

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:30pm.

2. Tributes

None.

3. Adoption of the agenda

(Detmer/Jones): *That the agenda be approved as circulated.*

CARRIED.

4. Chair's Opening remarks

The Chair of Council, Dr. Jay Wilson, acknowledged that Council meets on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis, paying respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of our gathering place and reaffirming our relationship with one another. He also noted that given the remote meeting modality, that members may be connecting from other locations and that we acknowledge our shared relations with the Indigenous peoples of this land.

The chair informed Council members of the protocols for the synchronous remote meeting.

Dr. Wilson asked if there were any media present. John Thronberg identified that he is a producer with CTV, but was attending the meeting as a Senator. The chair reminded those present that no video or audio recordings of the Council meeting were permitted.

The chair congratulated those individuals acclaimed and elected to Council commencing July 1, 2021. He also noted that the Nominations Committee was in the process of populating Council committees for 2021/22, and encouraged Council members to consider taking on this important work for the university.

Dr. Wilson reported on the regular monthly meeting between Council chairs and the President's Executive Committee (PEC). He reported that the discussion topics were the provincial budget and the University Plan.

5. Approval of Minutes of the meeting of November 19, 2020

(Flynn/Walker): *That the minutes be approved.*

CARRIED.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

6.1 Parking Revenue and Capital Funding for the Gordon Oakes Red Bear Centre

In follow-up to the question posed at the last Council meeting, Greg Fowler, Vice President Finance and Resources, provided Council with information on parking revenues in 2020/21 and capital funding for the Gordon Oakes Red Bear Aboriginal Student Centre. He reported that Consumer Services revenue had decreased considerably due to the campus closure for COVID-19. He also reported uncertainty with regard to Consumer Services revenue potential for the coming year. He reported that generally, each year \$1.75M of Consumer Services revenue would go toward university operations, but the contribution would not be possible this year.

There was a comment that colleges may be forced to cut sections of classes and increase class sizes due to funding reductions. The Council member reminded Council of the university's commitment 'not to let the budget define us.'

7. Report of the President

The President, Peter Stoicheff, brought remarks on three aspects of the April University Council agenda: the provincial budget, the University Plan, and preparation for the fall 2021 semester.

With regard to the provincial budget, he noted the importance of the stable, multi-year funding commitment for the post-secondary education (PSE) sector in Saskatchewan. He reported on the open and collaborative relationship with the provincial government. He remarked on the one-time funding in the first two years of the four-year funding agreement. The one-time funding is meant to support pandemic and post-pandemic recovery, efficiencies in academics and administration, revenue generation, collaboration between PSE institutions, and government priorities articulated in *Saskatchewan's Growth Plan*.

The President remarked that the four-year funding commitment is a progressive step, and that he was not aware of any other jurisdiction in Canada with a similar multi-year commitment. He noted the agreement to keep average tuition increases to a maximum of 4% annually, and to keep tuition rates in line with the tuition-setting principles that are based on USask's Tuition Policy. He reflected that while this funding agreement provides predictability, stability, and additional one-time resources, there are still financial challenges to be addressed.

The President elaborated that the University Plan provides a roadmap to achieve our academic priorities within our means. It is a creative and visionary plan, to which Council contributed in a significant way. He also remarked that USask is performing well even within the context of financial challenges and the pandemic. The President expressed agreement with the Council member's comment that 'we cannot let the budget define us.'

The President reported that the fall will be a transition period in terms of returning to face-to-face class delivery, and that he expects a full return to on-campus learning in January 2022 (with the support of the Saskatchewan Health Authority). He indicated that there would be more information available as the details are forthcoming.

There was a round of Q&A.

The GSA President asked how the 4% cap on tuition increases would apply to international graduate and undergraduate tuition rates. The President responded that this is outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with PSE institutions and the Province, and deferred to the Provost's remarks in the Provost's Report later in the agenda for details.

