

For the December 2025 Board of Governors meeting, I provided a detailed mid-year update on my Board-approved 2025-2026 objectives – including the “at-a-glance heat map” – to succinctly indicate progress made toward each individual deliverable. For the July 2026 meeting, I will provide a similar end-of-year report that will summarize the year’s progress toward the objectives and form the basis for my annual performance review.

In the meantime, my report for this Board meeting has two areas of focus:

1. A report on my engagement activities in both the wider and campus communities since the December report; and
2. An update on my academic research activities over that time.

As always, should the Board require additional information about any of the information below – or about progress toward the 2025-2026 objectives – I and the appropriate members of the University Executive Team would be pleased to provide it either at the March 10 meeting or as follow-up.

**Engagement with the University community:** Since the last report dated December 2, 2025, my activities within the University community have included:

- Daily participation in a wide variety of the University’s operational decisions;
- Discussing the forthcoming budget with the Budget Committee;
- Consulting with the students who have formed the University’s new student representative body – the University of Regina Students’ Association (URSA) – as they worked to operationalize the organization;
- Weekly meetings with:
  - The individual Vice-Presidents;
  - The Chief Governance Officer;
  - The Associate Vice-President (Human Resources);
  - The Government Relations Advisor;
  - The University Executive Team as a group; and
  - The President’s Office administrative team;
- Regularly scheduled meetings with:
  - The Associate Vice-President (Indigenous Engagement);
  - The Federated College Presidents;
  - The URFA and CUPE Chairs; and
  - The Senior Leadership Team.
- Meetings as requested with Deans, Associate Deans, faculty members, staff, and students;
- Providing operational updates and answering questions at different Faculty Councils and departmental meetings;
- Visiting the Faculties of Nursing and Social Work at the Saskatoon campus, and touring the new facility that will house those Faculties effective May 2026;

- Participating remotely in the January meeting of Executive of Council while I was overseas on an international recruitment trip to Bangladesh;
- Chairing two meetings of University Council;
- Participating in the February meeting of Senate;
- Meetings with alumni, donors, and prospective donors;
- Participating as an *ex officio* member in meetings of the Alumni Association Board;
- Providing monthly messages to the University community, as well as other periodic updates as necessary;
- Chairing the committee conducting the search for a full-term Provost and Vice-President (Academic); and
- Attending and in many cases speaking at different University events, including but not limited to:
  - The University of Regina Rams awards dinner;
  - The University of Regina Women’s Centre’s vigil commemorating the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women;
  - The Regina Public Interest Research Group’s holiday celebration;
  - Winter 2026 orientation for new domestic and international students;
  - An event organized by the Faculty of Arts and the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy to celebrate a recent accomplishment by Dr. Raymond Blake of the Department of History. In the fall, Dr. Blake was named the recipient of the Shaughnessy Cohen Prize for his book entitled *Canada’s Prime Ministers and the Shaping of a National Identity*;
  - A variety of athletics events, student performances, and faculty lectures;
  - An event organized by the BIPOC Graduate Students Association to celebrate the start of the winter term;
  - A social event for current Chancellor’s Scholars and academic mentors;
  - A “Social Innovation Challenge” put on by the GATE Centre; and
  - The opening reception for the 2026 U SPORTS and CCAA national curling championships which were hosted by the University in late February.

**Engagement with the wider community:** Since the December Board meeting, my engagement in the wider community has included:

- Discussing matters of mutual interest with officials from different levels of government, including the Minister and Deputy Minister of Advanced Education;
- Meetings with principals and guidance counsellors from Regina Public Schools. Those meetings included discussion of dual credit classes through which high school students can simultaneously get credit for high school and university classes, and receive a bursary to offset the cost;
- Joining the recruitment team for high school visits, including ones in which I have taught a history class. During the reporting period, I spoke at the Regina Christian School, Miller High School, and Estevan Comprehensive School. I also attended an “admission on the spot” event held on campus;
- Meeting with the heads of other post-secondary institutions in the province, including the new President of the University of Saskatchewan, leadership from the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies, and Southeast College;

- Discussing potential experiential learning and research partnerships with different community and business organizations;
- Meeting with the Saskatchewan Advocate for Children and Youth regarding possible joint research and programming initiatives;
- At the invitation of the International University of Business Agriculture and Technology in Bangladesh, delivering that institution's annual Convocation address. While in Bangladesh, I took the opportunity to visit other universities and high schools to recruit students and advance other academic partnerships;
- Working with UR International to finalize details for two other international visits – a provincial government mission to Thailand and the Philippines in late February, and a March visit to partner institutions in China and Vietnam. Such missions are important to keep the University top-of-mind in these countries which are growth markets and whose students have relatively high success rates in securing study visas;
- Continuing my activities on several external Boards and committees whose operations relate to the University. These include the Saskatchewan Honours Advisory Council, Economic Development Regina's Growth Board, and the Canadian Military, Veteran and Family Connected Campus Consortium;
- Touring facilities at the Wascana Rehabilitation Centre at the request of an alumnus who works there; and
- Attending and in many cases speaking on the University's behalf at a variety of events that were either hosted in or involved the wider community, including:
  - The opening of the 2025-26 Governor General's Arts Exhibition at the MacKenzie Art Gallery;
  - An alumni event held at the Globe Theatre;
  - A provincial government funding announcement related to the Saskatchewan Advantage Innovation Fund and the Agtech Growth Fund;
  - The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with Northwest College;
  - An announcement of approximately \$8 million in funding from SaskPower, Prairies Economic Development Canada, and Innovation Saskatchewan to create the Small Modular Reactor – Safety Licensing and Testing Centre on the main campus. This initiative, which is an essential component of Saskatchewan's nuclear future, will be led by the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science's Dr. Arthur Situm, who is the Canada Research Chair in Small Modular Reactor Safety and Licensing;
  - A reception recognizing those in the wider community who helped organize the 2025 Vanier Cup in Regina;
  - A public lecture on nuclear power. The lecture was delivered at Southeast College in Esteva by Dr. Situm; and
  - A Saskatchewan Archives Week event organized by the Provincial Archives and featuring several artists with connections to the University.

**My academic research:** I continued to conduct academic research and participate as a member of the History Department:

- In early January, Dr. Raymond Blake and I received the final printed version of our textbook entitled *A History of Canada in 15 Moments*, which was published by Bloomsbury Press. This was the culmination of several years of work. I also conducted an interview with the Carillon about

the book, and the resulting article may be found here: <https://carillonregina.com/dive-into-history-of-canada-with-u-of-r-president-jeff-keshen-and-prof-raymond-blake/>.

- Also in January I received final printed copies of *With Thought and Not by Accident* – the book that I co-authored to commemorate the 2025 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Grenfell Campus of Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador. This book was also the culmination of several years of work that began while I was Vice-President of that campus.
- I continued my research in the University Archives for a new book project on the history of the University of Regina.
- I guest lectured in Dr. Raymond Blake’s history class, presenting on how to write history; and
- I delivered guest lectures on Canadian history while on recruitment trips to different Saskatchewan high schools.