not enable an opportunity to provide feedback.
- Putting the Senate committee reports earlier in the agenda and allocating more time to them.
- Take steps to ensure the agenda is not over-programmed and ensuring greater flexibility within agenda items.

The main engagement/education session was created in collaboration with the Associate Vice-President Research (Engagement) on community-engaged research (report 6.2 of the meeting package). This topic was chosen because:

- 1) Community-engaged research was a topic suggested the most recent time the Governance Office solicited feedback from Senators as to what sort of topics they would like to cover in a meeting.
- 2) In the most recent review of the organizational memberships on Senate (that is, the professional and community associations that send representatives to Senate), a theme that came up from a few of these organizations was a desire to collaborate with the university on different projects

or to establish contacts of where to go when potential research collaborations arise. Such a session would help to address this desire.

- 3) This session is aligned with the university's goal to "Embolden Partnerships" as articulated in the *University Plan*, especially the guidepost of having "Our university is viewed as an accessible, go-to resource by partners and stakeholders in Saskatchewan and beyond."

The Governance Office also recommended having an engagement session with Senate on the Presidential search process as this is a significant and important undertaking of the university.

### ***Senate Engagement***

The Governance Office has established a Working Group on Senate Engagement. The focus of this working group is to provide advice and ideas on specific issues to help the Governance Office advance the goals of Senate engagement. More information can be found in report 5.5 – Senate Engagement Working Group of this meeting package.

### ***Senate Elections to the Board of Governors***

At the most recent Senate meeting on April 20, 2024, changes were made to the election system by which Senate elects two members to the Board of Governors of the university. Although these changes were significant improvements to the way Senate conducts these elections, the Executive Committee received a report from the Governance Office indicating they will be pursuing further research as to how the overall process can be further improved.

The main topic of consideration in the Governance Office's research will be ensuring that Senate is provided with fulsome information throughout the nomination and election process to help inform decision making. This will consider the content of communications and the manner of communicating to members of Senate on such areas as:

- Information on the needs of the Board.
- Information on the candidates' capacity to meet the needs of the Board.

Ultimately, the goal of this project is to ensure that Senators are provided with adequate information to empower and enable Senate to make informed decisions.

*At this time, there are no recommendations being made by the Governance Office on specific proposed changes; rather, this information is being provided for the sake of transparency that this is something being considered. At such a time after research has been done or when there are specific recommendations being proposed, such proposals will be brought forward to the Executive Committee.*