

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 extend a warm welcome and best wishes to everyone for the 2021 fall term! Whether you are on campus or slowly transitioning back, we encourage you to regularly check USask's [Return to Campus page](#) for the latest information. On that note, if you haven't done so already, please ensure you complete the form on PAWS to comply with the university's vaccination status and return to campus plan. For more information, check out the [FAQ page for the vaccination measures](#).

We are 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](#). If you are a new Department Head, you may also be interested in the [Department Head Orientation](#) document on our website, which has helpful tips and information about who to contact for assistance.



What's New Cont'd...

In September, our office sent out a memo to Deans, Executive Directors and Department Heads regarding the University Review Committee's expectations for assigning teaching assessments. If you missed this memo by chance, or if you have questions about it, please feel free to contact Anna Okapiec at anna.okapiec@usask.ca.

If you are interested in applying for a Research Grant in Lieu of Salary, or a Sabbatical RGLS, the deadline is November 1 for research programs commencing January 1. For more information and to download the application form, please visit our website [here for RGLS](#), and [here for SRGLS](#).



If you are looking for information on sabbatical applications, please check out our [August issue](#) of the newsletter (page 3) for a special section on “Information for Sabbaticants.” All sabbatical documents and forms are also available on our [website](#).

Reminders & Events

Upcoming Dates & Deadlines:

- **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).
- **October 7:** The deadline for Department Heads (Deans in non-dept. colleges) to convene a meeting of the department or college review committee and to have considered all cases for renewal and tenure.
- **October 21:** The deadline for department committees to consider all cases for promotion and submit recommendations to the college.
- **October 31:** 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 1:** The deadline for Research Grant in Lieu of Salary applications for research programs commencing January 1. See [here](#) for more information.

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

Salary Review: Upcoming Dates & Information

Near the end of September, our office will be sending out our annual memo to Department Heads and Deans/Executive Directors about upcoming Salary Review deadlines and information on PRC allocations for the 2020-2021 period. Below we have outlined a few important things to note from these memos that relate to the upcoming processes:

Department Merit

Each department will receive a separate merit award distribution and a separate memorandum related to the allocation of those awards. The format of our distribution document has been updated, so each department will receive a spreadsheet listing all faculty eligible for Special Increases, and a statement of the number of full and partial increases that can be allocated.

Allocations

The process going forward is that committees will be able to split their full allocations into two separate half awards as well as combine two half awards to create a full allocation (this is the same as last year). All merit awards are allocated in accordance with [Article 18.2.4.2](#), in proportion to the number of employees in each college and department as of July 1, 2020.

Important Dates

Please see [Article 17.5.6](#) of the 2017-2022 Collective Agreement for the relevant schedule. By November 30th, 2021 the Department Salary Committee should have convened and done the following:

1. Considered all Salary Reviews and made awards where appropriate.
2. Notified all members of the department of your decision on their case.
3. Submitted your recommendations to the College Salary Committee.
4. Informed department members of rankings, awards and recommendations.
5. Met with each department member to discuss their salary recommendation.

College reports should be submitted to the vice-provost as soon as they are prepared but no later than January 31, 2022.

A few Salary Review reminders:

- When faculty members meet with their Department Head to discuss salary recommendations, it's also a great opportunity to discuss plans for the coming year and to address any merit concerns you may have. Take the opportunity to check in with each other.
- Visit our website [here](#) for information on preparing case files and for PRC. You can also find a checklist of documents to be submitted, the order they need to be submitted in, and downloadable forms.
- All files are to be submitted in one compiled pdf and uploaded electronically via SharePoint. Once we have created this year's SharePoint, we will send out the link. College/department standards for Salary Review will also be available soon via SharePoint.

**End Notes:
Faculty
Spotlight**

Three USask researchers have been inducted into the [Canadian Academy of Health Sciences](#). Congratulations to:

-Dr. Cheryl Waldner, professor in WCVM and NSERC/BCRC Industrial Research Chair in One Health

-Dr. Volker Gerdts, director and CEO of VIDO at USask

-Dr. Walter Siqueira, professor and associate dean in the College of Dentistry

Congratulations to Dr. Sheri Benning in the Department of English on the launch of her newest book of poetry, *Field Requiem*. The upcoming official launch is an online event scheduled for September 29. For more information on the book and to register for the launch, visit the College of Arts and Science's website [here](#).

A new USask project will bring USask researchers together with Ovarian Cancer Canada and the Province of Saskatchewan to improve testing and treatment options for ovarian cancer patients. The project will create the province's only tumour bank, and will offer patients testing in order to learn if biologic drugs can control their illness. For more information about this project, see [here](#).

Congratulations to Dr. Solina Richter, College of Nursing, who has been appointed the new dean of the college for a five-year term, effective August 23, 2021. See [here](#) to learn more about Dr. Richter and her background.

Congratulations to Dr. Malcolm King, professor of community health and epidemiology in the College of Medicine and the scientific director of the Saskatchewan Centre for Patient-Oriented Research at USask, who was named a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada this month. Recognition by the Royal Society of Canada is the highest honour an individual can achieve in Canada in the arts, social sciences or sciences. Congrats to Dr. King on this milestone! Read more about it [here](#).

Congratulations to Dr. John Pomeroy, a USask distinguished professor, Canada Research Chair in Water Resources and Climate Change, and the director of Global Water Futures at USask, who has been named the 2021 Walter Langbein Lecturer by the American Geophysical Union, which is a lifetime hydrology research award. 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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