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## Office of the Vice-President Research

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# MEMORANDUM

**To:**

**From:** Dr. Karen Chad, Chair  
Advisory Committee on Areas of Research, Scholarly and Artistic Strength and Emerging Strength

**Date:** 1 December 2006

**Re:** *Extending Horizons: University of Saskatchewan Research Scholarly and Artistic Landscape*

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I hope this note finds you all well and that the first academic semester has been a good one. Please find attached the draft copy of *Extending Horizons: University of Saskatchewan Research Scholarly and Artistic Landscape* for your comments and feedback.

### ***Background***

This document is the outcome of a key commitment made in the *Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work (RSA) Foundational Document*, approved by University Council in January 2004, to undertake a process to identify institutional areas of research, scholarly and artistic strength and emerging strength. Such an initiative was intended to provide the University community with a unique opportunity to describe its research, scholarly and artistic work landscape, to identify and build upon synergies across areas, and to celebrate outstanding achievements.

### ***Overview of the Process***

The first step in the process to identify institutional areas of research, scholarly and artistic strength and emerging strength, was one of broad consultation with academic units, council committees, and Deans/Associate Deans to develop an overall strategy, which included the formation of an Advisory Committee on Areas of Research, Scholarly and Artistic Strength and Emerging Strength. The Advisory Committee, after engaging in a number of discussions with the academy, developed and initiated a process of: (1) data gathering (e.g., a consistent template which would identify areas (or emerging areas) of strength, with rationale based upon specific indicators and supporting evidence); (2) data synthesis to develop broad themes and sub-themes; and (3) writing the appropriate text under each theme. Throughout the “journey” of developing the document the Advisory Committee continued to consult and seek guidance from faculty, individual units, key University Council committees, Deans, and Associate Deans Research to clarify submissions, identify gaps in the data, obtain additional information to help in the identification of major themes and sub-themes, and to provide input into the appropriate content, language, and tone of the document.

After numerous fruitful discussions and consultations – and many drafts later – the Advisory Committee on Areas of Research, Scholarly and Artistic Strength and Emerging Strength feels that your comments and

input at this stage are essential in shaping the document that is intended to reflect the diversity and breadth of the University scholarly landscape. The final document is not intended to highlight each individual department or centre/institutes' areas of strength and promise, but rather provide an "overview" of the synergies of creative research, scholarly and artistic activity of faculty and personnel that exist in broad theme areas. It should be noted that *Extending Horizons: University of Saskatchewan Research Scholarly and Artistic Landscape* is intended to be a living document that will be reviewed and revised on a regular basis.

***Feedback from the University Community***

As you provide us with some great feedback, editorial changes, and comments, please reflect on:

1. Are there any Research, Scholarly and Artistic areas of strength and emerging strength that are missing?
2. Are areas of strength or emerging strength correctly grouped under a particular theme or sub-theme?
3. Do the titles of the major and sub-theme areas satisfactorily articulate the content?

Thank you very much for the interest, enthusiasm, as well as time and energy that go into providing the Advisory Committee with your feedback. It is much appreciated, and we know the document will be a stronger one because of this. The Committee would appreciate your feedback by **January 15, 2007**.

Please send your comments c/o Karen Chad (karen.chad@usask.ca), Chair of the Advisory Committee on Areas of Research, Scholarly and Artistic Strength and Emerging Strength.

## Advisory Committee on Areas of Research, Scholarly and Artistic Strength and Emerging Strength

### *Mandate:*

To develop a report describing the research landscape of the University of Saskatchewan. This will involve identifying current and emerging areas of research, scholarly and artistic strength and emerging strength at the University of Saskatchewan; and establishing a process for reviewing and renewing the areas on an ongoing and systematic basis.

### *Guiding Principles:*

The process for identifying areas of research, scholarly and artistic pre-eminence and areas of emerging pre-eminence will be based upon three key principles:

- informed by previous and current University processes and documents such as Integrated Planning, Systematic Program Review, and other College/Centre/Institute documents, etc;
- sensitive to the diverse ways that research, scholarly and artistic activities are pursued and recognized throughout the campus community; and,
- a collaborative approach which ensures ongoing opportunities for members of the University community to provide input on the strategy, indicators and final areas.

### *Membership:*

Office of the Vice-President Research	- Karen Chad (AVPR), Kinesiology - Laura Zink, Executive Assistant
Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee*	- Val Korinek, History - Rob Pywell, Physics & Engineering Physics
Associate/Assistant Deans Research Forum*	- Spiro Yannacopoulos, Engineering (replaced by Greg Schoenau, Engineering) - Jim Thornhill, Medicine
Member of the Planning Committee*	- Hartley Furtan, Agriculture (replaced by Vikram Misra, Veterinary Medicine)
Faculty members from the University community*	- Deb Saucier, Psychology - Lou Hammond-Ketilson, Commerce - Pamela Haig-Bartley, Drama
Graduate Student Association	- Nicole Berard, English

\* Nominations and appointments from these bodies ensure that the final composition of the Committee includes representation from each of the following: Humanities & Fine Arts, Social Sciences, Health Sciences, Natural Sciences, & Applied Sciences.