

# Vice-Provost Faculty Relations Newsletter

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## What's New?

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The Office of the Vice-Provost, Faculty Relations monthly newsletter is distributed to all faculty. The newsletter's purpose is to offer helpful tips, send out reminders, answer Frequently Asked Questions, and to highlight items of interest to faculty.

## Office Updates

**We would like to extend a warm welcome to all new faculty starting at USask this summer and fall!** In this issue of our newsletter, we have provided some helpful tips and information for new faculty. You are always welcome to contact our office with any questions or for more information. Please see our [contact page](#) or email our general office email at [vpfaculty.relations@usask.ca](mailto:vpfaculty.relations@usask.ca).

**In early July, our office sent out a reminder email to all faculty about updating their C.V.** All faculty must update their C.V. by August 1, 2020 to coincide with case file submissions for the coming year. Please



note the university has transitioned to the New Standardized C.V. format and for 2020-2021 C.V. reporting, all faculty are required to use the new format and forms. For more information on the New Standardized C.V. format and to download forms, visit our [website](#).

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## What's New Cont'd...

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**For information and interest — [Abacus Data Research](#) on Covid-19 vaccination:** In June 2021 the latest Abacus Data Research showed that numbers for vaccine hesitancy have declined in Canada, but the research also showed that now the major question is how essential a second shot really is. Using this data, the Faster Together campaign is combating second shot hesitancy by joining over 240 organizations nationwide to encourage full vaccination. Check out the [Faster Together campaign](#) for more information, and if you are interested, you can also find materials available for download on their [website](#). We encourage everyone to stay up to date on information about the [Covid-19 vaccine for Saskatchewan](#) and to do their part and get fully vaccinated!



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## Reminders & Events

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### Upcoming Event: New Faculty Orientation 2021

**New Faculty Orientation will be hosted virtually this year on August 17 and 18.** All newly appointed faculty will be sent an invitation to register for this event shortly. More information will also be sent out and added to our website as it becomes available.

#### August 17:

**10am – 12pm:** Gifts from the Elders and welcome, followed by introductions and a sharing circle.

**1:30 – 3pm:** Session #1: *Succeeding in your First Year*, facilitated by Ken Wilson, Vice-Provost Faculty Relations. This session will feature a panel comprised of a USask Dean, Department Head, and a faculty member to provide an overview of what creates success in your first year at USask. There will also be an opportunity for questions.

#### August 18:

**10 – 11:30am:** Session #2: *Essential Teaching Requirements*, facilitated by the Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching and Learning.

**1:30 – 3pm:** Session #3: *Essentials for Starting Your Research Program*, facilitated by the Office of the Vice-President Research.

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**Special  
Update  
from Ken  
Wilson**

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## Happy Academic New Year everyone!

To our new faculty and staff, welcome to the UofS! If your tenure or promotion kicked in on July 1<sup>st</sup>, congratulations! To those who are starting sabbaticals or admin leaves, I hope you have fun, productive times that will bring you back to the UofS recharged, refreshed, and full of exciting new ideas. Finally, to those of you who retired as of June 30<sup>th</sup>, try not to look too happy as the rest of us embark on another trip around the academic calendar.

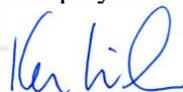
Writing this from home, it is a challenge to reflect on the past year. It seemed to go by in a blur, yet be one of the longest years of my life. Up there with writing my PhD thesis. On the bright side, if the *annus horribilis* only comes along every 20 years, this should be my last professional one. Looking into 2021-22 there are a few new and returning initiatives I would like to tell you about and see how they work. Experiments with no control groups and no hypotheses; it is giving me flashbacks to thesis writing.

For Department Heads: in September we will restart the Leadership Networking Sessions with a new Department Head Orientation. These 90 minute sessions are organized to provide just in time information for Heads and a forum to discuss best practices. Typical topics are chairing Promotion and Tenure committees, Assignment of Duties, and Annual Reviews. If there is a topic you would like covered, please let me or Anna Okapiec know and we can add it to our list. I also want to start a Leadership Discussion Group. My plan is to meet monthly to discuss chapters from Elizabeth Cannon's book *Enhancing your Higher Education Presidency*. Dr. Cannon's 15 lessons are less about replacing President Stoicheff, and more about practical leadership ideas. My favourite is Lesson No. 15: Enjoy the Ride. Leadership is a privilege and responsibility, but you can also have fun in your role.

For faculty at career turning points: two of the most significant career advances we make as academics are receiving tenure and promotion to Professor. What do we do when the hoops are jumped and the carrots devoured? If you have just been awarded tenure or are returning from your first sabbatical leave, the next steps on the road can seem uncertain. I am planning informal discussion sessions every couple of months through the year to discuss career trajectory, expectations, and being a role model for your colleagues. No judgment or commitment, just a chance to meet others at the same career stage and discuss our challenges and opportunities. If there is enough interest, we could run a similar group for those recently promoted to Professor.

My office will have more information about these opportunities as we get closer to September. If you have any suggestions for discussion topics or ideas for the more informal groups, please let me know. I would be really intrigued to hear your thoughts and incorporate your suggestions.

