

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

Welcome back to the new term and Happy New Year to everyone! We hope you had a restful and enjoyable holiday season, and are looking forward to 2021 with optimism.

The University Conference Fund's winter intake is now open, with the deadline of February 1. For information on how to apply, eligibility, and the adjudication process, please visit our [website](#).

Please contact

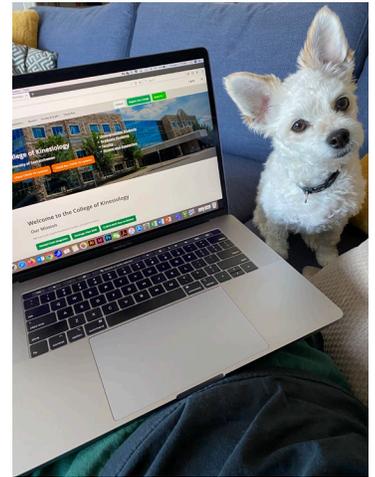
Anna Okapiec at anna.okapiec@usask.ca if you have any questions.



Due to COVID-19, we will be continuing to offer our Leadership Networking Sessions for Department Heads virtually. Please check regularly in our "Upcoming Dates and Deadlines" section in the newsletter for upcoming sessions. New sessions will appear in the newsletter as the dates get closer to. If any Department Heads are interested in RSVPing for a session, seeing a full list of sessions for term two, or for more information, please contact Anna Okapiec at anna.okapiec@usask.ca.

What's New Cont'd...

For faculty who are on sabbatical with a January 2021 start, you should have received your Sabbatical Leave Travel Grant by now ([Article 22.13](#)). If you have questions about being on sabbatical during COVID-19, travelling, and/or your travel grant and eligible expenses, please contact our office at vpfaculty.relations@usask.ca and we can direct your question to the appropriate person. Information on Sabbatical Leave is also available on our [website](#).



Reminders & Events

Upcoming Dates & Deadlines:

- **January 26 from 2-3:30pm:** Leadership Networking Session (LNS) for Department Heads on Assignment of Duties (virtual event).
- **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](#).
- **February 10 from 10:30-11:30am:** LNS for Department Heads with the President, topic TBD (virtual event).
- **February 23 from 3-4:40pm:** LNS for Department Heads on Faculty Recruitment Process and Immigration (virtual event).
- **February 28** is the deadline for appeal cases being submitted to the PRC. For more information, visit our [website](#).

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



Vice-Provost Pick of the Month

President's Review Committee: Information on the Process for the 2019-2020 Review Period

For this month's pick, we are providing an overview of PRC, as the deadlines for college recommendation cases and appeal cases are approaching for the 2019-2020 review period.

Key Dates:

January 31 is the deadline for College Recommendation Cases.
February 28 is the deadline for Appeal Cases.

On our [website](#) you will find a comprehensive breakdown of the following:

- A list of all necessary documentation for cases, plus the order cases should be compiled in
- A link to Department and College standards
- Important information on how to submit cases to SharePoint
- Relevant Article numbers from the USFA Collective Agreement for further reading and information

Salary Review Reporting Protocol:

→ Please see our [website](#) for Salary Review Reporting Protocol that was developed by the university and the USFA to clarify the disclosure standards required from Department and College Salary Committees. You can also view Departmental and College Summary Reports on Salary Review [here](#).



**Vice-Provost
Pick of the
Month
Continued...**

Important information on the 2019-2020 Review Period and CDIs:

→ The allotted CDIs for 2019-2020 are 300 university-wide. CDIs are distributed among colleges in proportion to the number of employees in each college.

→ Colleges and departments are able to split their full CDIs into two half merit increments, or combine two halves to equal a full, to allow for greater flexibility.

→ Departments may award $\frac{1}{2}$ or 1 times the value of a CDI to employees, while colleges may award $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, $1\frac{1}{2}$ or 2 times the value of a CDI to an employee, to a maximum of 2.

→ PRC may award $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, $1\frac{1}{2}$, or 2 times the value of a CDI, up to the overall maximum of 2. A change from past years is that previously a departmentalized college had to award at least 2 CDIs and a non-departmentalized college had to award an employee at least 1.5 before requesting more from PRC. Now an employee doesn't need to be awarded anything from a college/department to be brought forward to PRC.

For information on PRC in the USFA Collective Agreement, please see [Article 17](#).

Any questions about Salary Review and PRC can be directed to Jacque Zinkowski at jacque.zinkowski@usask.ca.

In the Vice-Provost Pick of the Month section, each month we will tackle 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.



End Notes: Faculty Spotlight

Congrats to Dr. James Waldram in the Department of Archeology and Anthropology, and Dr. Lisa Vargo, in the Department of English, who were selected as Distinguished Professors for the university, effective January 2021. Read about it [here!](#) The title of “Distinguished Professor” honours achievements in research, scholarly, or artistic work and is a lifetime award that becomes Distinguished Professor Emeritus upon retirement. To read more about the program, see our [website](#).

Congrats to Usask agriculture researchers involved in the 18 research projects that were awarded \$5.8 million through Saskatchewan’s Agriculture Development Fund. Research projects include topics ranging from disease resistance crops, biodegradable plastic made of plants, high-yielding chickpea crops, removing arsenic with agricultural waste, the health applications of cannabis, and more! Read more about the research funding and these innovative projects [here](#).

Congratulations to Lindsay Knight, a PhD student in the Department of Indigenous Studies at Usask, who will be the university’s first Indigenous Storyteller-in-Residence for the University Library’s new program, set to begin January 2021. The program is unique to the province and will continue for 6 weeks. Read more about it [here!](#)

New Usask research involving extensive protocol for bison egg collection is helping to rescue threatened bison. The new protocols are headed by Usask PhD student Miranda Zwiefelhofer of the Usask Bison Research Group. Read more about their work [here](#).

USask has been awarded three new Canada Research Chairs (CRCs) , plus one renewed one, totalling \$4.8 million. Read more about it [here](#) and congratulations to the following:

→ Dr. Regan Mandryk in the Department of Computer Science and Dr. Erika Dyck in the Department of History were both awarded Tier 1 chairs that provide \$200,000 annually for seven years.

→ Dr. Xiaodong Liang in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering was awarded a Tier 2 chair that provides \$120,000 annually for five years.

→ Dr. Ingrid Pickering in the Department of Geological Sciences was renewed in her Tier 1 chair in molecular environmental science for seven years.

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

BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS