

**Senate Minutes**  
**October 26, 2024, 9 am – 4 pm**  
**Exeter Room, Marquis Hall**

**1. Welcome**

**1.1. Meeting Opening and Greetings**

Chancellor McCreath called the meeting to order. She provided a land acknowledgement and expressed gratitude for the presence of all attendees. She then introduced Elder Dr. Norm Fleury to start off the meeting.

Chancellor McCreath thanked Angela Bedard-Haughn, the Dean of the College of Agriculture, for hosting a lovely event the previous night, along with the governance team. She also extended her thanks to Tim Kohlruss and Terry Allington for their behind-the-scenes support, and to the governance team for their excellent work in organizing the meetings. Additionally, she congratulated Julian Demkiw on his upcoming PhD graduation at the fall convocation, highlighting his hard work and dedication.

**1.2. Introduction of New Members**

Chancellor McCreath introduced new members who were attending their first meeting today:

Students:

- Brock Neufeldt, undergraduate student
- Nishtha Mehta, undergraduate student
- Ritu Patel, undergraduate student
- Selim Bytyqi, undergraduate student

Elected:

- Audrey Hestand, Member at Large
- Karen Mitzel, Representative of District 5
- Karen Mosier, Representative of District 13
- Lorne Vanin, Member at Large

Appointed:

- A.J. Fox, Law Society of Saskatchewan
- Amee Josie, Saskatchewan Intercultural Association
- Blair Cummins, Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities
- David Mandeville, University of Saskatchewan Retirees Association
- Dean Zimmer, College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan
- Kimberly Greyeyes, Saskatchewan School Board Association
- Letitia Russell, Chiropractors' Association of Saskatchewan

Ex Officio:

- Dani Brittain, Dean of the College of Kinesiology
- Marjorie Delbaere, Acting Dean of the Edwards School of Business
- Michael Bradley, Dean of the College of Engineering

## 2. Agenda and Minutes

### 2.1. **Adoption of the Agenda**

**MOTION** – (Goswami/Drever) - That the agenda be adopted as circulated.

**CARRIED.**

### 2.2. **Approval of the Minutes from April 20, 2024**

**MOTION** – (Genest/Walsworth) - That the minutes be approved as circulated.

**CARRIED.**

## 3. President's Address

### 3.1. **President's Report to Senate**

President Stoicheff highlighted the University of Saskatchewan's recent achievements, including a significant increase in research funding to \$417 million and improved international rankings. He emphasized strong relationships with Indigenous communities, such as a recent MOU with Thunderchild First Nation, and the success of the comprehensive campaign, which has raised approximately \$455 million towards a \$500 million goal.

He also mentioned growing international connections through trips to Germany and Brazil. Despite challenges from federal policies affecting international student recruitment, the university has increased overall enrollments through targeted initiatives and lobbying.

President Stoicheff stressed the importance of maintaining strong government relations and the role of Senate members as ambassadors. He acknowledged the contributions of the senior leadership team and the broader university community in these successes.

#### **Questions**

A senator inquired about challenges in recruiting international graduate students and strategies to attract more domestic students. President Stoicheff noted federal caps on international permits and lobbying efforts, while Vice-President Singh and Dean Burshtyn highlighted targeted recruitment programs and increased federal scholarships.

A senator asked about the Senate's role in supporting the university during turbulent times. President Stoicheff emphasized Senate members as ambassadors, addressing challenges like cost of living and housing, and highlighted initiatives like Research Junction. He stressed understanding community needs to help the university thrive.

A senator expressed concerns about graduate programming and the need to expand programs in Northern Saskatchewan, highlighting the high percentage of Indigenous students. President Stoicheff acknowledged the importance of this expansion and the need to support Indigenous students and the broader community.



A senator expressed concerns about the impact of fiscal restraint on staff, including increased workloads and departmental consolidations. President Stoicheff acknowledged these challenges, emphasized the university's relatively good financial situation, and mentioned efforts like the annual employee engagement survey and hiring a new Associate Vice-President of Human Resources to improve staff well-being and make the university a top employer.

Vice-President of University Relations, Cheryl Hamlin, was in Calgary hosting an alumni event, so Chancellor McCreath provided an update. The campaign had reached just over 91% of its goal with eight months remaining, thanks to Cheryl and her team's efforts. She highlighted the success of Giving Day on September 10th, where 400 donors contributed \$300,000 in a single day. Cheryl Hamlin also hosted alumni events in Victoria and San Francisco with President Stoicheff, and several major gift announcements were expected soon. Additionally, the university won two national awards from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education for their public relations work related to the campaign.

#### **4. Governance and Administrative Reports**

##### **4.1. Report on Board of Governors Activities**

Board Member Corinna Stevenson updated the Board of Governors' activities, highlighting their oversight of the university's property, revenues, and financial affairs. The Board, consisting of 11 members, meets six times a year and has convened three times since the last Senate meeting. They met with the new Minister of Advanced Education and her Chief of Staff to discuss government relations and advocacy, emphasizing the importance of strong government connections for securing support and funding. The Board is focused on key leadership recruitments, including selecting a new president, and ensuring a strong transition plan. Stevenson also acknowledged recent achievements in university rankings and the successful spring convocation.

A senator appreciated Dr. Jay Wilson's appointment as principal at the Prince Albert campus and inquired about the relationship with SaskPolytech and the new campus's impact on the research park land. Greg Fowler explained the lease with Innovation Saskatchewan and plans for an innovation corridor with SaskPolytech. Dr. Patti McDougall added that the provost's office is working on academic aspects, with Dr. Venkatesh Mehta assessing future initiatives.

A senator appreciated Corinna Stevenson's role on the Board of Governors, highlighting improved transparency and communication. The senator emphasized the importance of regular updates from board members and valued Corinna's contributions.

##### **4.2. Report on University Council Activities**

**Note:** This item was presented for information.

##### **4.3. Strategic Enrolment Management Report**

Acting Provost Bruni-Bossio introduced the Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) report, emphasizing its importance in Senate meetings and the university's commitment to



addressing enrollment trends. He mentioned the development of a three-year enrollment plan and set the stage for Dr. Jerome Cranston's updates on international student enrollment challenges. Dr. Cranston explained the impact of federal policies reducing study permits, leading to significant decreases in international enrollments. He outlined strategies to address these challenges, including targeted recruitment, flexible learning opportunities, and enhanced support systems. Dr. Cranston also highlighted initiatives like a non-refundable tuition deposit and a cost calculator to support students, reiterating the university's dedication to a supportive environment for all students.

#### **4.4. Non-Academic Student Discipline**

Secretary Demkiw summarized the Non-Academic Student Discipline report, noting the Senate's role in overseeing sanctions for non-academic misconduct and the increase in formal hearings. He emphasized the university's efforts to implement alternative dispute resolution processes to address issues before they escalate. The report highlighted the importance of maintaining a fair disciplinary system to uphold university standards and support a safe campus environment.

#### **4.5. Chancellor Selection Process**

Secretary Demkiw outlined the Chancellor Selection Process, noting that Chancellor Grit McCreath is nearing the end of her second term and cannot continue due to term limits. A nominations committee of three Senate members and two Board of Governors members will solicit nominations from the convocation and present one candidate to the Senate for approval. Nominations will be called by November 30, with the final selection at the April 2025 Senate meeting.

### **5. Senate Committee Reports**

#### **5.1. Executive Committee**

President Stoicheff, vice-chair of the committee, spoke to the committee work. They approved the Senate meeting agenda, discussed the Senate engagement strategy, and the Senate elections to the Board of Governors process. The committee also reviewed administrative matters to ensure smooth Senate functioning, emphasizing effective governance and strategic planning to support the university's goals.

No questions were received for this item.

