

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. Any ideas or questions about the newsletter can be sent to vpfaculty.relations@usask.ca.

Office Updates

Congratulations to all graduates on fall 2021 convocation! We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to all faculty and staff for their work on the convocation events and ceremonies. If you missed fall convocation, you can check out the virtual convocation ceremony and celebration videos [online](#).



Our office recently had a staffing change: As of November 1, 2021, Naomi Hansen is no longer with our office. Going forward, any Visiting Professor requests can now be sent to Jacque Zinkowski at jacque.zinkowski@usask.ca and any Associate and Joint Appointment requests or renewals can be sent to Anna Okapiec at anna.okapiec@usask.ca. For any other questions (including the newsletter), please contact Jacque and Anna going forward.

The claim period for reimbursement of Professional Fees is now open. Any fees paid during the period of December 1, 2020 to November 30, 2021 must be made within the current claim period, between November 1, 2021 and December 1, 2021. More information about Professional Fee Reimbursement is available on our [website](#), including the guidelines and downloadable application forms. Contact Jacque or Anna (above) with any questions about the reimbursement process.

What's New Cont'd...

A reminder about faculty resignations and retirements: Be sure to send notice of all faculty resignations and retirements to our office. It is important that we have this information so that we can keep all faculty lists, email lists, and individual files up to date. More information about resignation, retirement, and professor/librarian emeritus status is also available on our website. Any questions and updates can be forwarded to Jacque Zinkowski at jacque.zinkowski@usask.ca.

Salary Review and the President's Review Committee:

The forms for PRC and salary review are all available on our [website](#). We also have a SharePoint site where you can find [college and department standards](#) posted for salary review.



A reminder that all college recommendation cases for salary review need to be submitted to PRC by January 31. Any questions about PRC and salary review can be directed to Jacque Zinkowski at jacque.zinkowski@usask.ca.

Reminders & Events

Upcoming Dates & Deadlines:

- **November 16 from 2-3:30pm:** Leadership Networking Session (virtual event) on [Personal Leadership Development & Experience](#).
- **December 1:** The deadline for claims for reimbursement of professional fees that were made between December 1, 2020 to November 30, 2021. See [here](#) for more information.
- **December 15:** The deadline for nomination applications for the Distinguished Professorship Program. See [here](#) for more information.
- **December 25 – January 3:** The holiday break; the university is closed.
- **January 4:** The date that winter term 2022 vaccination requirements go into effect. See [here](#) for more information.
- **January 17:** The deadline for theme area proposals for Canada Research Chair (CRC) nominations. See our [October 2021](#) issue of the newsletter for more information.
- **January 31:** The deadline for all college recommendation cases for salary review to be submitted to [PRC](#).

See the [collegial process calendar](#) for more information on certain dates.

**Vice-Provost
Pick of the Month**

An update from Ken Wilson, Vice-Provost Faculty Relations:

Hi everyone,

I hope that you were able to get a little extra rest during the fall break last week. You know, mixed in with all the catching up and marking that needed to be done. I am not sure about you, but November always seems like a grim time in the academic world. Mix equal parts cold, dark weather, mid-terms, projects, and preparing for finals, with a seemingly long way to go until Christmas, and I do not get a recipe for warm, fuzzy feelings.

For me there have been some minor victories to cheer me up: friends publishing books and students graduating. Just seeing more colleagues around campus is fantastic. Waves, quick chats, answering a few questions, it makes my day. Not being in the classroom (physical or remote) separates me from the best positive feedback of being a faculty member, but knowing you are out there doing your best everyday helps make my administrative work worth it.

As many of you know, this is the start of “URC Season.” You likely have held your department and college meetings to review our colleagues’ casefiles for renewal, tenure, and promotion. Your role on those committees is one of the most important ones we play as academics. Providing a fair and thoughtful assessment of the work our colleagues perform is crucial to their careers, and in upholding the expectations set out in our standards. Heading into my third year chairing the University Review Committee I am continually impressed by the amazing work done by our faculty. The breadth and quality of the work, from the Library, to Engineering, to Nursing, is incredible! In reviewing the casefiles for renewal and tenure, I am very excited for the future of the University of Saskatchewan.

For those applying this year, please know that your work and casefiles are considered carefully and thoughtfully. While the stress of not being 100 percent sure of the outcome will continue for a while longer, please know that we all want you to succeed. For those who sat on departmental and college review committees, thank you for your time and effort in the review process.

All the best for a successful end to the term,



End Notes: Faculty Spotlight

Congratulations to Dr. Julita Vassileva in the department of computer science, who is the fall convocation recipient of the annual USask Distinguished Research Award. The award is given annually to two faculty members that have demonstrated major achievements and contributions to research, scholarly, and artistic work. Read more about it [here](#).

Congratulations to Dr. Robert Henry in the department of Indigenous studies, on the publication of his new book, *Indigenous Women and Street Gangs: Survivance Narratives*. Dr. Henry co-authored the book along with six Saskatoon women who shared their stories in it. The upcoming book launch will be held on Dec. 2 in Saskatoon at McNally Robinson. Read more about it [here](#).

Congratulations to Dr. Jill Blakley in the department of geography and planning, who has been appointed the interim vice-dean faculty relations in the College of Arts and Science for a year-long term, from Jan. 1, 2022 to Dec. 31, 2022. Read more about it [here](#).

Congratulations to all USask faculty and researchers at the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO), which was awarded approximately \$6M from the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI). The award is CEPI's first to a Canadian university, and is part of their \$200M program to advance the development of vaccines that provide protection against Covid-19 variants and other coronaviruses. Read more about the funding and work [here](#).

Congratulations to Dr. Peter Robinson in the department of English, who is part of an international team of researchers that have worked on and launched a new online edition of Italian poet Dante Alighieri's epic poem *Divine Comedy (Commedia)*. The free online resource is part of festivities commemorating the 700th anniversary of Alighieri's death, and makes the work accessible to a wider audience. Read more about it [here](#).

Congratulations to Dr. Jennifer Brown Broderick in the department of obstetrics and gynecology, who was awarded \$280,000 in funding for a pilot project that will help lower and remove barriers to cervical cancer screening for women living in under-served and/or remote areas, by developing an at-home HPV screening test. 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.

BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS