



UNIVERSITY OF
SASKATCHEWAN

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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 would like to extend a warm welcome to all new faculty who have joined USask! Although this term looks different than most, we wish you all the best in your careers at USask! If you have questions or need to get in touch, our office email is vpfaculty.relations@usask.ca. For helpful USask resources on remote working operations, please visit the university's [Remote Teaching](#), [Remote Research](#) and [Working Remotely](#) pages. Visit our New Faculty page [here](#) for information on getting support as a new faculty member and to find helpful resources.

In September our office sent out some guidelines on accommodating family status and caregiving duties during the

COVID-19 pandemic. These guidelines detailed how USask can accommodate family status and caregiving needs with working at home. If you need help or have questions, please contact your Department Head or Dean. These guidelines were sent via email to all



faculty, but if you did not receive them for some reason or have questions about their implementation, please contact our office.

What's New Cont'd...

The University and the Meewasin Valley Authority are working through the process to develop a Memorandum of Understanding that identifies opportunities for increased collaboration between the two organizations. As part of this they are looking for participants to complete a short survey to understand how USask uses Meewasin sites and programs. The survey takes about 5-10 minutes to complete. If you are interested in providing feedback, you can complete the survey [here](#).



The University Conference Fund's fall intake deadline is October 1. For information on how to apply, eligibility, and the adjudication process, please visit our website [here](#). Please contact Jacque Zinkowski at jacque.zinkowski@usask.ca if you have any questions.

Reminders & Events

Upcoming Dates & Deadlines:

- **October 1** is the fall intake deadline for the University Conference Fund. Please see our website [here](#) for more information.
- **October 7** is the deadline for Department Heads (or Deans in non-departmentalized colleges) to convene a meeting of the department or college review committee and to have considered all cases for renewal and tenure.
- **October 21** is the deadline for department committees to consider all cases for promotion and submit recommendations to the college.
- **October 31** is the deadline for the Dean or College Sabbatical Leave Committee to determine which sabbatical leave projects are acceptable and which are not acceptable, and to inform applicants.
- **November 30** is the deadline for Distinguished Professorship nominations. Please see our website [here](#) for more information.

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

**Vice-Provost
Pick of the
Month**

Outside Consulting: *What is it and how does the process work?*

What is Outside Consulting?

Article 18.6 from the Collective Agreement:

Employees are entitled to engage in consulting, employment, and clinical practice outside of the University, provided that it does not interfere with the assigned duties of the employee. Employees shall consult with their Department Head, or Dean in the case of non-departmentalized Colleges, before making a commitment to engage in consulting, employment, or clinical practice outside the university and do so at least once a year in case such activities continue, to determine if the proposed work may interfere with their assigned duties. If outside consulting, employment, or clinical practice will interfere with the employee's assigned duties, the employee must first obtain written approval from the employee's Department Head, Dean, and the President before accepting such work.

All outside consulting, employment, and clinical practice in excess of 12 working days per year, except that performed on weekends, vacations, and holidays, shall be reported annually to the Department Head, Dean, and the President on a form prepared for that purpose.

The reporting period for this year is July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.



Vice-Provost Pick of the Month Cont'd...

How does the process work?

Each year, all faculty members receive an email in the first part of October notifying them to submit Outside Consulting activities. Whether you have engaged in Outside Consulting or not, this email is automatically generated and goes out to all faculty. The email provides a link to SharePoint where faculty can complete the report. Reports on Outside Consulting are **due by October 31, 2020**.

If you fill out a report on Outside Consulting, a notification email is then sent to the Department Head and Dean/Executive Director, who are required to acknowledge and approve any activity reported, or to raise questions for follow-ups if needed.

Upcoming Changes

In 2020, the University went through an audit of the Outside Consulting process and over the coming year our office will be working on implementing the new recommendations and requirements. Next year, the process will be updated, and changes will be shared with the faculty members in advance.

For any questions on Outside Consulting, please contact Anna Okapiec at anna.okapiec@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 ypfaculty.relations@usask.ca.

End Notes:

Faculty Spotlight

The Canadian Light Source (CLS) synchrotron and SuperDARN (Super Dual Auroral Radar Network) Canada were awarded a total of more than \$77.5 million in funding through the Canada Foundation for Innovation's (CFI) Major Science Initiatives Fund to help address COVID-19 and other global challenges. Congratulations to all faculty and researchers involved!

Seven USask research teams were awarded more than \$1.2 million from the CFI John R. Evans Leaders Fund for health, agriculture and environmental research. Congratulations to all faculty involved in the projects. Read more about all seven projects [here!](#)

Three USask researchers have been awarded federal funding to examine how artificial intelligence (AI) will transform higher education, how one major event transformed the modern Canadian labour movement, and how new tools can help English-as-a-second-language students excel in academic writing. The funding is through Insight Development Grants awarded by Canada's Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and will support research in its initial stages for up to two years. Read more about the research [here.](#)

A USask research team has partnered with researchers across Canada to look at affordable housing as part of a \$1.3 million study. The study will look at affordable housing in Atlantic Canada, Central Canada and the Prairies over a five-year period. Read more about it [here](#) and congrats to all those involved!

Congratulations to Dr. Kerry Lavender and Dr. Joyce Wilson in the College of Medicine who are working to explore therapeutics to fight COVID-19. Both received funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) for their research. 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.

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