#### **5.2. Nominations Committee**

Rhonda Gough, chair of the Nominations Committee, updated on key actions since the last Senate meeting. The committee filled vacancies on the Senate Executive Committee and the Senate Board for Student Discipline and Appeal Board. For the Presidential Search Committee, they selected Chancellor Grit McCreath, and Rhonda will serve on the review committee for the Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

No questions were received for this item.



### 5.2.1. Nominations to the Joint Nomination Committee for Chancellor

The Nominations Committee recommended Aaron Genest and Kyle Drever to serve on the Joint Nomination Committee for Chancellor. This recommendation was presented to the Senate for approval. The Joint Nomination Committee, which includes three Senate members and two Board of Governors members, is responsible for soliciting nominations and selecting a candidate for the position of Chancellor.

**Motion (Richet/Buckwold):** That Senate approve the appointment to the Joint Nomination Committee for Chancellor as detailed in the attachment, effective immediately.

**CARRIED.**

### 5.3. Membership Committee

Tamara Buckwold, chair of the Membership Committee, updated on the committee's activities, highlighting the conclusion of a five-year review of organizational members based on survey responses. The review showed strong support for continued participation in Senate, with many members desiring deeper engagement. The committee plans to finalize the roster after the extended deadline on November 29, 2024. Additionally, they are evaluating criteria for Senate membership eligibility, considering structural composition, continuity, and alignment with university values, and addressing representation issues for recognized professions and Indigenous organizations. The committee welcomes input from Senate members on these matters.

No questions were received for this item.

### 5.4. Education Committee

Robert Henderson, chair of the Education Committee, provided an update on the committee's activities, which include setting agenda items related to education and confirming council decisions on admissions policies. Since the last Senate meeting, the committee met once via email to address these responsibilities. The report detailed the committee's actions and decisions, and there were no questions from Senate members, indicating a clear presentation.

No questions were received for this item.

### 5.5. Senate Engagement Working Group

Secretary Demkiw updated on the Senate Engagement Working Group, established to enhance Senate's role and effectiveness. The group focuses on logistics and administration, community and alumni engagement, and creating a culture of engagement. Progress includes planning activities and integrating Senate with other governing bodies to foster meaningful contributions and strengthen connections to the university.

No questions were received for this item.

5.6. Honorary Degrees Committee – Confidential

**MOTION** – (Gough/Richet) – That Senate move *in camera*.

**CARRIED.**

**MOTION** – (Drever/Wheaton) – That Senate move out of the *in camera* session.

**CARRIED.**

**6. Education and Engagement Sessions**

**6.1. Update Report – Sustainability at USask**

Janelle Hutchinson, the Chief Sustainability Officer, updated on USask's sustainability strategy, highlighting progress and the importance of continuous reporting. She identified seven main themes, including sustainability of facilities, agricultural practices, interdisciplinary collaboration, mental health, equity and access, partnerships, and practical solutions for housing and poverty, aligning with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. New initiatives include launching Sustainability and EDI Faculty Fellows to integrate related content into courses and projects, and a pilot curriculum initiative with the Edwards School of Business to map courses against the SDGs. Despite challenges in securing federal funding for community-engaged learning projects, efforts to find alternative funding continue, and the sustainability office will publish the 2023-2024 annual report online for community access.

**6.2. Community-Engaged Research at USask**

Dr. Dawn Wallin, Associate Vice-President Research Engagement, introduced a session on community-engaged research at USask, emphasizing its importance and impact. She highlighted that community-engaged research spans across 17 academic units and involves partnerships with communities, industries, and governments. The session featured presentations from several scholars, showcasing diverse research areas such as health, natural sciences, and fine arts. These projects demonstrate the university's commitment to addressing community needs and fostering meaningful collaborations.

