STUDENTS IN FORT MCMURRAY
The devastating fires in Fort McMurray directly impacted the lives of four University of Saskatchewan students who were in the city working on coop/internship placements. Three College of Engineering students and one student from the Edwards School of Business were safely evacuated from Fort McMurray. We are deeply grateful to the industry partners who took care of our students and kept them safe from danger. In addition, I extend my sincere thanks to staff in the College of Engineering and the Edwards School of Business who acted quickly to contact our students and track them to safety.

We have robust policy and procedures regarding international travel safety for students. The recent tragedy in Fort McMurray serves as a reminder that we must also work to ensure a similar approach when it comes to domestic off-campus experiential learning.

INSTITUTIONAL PLANNING
Plan for Planning
The president’s visioning committee will soon release its recommended update on the mission, vision, and values of the University of Saskatchewan (U of S). A draft of the new vision will be presented for information in June to council and the Board of Governors. It will be presented for decision to the three governing bodies in the fall, in order to allow appropriate consultation with the student body. Following the presentation of the mission, vision, and values to council in June, we will embark on the development of the university’s next integrated plan. The collaborative plan for planning will be shared with the campus community over the spring and summer months, and a kick-off event will take place in the fall. An update will be presented in more detail at a future council meeting by John Rigby, interim associate provost, Institutional Planning and Assessment.

Resource Allocation Update
We understand that the current economic situation creates challenges for the Government of Saskatchewan in providing the appropriate level of funding to the U of S. At this council meeting Greg Fowler, vice-president finance and resources, and I will present an update on the university’s financial position, projections for 2015-16 year-end, and thoughts about the 2016-17 provincial budget and the implications for our university.

Significant economic, cultural, and social progress made in this province has had a direct tie to the U of S. We believe that we have an integral role in helping the province to regain its economic footing. We will continue to engage with the government to encourage future funding to the university at levels that are reflective of the higher value we bring to the people of the province.

School of Public Health
The School of Public Health (SPH) has embarked on a several consultations with internal and external groups who have an interest in the school. Led by Dr. George Mutwiri, interim executive director, and supported by both an external consultant and John Rigby, the interim associate provost, Institutional Planning and Assessment, the school is reaffirming its basic mission and establishing goals that will help
it measure progress toward accomplishing its mission. The sessions were helpful and optimistic in tone. It is expected that the statement of goals will lead, in turn, to the development of a strategic plan to allow the school to accomplish the stated goals.

**Provost’s Committee on Integrated Planning (PCIP)**

PCIP met once in April. At the April 18 meeting, PCIP discussed the ongoing restructuring of the Distance Education Unit as a support unit and approved an operating budget envelope to support the new structure.

PCIP recognizes that financial responsibility for Huskie Athletics should not fall solely to the College of Kinesiology. Accordingly, the committee approved one-time funding for the purchase of a Video Scoreboard/Clock which will replace outdated technology in the PAC.

The University of Saskatchewan has had a presence in Prince Albert for a number of years. The current facility arrangements have been less than ideal for a number of years. In recognition of the importance and potential of the work PCIP approved, subject to Board of Governor’s final approval, the immediate commencement of lease negotiations to acquire the space necessary to establish the Prince Albert Northern Gateway – Student Learning and Community-based Scholarship Hub

**VICE PROVOST, TEACHING AND LEARNING**

The Celebration of Teaching occurred on Friday, April 29. The Provost’s Outstanding Teaching Awards were announced and presented at this celebration. The recipients of these awards were:

- Phil Chilibeck – College of Kinesiology
- Carol Bullin – College of Nursing
- Gillian Muir – Western College of Veterinary Medicine
- Beverley Brenna – College of Education
- Holly Mansell – College of Pharmacy and Nutrition
- Marcel D’Eon – College of Medicine
- Felix Hoen – College of Law
- James Nolan – College of Agriculture and Bioresources
- Wendy Roy – College of Arts & Science (Division of Humanities and Fine Arts)
- Nataniel Osgood – College of Arts & Science (Division of Science)
- Joe Garcea – College of Arts & Science (Division of Social Sciences)
- JD Johnston – College of Engineering
- Kathryn Labelle – New Teacher Award
- Vince Bruni-Bossio – New Teacher Award
- Noura Sheikhalzoor – Graduate Teaching Award
- Soo Kim – Graduate Teaching Award

Congratulations to all of this year’s award winners!
**COLLEGE AND SCHOOL UPDATES**

**College of Pharmacy and Nutrition**

The University of Saskatchewan will launch a Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) program in fall 2017 to replace the Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy as the first professional degree required to practice as a licensed pharmacist.

“Pharmacists’ roles are changing and we’re proactively adapting our curriculum for these new roles,” said Kishor Wasan, dean of the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition. The new program, Wasan said, is designed to provide the skills and knowledge necessary for pharmacists to practice as their roles in the healthcare system expand.

This is a significant change compared to the current pharmacy program in which students take classes in basic sciences, such as chemistry and pharmacology, during their first two years, while pharmacy classes are scheduled in the third and fourth years. Under the new curriculum, students will be required to complete at least two years of pre-requisite classes before applying to the pharmacy program.

The new curriculum will include 40 weeks of experiential learning, with 32 weeks of advanced practice in the fourth year. The first three years of the program include two four-week practice experiences, as well as smaller weekly opportunities.

**OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT RESEARCH**

The research highlights for the month of May are reported in the attachment by the office of the vice-president, research.