

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL  
**PLANNING AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE**  
**REPORT FOR INFORMATION**

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

**DATE OF MEETING:** December 18, 2014

**SUBJECT:** **Council committee consideration of institutional priorities**

**COUNCIL ACTION:** For information only

**PURPOSE:**

This report is submitted to inform Council of the planning and priorities committee discussion of the institutional priorities identified by senior leadership and of the committee's request that Council committees consider how they might contribute to the advancement of these priorities.

**BACKGROUND**

Although the eight institutional priorities emanate from the TransformUS action plan, the priorities also fit well with the priority themes of the third integrated plan. They represent action items to focus on during this period of leadership transition. Council committees have been asked to consider the institutional priorities identified for development this year in light of how Council can contribute to their advancement. Likewise, the institutional priority leaders have been encouraged by the provost to consult with Council and its committees and identify where their work relates to Council's mandate for academic decisions.

On November 12, 2014, the planning and priorities committee invited the chair and vice-chair of Council and the Council committee chairs to join the committee for a discussion of the eight institutional priorities. Discussion focused on what the institutional priorities mean for the university, the timelines that relate to their advancement, and how progress will be measured against the implementation plans.

Relative to its mandate and terms of reference, the planning and priorities committee has identified three main themes with related questions that apply to the institutional priority areas, as follows:

1. *Low enrolment programs:* When does it make sense to continue to offer low enrolment programs even if these programs do not generate enough resources to

sustain themselves?

2. *Prioritization of strategic areas:* Given that prioritization is necessary, how can balance be achieved between a focus on areas of strategic importance versus other areas of activity that are important but do not fall within the defined strategic areas?
3. *Shared services and support for faculty members teaching and research:* How can the shared services approach to the provision of support services deliver the support that faculty members have identified they need to achieve their teaching and research mandates?

### **FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED**

Committee chairs have been asked to seek input from their respective committees regarding the institutional priorities, and then rejoin the planning and priorities committee to have another discussion early in 2015, with the institutional priority leaders in attendance. The planning and priorities committee will continue to inform Council of its discussion of the institutional priorities and of any broader themes that emerge from its discussion across Council committees.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. List of institutional priorities and leaders

## University of Saskatchewan – Priorities for Action This Year

### **1. Accelerate the delivery on our commitment to aboriginal achievement.**

*Representative university workforce; student success; indigenous knowledge in curricular offerings; signature research area; strengthened university-community relationships; aligning institutional resources with our priorities; coordination and leadership.*

*Leader: Heather Magotiaux, vice-president, Advancement and Community Engagement*

### **2. Continue the restructuring of the College of Medicine**

*Rationalizing financial support and governance of teaching, research and clinical services; securing accreditation of the undergraduate medical program; achieving significant improvement in research productivity; supports for faculty success; becoming a national leader in health innovation.*

*Leader: Preston Smith, dean of Medicine*

### **3. Deliver on the promise of inter-professional health education and inter-disciplinary health research**

*Shared resources through the academic health sciences infrastructure; inter-professional health education; interdisciplinary health research; governance and operations of the Council of Health Science Deans.*

*Leader: Karen Chad, vice-president research*

### **4. Advance the reorganization and strengthening of graduate studies and support for graduate students.**

*Choose best alternative for university-level leadership and oversight of graduate studies; strategies for increased financial support for graduate students; integration of student services.*

*Leader: Adam Baxter-Jones, acting dean, College of Graduate Studies and Research*

### **5. Continue the capital project for the transformation of our library collections, facilities, capital and services**

*Strategic development of campus library system; responding to changes in scholarly communications and publishing; capturing opportunities provided by new and emerging technologies; meeting growing demands for differently configured learning spaces; consolidating low-use print collections.*

*Leader: Vicki Williamson, dean, Library*

### **6. Complete the re-organization and revitalization of centrally organized teaching and learning activities and functions**

*Migration of functions and functional employee groups to better meet organizational goals for education and research [Centre for Continuing and Distance Education (CCDE), Media Access and Production (eMAP) and the University Learning Centre (ULC)].*

*Leader: Patti McDougall, vice-provost teaching and learning*

### **7. Focus on the creation of inter-disciplinary and cross college academic programming.**

*Capture opportunities to make better use of faculty resources and to establish collaborations among academic units.*

*Leader: Toddi Steelman, executive director, School of Environment and Sustainability*

### **8. Align our administrative services culture to support and facilitate our academic mission.**

*Principles and values for the design and delivery of administrative services.*

*Leader: Greg Fowler, vice-president finance and resources*