GENERAL REMARKS

As we meet today, the fall term is well underway. By the date of the Council meeting, our Fall Census day will have passed, and we will have data that we can compare to historical trends. At the meeting, I will invite the Vice-Provost, Teaching, Learning and Student Experience to provide us with a brief update on enrolment for fall 2020. Similarly, as discussed at the September Council meeting, the Vice-President, Finance and Resources and I will be presenting a budget update that gives a high-level summary of the university’s operating budget and the financial impacts of COVID.

CANADIAN HUB FOR APPLIED AND SOCIAL RESEARCH (CHASR)

On September 16, the University of Saskatchewan launched the Canadian Hub for Applied and Social Research (CHASR). CHASR is a new name and a new brand for the former Social Sciences Research Laboratories (SSRL) in the College of Arts and Science.

In operation since 2011, CHASR (and the former SSRL) has grown and evolved to support research beyond the core social sciences and has demonstrated its utility as more than a collection of research laboratories. Operating as a ‘public utility’, CHASR is available to support researchers and clients on a cost-recovery basis, commonly engaging and supporting University of Saskatchewan-based faculty, students, and staff. The unit is increasingly supporting research and researchers external to the university, including faculty from other Canadian and international post-secondary institutions, government (federal, provincial, and local), not-for-profits, and some private sector firms. CHASR supports research through access to its eight complementary research laboratories and its in-house research support specialists. CHASR is a unique University of Saskatchewan success story. The new CHASR name and brand represents the University of Saskatchewan staking its claim as the national leader in supporting applied and social research. As a national-level research support hub, CHASR anticipates increased demand for its fee-for-service research supports that include telephone and online surveys, interviews and focus groups, mapping and data visualizations, programming, and software, among many others. CHASR supported more than 500 researchers last year and engaged more than 800 undergraduate and graduate students in its work. In support of the launch, USask communications issued a news release, while Postmedia News and CBC Saskatchewan profiled 2020 provincial election survey data collected in the CHASR telephone survey facility. The new CHASR website can be found at https://chasr.usask.ca.
COLLEGE AND SCHOOL UPDATES

Edwards School of Business

In September 2020, the Edwards School of Business held its annual Dean’s Speaker Series event. The event showcases inspiring Edwards alumni from around the world who have made a stellar impact on our communities. This year’s speaker was Cara Keating. She spoke about her journey from alumna (B.Comm. 1999) to the President of PepsiCo Foods Canada, where she currently leads the Canadian businesses of Frito-Lay North America and Quaker Foods North America. Students, faculty, staff, and alumni from around the world tuned in for the virtual event via WebEx.

The Edwards School of Business is also excited to announce that the Operations Management major, as part of the Bachelor of Commerce degree, has officially been renamed to Supply Chain Management. As a result, the major will be more robust, with the number of credits shifting from 18 to 21. New elective courses will also be available to choose from, including Logistics Management, Project Management and Business Analytics. In addition, the name change aligns closer to industry opportunities available for professional designations such as Project Management Professional (PMP) and Supply Chain Management Professional (SCMP).

Western College of Veterinary Medicine

- **Interprovincial agreement renewed:** The Governments of Manitoba, British Columbia and Saskatchewan have renewed their financial commitment to the WCVM, providing more than $134 million to the veterinary college for the next five years (2020 to 2025). The agreement provides stable funding for the regional veterinary college so it can continue delivering veterinary education, clinical service, and research to all of Western Canada. It also allows the WCVM to continue meeting critical accreditation standards for veterinary schools.

- **New curriculum rolled out:** The WCVM Class of 2024 is the first group of veterinary students to use the college’s renewed curriculum for its Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) program. Developed by a team of WCVM faculty members, the updated curriculum will deliver a more integrated and coordinated learning experience and be more clinically relevant throughout the four-year program. The renewed curriculum also incorporates competency-based veterinary education (CBVE), which has become a requirement for all accredited veterinary colleges around the world, and the use of simulation technology in all four years of the program.

- **Advisory council annual meeting:** The WCVM recently hosted the annual meeting of the WCVM Advisory Council, whose members represent the provincial partners, provincial veterinary medical associations, western Canadian universities, and the University of Saskatchewan. The council members met virtually on Friday, Sept. 18, to review the college’s operations and achievements in the past 12 months, along with its future plans. The meeting’s highlights included discussions about the college’s renewed Interprovincial Agreement (IPA) and an update from VIDO-InterVac director and CEO Dr. Volker Gerdzts about his research team’s development of a SARS-CoV-2 vaccine. WCVM acting dean Dr. Gillian Muir also gave a progress report on several major projects, including the veterinary program’s curriculum renewal, the college’s overall response to COVID-19, and large-scale research initiatives in beef health and antimicrobial resistance.