

## Report of the Membership Committee

### FOR INFORMATION

**Presented by:** Tamara Buckwold, Chair, Membership Committee

**Date of Meeting:** April 26, 2025

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

**Senate Action:** For information only.

#### **Summary of Activities:**

The members of the Membership Committee are Tamara Buckwold (chair), Chancellor Grit McCreath, Wade Hainstock, Dion Martens, and Robert Henderson. Since the date of the last Senate meeting, the committee met on April 2, 2025. The following is an update on the work of this committee.

#### ***Five-Year Review of Organizational Memberships – Final Report***

*The University of Saskatchewan Act, 1995* requires that:

“At least once every five years, the [elected members at large and district representatives on Senate] shall:

- (a) review the status of professional societies or other organizations having representatives in the senate to determine whether they should continue to send a representative to be a member of the senate.” (section 24(4))

All association members have now responded to the survey that was sent out (at the time of the last Senate meeting, three responses were outstanding). All members indicated a desire to continue being represented on Senate. The survey responses offered insights regarding interest in further opportunities for engaging association members in the work of Senate and the University.

As part of this review, the deans and executive directors of colleges and schools at USask were asked if – from their knowledge of the disciplines taught in their college or school – they saw any gaps in the associations represented on Senate. Work is ongoing to collaborate with the colleges and schools that identified potential omissions to put forward nominations for relevant associations.

#### ***Policies Regarding Membership by Professional Societies and Other Organizations***

The criteria for membership on Senate by professional societies and other organizations are currently defined by the *University of Saskatchewan Act, 1995* supplemented by a long-established Membership Committee policy document. They are, from the Act:

“24(3) For the purposes of clause (1)(f) the members of the senate mentioned in clauses (1)(b) and (c) [that is, the elected members at large and district representatives] may designate professional societies or other organizations that, in the opinion of those members:

(a) contribute in a significant way to the social, economic and cultural welfare of Saskatchewan; and

(b) have a demonstrated interest in furthering the goals of higher education and research at the university.”

The statutory requirements are supplemented by established policies of the Membership Committee.

One of the themes that arose as part of the five-year review was the question of whether the body with regulatory authority over a profession or the professional association for that group should be represented on Senate where both exist. The question was raised in the committee’s report at the last meeting of Senate with an invitation for input from Senators. The committee also consulted with the deans of colleges that oversee academic programming where the related professional association and regulatory body are split and asked which of the two entities should be on Senate.

The committee reviewed the issue in light of the input received and voted to make the following addition to its policies on “Criteria for Assessing Eligibility for Membership of Organizations on the University of Saskatchewan Senate”:

“1(a) Where both a regulatory authority and a professional association exist in relation to a profession or group and both express a desire to sit as members of Senate, the regulatory authority will ordinarily be selected as the member representing that profession or group.”

The revised policy document is attached in full.

The committee plans to further consider the criteria for membership by professional societies and other organizations addressing additional relevant factors. Input from Senate members may be addressed to the committee through the Governance Office.

### ***New Member Proposal: Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists – Saskatchewan***

The Membership Committee is directed by the bylaws to make recommendations to the Senate on applications for membership from associations. The committee considered a nomination for membership of the Saskatchewan chapter of the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists and concluded that the association should not be recommended for membership.

Occupational therapists are currently represented on Senate by the Saskatchewan College of Occupational Therapists, which indicated its interest in maintaining membership in its recent reply to our five-year survey of organizational members. The Saskatchewan College of Occupational Therapists is the governing body responsible for regulating the practice of occupational therapy in Saskatchewan. Both organizations offer representation for occupational therapists and their interests, including educational programming. The decision of the committee was influenced by the view that duplication of representation should be avoided where the constituency of a nominated organization is already substantially represented by an existing member. The decision was also supported by the committee’s general policy under which membership by a regulatory authority ordinarily takes precedence over membership by a professional association where both exist in relation to a professional group.

### ***Diversity and Representation Initiatives***

The Membership Committee continues to be interested in increasing the diversity of Senate.

The chair of the committee met with President Peter Stoicheff and with Angela Jaime, Vice-Provost Indigenous Engagement, on potential means of entrenching the representation of Indigenous governments on Senate. The results of these conversations were shared with the committee, and further reporting on this will be coming to Senate in the future.

### **Attachments:**

- 1) Criteria for Assessing Eligibility for Membership of Organizations on the University of Saskatchewan Senate

## Criteria for Assessing Eligibility for Membership of Organizations on the University of Saskatchewan Senate

### Excerpts from *The University of Saskatchewan Act, 1995*

24(1) *The senate is composed of:*

*(f) one representative from each professional society or other organization designated pursuant to subsection (3).*

24(3) *For the purposes of clause (1)(f) the members of the senate mentioned in clauses (1)(b) and (c) may designate professional societies or other organizations that, in the opinion of those members:*

- (a) contribute in a significant way to the social, economic and cultural welfare of Saskatchewan; and*
- (b) have a demonstrated interest in furthering the goals of higher education and research at the university.*

24(4) *At least once every five years, the members of the senate mentioned in clauses (1)(b) and (c) shall:*

- (a) review the status of professional societies or other organizations having representatives in the senate to determine whether they should continue to send a representative to be a member of the senate; and*
- (b) consider applications by professional societies or other organizations wishing to have representatives in the senate to determine whether they should be allowed to send a representative to be a member of the senate.*

### Criteria for Membership and Continued Membership

- 1) Licensing and professional bodies for professions that are taught at the University, or for professions for which the University provides preparatory study, should be invited to send a representative to Senate, on the advice of the relevant dean(s). In general where there is both a national or international and a provincial association, the provincial association will be invited to send the representative.
  - a) Where both a regulatory authority and a professional association exist in relation to a profession or group and both express a desire to sit as members of Senate, the regulatory authority will ordinarily be selected as the member representing that profession or group
- 2) The alumni associations for the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina will each be invited to send a representative.
- 3) Educational institutions are not themselves eligible for membership but may be represented by associations such as the CEO Council of Regional Colleges or the Saskatchewan School Boards Association.
- 4) Cultural and business organizations may be considered for membership if they meet the criteria in the act and
  - a) Their members represent a significant constituency of stakeholders within Saskatchewan, and
  - b) The goals and aims of the organization are consistent with the strategic directions of the university.
- 5) An organization whose delegate misses two consecutive senate meetings or whose delegate position remains vacant for two consecutive senate meetings will be notified by the University Secretary, with a copy to the delegate, that should their delegate miss the next meeting following, their membership will be revoked unless a special exemption is granted to accommodate continued membership. Organizations may designate an alternate in accordance with Bylaw XXII.3 if their delegate will be unable to attend a meeting. Any organization whose membership is revoked may re-apply for membership after one year.

Approved: April 18, 2009

Revised: April 2010, December 2018, April 2023, April 2024