

# 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

**Happy Convocation and congratulations to the [USask class of 2021](#) on your achievements!** Thank you to all faculty and staff for your work this year as well! It was a challenging year but we appreciate all that you do, and are hopeful about a return to some form of normalcy come fall. We hope everyone is able to take some time off to enjoy the summer months!



**Happy Pride Month!** USask is celebrating with a virtual Pride Week from June 14-19 this year. See [here](#) for information on the online event. For local happenings, check out the Saskatoon Pride Festival [here](#).

**If you haven't already, be sure to participate in the USask Employee Pandemic Engagement Pulse Survey.** Emails have been sent out for participation in the fourth survey, which is voluntary. Results of the previous surveys can be seen [here](#).

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

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In May, our office hosted a number of virtual Well Prepared Candidate Workshops for tenure, promotion, and renewal.

If you missed these workshops or would like to see the materials, all of the PowerPoint presentations are now available on our [website](#).

There were three presentations: one for renewal and tenure, one for promotion, and one with supplementary information for deans, department heads, and administrative staff. Any questions about these presentations can be directed to Anna Okapiec at [anna.okapiec@usask.ca](mailto:anna.okapiec@usask.ca).



## Department Head Announcements

With a number of changes to Department Head appointments this year, we wanted to say thank you to all outgoing Department Heads and welcome to all new ones! Thank you to everyone for your contributions and dedication to your departments!

### Outgoing Department Heads

Tom Yates, Dept. of Soil Science

Kevin Stanley, Dept. of Computer Science

Moira Day, Dept. of Drama

Jay Wilson (Acting), Dept. of Educational Foundations and Educational Administration

Robert Johanson, Dept. of Electrical & Computer Engineering

Emily Jenkins (Acting), Dept. of Veterinary Microbiology

Trent Bollinger, Dept. of Veterinary Pathology

Gordon Sarty, Dept. of Psychology

Mehdi Nemati, Dept. of Chemical and Biological Engineering

Robert Innes, Dept. of Indigenous Studies

Brian Ulmer (Acting), Dept. of Surgery

### Incoming Department Heads

Colin Laroque, Dept. of Soil Science

Kevin Schneider, Dept. of Computer Science

Greg Marion (Acting), Dept. of Drama

Neil Hibbert, Dept. of Political Studies

Geraldine Balzer, Dept. of Educational Foundations

Soek-Bum Ko, Dept. of Electrical & Computer Engineering

Janet Hill, Dept. of Veterinary Microbiology (reappointment)

Susantha Gomis, Dept. of Veterinary Pathology (reappointment)

Lisa Vargo (Acting), Dept. of Art & Art History

James Waldram (Acting), Dept. of Indigenous Studies

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## Vice-Provost Pick of the Month

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### ***Incoming Department Heads: Helpful Information to Note***

With the influx of incoming Department Heads, for this month's pick we wanted to highlight a few things to keep in mind. As always, if you have any questions feel free to [reach out](#) to our office for assistance.

#### **A Few Things to Know:**

→ Department Heads are responsible for and involved in a number of **collegial processes**, including but not limited to sabbaticals, promotion, tenure, renewal, annual reviews, and salary review. The [Collegial Process Calendar](#) is available on our website and lists these items with corresponding dates. Information on completing Annual Review and Salary Review forms is available on our website [here](#). There are also a number of articles in the [Collective Agreement](#) that pertain to the Collegial Process Calendar that may be helpful for reference.

→ As a Department Head you will receive a number of notifications, including but not limited to **About Us**, an email for a **monthly finance sign-off**, and **Concur requests**. Depending on your college, you may also receive requests to review and approve **time tracking** for employees. Information about these responsibilities and who to contact for more information is available on our website [here](#).

→ If you have new faculty or are looking for resources on teaching, research, services, and more, please visit our [New Faculty](#) page for helpful information. In August, our office hosts an annual New Faculty Orientation (dates to be determined for 2021). More information about this year's Orientation will be shared in upcoming months but keep your eye out for information to pass along to any new hires.

**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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**Special Feature:  
Update on URC**

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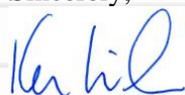
***An Update from the 2020-2021 University Review Committee:***

*Dear colleagues,*

As chair of the University Review Committee, I would like to thank the faculty who served on the URC this past year. Special thanks to Drs Louise Humbert and Dwight Makaroff who are wrapping up their 3-year terms and leaving us at the end of the month. It was a challenging year, as reviewing cases for renewal, tenure, and promotion in an online environment was not easy. However, as noted in the congratulations last month we had some phenomenal casefiles to review.

The URC's other main role is to draft University-Level and approve College-Level Standards. Following the instructions sent out to units in the fall of 2018 by Vice-Provost Faculty-Relations Jim Germida, all units have been working hard to adapt their standards to better reflect the values we espouse as an institution and collegium. The URC reviewed standards from six colleges this year and has been using their ideas along with consultations with the Vice-Provost Indigenous Engagement's Standards Taskforce, the Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching and Learning, and a Vice-President Research taskforce examining Publicly-Engaged Research to draft innovative and engaging University Standards. We currently have drafts of standards for Categories 1 through 4. While the committee will be taking a break over the summer, with new members joining, we will have a full draft ready for consultation with College and Departmental Committees in the early fall. I expect that by December we will have a full set of approved University Standards that will much better reflect the aspirations set out in the University of Saskatchewan Plan 2025. They will specifically address the challenges of carrying out Indigenous research, community-based research, and research performed as part of large interdisciplinary groups. Not only are these time-consuming and complex research approaches, but their impacts are often not measured in traditional peer-reviewed publications. I believe that the new standards will also better reflect the challenges of being a university instructor in our current era, and acknowledge the limits and biases of student and peer feedback. A big thank you to everyone who has contributed so far, to those volunteering to join the URC this coming year, and especially to those who are waiting patiently to see the outcome of our work.

Sincerely,



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## End Notes: Faculty Spotlight

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Congratulations to the four faculty who were recipients of USask's major research awards for 2021! Read more about the award winners and their work [here](#).

### **USask's Distinguished Researcher Awards:**

Dr. Julita Vassileva, Computer Science

Dr. Safa Kasap, Electrical, Computer and Biomedical Engineering

### **USask's New Researcher Awards:**

Dr. Steven Rayan, Mathematics and Statistics

Dr. Kerry McPhedran, Civil, Geological and Environmental Engineering

Congratulations to the four researchers from USask who won the 2021 SAGE Prize for Innovation and Excellence from the British Sociological Association. The lead author on the award-winning paper is Dr. Elizabeth Quinlan in the Department of Sociology, along with other researchers from both USask and the University of Regina. Read more about the award and the paper [here](#).

Congratulations to Dr. Pamela Downe, Archeology and Anthropology, and Dr. Carrie Bourassa, Community Health and Epidemiology, and their respective research teams, on winning the inaugural Publicly Engaged Scholarship Team Award this year. The award is through the Office of the Vice-President Research and is given for exemplary teamwork. Read more about it [here](#).

USask researchers have been awarded over \$5 million in NSERC Discovery Grants, covering 32 different topics. Grant recipients are in a number of colleges and departments, including computer science, veterinary medicine, biology, agriculture, pharmacy and nutrition and more. Read more about it [here](#) and congratulations to everyone involved!

Congratulations to 9 USask researchers who have been awarded a total of more than \$2 million in federal funding through the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. The grants were given to address societal issues in history, anthropology, sociology, wildlife, music, and art, along with two projects relating to the impacts of COVID-19. 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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