A Council member asked about the funding decrease of \$32M indicated in Appendix 1 of the funding letter, and about the reporting requirements outlined in Appendix 3. He asked whether Council would receive copies of these reports to government, and noted the strong focus on the needs of employers and industry. The President responded that there was a shift in funding being provided by Advanced Education to the College of Medicine, primarily for clinical activities. The funding is now being provided by the Ministry of Health. He reported that the funding from the Ministry of Health is equivalent to that previously provided by Advanced Education.

The President responded further that the reporting requirements related mostly to the provision of one-time funding, and that it is an opportunity for USask to continue to demonstrate the university's value to the province. The President reported that there will likely be opportunities for Council and/or Council committees to provide input into the reports. He also noted that the reporting requirements focused on employment and industry do not take away from the university's fundamental mandate around academics, research, the social sciences, or the humanities. Still, the University does need to demonstrate alignment with government priorities.

8. Report of the Provost

Dr. Airini, Provost and Vice President Academic, spoke to the importance of the University Plan for advancing the aspirations and priorities of the university, within our means. She highlighted the importance of the provincial government's multi-year funding for meeting the bold ambitions in the University Plan. She indicated that she will be reporting to the Planning and Priorities Committee (PPC) next month on progress toward the University Plan, and will be continuing to seek the guidance of Council. She stated that the Senior Leadership Forum (SLF) identified a number of priorities for implementing the plan, and that faculty and staff would continue to have a vitally important role. SLF will also be seeking the guidance of Council as to how to best involve the campus community.

The Provost reported that work is ongoing with respect to resource allocation in the context of the provincial government's funding announcement. She reported that the MOU in the funding agreement caps tuition at a 4% average increases annually, but sets aside international tuition and asks for comparison to competitors.

She also reported on the work that is proceeding to reduce the timelines for approving new academic programs, and that there is considerable interest in the new models. She reported that the Deputy Provost search will get underway soon, and that the appointment will initially

be for a three-year term, at a net neutral cost. She noted that her report (as provided in the agenda package) highlights only a few of the many significant accomplishments occurring across the university.

Dr. Airini also thanked the outgoing student executive.

There was a round of Q&A.

The USSU president inquired as to the stable nature of funding from the province, at a 0% increase annually. The Provost granted that the funding is stable, with no increases over the four-year period. There was another question from a Council member about whether further budget cuts could be expected given that costs continue to increase. The Provost responded that the budget is in development and that there are three scenarios under consideration. She noted that resources need to be set aside to fund priorities, goals and commitments in the plan.

9. Pandemic Response and Recovery Team (PRT) Report

Dr. Darcy Marciniuk, Associate Vice President, Research and PRT Chair, gave a report on the work of the PRT. He reported on the following:

- Number of positive COVID-19 rates and case prevalence rates on- and off-campus at USask, including at the Canadian Light Source.
- Number of COVID-19 safety training courses that have been completed.
- Number of researchers working on campus.
- Number of vaccines distributed in Saskatchewan as of this day.

Dr. Marciniuk reported that planning for fall in-person course delivery was underway, and would be determined based on the direction of the SHA for the PSE sector. He indicated that planning for the transition to fully in-person class delivery in January 2022 was ongoing. He asked that the campus community continue to work together to 'Protect the Pack.'

There was a question about the university's approach to requesting that members of the campus community wear higher quality masks. Dr. Marciniuk responded that recommendations in this regard are under consideration.

10. Student Societies

10.1 Report from the USSU

Autumn LaRose-Smith, President of the USSU, presented the report of the USSU as provided in the materials. She thanked the outgoing student executive and welcomed the incoming student leaders. She reported that the USSU Executive met with the USFA Executive, Dr. McDougall, Vice-Provost, Teaching, Learning and Student Experience, and Dr. Nancy Turner, Director, Teaching and Learning Enhancement. She also reported that the USSU General Manager, Caroline Cottrell announced her retirement. She thanked her for her many years of service, acknowledging her as an award winning and nationally recognized student society general manager.

