INSTITUTIONAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT

Provost’s Committee on Integrated Planning (PCIP)
PCIP met once in October. At the October 17, 2016 meeting, PCIP approved $100,000 in seed funding for the development of a master planning study for renewal of the University of Saskatchewan’s Museum of Natural Sciences.

PCIP had discussions with respect to the upcoming Treasury Board presentation; conversations held with government around the College of Medicine; the provincial government’s continuing interest in the university’s fund balances; and the next planning cycle. The Operations Forecast 2017-18, which provides an overview of the university’s priorities for the coming year, and comprises the funding request to the government is available here: http://www.usask.ca/ipa/resource-allocation-and-planning/operations-forecast.php.

PCIP approved the commencement of tuition rate discussions with colleges and units.

University Rankings
Between August and October each year, a number of organizations release their assessment of post-secondary institutions in the form of university rankings. Some rankings evaluate institutions in Canada while others assess institutions worldwide. Rankings are relevant to us because they can allow us to track our performance in various areas compared to our peers. They can also have an impact on student and faculty recruitment, donor investment, government perceptions and stakeholder confidence in our university so it is important for us to consider the results and how we might improve our position moving forward. While there are numerous rankings that exist, we pay particular attention to Maclean’s and Research Infosource nationally and the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings, Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings and the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) internationally.

This fall, the University of Saskatchewan moved up in the THE rankings but moved down in rankings published by QS, ARWU, Maclean’s and Research Infosource. We are taking these disappointing results seriously and are continuing to act, with renewed commitment, on recommendations from a report released in March 2016 by a task force that was assembled to analyze university rankings. We are looking in depth at how rankings are compiled, how we can do better, and how we can communicate as a community more effectively about them. We are working to build a culture where everyone on campus communicates the value of all that we do so that our reputation is commensurate with who we really are. While rankings don’t drive our agenda, they are important to us and our stakeholders. Success in the rankings is aligned with our new mission, vision and values where we have articulated that achieving research success is a core component of who we are. University Council can expect further updates on this topic as we continue to move forward on initiatives that will potentially improve our position in the rankings.
Responsibility Centre Management
In an effort to be more transparent and effective in our budgeting, the transition has made to responsibility centre management (RCM) at the U of S, of which the transparent Activity-Based Budget System (TABBS) is an element. RCM will put the authority and responsibility around college and unit budgets at the level closest to the decisions being made, thereby improving outcomes. Conversations with the colleges and schools regarding the overall model, unique TABBS results, and planning and resource allocation in the context of RCM are taking place this fall.

RCM is complex, and will always be in-progress to some extent. Our aim is to ensure understanding of key elements while stewarding changes in the university’s budgeting system. Supporting colleges and schools as they make the transition is a key priority for the provost, the associate provost, the office of Institutional Planning and Assessment, and will require the work of many people.

In addition, we recognize that there are a myriad of related projects intersecting this year, including the transition to RCM; the budget framework project; the move to ConnectionPoint; ongoing discussion with government in the wake of last year’s operating grant; upcoming planning for our fourth integrated plan.

More information on RCM at the U of S, including videos on the various components of the model is available here: www.usask.ca/rcm.

COLLEGE AND SCHOOL UPDATES
College of Arts and Science
• Congratulations to college student award winners from Fall Convocation: Lorna Beech (Fall Convocation Three-Year Degree Medal); Alice Godson (Dean’s Medal and University Medal in the Social Sciences); Jasmine McGuin (University Medal in Sciences); Renata Kisin (University Medal in the Fine Arts); Christine Fowlie-Neufeld (Rose Litman Medal in Humanities). Carin Holroyd (Political Studies) is the 2016 recipient of the J.W. George Ivany Internationalization Award; Timothy Kelly (Chemistry) won the New Researcher Award; and alumnus William Deverell was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Letters
• Bill Waizer (MA’76, PhD’83, DLit’10), one of the College of Arts & Science’s alumni of influence, and distinguished professor emeritus, History) has won the 2016 Governor General’s Literary Award for non-fiction with his book A World We Have Lost: Saskatchewan Before 1905: http://artsandscience.usask.ca/news/articles/611/Bill_Waiser_wins_Governor_Generals_Literary_Award
• James Waldram made the shortlist for the 2016 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Impact Awards: http://artsandscience.usask.ca/news/articles/556/U_of_S_anthropologist_shortlisted_for_SSHRC_Impact_Award
• The recent Study Abroad Fair was a success and promoted course offerings from the college: http://artsandscience.usask.ca/news/articles/593/Six_tips_for_studying_abroad
• The University’s Alumni Association presented achievement awards to 11 distinguished U of S alumni, including four from the College of Arts & Science: Roma Franko (BA’59, BEd’61, MA’71); Iain MacLean (BA’62,BEd’63); Ross Phillips (MSc’11); John Wedge (MD’69, BSc’73):
http://artsandscience.usask.ca/news/articles/610/Four_college_alumni_receive_achievement_awards

- Congratulations to Department of Archaeology & Anthropology professor Ernie Walker, who has been awarded the title of distinguished professor by the university.
- The Greystone Theatre season has begun! Get your tickets to our shows: http://artsandscience.usask.ca/drama/greystone/onstage.php
- Check out our new Department of Mathematics and Statistics: http://artsandscience.usask.ca/math/index.php
- Follow the Department of Political Studies on social media: http://artsandscience.usask.ca/politicalstudies/
- The College of Arts & Science presents Lawrence Hill, award-winning author of The Illegal and The Book of Negroes, at two free public events: both are Monday, November 21 at Convocation Hall, Peter MacKinnon Building:
  - 1:30–3:00 p.m. Book Club: The Illegal (Talk, discussion and coffee)
  - 7:30 p.m. “My Writing Life” (Talk and book signing)

For more news and events please visit: http://artsandscience.usask.ca/news/

**College of Pharmacy and Nutrition**

**Nutrition program receives full accreditation**
The college received notice from their accrediting body that they have received full seven year accreditation status (2015-2022) for the integrated nutrition program.

**Legacy gift to the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition**
On Thursday, September 27, Frank and Phyllis Abbott met with Dean Kishor Wasan in Vancouver to sign the paperwork for the Frank and Phyllis Abbott Legacy Fund at the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition for $100,000. The fund will support the college’s priority areas, as determined by the dean.

**OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT RESEARCH**
The research highlights for the month of November are reported in the attachment by the office of the vice-president, research.