**Panel Highlights and Their Work:**

Dr. Marcus Brinkman:

Title: Centennial Enhancement Chair in Mechanistic Environmental Toxicology

Affiliations: Director of the Toxicology Center, Associate Professor in the School of Environment and Sustainability, Member of the Global Water Futures Program and the Global Institute for Water Security

Research Focus: Environmental toxicology and water security

Project: Wastewater-based surveillance of SARS-CoV-2, monitoring wastewater to detect early signs of COVID-19, providing valuable data for public health decisions.



Dr. Kerry MacPhedron:

Title: Saskatchewan Centennial Enhancement Chair

Affiliations: Professor and Graduate Chair in Civil, Geological, and Environmental Engineering

Research Focus: Engineering solutions for environmental challenges

Project: Collaborated with Dr. Brinkman on the wastewater surveillance project, focusing on the engineering aspects of detecting SARS-CoV-2 in wastewater.

Dr. Jennifer Lang:

Title: Interim Vice Dean Academic of the College of Arts and Science, Co-lead of the Health and Wellness Signature Area, Full Professor in Music

Research Focus: Music education, community outreach, and the impact of music on well-being

Project: "Timeless Voices," an intergenerational choir program connecting secondary school students, university students, and seniors to promote well-being through music.

Dr. David Nachor:

Title: University Arctic Chair in Water, Energy, and Food Security in the Arctic, Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics

Research Focus: Indigenous resource management, water, energy, and food security

Project: Addressing food, energy, and water security challenges in northern communities, including the impact of hydroelectric development on water quality and food security.

Dr. Stuart Skinner (joining remotely from Regina):

Title: Assistant Professor and Division Head of Infectious Diseases in the College of Medicine, Executive Director of the Wellness Wheel Medical Clinic

Research Focus: Infectious diseases, community-based healthcare, and support for First Nations communities

Project: Providing HIV, hepatitis C, and syphilis testing and treatment in First Nations communities, developing community-led healthcare initiatives.

These panelists showcased a wide range of research areas, from environmental science and engineering to music education and healthcare, demonstrating the university's dedication to leveraging research for community benefit and enhancing the quality of life for diverse populations in Saskatchewan.

Senators worked in their tables and online to work through questions posed by Dr. Wallin and the panelists.

## **7. Presidential Search – USask Strategic Goals and Direction**

### **7.1. Search Process Overview**

Secretary Demkiw provided an overview of the presidential search process, emphasizing its significance and structured approach. Governed by the Board of Governors, the process involves a search committee with representatives from the Board, Senate, faculty, and students, and an executive search firm to ensure a diverse pool of candidates. The



comprehensive consultation phase will gather feedback from various stakeholders to inform the search criteria and candidate profile. The timeline aims for the new president to start by January 2026, ensuring thorough consultation, careful selection, and a smooth transition, with a focus on transparency and inclusivity to align with the university's mission and vision.

A senator asked about the stakeholders in the presidential search process. Secretary Demkiw explained that stakeholders include internal groups like students, faculty, and staff, and external groups such as Indigenous community members, business community members, governing bodies, and non-profits. He emphasized the broad definition of "stakeholders" to ensure inclusivity and mentioned his role in making the process accessible for interested participants.

A senator asked about the consultation process for the presidential search and sought insights from President Stoicheff's experience. President Stoicheff explained that he had no direct knowledge of the search committee's consultations as a former candidate but emphasized the importance of a robust transition process. He highlighted that extensive consultations with the new president occur before they begin their role, involving meetings with various sectors and community groups to ensure alignment with the university's goals and values.

## **7.2. Discussion Groups**

# **8. Closing**

## **8.1. Other Business and Question Period**

A senator inquired about creating a list of personal email addresses for Senate members to facilitate direct communication. Secretary Demkiw confirmed ongoing efforts to compile this list, emphasizing the importance of privacy and effective communication. He also mentioned that senators can contact the Governance Office if they need to reach someone.

A senator requested more detailed information on strategic enrollment, including a dashboard with current and historical data, to better inform discussions and decisions. Secretary Demkiw agreed to circulate the relevant links and ensure senators have access to comprehensive enrollment information.

