GENERAL REMARKS

First, I want to begin by wishing the members of Council and the rest of the university community the very best in 2020.

This Winter term will be a very busy term with many activities managed by colleges and schools with support from the provost’s office. I would like to highlight three key activities. First, colleges and schools are continuing to work in increasing collaboration to develop shared and interdisciplinary programs. Arts and Science has partnered with Medicine to create a new Biomedical Sciences program that is both shared in development and delivery as well as interdisciplinary. Engineering has also combined with Arts and Science to develop over the last year a new first engineering program delivery that will lead to more student success and learning in challenging engineering programs. The task force in Public Health has begun to consider new model and structure for delivering public health programs and research to have more impact. I will brief Council on progress of this work in the next month.

Second, university consultations with undergraduate and graduate students on tuition for the 2020-21 academic year will be taking place over the early part of 2020. College deans, school executive directors and the dean of CGPS will be undertaking these important consultations before tuition is finalized by the Board of Governors in March 2020.

Finally, it is important that we work together in stabilizing our budget to support the fundamental disciplines, professional programs, and research mission of the university. My office remains committed in supporting the academic mission of the university during these challenging times (not unique to the University of Saskatchewan only). Decanal leaders and all Vice-Presidents will need your cooperation and engagement to strengthen our academic mission mapped out by our university plan that guides all our college and school plans.

INSTITUTIONAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT

Each year members of IPA, CGPS, and TLSE meet with deans and executive directors or their representatives to discuss possible tuition rates for the upcoming academic year. USask receives data for tuition and fees from U15 institutions in order to undertake a comparator analysis on similar programs. Relevant non-U15 comparators are also included, where applicable, to present a holistic picture on rates. This process sets the stage for colleges and schools to plan discussions for the upcoming year’s tuition rates with students.

The Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) is exploring the possibility of creating new Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) seats at a differentiated tuition rate in order to address Alberta’s decision to withdraw from the interprovincial agreement. New opportunities are being explored by the college to generate
a sustainable source of funding to ensure accreditation standards are met in the continued high quality delivery of western Canada’s preeminent veterinary program.

The tuition rates are approved by the provost prior to reporting to the Board of Governors for information in March.

COLLEGE AND SCHOOL UPDATES

College of Dentistry
On November 30, 2019 the College of Dentistry’s new Certificate in Dental Assisting (CDA) Program was granted three-year accreditation status from the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada. This decision allows those students who have successfully completed the CDA program and passed the National Dental Assisting Examining Board (NDAEB) Exam to register with their governing body, the Saskatchewan Dental Assisting Association. The three year accreditation period allows the College of Dentistry to maximize dental assisting student learning opportunities by integrating the CDA program with the DMD program, and to graduate the most qualified, practice-ready Registered Dental Assistants in Canada.