Untangling the “spaghetti mess” of how goods and services are purchased across campus has the potential to create significant savings in both dollars and people time, but it is one of the circumstances where the U of S will have to spend money in order to save money.

Gwen Miller, a financial analyst in the Financial Services Division who has spent the past year examining current procurement processes, said buying takes place “in a tremendously complex environment that depends on what you’re buying, how much it costs, who you’re buying it from and even who you work for. We really have six different procurement systems … as a result, we have no detailed picture of what we’re buying at what cost.”

Procurement was initially identified as an area of focus when the university began the Service and Process Enhancement Project (SPEP) in 2010. That project has since become part of the effort to trim the university’s operating budget by $44.5 million. When SPEP began, consultants PricewaterhouseCoopers estimated that streamlining the procurement system could save $2.5-4 million annually, a figure Miller believes is in the ballpark.

With colleges and units handling purchasing through various and unconnected systems, Miller said the university can only determine how much it spends annually with each of its 18,000 vendors “but we don’t necessarily know how much of a specific item we bought across the university. Because the systems are unconnected, we can’t mine them for that information.”

And because various entities are making purchases independently, they may be paying different prices for the same goods or services. “It’s concerning,” said Miller, “but it’s only part of the picture.”

That other part is that last spring, the provincial auditor directed the university to tighten its internal controls on purchasing, she explained. As a result, standing orders for purchases were eliminated and purchases are being made using purchase cards (PCards) and standard purchase orders. “But that has created a tremendous burden for people” in terms of time spent on paperwork. It is

We really have six different procurement systems … as a result, we have no detailed picture of what we’re buying at what cost.

Gwen Miller
Enrolment at the University of Saskatchewan for the 2012 fall term is up 3.3 per cent compared to last year, to 21,171 undergraduate and graduate students, and almost half of that increase can be attributed to changes to the nursing program.

In a report to University Council on Nov. 15 on census data collected Oct. 12, David Hannah, associate vice-president of student affairs, said that without the 236 additional nursing students and those in pre-nursing in the College of Arts and Science, the overall enrolment increase in 2012/13 would have been slightly lower than the previous year. In the past, first- and second-year students in the Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan were enrolled at SLAST, and were only included in the U of S student census in their final years.

Of the total enrolment, there are 17,200 undergraduate students this fall (up 3.8 per cent), 3,023 grad students (up 3.8 per cent increase in the number of Saskatchewan students this year while first-time out-of-province students increased by 27.5 per cent and international students were up 33.6 per cent. An even further breakdown shows the number of new students from Alberta attending the U of S this fall jumped 31.2 per cent. Hannah said this reflects the success of first-year retention rate for Aboriginal students this year, he said, but the overall student count has dropped to 1,473, an indication to Hannah that "this may be a retention issue rather than a recruitment issue.

Among international students overall, the largest group is from China (822, up 11.4 per cent) followed by India (144) and Nigeria (133). Hannah spent some time discussing Aboriginal student numbers which showed an 8.9 per cent drop in self-declared undergrads this fall, and an eight per cent decline in Aboriginal graduate students. There was no change in the number of newly admitted Aboriginal students this year, he said, but the overall student count has dropped to 1,473, an indication to Hannah that "this may be a retention issue rather than a recruitment issue.

The college on campus.

Buckingham delighted with school’s growth

Overall enrolment at the U of S is up, but few colleges or schools can boast the growth experienced in the School of Public Health. "When I started four years ago, we had 17 students," said Robert Buckingham, the school’s executive director. "This year, we have 191 students enrolled and another 20 online. We are just delighted with this growth."

The student body is quite diverse too, Buckingham continued. "About 65 per cent of our students are from Canada and 35 per cent are international. We are the most international school of public health in Canada."

Those international students come from "more than 20 countries, with the most (students) coming from Africa, India, China and the Middle East," he said.

The school’s rapid growth has "come with its own growing pains, like not enough faculty and larger class size. It is simple; if you build it they will come. Now that the students have wait for mandatory diploma exam marks.

Among international students overall, the largest group is from China (822, up 11.4 per cent) followed by India (144) and Nigeria (133). Hannah spent some time discussing Aboriginal student numbers which showed an 8.9 per cent drop in self-declared undergrads this fall, and an eight per cent decline in Aboriginal graduate students. There was no change in the number of newly admitted Aboriginal students this year, he said, but the overall student count has dropped to 1,473, an indication to Hannah that "this may be a retention issue rather than a recruitment issue.

In fact, the first-to-second-year retention rate for Aboriginal students in direct-entry programs is 58.2 per cent compared to 85.5 per cent for international students and 78.7 per cent overall. This, said Hannah, "is an area we need to work on."

One of the challenges facing census takers is that Aboriginal students must self-declare their ancestry in order to be counted and "I know anecdotally that there are many Aboriginal students who think they’ve self-declared but haven’t," said Hannah. Some students believe that enrolling in particular programs or even receiving certain scholarships counts as self-declaration, he said, and there is some data that is simply not being conveyed to the main student information system.

Hannah said staff in the Student and Enrollment Services Division are investigating ways of encouraging Aboriginal students to self-declare to ensure the university has accurate statistics.

Data from the fall enrolment census that is available on the Information Strategy and Analytics website (usask.ca/isa) show the College of Arts and Science has the largest enrolment on campus with 8,794 students followed by the College of Engineering at 2,001 students and the Edwards School of Business at 2,000 (see related story below). The smallest is the School of Environmental and Sustainability with 68 students.