10.2 Report from the GSA

Humaira Inam, President of the GSA, presented the report from the GSA as provided in the materials. She thanked the members of Council and stated that it has been an honour to serve as an advocate for graduate students at University Council. She recalled the accomplishments of USask in the context of the pandemic, and expressed her hopes for the good to come. She also indicated that she was looking forward to further comment from the Provost's Office on tuition, and to the opportunity to work together in consultation with the GSA.

Dr. Just, Interim Deputy Provost, in response to the question posed under the President's Report, indicated that the tuition cap that the PSE sector agreed to with the Government of Saskatchewan was an overall average annual increase of 4%. There would be exceptions for unique programs like those at Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy (JSGS) and the Western College of Veterinary Medicine. She also reported that it will not apply to international tuition rates. She reiterated that discussions with students about tuition would continue each year as part of the tuition-setting process.

11. Governance Committee

Dr. Terry Wotherspoon, Chair of the committee, presented a request for decision.

11.1 Request for Decision: Postdoctoral Fellows Policy Revisions

(Wotherspoon/Larre): It is recommended that University Council approve the proposed revisions to the Postdoctoral Fellows Policy (as attached), pending the approval of the Board of Governors, effective June 22, 2021.

CARRIED.

12. Academic Programs Committee (APC)

Dr. Susan Detmer, Chair of APC, presented one item for decision.

12.1 Request for Decision: Admissions Qualification Change – Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) program in Applied Economics

(Detmer/Papagerakis): It is recommended that Council approve the addition of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) and/or the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) for Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) program in Applied Economics, effective the 2022-23 admissions cycle.

There was a question about whether prospective students from the European Union would be exempt from this requirement. Dr. Detmer responded that they would need to meet this admissions requirement.

CARRIED.

12.2 Request for Decision: Admissions Qualification Change – Graduate programs in Agricultural Economics

It is recommended that Council approve the addition of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) for graduate programs in Agricultural Economics, effective the 2022-23 admissions cycle.

There was a comment that women and members of minority groups tend to score lower on the GRE, and a question as to whether this was considered by APC. Dr. Murray Folton, Director, JSGS Saskatoon Campus, responded that further information is needed on international graduate student applicants to help assess their potential for success in the program. Dr. Richard Gray, Professor, Bioresource Policy, Business & Economics, also recognized that there can be biases with these testing methodologies. That said, the use of the GRE exam would advantage students overall because of the improved ability to recruit from countries where it is more difficult to assess the quality of applications. Dr. Debby Burshtyn, Dean, College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (CGPS), reported that this was also discussed in the college in the context of the priority for equity, diversity, and inclusion, and developing better understanding for how to use these instruments knowing the biases they bring, and being able to put corrective measures in place. Dr. Detmer reported that this admissions requirement is also used at many comparator institutions.

There was another question about whether students from the US or Canada who had taken the test (even though they were exempt from this admissions requirement) could submit their scores as part of their application. Dr. Detmer responded in the affirmative, but noted that it will not be a requirement for their admission.

CARRIED.

12.3 Request for Decision: Admissions Qualification Change – Graduate programs in Music

(Detmer/Papagerakis): It is recommended That the Academic Programs Committee recommend that Council approve the change to the admissions average from 80% to 70% for graduate programs in Music, effective May 2021.

CARRIED.

13. Nominations Committee

Dr. Paul Jones, Chair of the committee, presented the requests for decision. He and the Chair of Council noted the procedural errors from the March 2021 meeting when there was a nomination from the floor. At the April Council meeting, a nomination from the floor was ruled ineligible due to the nominee being presumed to not be a member of the General Academic Assembly (GSA). It was later determined that this nominee was a student member of the GAA, and was therefore eligible, but needed to be nominated by a voting member of Council. The

procedural error was being redressed through the following two motions by the Nominations Committee.

