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## Office of the Vice-President Research

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### MEMORANDUM

**To:** Academic Unit Heads, Centre and Institute Directors, and Research Team Leaders

**From:** Karen Chad, Acting Associate Vice-President Research  
Laura Zink, Executive Assistant to the Vice-President Research

**Date:** April 25, 2005

**Re:** **Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work *Landscape* of the University of Saskatchewan**

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On behalf of the recently created Advisory Committee on Areas of Research, Scholarly and Artistic Pre-eminence, we are writing to request your assistance in implementing a consultation process and discussion to identify current and emerging areas of research, scholarly and artistic pre-eminence. This process provides the University community with a unique opportunity to describe its research, scholarly and artistic work *landscape*, to identify and build upon synergies between seemingly disparate areas, and to celebrate outstanding achievements. It is important to note that this process and resulting document will be reviewed on an ongoing basis and modified based on the review outcome.

#### Information Gathering and Initial Consultation with Academic Units

As the first step in the information gathering and consultation process, the Advisory Committee is inviting all departments and centres to indicate their areas of research, scholarly, and artistic strength and provide the rationale (indicators) used by each unit in identifying these areas. The resulting "snapshot" of creative activity being undertaken by faculty and research personnel in each unit is essential in building an understanding of possible synergies and over-arching areas of research, scholarly and artistic pre-eminence on campus. The Advisory Committee will review and synthesize submissions with the view of identifying "theme" areas of pre-eminence and emerging areas of promise that describe the research, scholarly and artistic *landscape* of the University of Saskatchewan.

The Advisory Committee has developed a template to facilitate the collection of information including:

- areas of research, scholarly or artistic performance identified by your unit as being one of strength or promise;
- indicators by which your discipline(s) identify research, scholarly and artistic strength; and,
- evidence used by your unit to select these areas from among the extensive research, scholarly and artistic work performed by your unit.

The template uses possible indicators of strength and promise. However, it is designed to be flexible and therefore, each unit is invited to customize the table to reflect its discipline. Samples of both an area description and a completed table are provided to give you a sense of the level of detail needed in this process (see attached). A blank table is attached for you to work from, as well as a list of possible indicators through which your research, scholarly and artistic work can be described. Please complete one table for each area of research, scholarly and artistic strength.

If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact Karen Chad (966-1615 or [karen.chad@usask.ca](mailto:karen.chad@usask.ca)) or Laura Zink (966-1778 or [laura.zink@usask.ca](mailto:laura.zink@usask.ca))

**Please return your completed table to the Areas of Pre-eminence Advisory Committee c/o Alice Der, Office of the Vice-President Research, by 10 June 2005.**

This is the first step in an ongoing consultative process to capture the research, scholarly and artistic *landscape* of the U of S. The Committee has developed a preliminary schedule and draft process as shown below:

September – October, 2004	Consultations with Deans, Associate Deans, Research Scholarly and Artistic Work and Planning Committees of Council
November, 2004	Terms of reference and mandate of Advisory Committee developed and approved
December, 2004	Membership of Advisory Committee confirmed
January, 2005	Advisory Committee confirmed general process
April – June, 2005	Information gathering and consultations with units
June - August, 2005	Synthesis of information
September – December, 2005	Consultations with internal and external communities, including council committees
January, 2006	Submission to Council: The Research, Scholarly and Artistic <i>Landscape</i> of the University of Saskatchewan

Thank you again for your assistance.

## Areas of Existing and Emerging Research, Scholarly and Artistic Pre-eminence

### Background

In January 2004, University Council approved the *Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work (RSA) Foundational Document*. This document articulated broad goals related to the enhancement of the University's research culture and outlined strategies to realize these aims. A key commitment made in the *RSA Foundational Document* was to undertake a process to identify institutional areas of research, scholarly and artistic pre-eminence. This process would provide the University community with a unique opportunity to describe its research, scholarly and artistic work landscape, to identify and build upon synergies between seemingly disparate areas, and to celebrate outstanding achievements.

During Fall 2004, the Office of the Vice-President Research worked closely with the Research, Scholarly and Artistic Committee of Council (5 Oct, 19 Oct, 2 Nov), the Associate Deans Research (22 Sep, 7 Oct, 19 Oct), the Planning Committee of Council (13 Dec) and the Deans Council (16 Nov) to develop a strategy to identify areas of pre-eminence. These discussions culminated in the formation of the Areas of Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Advisory Committee in December 2004.

### Advisory Committee on the Areas of Research, Scholarly and Artistic Pre-eminence

#### *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 pre-eminence 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 (Acting 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 - Jim Thornhill, Medicine
Member of the Planning Committee*	- Hartley Furtan, Agriculture
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.