UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships
REQUEST FOR DECISION

PRESENTED BY: Ken Wilson
Chair, Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships

DATE OF MEETING: June 18, 2020

SUBJECT: Van Vliet Term Professorship in Agricultural Economics

DECISION REQUESTED: It is recommended:

That Council approve the Van Vliet Term Professorship in Agricultural Economics and recommend to the Board of Governors authorization of this professorship’s establishment.

PURPOSE:
The purpose of the Van Vliet Term Professorship in Agricultural Economics is to develop a fuller understanding of, and propose solutions to, problems faced by the Canadian agriculture sector related to agricultural and international economics.

The position holder is expected to teach and inspire students and colleagues, engage and communicate with our stakeholders and collaborate with public institutions and other agencies to find solutions. Academic scholars holding this position will contribute to the body of knowledge and greater understanding through teaching, research and public service. The Van Vliet Term Professorship will be a term appointment and will work with students, faculty and other stakeholders.

This purpose seamlessly aligns with the university’s commitments to courageous curiosity, boundless collaboration and inspired community.

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND:
The Van Vliet Visiting Professorship in Agricultural Economics was originally approved by the Board of Governors in 1984. This revision is being proposed to address challenges associated with hiring under the original terms of reference, which resulted in a very limited pool of candidates. The proposed revisions are intended to increase the number of high quality applicants while leaving the mission of the professorship essentially as originally established. The name has been changed to The Van Vliet Term Professorship in Agricultural Economics to better reflect the new terms.
CONSULTATION:
The revised terms were proposed by the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics and are supported by the College of Agriculture and Bioresources. The revision has been reviewed by the Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships, and on the committee’s recommendation, submitted for approval to University Council and the Board of Governors.

SUMMARY:
The revised Van Vliet Term Professorship is intended to address challenges in hiring under the original terms of reference while leaving the original objectives of this professorship fundamentally unchanged, as they remain relevant and aligned with the university’s commitments to courageous curiosity, boundless collaboration and inspired community.

ATTACHMENTS:
The Van Vliet Term Professorship in Agricultural Economics – 2020 Revision terms of reference.
The Van Vliet Term Professorship in Agricultural Economics – 2020 Revision
Terms of Reference

Purpose: The purpose of the Van Vliet Term Professorship is to develop a fuller understanding of, and propose solutions to, problems faced by the Canadian agriculture sector related to agricultural and international economics.

Academic scholars will contribute to the body of knowledge and greater understanding through teaching, research and public service.

The Van Vliet Term Professorship will be a term appointment and will work with students, faculty and other stakeholders.

Chair Type: This will be a Term Professorship.

Background: The Van Vliet Visiting Professorship in Agricultural Economics was established in 1985.

It was jointly funded by the province and university to address teaching and research needs of the time.

The title of the chair was chosen in honour of the contributions of Dr. Hadley Van Vliet to teaching, research and problem solving for the farming community.

Rationale: Agriculture has played a key role in Canadian development. Agriculture remains an important sector of our economy and an important contributor to a positive trade balance. Trade is a larger proportion of the total goods and services produced in Canada than in any other major developed nation.

Agriculture is the dominant primary industry in Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan is dependent upon trade, agricultural commodity prices and the world trading environment to a larger degree than any other region of Canada. International trade and the world economy have a dominant impact on economic growth, employment and personal income in Saskatchewan.

The global economy is becoming more complex and the economic policy toward agriculture in the European Community and the United States have undergone major changes. These policy changes affect the welfare of Canadian farmers, processors and exporters and are felt in Saskatchewan and throughout Canada. Public policy which once
concentrated on domestic issues must now address broad International issues as well. Nowhere is this more evident than in Canadian agriculture. It is paramount that Canada increase its understanding of these world events.

The Hadley Van Vliet Term Professorship in Agricultural Economics was established at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, to apply recognized expertise in agricultural and international economics to issues facing Canadian agriculture. The Term Professorship will honor Hadley Van Vliet, a man remembered for his brilliant mind, his ability to shed understanding and enlightenment on the complexities of farm economics, his inspiration of students and his compassion and understanding. Farmers looked to "Van" to analyze and explain their pressing problems and to assist in the formation of public policy. The scholar selected will continue in this tradition.

**Source and Amount of Funding:**

This fellowship was established in 1985 with a gift of $500,000 from the provincial government and a matching contribution of $500,000 from the University of Saskatchewan. The university’s share was sourced from a land sale ($300,000) and the Burford Hooke trust ($200,000).

**Tenability:**

The fund is endowed. As at January 8, 2020, the endowment has a balance of $4,027,833 and provides an annual spending allocation of approximately $148,000.

