

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

Our office would like to wish all faculty and staff Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year! Even though this year will be different than most, we hope you have a relaxing, peaceful, and restful holiday season, and all the best to everyone in 2021!

As we noted in our [November newsletter](#), the university does not prevent faculty members from personal travel over the holidays. It is important to note however that the Government of Canada has recommended that Canadians avoid all non-essential travel outside of Canada for the time being. If you are planning to travel within the



province or inter-provincially during the holidays, we recommend that you take all necessary precautions and follow government and public health guidelines, including quarantine and isolation periods, and being tested for COVID-19 if

necessary. Check regularly with the provincial and federal government and public health guidelines, and stay safe this holiday season!

What's New Cont'd...

Effective 2021 two competitions will now be held annually for the University Conference Fund. Previously, three competitions were held annually, which has now been consolidated into two annual intakes, in



effort to streamline the process. The new annual intake dates are **February 1** and **October 1**. The February 1, 2021 intake is now open, and for information on how to apply, eligibility, and the adjudication process, please visit our [website](#). Please contact Anna Okapiec at anna.okapiec@usask.ca if you have any questions.

Reminders & Events

Upcoming Dates & Deadlines:

- **December 21 – January 4** is the university's 2020-2021 holiday break, with additional days off from December 21-24 this year.
- **January 11** is the first day of the 2021 winter term for most colleges. For specific dates, check with your department/college.
- **January 31** is the deadline for all colleges/schools to submit their information and recommendations to the President's Review Committee. For more information, visit our [website](#).
- **February 1** is the deadline for the winter intake for the University Conference Fund. For more information, visit our [website](#).

See the [collegial process calendar](#) for more information on these dates and specific November dates on tenure, probation, renewal, and salary review.



Vice-Provost

Pick of the Month

A Letter from Dr. Ken Wilson, Vice-Provost Faculty Relations:

For this month's pick, Ken provides an update on the University Review Committee's (URC) work on standards thus far.

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to provide you with an update regarding the revision of the Department, College, and University Standards. As many of you are aware, in the fall of 2018 the Chair of the University Review Committee asked for revisions to the standards to better reflect the University Plan 2025. As a result, units are at various stages of updating standards with a focus on acknowledging the importance of faculty scholarship in Indigenous ways of knowing, community-engaged scholarship, and interdisciplinary research.

The procedures described in the collective agreement point to a bottom-up process, whereby Departmental Standards inform College Standards, which in turn inform University Standards. While great in theory, we are seeing significant challenges to this practice in action. Many of us are struggling with a lack of experience in these areas of scholarship and hence we do not know how to value such work and its impact. To aid us, the URC is seeking advice broadly, for example from the Indigenous Faculty Taskforce led by Vice-Provost Indigenous Engagement Jackie Ottmann. The standards need to reflect our goals for the University of Saskatchewan and will be informed by the university community.

In view of the feedback we have received from Departments and Colleges, the URC has committed to actively review College Standards while simultaneously working on the University Standards with a goal of completing them before the end of the 2020/2021 academic year.

In the past two months, URC has reviewed a number of College Standards, with four being approved-in-principle. We see this process as bidirectional and we will learn from each other.

I would like to thank everyone involved in providing suggestions and revisions to the Department and College standards. Your hard work and deep consideration of this process is very much appreciated. For now, I will also ask for your patience as we move forward on this project together.

Sincerely,



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End Notes:
***Faculty
Spotlight***

Congratulations to Michael Bradley, in the Department of Physics and Engineering Physics, who was one of eight winners of the U.K.-Canada Quantum Technologies Competition! The competition was aimed at accelerating promising quantum technologies for real-world applications, in areas such as health care, secure communications, and financial services, and is run jointly by the U.K. Research and Innovation, and Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC). Read more about the [project!](#)

Congratulations to Colleen Dell in the Department of Sociology, who was awarded a second term as the Centennial Enhancement Chair in One Health and Wellness! The second term is effective July 1, 2021 for a period of five years. For more information on CECs at USask, visit our [website](#).

At the end of November, USask faculty from the College of Medicine, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition, and JSGS Public Policy (Regina campus) spoke to CBC about vaccine distribution in the province and Canada. Faculty who weighed in included Nazeem Muhajarine, Cory Neudorf, Amy Zarzeczny, and Ekaterina Dadachova. Check out the article [here!](#)

Congrats to Ashleigh Androsoff in the Department of History who was awarded the 2020 Governor General's History Award for Excellence in Museums: History Alive!, for her work on the Doukobor Living Book Project, done in collaboration with the Western Development Museum's curator, Elizabeth Scott who is also USask alumna. Read more about this exciting project and prize [here!](#)

A study led by Curtis Pozniak, in the USask Crop Development Centre, that looked at sequence genomes of 15 wheat varieties around the world has led to landmark findings on the first genomic atlas for global wheat improvement. Check out the findings [here!](#)

Congratulations to USask's Distinguished Researchers of 2020, Dr. Ekaterina Dadachova in the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition, and Dr. Alex Wilson, in the Department of Educational Foundations and director of the Aboriginal Education Research Centre. To read about their ground-breaking research and work, see [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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