

For the December Board of Governors meeting, I will provide a detailed mid-year update on my 2024-25 objectives – including an “at-a-glance heat map” that succinctly charts progress made toward each individual measure.

With that in mind, for this meeting I am providing a brief update on some of the key objectives undertaken last year that were not complete, a report on my engagement activities in both the University and wider communities since July 1, and an update on my own academic research activities. Should the Board have any questions about any of the information below – or about early progress toward the 2024-25 objectives – I and the appropriate members of the University Executive Team would be pleased to discuss them either at the September 24 meeting or as follow-up.

Strategic Enrolment Plan Update:

Work on the Strategic Enrolment Plan (SEP) continues through the leadership of the Interim Provost and the Executive Director, Strategic Enrolment Management and Registrar. Since July 2024, the SEP draft has undergone further revision and refocus. This revised draft was submitted to the University Executive Team for feedback and is an agenda item for the September meeting of the Deans' Council. Following input and revisions from Deans' Council, the SEP will then be shared with the appropriate University bodies for information and/or endorsement.

Academic Plan Update:

Work on the University's Academic Plan continued throughout the summer. Notably, a formal one-year decanal contract extension was offered to and accepted by Dr. Harold Riemer, Dean of the Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies. Per the contract, Dr. Riemer will lead the following activities in support of the Academic Plan:

- A review, report, and recommendations regarding the current academic advising model;
- A review, report, and recommendations regarding the undergraduate scholarship program; and
- An expansion of the Kinesiology and Health Studies creative media team to potentially serve the wider campus.

These activities will support progress toward specific goals in all four areas of the Academic Plan's focus: Recruitment and Retention; Teaching and Learning; Academic Programming; and Student Success and Experience.

In addition, the Provost and the Associate Vice-President (Academic) are concurrently reviewing the Academic Plan and the draft SEP to confirm alignment of ongoing work arising from both.

Strategic Plan Update:

The University's Strategic Plan – *All Our Relations: kahkiyaw kiwâhkômâkaninawak* – is set to expire in 2025. The Provost has engaged in preliminary discussions with the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan Chair and

Facilitation Team, and received feedback and recommendations on how best to proceed in terms of updating the existing plan or developing a new one. A decision will be made after the recommendations have been carefully considered.

Indigenous Engagement Strategic Plan Update:

Associate Vice-President (Indigenous Engagement) Lori Campbell is on leave until October, so after she returns, for the December meeting I will provide an update on the status of shorter-term recommendations from the plan, as well as the implementation plan for longer-term recommendations.

Engagement with the University community: Throughout the summer and the early part of the Fall term, my engagement within the University community has included:

- Participating in a wide variety of day-to-day operational decisions;
- Holding individual meetings with the Vice-Presidents and the Chief Governance Officer;
- Chairing regular strategy sessions with the Vice-Presidents, as well as weekly meetings with the wider University Executive Team. The University Executive Team also held its 2024-25 planning retreat;
- Planning the schedule of Senior Leadership Team meetings for the year;
- Holding weekly planning meetings with the administrative team in the President's Office;
- Individual meetings with the Government Relations Advisor, some of the Deans, and some of the Associate Vice-Presidents leaders about a variety of issues;
- Regular meetings – both as a group and individually – with the Federated College Presidents;
- Participating as an *ex officio* member of the University of Regina Alumni Association, and hosting alumni events in conjunction with Saskatchewan Roughrider games in both Vancouver and Ottawa;
- Meeting with alumni, donors, and potential donors, including while in Vancouver and Ottawa;
- Planning my annual schedule of forthcoming visits to Faculty Councils, meetings with administrative units, and visits to the Saskatoon campus;
- Meeting regularly with the URFA and CUPE Chairs;
- Meeting with the President of the University of Regina Academic and Administrative Pensioners' Association regarding their participation in forthcoming 50th anniversary events;
- Personally congratulating a member of Protective Services staff who saved the life of a person on campus;
- Sending monthly update messages to the University community;
- Participating on the search committee for a full-term President of Luther College;
- Attending and in many cases speaking at numerous University-planned events, including:
 - An event to thank those who contributed to the University's 50th anniversary video;
 - Orientation sessions for new faculty and staff;
 - The 50th anniversary edition of the "Gathering on the Green" faculty and staff appreciation barbecue, and two 50th anniversary movie nights held on the Dr. Lloyd Barber Academic Green;
 - A full slate of student orientation events, including general orientation, adult learner orientation, and Nursing orientation. I also spoke at student-athlete orientation and attended several of the teams' practices;