At the discretion of the Management Committee, unused spending allocation may be recapitalized to increase the corpus of the fund. The decision to recapitalize funds will consider the budget for the entire chairholder term.

A financial report on the endowment will be provided by the University to the Management Committee each year. The balance in the fund cannot be reduced below the $1,000,000 level without the approval of the Minister of Agriculture and the Board of Governors.

**Eligible Expenditures:**

The funds available from the endowment may be used to support salary, benefits, and research activities for the individual in the "Professorship” as determined by the Management Committee, and in alignment with Section 2.0 of the Guidelines for the Establishment of Chairs and Professorship.

If the expenditures related to the professorship exceed the funding available from the endowment over the chairholder term, the additional funding required shall be the responsibility of the College of Agriculture and Bioresources.

**Selection Committee:**

In accordance with the procedures set out in the USFA Collective Agreement.
Chairholder Responsibilities:

The chairholder will be a teacher-scholar, contributing to the teaching, research and public service of the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics.

The individual should teach one or more courses of interest to students from many disciplines, to be determined at the time of appointment.

The research agenda should include international, national and regional issues in the areas of agriculture, economics and trade policy. It is expected that a scholar of this caliber would engage governments and non-government organizations including producer organizations and industry groups.

The chairholder will submit an annual report of activities in accordance with university practices to the Management Committee, department head, and to the dean or executive director, as appropriate, and to the provost and vice-president academic or designate. The report will outline the accomplishments of the chair in keeping with the chair’s purpose and objectives.

The major objectives of the Van Vliet Professorship are:

1. to analyze and address pressing issues in agriculture;
2. to stimulate and excite both students and colleagues through the ideas, understanding and analysis that is applied to major issues in agricultural economics;
3. to engage and communicate the knowledge and understanding to agriculture stakeholders; and
4. to work with public institutions and their agencies in seeking solutions to agricultural and rural issues.

The Chairholder will have:

1. a demonstrated ability in agricultural and International economics that is recognized in the International community of scholars.
2. an ability to stimulate and excite students with both ideas and the conveyance of understanding of the complexities of the farm economy.
3. an ability to communicate with a wide range of agricultural stakeholders.
4. an ability to analyze and explain the important issues in agriculture and to propose solutions.

Term of Chair:

The chair shall be appointed in a term position for a period of a minimum of six months and a maximum of five years. Appointments of longer than one year may be subject to a probationary period.
Management Committee: In accordance with section 5.0 of the Guidelines for the Establishment of Chairs and Professorships, the management committee shall be comprised of:

- Dean, College of Agriculture and Bioresources or designate, as Chair;
- Head, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics or designate; and
- Manager, Donations and Trusts or designate.

The committee may include a representative from the funders or other members, if deemed beneficial to achieve the objectives of the chair.

Management Committee Mandate: The management committee will:

- oversee the activities of the professorship;
- oversee management of the fund to ensure compliance with the terms of the trust and the ongoing financial integrity of the initiative;
- approve annual budgets;
- receive annual financial statements of the trust fund;
- receive and review the annual report and financial report on the activities of the chair;
- provide a copy of the annual report and the financial report with commentary as appropriate to the provost and vice-president academic or designate.

Fund Administration: The University shall have the further power to administer the fund as part of the University's general trust and endowment funds, in keeping with and under the University's investment and administrative guidelines and practices as may be established and changed by the University from time to time. Upon these terms of reference being approved, and under the above guidelines and practices, provision shall be made for the investment of this fund in common with other trust funds and the payment of administration fees with respect to the management of such funds, such fees to be determined by the University acting reasonably.
In the event that circumstances make the specified use or administration of this fund no longer practical or desirable, the Board of Governors of the University of Saskatchewan is hereby authorized to make changes in the use or administration of the fund to maintain, as much as is reasonably possible, its spirit and general intent.

The Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics recommends the creation of this Fund based on the above terms:

______________________________  ______________________________
Ken Belcher  Date
Head, College of Agriculture and Bioresources

The College of Agriculture and Bioresources recommends the creation of this Fund based on the above terms:

______________________________  ______________________________
Mary Buhr  Date
Dean, College of Agriculture and Bioresources

The Office of the Vice-Provost, Faculty Relations recommends acceptance based on the above terms:

______________________________  ______________________________
Dr. Ken Wilson  Date
Vice-Provost, Faculty Relations

Approved and accepted on behalf of the Board of Governors of the University of Saskatchewan:

______________________________  ______________________________
Debra Pozega Osburn, Ph.D.  Date
Vice President, University Relations
The Van Vliet Term Professorship in Agricultural Economics – 2020 Revision
Terms of Reference

Original Terms
Note that most of the section headings were different from the current TOR format.

