MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-PROVOST, TEACHING AND LEARNING

The University Language Centre
The University of Saskatchewan Language Centre celebrated the 20th anniversary of the commencement of its "English for Academic Purposes Program" which has provided over 12,000 seats to International students since its inception in September 1995.

In addition, the U of S Language Centre also concluded its fifth offering of the summer intensive portion of "GSR 981: Canadian Academic Acculturation and Literacy for International Graduate Students" in cooperation with the College of Graduate Studies and Research.

With the departure of the group from Iwate University (Japan) on September 26th, the University of Saskatchewan Language Centre concluded its Summer 2015 special programs as follows:

- Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University (Gujarat, India) Experiential Program in cooperation with the College of Engineering
- Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University (Shaanxi, China)
- Kanto Gakuin (Yokohama, Japan)
- Iwate University (Morioka, Japan) in cooperation with the College of Agriculture & Bioresources

U of S Open House
On Friday, October 2 more than 2,000 prospective students, their parents and school counsellors got a first-hand look at University of Saskatchewan (U of S) programs, campus facilities and student services at the annual U of S Open House. The day-long event gives future students the opportunity to explore the colleges and facilities on campus, and experience the diverse cross-section of U of S programs through hands-on activities, demonstrations, mock lectures, and even one-on-one mentorship opportunities with current university students. Campus, residence and library tours are also offered, helping potential students get a feel for their future university.

INSTITUTIONAL PLANNING

Provost’s Committee on Integrated Planning (PCIP)
PCIP met twice in June. The June 8 meeting reviewed board items, including annual capital plan, annual investment report, detailed operating budget and the operations forecast. These items were approved by the Board of Governors on June 2015 Board of Governors. At the PCIP retreat on September 8, PCIP considered their priorities for the year, including the annual work plan, improving PCIP’s efficiency and effectiveness. On September 21, PCIP discussed a number of items prepared for the October 7-9 meeting of the Board of Governors, including the Biology building renewal and science research addition, capitalization strategy, ITEP renewal and adaptation, and the sustainability annual update.
In its June 29th meeting, PCIP approved the following investments from various central funding sources, including the Academic Priorities Fund and the 2015-16 central operating budget:

- $5.54 million of funding toward institutional priorities requested to be matched by the province in the 16/17 Operations Forecast ($2.04 million for Aboriginal Engagement and $2.5 million for Internationalization)
- $11.52 million of funding toward supporting institutional research priorities including graduate scholarships, major research competitions, and Tri-Agency compliance.

**PLANNING AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION**

**Operations Forecast**
The University of Saskatchewan submitted its annual operations forecast to the Saskatchewan Ministry of Advanced Education on June 30, 2015. A meeting was held on September 23, 2015 with the Ministry of Advanced Education to review the strategy, government alignment, and financial overview of the operations forecast. For 2016-17, the university is requesting at a minimum:

- an operating grant economic increase of 3.5 per cent over the 2015-16 grant with the $20 million one-time reduction reinstated in the 2015-16 base grant (increase of $11.7 million when excluding the $20 million reduction in the 2015-16 comparative);
- new targeted funding of $4.5 million towards aboriginal engagement and internationalization initiatives;
- other research targeted funding of $9.7 million (VIDO/Intervac, CLS) and other operating targeted funding of $2.1 million (scholarships); and
- funding for Health Sciences capital (including financing repayment costs) of $14.2 million, funding for preventative maintenance and renewal of $16.0 million, and funding for other capital financing repayment costs of $6.4 million;
- the university also continues to review contingency balances at the request of the province.

The full operations forecast will be viewable online, and it submitted to Council for information via the Planning and Priorities Committee.

**Economic Impact Study**
Continuing our improvement in evidence-based policy making, IPA contracted RTI International, an independent non-profit research institute, to conduct the first economic impact study of the University of Saskatchewan. The study analyses the economic impact of the University in the province, Canada and worldwide. Information learned from this study will support the operations forecast and our conversations with key stakeholders both internally and externally, including the Government of Saskatchewan.

