

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL  
**PLANNING AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE**  
**REQUEST FOR INPUT**

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**PRESENTED BY:** Lisa Kalynchuk, chair, planning and priorities committee

**DATE OF MEETING:** June 23 2016

**SUBJECT:** **Vision, Mission and Values draft document**

**COUNCIL ACTION:** For input only

**DISCUSSION SUMMARY:**

The university's present vision statement was approved in 1993. President Stoicheff has identified the need to articulate a sense of the university in its present form and what it hopes to achieve within a decade's time. To that end, he constituted a committee in 2015 and charged this group with the task of developing a concise statement of the university's "Vision, Mission, and Values". This document will guide our institutional direction and priorities now and over the next ten years. The planning and priorities committee has been engaged with the initiative since the president established the visioning committee and consultation began in preparation for writing the document. The committee met with the co-chairs of the visioning committee on February 10 for a general discussion of the document intent; on April 27 for a presentation of the document themes, and on June 1 to review and discuss the draft document as attached. Council committee chairs and the chair and vice-chair of Council were invited to the February 10 and June 1 meetings to provide additional input.

The following definitions guide the document:

***Mission***

*Our mission is the reason for the existence of the University of Saskatchewan, the purpose it serves in society and the boundaries within which it operates.*

***Vision***

*Vision defines what the University of Saskatchewan wants to be or become. This often involves a time horizon into the future.*

***Values***

*Values relate to the beliefs and attitudes that guide behavior at the University of Saskatchewan. They are in some respects the commitments the institution makes to its people, and the commitments its people make to the institution and to one another.*

Additional information on the visioning committee and the process for the development of the document is available at: [www.usask.ca/ourvision/the-project/defining-vision,-mission,-values.php](http://www.usask.ca/ourvision/the-project/defining-vision,-mission,-values.php)

The purpose of presenting this draft version of the document to council is to seek feedback that will inform a revised and final version of the document. Given the importance of this document for our university, the planning and priorities strongly encourages all member of council to participate by submitting feedback on the draft document to [ourvision@usask.ca](mailto:ourvision@usask.ca).

The final Vision, Mission, and Values document will be presented in October to Council, Senate, and the Board of Governors for approval.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Summary of comments made at the June 1 planning and priorities committee meeting
2. Draft Vision, Mission, and Values document dated May 30, 2016.

## Summary of discussion of the Vision, Mission, and Values draft document

At the planning and priorities committee meeting on June 1, 2016, the committee and Council committee chairs discussed the draft document with representatives of the visioning committee. The following is a brief summary of some of the changes suggested to the document at the meeting.

### Editorial suggestions:

- that “research excellence” be replaced with “scholarly excellence,” as a broader reference;
- that “will become” be replaced with “will continue to be;”
- that the reference to a “digital world” be replaced with “an increasingly interconnected world;”
- that “enhance” replace “become;”
- that reference to “research” in the vision statement be replaced with the more complete reference to “research, scholarly, and artistic work;”
- that “Indigenous people and communities” read as “Indigenous peoples and communities;”
- that the Oxford comma and consistent punctuation be used throughout.

### Content suggestions:

- that the language in the mission statement of the document should be compelling and inspire readers to contribute to the university;
- that the reference to “research infrastructure unparalleled in Canada,” be reconsidered in light of the questions this statement raises (e.g. *How is this measured? Is the statement true? If so, will it continue to be true in ten years’ time?*)
- that the reference to a “forward-looking province” be reconsidered; some may not consider the province to be forward-looking either at the present time or over the next ten years;
- that the reference of being “a leading Canadian university” relative to Indigenous peoples be replaced by a more factual reference, such as “due to the high Indigenous population;”
- that a more specific aspiration be provided as opposed to being “great;”

- that thought be given to reordering the sections of the document so that the vision flows from the mission and values;
- that the values section be expanded so that there is a balance between this section and the mission and vision sections, and that the values articulated be expressed in sentences rather than bullet points;
- that the document conclude with an uplifting statement;
- that the idea of a cultural community leading to a university be presented rather than the other way around, i.e. “creative work to build a rich cultural community;”
- that there may be “multiple ways of knowing” not just “ways of knowing”;
- that the mission statement refer to the inclusion of international students and others across Canada; in addition to the “aspirations of the people of Saskatchewan,”
- that a single word replace the words “development and study” in the phrase “the development and study of artistic and creative work to build a rich cultural community;”
- that the word “quality” be associated with the university.

**DRAFT: UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN'S VISION, MISSION AND VALUES****PREAMBLE**

The University of Saskatchewan, situated on a beautiful campus in the vibrant city of Saskatoon on Treaty Six territory and the traditional homeland of the Métis, is grounded in the history and values of a dynamic, resilient, forward-looking province. It has a well-deserved reputation for imagination, collaboration and achievement. The University of Saskatchewan has a wide range of academic and professional programs delivered throughout the province, a research infrastructure unparalleled in Canada, and an innovative, energetic faculty, staff, student and alumni community.

The university cultivates a remarkable “can-do” attitude, drawn from its prairie roots and from the outstanding contributions of members of the university community from around the world. This work and learning environment has transformed the lives of all who have experienced the unique spirit of the university.

**MISSION**

The university supports the aspirations of the people of Saskatchewan through innovative, interdisciplinary and collaborative approaches to the discovery, dissemination, integration, preservation and application of knowledge, including the development and study of artistic and creative work to build a rich cultural community.

Through a supportive teaching and learning environment, the university prepares its students for enriching careers and fulfilling lives as engaged global citizens.

It serves the wider community through a range of collaborative engagements that build upon its discovery, teaching and outreach goals.

**VISION**

The University of Saskatchewan will be nationally and internationally recognized as a distinguished university dedicated to research excellence.

It will be among the best in the world in areas of special and emerging strength, and in areas of particular relevance to the needs and aspirations of the people of the region. It will be a welcoming place for students, educators and researchers from around the world. As a leading

Canadian university, it will become an outstanding institution of research, learning, knowledge-keeping, reconciliation and inclusion with, for and by Indigenous people and communities.

The university's achievements will inform exceptional teaching, learning and engagement in a digital world, and will help solve local and global challenges.

## **STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES AND VALUES**

The University of Saskatchewan and its people, in all our diversity, aspire to be part of something great. This aspiration is best achieved through a belief in principles that are vital to our institution, and through uncompromising commitment to values—ways of conducting ourselves—in our work.

### **The University of Saskatchewan and its people believe in the following principles:**

- Excellence
- Innovation, curiosity and creativity
- Openness, transparency and accountability
- Embracing different ways of knowing, learning and being
- Academic freedom
- Collegiality
- Collaboration
- Community focus
- Reconciliation
- Diversity, equality and human dignity
- A healthy work and learning environment
- Financial and environmental sustainability

### **The University of Saskatchewan and its people are committed to acting in accordance with the following values:**

- Respect and inclusiveness
- Integrity, honesty and ethical behavior
- Fairness and equitable treatment