Revised Terms

**Purpose:**

**Objectives:**
The purpose of the Van Vliet Professorship is to develop a fuller understanding of problems in agriculture and international economics which face Canadian agriculture and propose solutions.

Academic scholars contribute to the body of knowledge and greater understanding through their teaching, research and public service.

The purpose of the Van Vliet Visiting Professorship is to bring a scholar in to the campus for a period of time to work with students, faculty and the community.

**Chair Type:**
n/a

**Background:**
n/a

This will be a Term Professorship.

The Van Vliet Visiting Professorship in Agricultural Economics was established in 1985.

It was jointly funded by the province and university to address teaching and research needs of the time.

The title of the chair was chosen in honour of the contributions of Dr. Hadley Van Vliet to teaching, research and problem solving for the farming community.
Rationale:

Agriculture has played a key role in Canadian development. Agriculture remains an important sector of our economy and an important contributor to a positive trade balance. Trade is a larger proportion of the total goods and services produced in Canada than in any other major developed nation.

Agriculture is the dominant primary industry in Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan is dependent upon trade, agricultural commodity prices and the world trading environment to a larger degree than any other region of Canada. International trade and the world economy have a dominant impact on economic growth, employment and personal income in Saskatchewan.

The world economy is becoming more complex and the economic policy toward agriculture in the European Community and the United States have undergone major changes. These policy changes affect the welfare of Canadian farmers, processors and exporters and are felt in Saskatchewan and throughout Canada.

Public policy which once concentrated on domestic issues must now address broad International issues as well. Nowhere is this more evident than in Canadian agriculture. It is paramount that Canada increase its understanding of these world events.

The Hadley Van Vliet Visiting Professorship in Agricultural Economics is being established at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, to apply recognized expertise in agricultural and international economics to issues facing Canadian agriculture. The Visiting Professorship will honor Hadley Van Vliet, a man remembered for his brilliant mind, his ability to shed understanding and enlightenment on the complexities of farm economics, his inspiration of students and his compassion and understanding. Farmers looked to "Van" to analyze and explain their pressing problems and to assist in the formation
of public policy. The scholar selected will continue in this tradition.

Source and Amount of Funding:

Not specifically described in the original TOR. However, several documents filed with the original TOR describe the source and arrival of these funds. These include a November 28, 1984 memorandum from the President Kristjanson to the Board of Governors, an excerpt from the December 5, 1984 Board of Governors meeting minutes, and a memorandum from the Controller’s Office dated March 12, 1985.

This fellowship was established in 1985 with a gift of $500,000 from the provincial government and a matching contribution of $500,000 from the University of Saskatchewan. The university’s share was sourced from a land sale ($300,000) and the Burford Hooke trust ($200,000).

Tenability:

Tenability was not specifically described, although the funds were endowed and there are several references to the endowment in the original TOR (see below).

The annual budget will be set by the Committee of the President, Dean of Agriculture, and Head of Agricultural Economics in consultation with the person holding the “Professorship”.

Any funds earned by the endowment will be reinvested by the University in the name of the endowment. A financial report on the endowment will be provided by the University to the Committee each year. The balance in the fund cannot be reduced below the $1,000,000 level without the approval of the Minister of Agriculture and the Board of Governors.

At the discretion of the Management Committee, unused spending allocation should be recapitalized to grow the corpus of the fund. The decision to recapitalize funds will consider the budget for the entire chairholder term.

The fund is endowed. As at January 8, 2020, the endowment has a balance of $4,027,833 and provides an annual spending allocation of approximately $148,000.

Eligible Expenditures:

“The funds available from the endowment may be used as salary, or research fund for the individual in the “Professorship”.

“The funds available from the endowment may be used as salary, or research fund for the individual in the “Professorship”, in alignment with Section 2.0 of the Guidelines for the Establishment of Chairs and Professorships.

Selection Committee:

The appointment will be made following the procedure set out in the Collective Agreement.

In accordance with the procedures set out in the USFA Collective Agreement.
Chairholder Responsibilities:

Activities:
The scholar would be located at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, in the Department of Agricultural Economics.

The scholar placed in the Van Vliet Professorship would be involved in teaching, research and public service.

Because the life blood of the university is its students, the individual would teach in some seminar classes. The teaching would include a course of interest to students from many disciplines such as agriculture, economics and political science and commerce because of the knowledge and expertise of the scholar.