A senator inquired about the values and experiences sought in the next USask president. Secretary Demkiw explained that the consultation process gathers community input to shape the candidate profile, ensuring alignment with the university's strategic goals. President Stoicheff emphasized the need for total commitment and a long-term vision, noting that a presidential term under five years can be disruptive. Finding a candidate committed for the long haul is crucial for stability and success.





## 8.2. **Adjournment**

Chancellor McCreath thanked everyone for attending and reminded about the stories from the community engagement research presentation with each of the respective communities.

The meeting was properly adjourned at 3:45 pm.

### Senate attendance, October 26, 2024

Appointed Members		District Members		Ex Officio Members	
Andy Allen	P	Eric Wilmot	P	Jane Alcorn	Z
Rod Amaya	P	Wade Hainstock	P	Angela Bedard-Haughn	P
Beverly Balaski	Z	Alishia Beach	R	Lisa Bird-Wilson	A
Darryl Bazylak	R	Darlene Clarke	P	Michael Bradley	P
Aly Bear	A	Karen Mitzel	P	Danielle Brittain	Z
Johanna Bergerman	P	Sebastian Prost	R	Vince Bruni-Bossio	P
Twyla Bergstrom	A	Dion Martens	A	Debby Burshtyn	P
Keshia Caplette	A	Faith Nash	P	Jerome Cranston	P
Richard Côté	P	Garfield Hnatiuk	P	Marjorie Delbaere	A
Blair Cummins	P	P Wheaton	A	Russel Isinger	P
Shankar Das	P	Barb Gustafson	P	Blaine Favel	A
Bev Dubois	Z	Walter Smith	A	Sarah Forgie	R
A.J. Fox	P	Karen Mosier	P	Greg Fowler	P
Kathy Gable	P	Colleen Matthews	P	Cheryl Hamelin	A
Laurianne Gabruch	A			Robert Harasymchuk	A
Roberta Gallagher	P	Members at Large		William Harrison	A
Sharon Garratt	R	Nathalie Zasova	A	Angela Jaime	R
Kimberly Greyeyes	P	Tamara Buckwold	P	Iain Luke	A
Hélène Grimard	P	Brooks DeCillia	Z	Richard Manley-Tannis	R
Amee Joshi	P	Kyle Drever	P	Jeromey Martini	A
Terry Lebiel	P	Aaron Genest	P	Grit McCreath	P
Amanda Lepage	P	Rhonda Gough	P	Patti McDougall	P
Andrew Loken	P	Scott Gust	A	Peggy McKercher	A
Jane MacLeod	Z	Jessica Luc	P	Louise Michaud	R
David Mandeville	P	Audrey Hestand	P	Brooke Milne	A
Gail May-Melin	P	Robert Henderson	P	Gillian Muir	R
Pamela Meiers	A	Zsuzsa Papp	P	Julia Paulson	R
Jodie Mirosovsky	P	Bruce Richet	P	Michael Pawelke	A
Brenda Mishak	A	Jordan Robertson	P	Vera Pezer	A
Kirsten Marcia	A	Lorne Vanin	P	Martin Phillipson	R
Rebecca Newson	A			Meghna Ramaswamy	Z
Kent Peterson	R	Student Members		Solina Richter	P
Rory Picklyk	P	Selim Bytyqi	P	Roy Romanow	A
Elizabeth Rackow	P	Abhineet Goswami	P	Baljit Singh	P
Letitia Russell	P	Nishtha Mehta	Z	Walter Siqueira	P
David Schleich	R	Brock Neufeldt	P	Charlene Sorensen	A
Sandeep Sharma	A	Celeste Nunez Valdivieso	A	Carl Still	R
Dean Weninger	A	David Ohene-Amoako	A	Peter Stoicheff	P
Dean Zimmer	P	Ritu Patel	P	Scott Walsworth	P
		A = Absent P = Present R = Regrets Z = Zoom		Colleen Young	R
				Non-Voting Member	
				Julian Demkiw	P