13.1 Request for Decision: Rescind part of a decision regarding General Academic Assembly (GAA) representatives on the Deputy Provost search committee

(Lamb/Walker) It is recommended that the March 18, 2021 Council decision (moved and seconded by Jones/Lamb) to appoint the following four GAA members to the Deputy Provost search committee be rescinded:

- Erica Carleton, Edwards School of Business
- Som Niyogi, Department of Biology
- Darrin Oehlerking, Department of Music
- Holly Mansell, College of Pharmacy & Nutrition

CARRIED.

13.2 Request for Decision: Appointment of GAA members to the Deputy Provost Search Committee

(Lamb/Walker): It is recommended that the following four GAA members nominated at the April 15, 2021 Council meeting be appointed to the Deputy Provost search committee. Candidates are:

- Erica Carleton, Edwards School of Business
- Som Niyogi, Department of Biology
- Darrin Oehlerking, Department of Music
- Holly Mansell, College of Pharmacy & Nutrition

The Chair of Council, Dr. Jay Wilson, called for nominations from the floor three times. Emma Cross, a student member of Council, nominated Ryan O'Connell, a student member of the GAA to the Deputy Provost search committee. Dr. Wilson asked the nominee if he would accept the nomination, to which he agreed.

Dr. Wilson proceeded to explain the electronic voting procedures.

There were technical difficulties with the electronic polling function in WebEx. Dr. Wilson proceeded to the report from the Teaching, Learning, and Academic Resources Committee (TLARC) while the technical issues were being sorted out.

14. TLARC

Dr. Vince Bruni-Bossio, the Chair of TLARC and Dr. Nancy Turner, presented a report for information.

14.1 Report for Information: TLARC Areas of Focus During the Past Year Verbal Report – presented by Vince Bruni-Bossio and Nancy Turner

A PowerPoint presentation was made (as attached). There were no questions related to the report.

15. Adjournment

(Smith): *There was a motion to adjourn.*

Dr. Wilson acknowledged the time of 4:30pm, and stated that the agenda items not addressed during this meeting would be deferred to the May 20, 2021 meeting of Council. He reported that the election for agenda item 13.2, the GAA representation on the Deputy Provost search committee, would take place by electronic survey following the Council meeting.

Table 1. Action Items

| Page | Action Item | Responsible |
|-------------|---|---|
| p.7 s.13.2 | Election – GAA members of the Deputy Provost Search Committee | Dr. Wilson, Dr. Jones |
| p.8 s.15 | Defer Scholarship & Awards and PPC agenda items to May 20, 2021 Council meeting | Dr. Wilson, Dr. Risling, Dr. Mousseau |

Appendix A: Listing of members in attendance

Appendix B: TLARC Presentation

Next Council meeting is June 17, 2021 – Please send regrets to Michelle.Kjarqaard@usask.ca.

COUNCIL ATTENDANCE 2020-2021

Attendance Summary - Voting Participants

Sep 17, 2020 - meetings are being held via Webex and attendance is taken as per the participant list while meeting is on.