- A barbecue to welcome students to campus housing, a welcome breakfast for the International Scholars of Distinction, and a dinner for the Chancellor's Scholars;
- The 50th anniversary homecoming for alumni of the Cougar women's soccer team;
- The U-Prairie Challenge kick-off event prior to the September 6 Rams/Huskies game;
- A recital featuring the piano that the Barber family donated to the University; and
- An event to familiarize the University community with the ta-tawâw Student Centre and its staff.

Engagement with the wider community: My engagement with the wider community since the beginning of July has included:

- Conducting media interviews as requested on topics related to the University, including Fall 2024 enrolment, and events related to the institution's 50th anniversary year;
- Regular meetings with the Minister and Deputy Minister of Advanced Education – one of which afforded the Deans the opportunity to provide the Minister with an overview of the work taking place in their Faculties;
- Individual meetings with other provincial and federal government officials about issues of mutual interest, including the federal government's current delays in processing international student visas;
- Meetings with the Mayor of Regina as well as representatives from our post-secondary partners in the province, including University of Saskatchewan President Peter Stoicheff while I was in Saskatoon;
- Working with the recruiting team to plan my visits to Saskatchewan high schools for the fall;
- Participating as part of the 2025 Vanier Cup Planning Committee, as a member of the MyCreds™ Strategic Advisory Board, and as a member of Economic Development Regina's Growth Board;
- Presenting to the Executive of Regina City Council to secure additional funding to help host the 2025 Vanier Cup;
- Facilitating Elections Saskatchewan's placement of a polling station at the University for the forthcoming provincial election;
- Discussing possible research and educational partnerships with different organizations, including the Regina Police Service;
- Meeting with diplomats from other countries while they visited the province, and while I was in Vancouver and Ottawa. This included a meeting with India's High Commissioner to Canada, as well as with the Honourable Ralph Goodale, an alumnus and Canada's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom. I also attended Mr. Goodale's presentation at the Canadian Club of Regina;
- Meeting with the Associate Vice-President (Francophonie) from the University of Ottawa about Francophone matters of mutual interest to our institutions;
- Touring the TRIUMF Lab in Vancouver, which facilitates the work of some University of Regina researchers;
- Attending and in some cases speaking on the University's behalf at a variety of external events, including:
 - An event at which Innovation Saskatchewan announced funding for projects led by several University of Regina physicists;
 - An event coordinated by the Ministry of Advanced Education to publicize the longstanding Graduate Retention Program for recent Saskatchewan university graduates;

- The screening of a mental health-related film produced through the Regina International Film Festival & Awards Foundation; and
- A provincial government media conference at the Saskatchewan Police College related to safe communities and neighbourhoods, and a facilities-related announcement by Innovation Saskatchewan and the Petroleum Technologies Research Centre.

My academic research program: Activities undertaken during the summer related to my academic work included:

- Confirming with the Grenfell Campus of Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador that they have everything they need to publish *With Thought and Not by Accident* – the book that I co-authored on the history of that campus. It is anticipated to be launched in October of 2025 to coincide with Grenfell’s 50th anniversary, and I will travel to Corner Brook to participate in the launch;
- Completing four of my eight chapters for *A History of Canada in 15 Moments*, the textbook that Dr. Raymond Blake and I are writing for Bloomsbury Press;
- Committing to review a manuscript on a propagandist film of World War I for *The Journal of Military and Strategic Studies*; and
- Completing a presentation on “Children in World War II Canada” that I will deliver at the Royal United Services Institute later in September.