

Report of the Governance Office

FOR INFORMATION

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

Date of Meeting: October 26, 2024

Subject: **Presidential Search Process Overview**

Background:

On December 31, 2025, Dr. Peter Stoicheff will complete his extended term as President of the University of Saskatchewan. Given that timing, the Board of Governors has initiated the search process for the university's next president. The board's decision will be guided and governed by the [Search and Review Procedures for Senior Administrators](#).

Search Committee Composition

The Presidential Search Committee has an ultimate responsibility to recommend viable candidates to the Board of Governors. Although the final selection of a candidate rests with the Board, the committee plays an integral role in ensuring the process follows the principles outlined in the policy, reviewing the position profile, consulting with the community, and interviewing viable candidates for the position.

As per the policy and procedures, the search committee is comprised of:

- Chair – Chair of the Board of Governors.
- Two members of the Board selected by the Board.
- One member of the Senate selected by Senate Nominations Committee.
- Two Deans or Executive Directors of schools, appointed by the Deans.
- Four members of the General Academic Assembly (that is, faculty members with full-time appointments) selected by Council.
- Two students, one who is President of the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union and one who is President of the Graduate Students Association.

Consultation

The Search and Review Procedures for Senior Administrators set out a special requirement for presidential searches. It says:

“For a presidential search, the committee shall provide the opportunity for interested members of the university community to provide written comments on the strategic goals and objectives of the university, and on the progress made or problems encountered in achieving those goals and objectives. All submissions must be written and signed and will be acknowledged and treated in confidence. Electronic submissions are acceptable with provisions made to confirm the authenticity of the author.”

All members of the university community are thus able to provide this feedback, but what is of interest to the Governance Office is how Senate in particular would like to be consulted on this matter. This current meeting is too early in the process (the search committee has not yet met) and the April 2025 meeting is too late in the process (much of the preliminary work of the search committee will have concluded by this time). As such, there needs to be a different strategy for how to meaningfully engage Senate in this process of providing feedback on the strategic goals and objectives of the university.

Next Steps:

At the Senate meeting on October 26, Secretary Demkiw will discuss options for consultation processes with Senators on how this governing body should be engaged and included in the presidential search process in providing feedback on the university's strategic goals and objectives.

The outcome of the October 26 session will be clear guidance to the Secretary to work with the Presidential Search Committee and Board of Governors to ensure meaningful engagement with Senators.