| Last Name | First Name | Sept 17 | Oct 15 | Nov 19 | Dec 17 | Jan 28 | No Mtng | Mar 18 | Apr 15 | May 20 | Jun 17 |
|---------------|------------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|---|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| . | Airini | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | | P | P | | |
| Adl | Sina | A | P | P | P | P | | P | R | | |
| Aitken | Alec | R | P | P | P | P | | P | R | | |
| Alcorn | Jane | A | A | A | P | A | | P | P | | |
| Augusta | Carolyn | P | P | P | R | P | | P | R | | |
| Bedard | Derek | n/a | n/a | A | A | A | | A | A | | |
| Bedard-Haughn | Angela | P | P | P | P | R | | P | P | | |
| Bell | Scott | P | A | P | P | A | | A | R | | |
| Bilson | Beth | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | P | | P | P | | |
| Boland | Mark | R | A | A | A | P | | P | P | | |
| Bonham-Smith | Peta | P | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Brook | Ryan | A | P | P | P | R. Brook Sabbatical - Jan 1 - Jun 30, 2021 | | | | | |
| Brothwell | Doug | P | P | P | P | P | | R | P | | |
| Bruni-Bossio | Vince | P | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Burgess | David | P | P | A | P | P | D. Burgess Resigned Council position Feb 4/21 | | | | |
| Burshtyn | Deborah | P | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Card | Claire | P | P | P | A | P | | P | P | | |
| Chernoff | Egan | R | R | R | P | P | | P | R | | |
| Chibbar | Ravindra | P | P | P | A | P | | P | P | | |
| Chowdhury | Nurul | P | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Cooper | David | P | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Cross | Emma | n/a | n/a | P | R | P | | P | P | | |
| Dadachova | Kate (Ekaterina) | P | P | P | A | P | | P | P | | |
| DaSilva | Keith | P | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Dawson | DeDe | P | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| de Boer | Dirk | A | A | P | P | P | | A | P | | |
| Delbaere | Majorie | P | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Deters | Ralph | P | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Detmer | Susan | A | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Dick | Rainer | P | A | A | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Downe | Pamela | P | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Flynn | Kevin | A | P | A | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Fotohui | Reza | A | A | A | A | P | | A | P | | |
| Gabriel | Andrew | A | A | P | P | A | | R | P | | |
| Gillis | Glen | P | P | P | A | P | | P | P | | |
| Gjevre | John | P | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Gyurcsik | Nancy | P | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Harrison | William | A | P | A | A | P | | A | A | | |
| Harvey | Evan | n/a | n/a | P | A | A | | A | P | | |
| Hu | Katie | A | A | A | A | A | | A | A | | |
| Illing | Kate | n/a | n/a | A | A | A | | A | A | | |
| Jacob | Sharon | n/a | n/a | P | A | A | | A | A | | |
| Jamali | Nadeem | P | P | P | R | P | | P | P | | |
| James-Cavan | Kathleen | R | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Jensen | Gordon | P | P | P | P | G. Jensen Sabbatical - Jan 1 - Jun 30, 2021 | | | | | |
| Jones | Paul | P | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Just | Melissa | P | P | P | P | P | M. Just completed Inter | | | P | |
| Kahn | Maria | n/a | n/a | P | A | A | | A | R | | |
| Kalra | Jay | A | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Keller | Taylor | n/a | n/a | P | P | P | | P | A | | |
| Kelly | Timothy | P | P | P | P | P | | A | A | | |
| Khandelwal | Ramji | P | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Kim | David | n/a | n/a | A | A | A | | A | R | | |
| Koechl | Natasha Martina | P | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Kresta | Suzanne | P | P | R | P | R | | P | A | | |
| Kumaran | Arul | P | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Lamb | Eric | A | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |

