



Board of Governors Report to Senate

FOR INFORMATION

Presented by: Corinna Stevenson, Senate-elected member of the Board of Governors
Date of Meeting: April 25, 2026
Subject: **Board of Governors Report to Senate**

Background:

It is a longstanding practice for the Senate elected member of the Board of Governors to report on the Board's activities to Senate. This reporting ensures that Senate members are informed of the Board's current initiatives and upcoming agenda items. Maintaining this communication is essential to fostering alignment among governing bodies and supporting effective governance at USask.

USask Board of Governors:

The Board of Governors is responsible for overseeing and directing all matters related to the management, administration, and control of the University's property, revenues, and financial affairs. The Board meets approximately six times per year, with each standing committee meeting four times annually.

Public minutes from Board meetings are posted regularly on the [Governance Office website](#). The most recently published minutes are from the October 2025 meeting; minutes from the December 2025 and February 2026 meeting will be posted following their approval at the April 2026 meeting.

Board Highlights:

Since the October 2025 Senate meeting, the Board of Governors has convened on two occasions: December 15-16, 2025 and February 9-10, 2026. My term as a Senate-elected member commenced on July 1, 2024, and I have now attended eight board meetings.

At its December 2025 meeting, the Board of Governors addressed significant governance, capital, and institutional matters and marked President Peter Stoicheff's final Board meeting.

The Board approved a range of capital initiatives supporting research, teaching, health sciences, and infrastructure resilience. These included the relocation of Rugby Chapel, endorsement of specific university lands within the proposed Meewasin National Urban Park boundary, advancement of the Silverspring Landfill decommissioning project, approval to list the Canadian Feed Research Centre for sale subject to provincial approval, and preliminary approval to proceed with planning for the Poultry Research and Teaching Unit adult barn project. Human resources discussions included updates on senior leadership searches, labour relations, and workplace wellness, with the Board approving changes to exempt staff compensation effective May 1, 2026, and a tentative collective agreement with the Public Service Alliance of Canada, subject to ratification. Governance work included approval of updated committee work plans and terms of reference, as well as continued efforts to strengthen shared governance with Senate and Council.

The Board also received updates on the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Framework for Action and the university's newly published Accessibility Plan under Saskatchewan's Accessibility Act. Additional reports highlighted continued improvement in global university rankings, progress toward sustainability and greenhouse gas reduction targets, the successful conclusion of the *Be What the World Needs* fundraising campaign, and the university's significant economic and social impact at both the provincial and national levels.

In February 2026, the Board of Governors held a retreat focused on establishing an effective working relationship with the incoming President and engaging early in the university's next strategic planning cycle. The retreat provided the Board with an initial overview of the proposed University Plan 2035, including the planning framework, timelines, engagement approach, and key risks. Governors discussed how the strategic planning process will align presidential priorities with Board oversight and support broad engagement across the university and external partners.

Following the retreat, the Board convened for a formal meeting to address and approve time-sensitive governance, research, and labour-related matters. The Board appointed a new Vice-Chair and confirmed Board representation on the USask Properties Investment Inc. Board to support effective governance of endowment lands. The Board also approved major research infrastructure investments, including the acquisition of a quantum computer and a cryogenic-electron microscope, both aligned with the university's research strategy and largely supported by external funding. In addition, the Board approved a tentative collective agreement with CUPE Local 1975, subject to ratification.

At the upcoming April 2026 meeting the Board of Governors will review institutional performance and approve significant capital and land-related projects, alongside major Audit and Finance items including the financing strategy, 2026/27 comprehensive budget, and spending policy. Human resources and governance business will include labour relations, committee and Board appointments, and policy approvals. The meeting will also include updates on fundraising and campaign activity, followed by extended strategic discussions on institutional planning, the Stone Barn and the Land Trust.

Matters of Strategic Interest to Senate

The Board of Governors would like to draw Senate's attention to the following two items, which highlight significant developments affecting the university's funding environment and its broader economic and social contribution. Senators are encouraged to become familiar with these topics and use this information in their ambassador roles when engaging with internal and external stakeholders on behalf of USask.

Provincial Multi-Year Funding Agreement (MOU 2.0)

In November 2025, the Government of Saskatchewan announced a new four-year funding agreement with the University of Saskatchewan, providing greater predictability and stability in provincial operating support through annual funding increases and a permanent base enhancement. The agreement supports long-term planning, reinforces student affordability through moderated tuition growth, and introduces an integrated accountability framework linking financial and performance reporting, with the final framework submission due November 2026, and future consideration of performance-based funding. The Government of Saskatchewan announcement can be found [here](#).

Economic and Social Impact Study

The Board received an update on the university's new economic and social impact study, which highlights USask's significant contribution to Saskatchewan and Canada. The study shows that USask contributes approximately \$2.0 billion annually to Saskatchewan's GDP and \$2.4 billion nationally,

supports 13,320 jobs, and increases graduates' annual earnings by over \$13,000 per degree. It also demonstrates that each provincial dollar invested in USask generates \$3.64 in provincial GDP and attracts \$1.48 from non-provincial sources. These findings align closely with Saskatchewan Growth Plan priorities and will be used to support government relations, public engagement, and advocacy efforts. A comprehensive summary and interactive overview of the study can be found on the [USask Economic and Social Impact](#) website.

Current Focus:

In the current environment, the Board of Governors' primary focus is on financial sustainability, strategic positioning, and risk oversight. Continued attention to budget discipline, affordability, labour costs, and capital prioritization is essential amid constrained funding and broader economic uncertainty. The Board is also focused on positioning USask for long-term relevance by strengthening research competitiveness, renewing critical infrastructure, and aligning strategy with provincial, national, and global priorities. Strong governance, effective risk management, and stewardship of land and assets remain critical to maintaining public trust and supporting the university's mission.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my second Board of Governors report to Senate as a Senate-elected member of the Board. I look forward to engaging with this group at the next meeting in October 2026.

Sincerely,
Corinna Stevenson, Board Member

The Board and Committee Membership for 2026-2027:

Effective January 23, 2026, the Government of Saskatchewan appointed Karen Stewart to her first three-year term as a member of the USask Board of Governors, following the retirement of long serving Board member Shelley Brown.

The Board consists of eleven members:

- **President:** Vince Bruni-Bossio
- **Chancellor:** Scott Banda
- **Five members appointed by the government:** Grant Devine, Keith Martell, Marty Seymour, Herb McFaull and Karen Stewart.
- **Two Senate elected members:** Mike Marsh and Corinna Stevenson
- **Faculty member:** Ryan Walker
- **Student member:** Emma Wintermute, USSU President

Board Committees:

Audit and Finance Committee:

Corinna Stevenson (Chair), Mike Marsh, Emma Wintermute, Ryan Walker, Keith Martell

Land and Facilities Committee:

Marty Seymour (Chair), Grant Devine, Emma Wintermute, Herb McFaull, Mike Marsh, Keith Martell

Human Resources Committee:

Herb McFaull (Chair), Scott Banda, Grant Devine, Corinna Stevenson, Keith Martell

Governance and Executive Committee:

Corinna Stevenson (Chair), Vince Bruni-Bossio, Herb McFaull, Marty Seymour, Keith Martell