The University of Saskatchewan has an economic, social, research, teaching, and policy impact on the Province of Saskatchewan. It can be challenging to communicate all of the impacts in ways that resonate with different stakeholders and audiences. The economic impact study assesses one of our key areas of impact, the economic impact, and assists us in communicating with stakeholders interested in this part of our story, in a quantifiable way.

Similar stories of our impact relate more closely to the learning and discovery mission, including for instance, impacts on resource development, crop development, healthcare, public and animal health, culture and the arts, and environmental sustainability. We will continue to work toward communicating these impacts in ways that resonate with all of our stakeholders, and the public.
The economic impact study in particular, revealed that the U of S:

- contributes $1.2 billion in gross domestic product (1.5% of SK’s $83 billion economy)
- supports 11,842 jobs across Saskatchewan (2.1% of provincial employment)
- pays $634 million in annual wages (2.4% of provincial totals)
- returns $0.40 to the provincial treasury for $1 appropriated by the province
- granted degrees to more than 39% of the province’s labour force with degrees
- contributes in the provinces labour supply. 74% of graduates since 2000 are currently in the province.

The final version of the report will be submitted to Council via the Planning and Priorities Committee of Council on October 5, 2015, and will be available online.

Tuition

On September 10, 2015, Statistics Canada released its annual report on university tuition fees. The Tuition and Living Accommodation Costs (TLAC) survey is conducted annually by Statistics Canada to provide stakeholders (i.e., the general public and students) with a guide to tuition costs and information on trends in tuition fees. All universities and degree-granting colleges in Canada are asked to complete this survey. Data is provided at the provincial level in the following areas:

- tuition fees for undergraduate and graduate programs for both Canadian and international full-time students
- additional compulsory fees for full-time Canadian students
- living accommodation costs at residences/housing

The StatsCanada report is reflects an aggregated weighted average of all participating institutions in an entire province. Statistics Canada reported Saskatchewan had the second highest undergraduate tuition rates in 2015-16.

This year, the Province of Saskatchewan was reported as having the second highest undergraduate tuition rates. The rate of change of undergraduate tuition rates in Saskatchewan was 2.9 per cent, fourth highest in Canada and lower than the Canadian median of 3.2 per cent. Graduate student tuition in Saskatchewan is the third lowest in Canada, and Saskatchewan has the second lowest undergraduate compulsory fees and the lowest graduate fees in Canada. We expect to see higher average undergraduate tuition rates reflected in Saskatchewan’s Stats Canada results, as we have more students in higher cost professional programs at the U of S. In summary, Stats Canada reported for Saskatchewan:

- The rate of change of undergraduate tuition rates in Saskatchewan from 2014/15 to 2015/16 was 2.9 per cent, fourth highest in Canada, but lower than the Canadian median (3.2 per cent).
- Graduate student tuition in the province of Saskatchewan is the third lowest in Canada ($3,854).
  - The average U of S graduate tuition is $3,804.
  - The average of all Canadian graduate tuition rates is $6,432.
- Statistics Canada reported that Saskatchewan has some of the lowest compulsory fees in the country;
  - undergraduate fees are the second lowest ($407), and;
  - graduate fees are the lowest in Canada ($273).
While the StatsCanada reports average weighted tuition across the province, tuition rates for the majority of programs at the University of Saskatchewan continue to be at or below the median of our U15 and western Canadian comparators.

The University of Saskatchewan has proportionately high enrolments in high-fee professional programs such as medicine, veterinary medicine, law and dentistry, which increase the overall undergraduate tuition rate. Statistics Canada reports the average tuition fees of all Universities in the province, therefore Saskatchewan data does not equal the actual rates at the University of Saskatchewan. Additionally, Statistics Canada uses student enrolment numbers that are typically two years old.

The University of Saskatchewan places the utmost priority on ensuring affordable education for our students. The process of preparing recommendations to the board of governors for 2016-17 tuition rates has already begin, and upon approval, those rates would be announced in early 2016. Affordability and accessibility, enabling quality and comparability are the board-approved principles that continue to guide our tuition discussions. We are equally committed to ensuring meaningful student engagement in tuition rate conversations and will rely on the support of our deans, executive directors and student leadership in this regard. For more information, please visit usask.ca/tuition.

INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Reviews
In last month’s report, it was announced that a review of the School of Environment and Sustainability was underway and plans were forming for a review of the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy in early 2016. In addition to these activities, a review of the University Library has also been initiated with a plan for an external review team to be onsite in January, 2016 and the entire review completed by the end of March, 2016. More information will be forthcoming on the progress of each of these projects in the coming months.

Achievement Record
The 2015 version of the Achievement Record is now published online. Similar to previous years, it contains university-level indicators with definitions, detailed information and benchmarks with peer institutions where appropriate. The format and set of indicators used for the Achievement Record has been in effect since 2009. Moving forward, we are planning to initiate conversations with campus stakeholders to identify potential changes to the indicators with the objective of ensuring that we continue to measure what is important to our university.

COLLEGE AND SCHOOL UPDATES

Edwards School of Business
The Edwards School has had a very successful year in Executive Education. We brought the Directors’ Education Program to Saskatchewan, working with the Rotman School of Business at University of Toronto and with the Institute for Corporate Directors. This four-weekend program takes place in both Saskatoon and Regina, and we filled every available space and have a waiting list for next year. The third annual Labour Management Relations Certificate also sold out, and brought in 31 participants to Saskatoon from five provinces for a one-week intensive program. It is quickly becoming Canada’s premier program, and the philosophy is to co-train union and management. Edwards also offers other
widely-recognized certificate programs, such as Project Management. The Nasser Centre, downtown, is occupied every day with programs. To see the latest offerings, see: link.

**College of Pharmacy and Nutrition**

**Nutrition Accreditation Committee Update**

The Partnership for Dietetic Education and Practice (PDEP), a national partnership organization involving regulators, educators and Dietitians of Canada, is responsible for developing and maintaining Canadian standards for dietetic education. The Integrated Competencies for Dietetics Education and Practice – 2013 (ICDEP) were developed under PDEP’s direction as were the revised accreditation standards for Dietetics Education programs in Canada.

Accredited programs are reviewed every seven years, at which time the program does a self-study and has a site visit by accreditors. The nutrition and dietetics program at the U of S is a fully accredited program with its next site visit scheduled for October 26-27, 2015.

In Summer 2014, we were informed by Dietitians of Canada of our accreditation site visit (October 2015). In Fall we formed an Accreditation Committee:

- Dr. G. Zello, Professor and Acting Assistant Dean for Nutrition, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition
- Dr. S. Berenbaum, Professor and DC Program Director, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition
- N. Haskey, Coordinator of Nutrition and Dietetic Practice, Saskatoon Health Region
- H. Tulloch, Coordinator of Nutrition and Dietetics Practice, Regina Qu’Appelle Health Region
- S. Mulhall, Coordinator, Assessment and Evaluation, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition

**Courtney Junop wins 2015 Magnum Opus Award (Sask)**

Congratulations to Courtney Junop (BSP, 2011) who is the 2015 Magnum Opus Award Saskatchewan Winner.

Courtney is the owner and pharmacist at The Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy & Compounding Centre, Royal University Hospital. She is currently working on her Fellowship in AntiAging, Regenerative and Functional Medicine through the Academy of Anti-Aging Medicine (A4M), which she expects to complete in the fall of 2015. Courtney then plans to continue with a Masters degree.

Read more about Courtney on the awards website.
New Research Initiatives: Drs. Evans, Whiting collaborating with HQC

Collaboration is key when it comes to scientific research, and two of our faculty are working with Health Quality Council on new projects.

Dr. Charity Evans will test the hypothesis that patients who are diagnosed with multiple sclerosis will have increased health-care utilization patterns in the months leading up to the diagnosis.

Dr. Susan Whiting will examine the effects of vitamin D supplementation on hip fractures in long-term care homes.

Read more about their research projects on the HQC website

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT RESEARCH

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