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|------------------|-------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Langhorst | Barbara | P | A | P | P | A | | A | A | | |
| Larre | Tamara | P | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Lies | Madelyn | n/a | n/a | A | A | A | | A | A | | |
| Lindenschmidt | Karl-Enrich | P | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| London | Chad | P | P | P | A | P | | P | P | | |
| Lovick | Olga | P | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Luke | Iain | P | P | A | R | A | | R | R | | |
| Lummerding | Dominique | A | A | A | A | A | | A | A | | |
| Macfarlane | Cal | A | A | A | A | A | | A | A | | |
| Makarova | Veronika | P | P | P | P | P | | A | P | | |
| Mamun | Abdullah | P | R | P | P | A | | R | P | | |
| Manley-Tannis | Richard | R | A | A | A | P | | A | A | | |
| Marquez | Carmen | P | P | P | P | P | | P | A | | |
| Mousseau | Darrell | P | P | P | A | P | | P | P | | |
| Muir | Gillian | R | A | A | R | R | | R | A | | |
| Murphy | JoAnn | P | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Neufeld | Matthew | P | P | P | P | P | | P | R | | |
| O'Connell | Ryan | P | P | A | P | P | | P | A | | |
| Palmer | Sue | n/a | n/a | A | A | A | | A | A | | |
| Papagerakis | Petros | P | A | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Paslowski | Teresa | P | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Peternelj-Taylor | Cindy | A | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Phillipson | Martin | P | P | A | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Pocha | Sheila | A | P | A | A | A | | A | A | | |
| Poettcker | Grant | A | A | A | A | A | | A | A | | |
| Pomazon | Alisha | P | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Prytula | Michelle | P | P | P | P | Beth Bilson is the Interim Dean of Education (Jan 18/21) | | | | | |
| Rayan | Steven | P | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Ripley | Laura | n/a | n/a | P | P | A | | A | A | | |
| Risling | Tracie | P | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Sarjeant-Jenkins | Rachel | P | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Sarty | Gordon | P | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Shevchuk | Yvonne | P | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Shin | Hyunjung | R | R | R | P | A | | A | A | | |
| Singh | Jaswant | P | A | P | P | P | | A | P | | |
| Smith | Martha | P | P | P | P | P | | P | A | | |
| Smith | Preston | P | P | P | A | A | | P | P | | |
| Smyth | Stuart | P | P | P | A | P | | P | P | | |
| Somerville | Kara | P | P | A | A | P | | P | A | | |
| Sorensen | Charlene | P | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Spurr | Shelley | P | P | P | P | P | | R | R | | |
| Squires | Vicki | P | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Steele | Tom | P | P | P | A | P | | P | A | | |
| Stoicheff | Peter | P | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Stuart | Glenn | A | P | P | P | P | | A | P | | |
| Urquhart | Stephen | P | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Waldner | Cheryl | P | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Walker | Keith | P | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Wallace | Alexa | n/a | n/a | A | A | A | | A | A | | |
| Willenborg | Christian | P | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Willoughby | Keith | R | A | P | P | P | | P | R | | |
| Wilson | Jay | P | P | P | P | P | | p | P | | |
| Woods | Phil | A | R | P | A | P | | R | P | | |
| Wotherspoon | Terry | P | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Xiao | Jing | P | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Yao | Yansun | P | A | A | A | A | | A | A | | |
| Zhang | Chris | A | P | P | A | P | | A | P | | |

COUNCIL ATTENDANCE 2020-2021

Attendance Summary - Non-voting participants

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|---------------|------------|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Chad | Karen | P | P | P | P | P | Dr. Chad has completed her VP Research as of Jan 31, 2021 | | | | |
| Fowler | Greg | P | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Gill | Qasim | A | A | A | A | P | | A | A | | |
| Inam | Humaira | P | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Isinger | Russell | P | P | P | A | P | | P | P | | |
| Kaminski | Nicholas | P | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| LaRose-Smith | Autumn | P | P | P | A | P | | P | P | | |
| McDougall | Patricia | P | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Ottmann | Jacqueline | A | A | A | P | P | | A | A | | |
| Pozega Osburn | Debra | P | P | P | p | P | | P | P | | |
| Roberts | Kiefer | P | R | P | P | P | | R | P | | |
| Singh | Baljit | Dr. Singh to begin as VP Research Feb 1, 2021 | | | | | | P | P | | |
| Still | Carl | P | P | P | P | P | | P | P | | |
| Thronberg | John | P | P | A | P | A | | A | P | | |
| Willness | Chelsea | P | P | P | p | P | | P | P | | |

Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources Committee of Council (TLARC)

Vince Bruni-Bossio, TLARC Chair
Department Head, Management and Marketing
Edwards School of Business

Nancy Turner
Director, Teaching and Learning Enhancement

Presentation to University Council
April 15, 2021

TLARC is responsible for:

A basic summary of TLARC responsibilities include:

1. Commissioning, receiving and reviewing scholarship and reports related to teaching, learning and academic resources
2. Making recommendations to Council and the planning and priorities committee
3. Promoting student, instructor and institutional commitments and responsibilities, as set out in the University of Saskatchewan Learning Charter
4. Designating individuals to act as representatives of the committee on any other bodies, when requested,
5. The committee will carry out all of the above in the spirit and philosophy of equitable participation and an appreciation of the contributions of all people.