Research and public service would claim the majority of the time of the scholar. The research agenda would include international, national and regional issues in the areas of agriculture, economics and trade policy. It is expected that a scholar of this caliber would spend time advising governments and their agencies such as the Canadian Wheat Board and Agriculture Canada as well as international and regional agencies.

Finally, the scholar would be available to communicate his/her ideas to farmers and business people, for it is they who make many of the important economic decisions.

The major objectives of the Van Vliet Professorship are:
(1) to analyze and explain pressing problems in the agriculture and international sector and to propose solutions;
(2) to stimulate and excite both students and colleagues through the ideas, understanding and analysis which is applied to major issues in agricultural economics;
(3) to communicate the knowledge and understanding to students, colleagues, and public services.

The chairholder will be a teacher-scholar, contributing to the teaching, research and public service of the Department of Agricultural and Resources Economics. The individual should teach courses of interest to students from many disciplines.

The research agenda should include international, national and regional issues in the areas of agriculture, economics and trade policy. It is expected that a scholar of this caliber would engage governments and non-government organizations including producer organizations and industry groups.

The chairholder will submit an annual report of activities in accordance with university practices to the Management Committee, department head, and to the dean or executive director, as appropriate, and to the provost and vice-president academic or designate. The report will outline the accomplishments of the chair in keeping with the chair’s purpose and objectives.

The major objectives of the Van Vliet Professorship are:
(1) to analyze and address pressing issues in agriculture;
(2) to stimulate and excite both students and colleagues through the ideas, understanding and analysis which is applied to major issues in agricultural economics;
(3) to engage and communicate the knowledge and understanding to agriculture stakeholders; and
the farm community, farm leaders, government administrators and decision makers; and
(4) to work with governments and their agencies in seeking solutions to agricultural and rural problems.

These objectives require that the scholar chosen for the Van Vliet Visiting Professorship manifest outstanding abilities. The following list describes the requirements:

(1) A demonstrated ability and reputation in agricultural and International economics which is recognized in International community of scholars
(2) An ability to stimulate and excite students with both ideas and the conveyance of understanding of the complexities of the farm economy.
(3) An ability to communicate with farmers, business people, colleagues and public servants.
(4) An ability to analyze and explain the pressing problems in agriculture and to propose solutions.

The Chairholder will have:

(1) A demonstrated ability in agricultural and International economics which is recognized in International community of scholars
(2) An ability to stimulate and excite students with both ideas and the conveyance of understanding of the complexities of the farm economy.
(3) An ability to communicate with a wide range of agricultural stakeholders
(4) An ability to analyze and explain the important issues in agriculture and to propose solutions.

**Term of Chair:**

The scholar shall be appointed for a period of a minimum of six months and a maximum of three years.

The position will not be tenurable but an individual may be appointed to consecutive terms.

**Management Committee:** n/a

In accordance with section 5 of the Guidelines for the Establishment of Chairs and Professorships, the management committee shall comprise of:

- Dean, College of Agriculture and Bioresources or designate, as Chair;
- Head, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics or designate; and
- Manager, Donations and Trusts or designate.
The committee may include a representative from the funders or other members, if deemed beneficial to achieve the objectives of the chair.

Management Committee

Mandate:

n/a

The management committee will:

- Oversee the activities of the professorship;
- Oversee management of the fund to ensure compliance with the terms of the trust and the ongoing financial integrity of the initiative;
- Approve annual budgets;
- Receive annual financial statements of the trust fund;
- Receive and review the annual report and financial report on the activities of the chair;
- Provide a copy of the annual report and the financial report with commentary as appropriate to the provost and vice-president academic or designate.

Fund Administration:

The University shall have the further power to administer the fund as part of the University's general trust and endowment funds, in keeping with and under the University's investment and administrative guidelines and practices as may be established and changed by the University from time to time. Upon these terms of reference being approved, and under the above guidelines and practices, provision shall be made for the investment of this fund in common with other trust funds and the payment of administration fees with respect to the management of such funds, such fees to be determined by the University acting reasonably.

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The Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics recommends the creation of this Fund based on the above terms:

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Ken Belcher  
Head, College of Agriculture and Bioresources

The College of Agriculture and Bioresources recommends the creation of this Fund based on the above terms:

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Mary Buhr  
Dean, College of Agriculture and Bioresources

The Office of the Vice-Provost, Faculty Relations recommends acceptance based on the above terms.

_____________________________  
Dr. Ken Wilson  
Vice-Provost, Faculty Relations

Approved and accepted on behalf of the Board of Governors of the University of Saskatchewan:

_____________________________  
Debra Pozega Osburn, Ph.D.  
Vice President, University Relations