I hope you have a great summer,



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## Vice-Provost Pick of the Month

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### ***New Faculty: Helpful Information to Note***

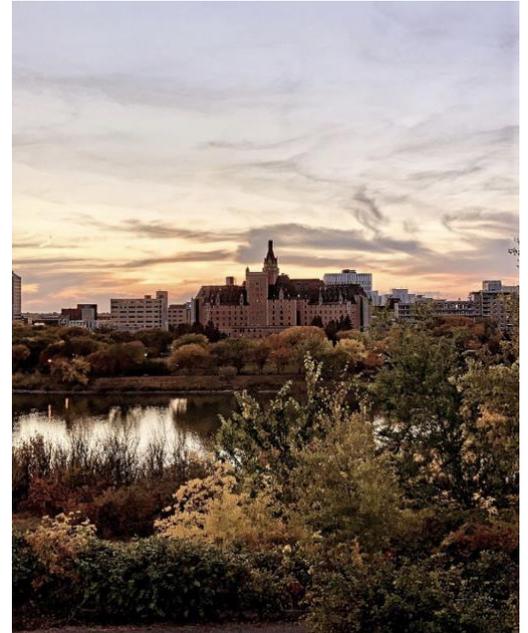
For this month's pick we wanted to highlight where new faculty can find helpful information, resources, and more. On our office [website](#) you will find an entire page dedicated to [New Faculty](#), which includes the following information. If you have any questions about any of the below, feel free to reach out to our office for clarification.

#### **Getting Started**

Check out USask's [New Employee page](#) for information on necessary paperwork, setting up a computer station, login information, parking, transportation, and more.

If you are new to Saskatoon or Saskatchewan, check out [this page](#) for helpful links and things to do around the city!

Stay tuned [here for events](#) specific to new faculty, including updates on the upcoming New Faculty Orientation in August.



#### **Teaching Support**

Find information on teaching support [here](#), including [courses and workshops](#) for teaching. If you need teaching support, be sure to reach out to USask's [Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching and Learning](#), which offers a variety of programming and resources for faculty. For more information on helpful supports and who to contact, check out this [resource page](#) for a comprehensive list with corresponding links.

#### **Research Support**

Find information on research support [here](#), including information on [funding, workshops and tip sheets](#) for research, and information from the [Office of the Vice-President Research](#). For more information on helpful supports and who to contact, check out this [resource page](#) for a comprehensive list with corresponding links.

For information on recruiting and supervising graduate students, [see here](#).

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## Vice-Provost Pick of the Month Cont'd...

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### Other Resources

You may want to familiarize yourself with USask's standards for tenure, promotion, and renewal. Information about the process is available through our office [here](#). To view department, college, and university-wide standards, see our [website here](#).



### Who to Contact

 **College/Department/School:** contact your college/school and/or department for specific information on resources available to you, and for information on logistics like office space. A list of all USask colleges and schools is available [here](#).

 **ConnectionPoint:** contact [ConnectionPoint](#) for assistance with benefits, purchasing, payments, travel, expenses, and more. A full list of their services is available [here](#), including a list of [FAQ's](#).

 **The following [Campus Services](#) may be of assistance to you:**

- [IT Support](#)
- The [Office of the Vice-Provost Indigenous Engagement](#)
- The [University Library](#)
- [USask Wellness](#)
- [Copyright Services](#)
- [Services and Attractions](#)
- The Office of the Vice-Provost Faculty Relations – [contact us](#) with any faculty-related questions, concerns, or clarifications!

**In the Vice-Provost Pick of the Month section,** each month we tackle a current issue or a common FAQ that our office gets. If you have ideas for what to address in coming newsletters, feel free to email your suggestions or questions to [vpfaculty.relations@usask.ca](mailto:vpfaculty.relations@usask.ca).

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## End Notes: Faculty Spotlight

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Six USask researchers in the College of Medicine have been awarded funding totalling \$720,000 through the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF) Establishment Grant to address health challenges. The research includes therapeutic approaches for cancer, studying and improving the safety of direct discharges to home from the Intensive Care Unit, and creating a culturally responsive research framework to support the wellness of First Nations and Métis peoples in Saskatchewan. To read about the researchers and their projects, see [here](#). Congratulations to all!

USask's VIDO has announced positive interim results from their Phase 1 Clinical Trial for COVAC-2, their subunit vaccine candidate. Congratulations and thank you to all faculty and researchers who have been hard at work on this vaccine! Read more about the VIDO vaccine [here](#). If you are interested in volunteering for the clinical trials, please see [here](#) for more information.

USask's MFA in Writing Program in the College of Arts and Science is celebrating 10 years since its inception. The program is acclaimed for its mentorship work and role in helping to launch the careers of many award-winning writers across the province and beyond. Congratulations to the Department of English and all faculty involved! To read about the program, check it out [here](#).

We would like to extend a congratulations to three more faculty who have been awarded Promotion to Associate Professor:

- Dr. Ellen Wasan, College of Pharmacy & Nutrition
- Dr. Lynn Jansen, College of Nursing
- Dr. Jing Xiao, College of Education

Congratulations to Dr. Yongfeng Ai in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources, who has been awarded \$2.5 million through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership. The funding will go towards research in improving the processes of transforming pulses into novel food ingredients, new bioplastics, and high-value biomedical materials. Read more about it [here!](#)

*If you have something you'd like to see highlighted in Faculty Spotlight, send your suggestions to [vpfaculty.relations@usask.ca](mailto:vpfaculty.relations@usask.ca).*

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