

Vice-Provost Faculty Relations Newsletter

What's New?

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 hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable summer and best wishes to all for the fall term! Given that some will be back on campus or slowly transitioning back, we would like to welcome everyone to a new term at USask (whether online or in-person!) and we encourage you to regularly check USask's [Return to Campus page](#) for the latest information.

Thank you to all new faculty who attended our August 2021 New Faculty Orientation! We look forward to supporting all new faculty in their careers at USask and wish you all the best! As always, all faculty are welcome to contact our office with any questions or for more information about anything. Please see our [contact page](#) for specifics or email our general office email at vpfaculty.relations@usask.ca.

The University Conference Fund is now accepting applications for the fall intake, with a October 1 deadline.

For information on eligibility, the adjudication process, and to download the application form, please visit our [website](#). Any questions about the

Fund can be directed to Anna Okapiec at anna.okapiec@usask.ca.



What's New Cont'd...

USask has announced new COVID-19 vaccination measures for the fall term. All students, faculty, and staff will be required to be vaccinated before entering USask campuses. You can read more about it [here](#) or check out the [FAQ page for the vaccination measures here](#).

Our office has finalized the 2021-2022 schedule for the Leadership Networking Sessions for Department Heads. Due to COVID-19 we

will continue to offer these sessions virtually for now, but will re-evaluate depending on back-to-campus updates. Upcoming sessions will be posted both on the [main page of our website](#) and in the “Upcoming Dates and Deadlines” section in the newsletter. New



sessions will appear in the newsletter as the dates get closer to, and all Department Heads will be sent out invitations for upcoming sessions via email. If any Department Heads are interested in RSVPing for a session, seeing a full list of planned sessions, or for more information, please email Anna Okapiec at anna.okapiec@usask.ca.

Our office will also be hosting a virtual New Department Head Orientation this year on September 28 from 2:30-4pm. The session will focus on information regarding the role of Department Head, including a panel of experienced Department Heads and the opportunity to connect with others. For more information, see our [website here](#).

Reminders & Events

Upcoming Dates & Deadlines:

- **September 1:** The deadline for candidates to provide information to their Department Head/Dean for salary review in support of their case. See the [Collegial Processes Calendar](#).
- **September 28:** [New Department Head Orientation](#) (2:30 – 4:00pm, virtual session).
- **September 30:** The deadline for all sabbatical leave applications to be submitted to the Dean/Sabbatical Leave Committee for leaves beginning the following academic year. See [here](#) for more information.
- **October 1:** The deadline for the University Conference Fund's fall intake. See [here](#) for more information.
- **October 5:** Leadership Networking Session on Salary Review: Merit Allocation – Achieving Equitability (2:30 – 4:00pm, virtual session).



Vice-Provost Pick of the Month

Information for Sabbaticants

With the deadline for Sabbatical Leave Application forms upcoming, for this month's pick we wanted to detail where to find all the resources that you need for applying. For more information on Sabbatical Leaves in the Collective Agreement, see [Article 20 - Sabbatical Leave](#). Be sure to check out [Article 20.12](#) on important and upcoming dates as well.

Important Documents

On our [website](#) you will find a number of important documents, including the following:

- The full [application form](#) — in word and pdf format.
- [Guidelines](#) including helpful tips for filling out the application form.
- The [application form](#) and [information](#) on the Sabbatical Research Grant in Lieu of Salary. Annual deadlines for Sabbatical RGLS are November 1 for research programs commencing January 1, and May 1 for research programs commencing July 1.
- A document on [Information for Sabbaticants](#), which outlines some FAQs including cancelling a leave, and responsibilities and entitlements of sabbaticants. In this [document](#) you will also find information about the Accountable Travel Expense Account.

It is important to note that there are currently no specific guidelines for COVID-19 and sabbaticals applicable to the upcoming academic year.

Faculty are expected to follow government and university guidelines surrounding travel and plan accordingly. Additionally, please note that in April 2021, the university and the University of Saskatchewan Faculty Association reached an agreement and signed [a letter of understanding](#) allowing Sabbatical Travel Expense Account funds to be used more broadly. This agreement was made specifically for employees on sabbatical during the academic years of 2019-2020, 2020–2021 or 2021-2022.



All questions about sabbatical applications can be directed to Jacque Zinkowski at jacque.zinkowski@usask.ca.

End Notes: Faculty Spotlight

A new partnership has been announced at USask, the Ojateki Partnership, which brings together the Gabriel Dumont Institute, the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies, and USask, along with Indigenous youth, communities, and organizations. The goal of the partnership is to transform the employment and education systems in Saskatchewan in service of Indigenous people. Read more about the partnership [here!](#)

Congrats to Dr. Bill Waiser, Distinguished Professor Emeritus in the Department of History, on his new book titled *In Search of Almighty Voice: Resistance and Reconciliation*. For more information on the book and the upcoming book launch at One Arrow First Nation, see [here](#).

A first-of-its-kind project at the Global Institute for Food Security, co-led by USask's Dr. Brian Ham of GIFS, has been awarded \$250,000 in funding plus lab time to use cutting-edge laser synchrotron technology to image live plants. The goal is to create more efficient crop breeding, with better nutrient uptake and distribution. Read more about the work [here](#) and congrats to Dr. Ham and all researchers involved!

Congrats to Dr. Gillian Muir, who was appointed as the Dean of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine for a five-year term as of July 1, 2021. Dr. Muir served as interim dean for the previous 12 months, and she is both the first WCVI graduate and the first woman to be named dean of the college. To read more about Dr. Muir and the appointment, [see here](#).

Congratulations to all faculty involved in the four USask research teams that were awarded nearly \$678,000 combined from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation. The funding will go towards equipment and labs for software analytics research, high speed heart imaging of live zebra fish, modernizing electric distribution systems, and expanding geographical information systems. Read more about the funding and specific projects [here](#).

Researchers at USask and the University of Calgary have discovered unusually high rates of Spinal Bulbar Muscular Atrophy, a rare neuromuscular disorder, among Indigenous peoples in Saskatchewan. The findings were published in the journal *Neurology Genetics* and can be viewed [here](#).

If you have something you'd like to see highlighted in Faculty Spotlight, send your suggestions to vpfaculty.relations@usask.ca.

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