

For the December Board of Governors meeting, I will provide a detailed mid-year update on my 2025-2026 objectives – including an “at-a-glance heat map” that succinctly charts progress made toward each individual deliverable.

In the meantime, for the September meeting I am providing a brief update 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 2025-2026 objectives and deliverables – I and the appropriate members of the University Executive Team would be pleased to discuss them either at the September meeting or as follow-up.

Engagement with the University community: Since July 1, my engagement within the University community has included:

- Participation in a wide variety of day-to-day operational decisions;
- Regular individual meetings with the Vice-Presidents, Chief Governance Officer, Government Relations Advisor, and Associate Vice-President (Indigenous Engagement);
- Weekly meetings with the wider University Executive Team as well as the President's Office administrative team;
- Discussions with the URFA and CUPE Chairs;
- Individual and group meetings with the Presidents of the Federated Colleges;
- Planning the schedule of Senior Leadership Team meetings for the year, including the Senior Leadership Team retreat which will focus on the development of the new strategic plan;
- Meetings as requested with individual students, student groups, faculty, and staff about a variety of issues;
- Reviewing the University's Fall 2025 recruitment presentation, and planning the year's high school visits;
- 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;
- Meetings and calls with alumni, donors, and potential donors to discuss their support of the University and its academic mission – including related to Project Resilience and the initiative to bring female Afghan students to the University;
- Developing and beginning my schedule of visits throughout the year to Faculty Councils, administrative units, the Saskatoon campus, and the various varsity sports teams;
- Planning a University town hall for late September related to the institution's budget situation;
- Planning this fall's recruitment trip to India and Sri Lanka;
- Sending regular monthly update messages – and other communications as required – to the University community;
- Filming a welcome video for distribution to new and returning students;
- Beginning the job searches for an Associate Vice-President (Human Resources) and a full-term Provost and Vice-President (Academic); and
- Attending and in many cases speaking at numerous University-organized events, including:

- Various orientation sessions for new students, faculty, and staff as well as campus housing move-in day;
- The “Gathering on the Green” faculty and staff appreciation barbecue;
- The closing banquet for the University’s inaugural month-long Shad program, which attracted approximately 80 of Canada’s top high school students to the University;
- The smudging and grand re-opening ceremonies for the newly renovated Ad-Hum Pit;
- The RPIRG Green Patch harvest celebration;
- The University of Regina Choir’s 50th anniversary alumni concert;
- Some of the year’s first athletics events, including the women’s soccer team’s alumni kick-off event, and the women’s hockey team’s alumni game;
- A lunch to honour former Rams coach Frank McCrystal for being inducted into the Canadian Football Hall of Fame; and
- The annual UNITED fundraising event for varsity sports.

Engagement with the wider community: My engagement with the wider community since July 1 has included:

- Conducting media interviews as requested;
- Regular meetings with officials from the Ministry of Advanced Education, including the Deputy Minister;
- Individual meetings with other municipal, provincial, and federal government officials about issues of mutual interest. This has included the federal Minister of Public Safety;
- Meetings with the leaders of other post-secondary institutions in the province, as well as others from out of the province;
- Hosting a reception for provincial educational administrators as part of their annual SaskLEADS conference;
- Meetings with a wide variety of community organizations and business and industry representatives regarding possible research and educational partnerships;
- Participating as a member of Economic Development Regina’s Growth Board; and
- Attending and in some cases speaking on the University’s behalf at a variety of external events, including:
 - “Back to Batoche” days and a celebration of the Montreal Lake Cree Nation’s high school and post-secondary graduates;
 - An evening of classical Indian dance hosted at the University by a community organization;
 - The signing of a Memorandum of Agreement with the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan; and
 - The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce’s annual Chair’s Dinner.

My academic research program: Throughout the summer and into the early part of the Fall term, work on my academic research has included:

- Reviewing the final galley proofs of *A History of Canada in 15 Moments*, the textbook that Dr. Raymond Blake and I wrote for Bloomsbury Press over the past couple of years. The book is scheduled to be published by the end of 2025;

- Engaging with Memorial University regarding the publication of *With Thought and Not by Accident*, the book I wrote with co-author Pat Rediger to celebrate the Grenfell Campus' 50th anniversary in 2025. I expect to have reviewed the final galley proofs by the end of September, and plan to travel to Corner Brook at the end of October to participate in the book launch; and
- Continuing research for a book I plan to write on key moments in the University of Regina's history.