TLARC in practice:

TLARC committee members complete the following functions as part of their role:

1. Receiving information about teaching and learning,
2. Providing input and insight when needed, and
3. Voting on teaching and learning issues, policies and processes.
4. Providing strategic advice to the Vice Provost Teaching, Learning, and Student Experience portfolio.
5. TLARC members also contribute to working groups when possible.

TLARC's Strategy for Dealing with the Pandemic

In the past TLARC and its working groups have focused on longer term strategies such as developing Our University of Saskatchewan Learning Charter and adopting the Student Learning Experience Questionnaire (SLEQ).

This year TLARC agreed to pause longer term initiatives to free up resources for assisting with challenges and opportunities related to remote delivery.

2019/20 TLARC working groups

- Internationalization of curricula
- Experiential Learning
- Wellness Strategy
- Online Homework Systems
- Assessment
- Teaching Quality

2019/20 TLARC working groups

- Internationalization of curricula
- Experiential Learning
- Wellness Strategy
- Online Homework Systems
- **Assessment**
- **Teaching Quality**

Assessment Working Group

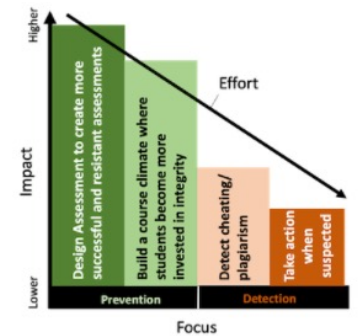
- Resource development
- Academic Integrity Conference

Assessment Working Group

- **Resource development**
 - [Main pages for instructors](#)
 - [Blog posts with “how to” tips](#)

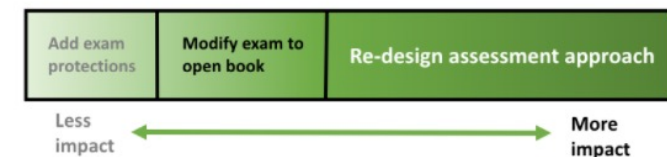
Educators, colleges, and university processes all play a key role in helping students to both understand the concept of academic integrity and make the choice to act with integrity. Although detection activities increase integrity, designing resistant assessments, modeling, and teaching norms are more successful in reducing academic misconduct ([Lang 2013](#)). To effect a significant reduction in instances of academic misconduct, our efforts should be focused on prevention. Some students will engage in academic misconduct regardless of college or instructor actions, but we can still influence students who decide to cheat or plagiarize at the last minute.

Course design that promotes integrity should include two key categories of action: assessment design and classroom climate (including modeling and teaching).



Assessment Design

Assessment actions vary in complexity. You can have the most impact on academic misconduct through assessment approaches and design; least impactful are additional exam protections. However, all the listed actions will make a difference to the likelihood of academic misconduct, and you are advised to take a combination of actions that makes sense in your course. If you cannot take the most impactful actions, pick from alternatives. You can read more about [design considerations for a remote context](#).



Re-design assessment approach

1. Select projects and tasks that are as close to the disciplinary thinking as possible, mirroring the circumstances or disciplinary context as closely as you can.

Assessment Working Group

- **Academic Integrity Conference**
 - Panel with experts from University of Calgary and University of Manitoba
 - Discussion for University of Saskatchewan academic leaders
 - Also conducted discussions with students

Assessment Working Group

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Teaching Quality Working Group

- Building on work related to student feedback (instrument, system, policy) to advance development of a policy for **peer review of teaching practices**

