This year is the 21st year of our representative Council. Academic governance at the University of Saskatchewan has matured as our institution has become more complex; however, Council has always worked, and continues to work under three major principles:

- First, Council has always enjoyed academic freedom in the past, and we continue to value it;
- Second, Council is a collegial self-governing body and we have responsibilities to govern ourselves accordingly;
- Third, Council is the university’s academic governance body where academic matters are considered and decisions are made.

I am pleased to report on behalf of Council on those decisions and items, which engaged Council from January thru June. Council agendas are posted at: http://www.usask.ca/secretariat/governing-bodies/council/agendas.php

ITEMS APPROVED AT THE JANUARY THROUGH JUNE COUNCIL MEETINGS

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL BYLAW AMENDMENTS

- Amendments to the teaching, learning and academic resources committee terms of reference to ensure that among committee members, there is some expertise in Aboriginal teaching and learning;
- Approval of the requirement that all elected Council members be members of the student academic hearing and appeals committee, from which student disciplinary and appeal boards are constituted.

NOMINATIONS

- search committee, associate vice-president research; three GAA members: Keith Carlson, Volker Gerdts, Julita Vassileva;
- search committee, vice-provost Indigenous engagement; four GAA members: Andy Allen, Lois Berry, Kathryn Labelle, Caroline Tait; and one senior administrator: Martin Phillipson;
- joint committee to review the Search and Review Procedures for Senior Administrators: three GAA members: Linda McMullen, Ingrid Pickering, Dale Ward;
- nominations to all Council committees, collective agreement committees, and other committees with members approved by Council;
- search committee, dean of Engineering; one senior administrator: Keith Willoughby;
- search committee, dean of Nursing; one senior administrator: Kent Kowalski;
- search committee, dean of Dentistry; one senior administrator: Elisabeth Snead;
- search committee, executive director, School of Environment and Sustainability (SENS): Heather Heavin.

NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS, ADMISSIONS, and POLICY APPROVALS

- Certificate in Professional Communication in the College of Engineering;
- Certificate of Proficiency in One Health in the Western College of Veterinary Medicine;
- Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Leadership in Postsecondary Education;
- Combined Juris Doctor (J.D.)/Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) Program;
- New diplomas in Kanawayihetaytan Askiy ("Let us take care of the Land") Aboriginal Resource Management and Aboriginal Lands Governance in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources;
- French Common Law option;
NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS, ADMISSIONS, and POLICY APPROVALS continued

- Approval of the Nomenclature Report and Academic and Curricular Changes Authority Chart;
- Addition of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) as an Admission Qualification to the Master of Arts (M.A.) in Economics;
- New Admissions Templates for Student Mobility Categories.

NEW ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT REGULATIONS

- Approval of revisions to Council’s Regulations on Student Academic Misconduct, to come into effect January 1, 2017.

ACADEMIC STRUCTURES

- Approval of the Johnson-Shoyama Institute of Science and Innovation Policy (ISIP). This institute is joint with the University of Regina.
- Disestablishment of the Division of Humanities and Fine Arts, the Division of Social Sciences, and the Division of Sciences within the College of Arts and Science;
- Establishment of the Department of Emergency Medicine in the College of Medicine;
- College of Graduate Studies and Research renamed the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, effective January 1, 2017.

UNIVERSITY VISION, MISSION AND VALUES DOCUMENT

- Request for input on the draft university Vision, Mission and Values document. This important document will be submitted to Council, Senate, and the Board of Governors in October for approval.

INDIGENOUS CONTENT IN THE CURRICULUM

- This year, the USSU approved a motion calling on the university to commit to implementing Indigenous content into the curriculum of every University of Saskatchewan college and degree. The motion was supported in principle by the planning and priorities committee and reported to Council in December. At its February meeting, Council carried a supporting motion to emphatically endorse the inclusion of Indigenous (First Nations, Inuit, and Métis) knowledges and experiences for the purpose of achieving meaningful and relevant learning outcomes in all degree programs at the university.
- The teaching, learning and academic resources committee of Council undertook to actualize the spirit of the USSU and Council motions by beginning to identify how to articulate the university’s desire to include learning outcomes tied to Indigenous content and experiences grounded in the Indigenous world and integrated these within the University Learning Charter. The committee also began an environmental scan to identify the work already underway in colleges and schools to inform colleges about different ways to think about “indigenizing” curriculum and degree expectations. Once the revised Learning Charter has been approved by Council, colleges and schools will be asked to begin to work on implementation strategies that fit within the context of each of their programs.

Council is the governing body responsible for all things academic, and it relies on the collegial model of academic self-governance to do its business. That means that you, as a member of the General Academic Assembly, have an opportunity to influence the academic direction of the institution, both by electing members of your college to Council, and by letting your name stand for election to Council or one of its committees. More information can be found on our web site at www.usask.ca/secretariat/governing-bodies/council/index.php. Questions can be directed to university.secretary@usask.ca.
Council meets once a month from September to June. Meetings are open to all, and we hope you will feel welcome to join us and to watch your Council in action.

**Fall meetings of University Council**
- September 22, 2016
- October 20, 2016
- November 17, 2016

All meetings are on Thursdays in Neatby-Timlin Theatre, Arts 241, at 2:30 p.m.

This will be the last Council newsletter to you under my signature. I will be stepping down June 30th from the Council Chair role as I have been elected to the Board of Governors as the faculty representative. I would like to thank Council members and committee chairs and members for your service. It has been my great pleasure to chair this crucial governing body and I have always tried to serve in the best interest of the University of Saskatchewan.

I also wish to acknowledge the tremendous support from the University Council Secretariat: Elizabeth Williamson, University Secretary; Sandy Calver, Associate Secretary, Academic Governance; Amanda Storey, Committee Coordinator; and Katelyn Wells, Council Assistant.

On behalf of Council and its committees and of the Council secretariat, I wish all of you a happy and enjoyable summer.

Jay Kalra, Chair, University Council