Teaching activity measured in credit units is up 4.2 per cent this fall on campus, while off-campus credit units are up 12.3 per cent. Hannah told Council members that according to Dan Pennock, acting vice-provost of teaching and learning, combining all of the students taking U of S programs off campus and through various distance education options would create the second largest college on campus.

A break down of students by gender shows that only four colleges or schools have more male students than female – dentistry, engineering, law and the school of public policy.

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See Accreditation, Page 6
Faculty awards program expanded; chairs approved in medicine, engineering

The U of S is making significant changes to its three-year-old distinguished chairs program, including giving it a new name, removing the cap on the number of positions awarded and extending the term of the recognition from three years to lifetime.

Addressing University Council Nov. 15, Jim Germain, vice-provost of faculty relations, explained the distinguished chairs program was established in 2009 to recognize achievement in research, scholarly and artistic work among U of S faculty. The number of chairs was limited to 10, and each was awarded for a three-year term with the potential for one renewal. Nominees quickly outstripped supply, he said, and deserving faculty members were going unrecognized.

In addition, increasing the number of institutional awards may improve the opportunities for U of S faculty members to compete for major national or international awards. As it stands, the number of institutional, local and provincial awards recognizing U of S faculty members is significantly below the average for members of the U15, the group of top research universities in Canada in which the U of S is a member.

To address the situation, Council approved a motion that will see the number of chairs from distinguished professors to distinguished professor emeriti/us when the faculty member retires. The number of professorships will increase from 10 at any one time to 30, and the title will be awarded for life. The first annual call for distinguished professorships will take place in January. Germain said the board of council committee on chairs and professorships, also requested Council’s approval of an honorary chair in the College of Medicine and a new chair in power systems engineering in the College of Engineering. It agreed to both although the chairs require approval by the Board of Governors.

Starting Jan. 1, the head of the Department of Medicine in the College of Medicine will receive the honorary title of Louis Horlick Chair, which recognizes the contributions of Horlick as a founding member of the department of the Division of Cardiology, as head of the department from 1968-74 and as a academic member of the department until 1989. Horlick died Oct. 23.

Promoting research focused on power system engineering and smart grids as well as supporting both undergraduate and graduate education is the objectives of the new SaskPower Chair in Power Systems Engineering.

Cisco also contributed $2 million over 10 years to create a chair in e-governance to look at ways for governments to more effectively use the newest technologies. This chair will be located at the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy at the University of Regina.

The chair, housed in the College of Engineering, will promote, support and lead research, development and innovation through industry-linked projects within Canada’s mining sector. The chair’s research could be useful in day-to-day mining operations for communication in mines or in emergency situations when the use of sensors on human workers could track their health and location within the mines.

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“Networking company Cisco Canada is providing the University of Saskatchewan with $2 million over 10 years to establish the Cisco Research Chair in Mining Solutions.”

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“We are thrilled with this investment from Cisco,” said Ilene Busch-Walden, U of S president, at the funding announcement Nov. 20 in Regina. “As one of the leading research-intensive universities in Canada, we are continually looking to undertake new research opportunities. The work of these chair holders will undoubtedly produce positive effects not only for our universities, but also for our province.”

U of S brings research expertise to Bay View Alliance

The University of Saskatchewan has joined a new alliance dedicated to conducting research to improve undergraduate teaching and learning, and the group’s work has received a boost in the form of an $803,942 grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

“The Bay View Alliance (BVA) was formed by publicly funded, research-intensive universities which, like the U of S, are committed to innovation in teaching and learning,” said Jim Greer, director of the University Learning Centre. “With the Sloan Foundation grant, we will certainly be able to advance that innovation agenda more rapidly.”

The year-old alliance, which took its name from the location of its founding meeting in the San Francisco Bay area, includes Indiana University Bloomington, Queen’s University, University of British Columbia, University of California Davis, University of Kansas and University of Texas Austin. It was set up to try to understand the kinds of leadership practices that best support the adoption of effective teaching methods, with a focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields.

In addition to significant work on innovation in curricula, Greer said the University of Saskatchewan’s area of strength within the BVA is research designed to better understand the attitudes of faculty to change, and how to address barriers to successful innovation in teaching and learning.

"Research has shown there are lots of better ways to be teaching a larger class than people have been using," he said, "but embracing evidence-informed teaching practices has been slow." The advantage of connecting with like-minded institutions is the sharing of research findings, ideas and approaches.

Greer explained that the Carnegie Foundation provided funding for the BVA. The Sloan grant, which extends over four years, will support the unique partnership among the participating institutions and "will help spawn additional partnerships." It will also provide funding for grant preparations as the BVA seeks additional research support.

Patricia McDougall, who will become the university’s vice-provost of teaching and learning on Jan. 1, will lead the U of S participation in the BVA.

"We certainly see the foundation grant as a positive endorsement of the direction we are taking here at the U of S, and collectively as an alliance," said Greer. “For an organization that is only about one year old, the BVA has already made significa..."
The university’s decision to suspend operations at the Kend- erdine campus at Emma Lake for the next three years dominated discussion at the Nov. 20 open meeting in Convocation Hall.

Faculty members, artists and a large contingent of biology students were on hand to ask questions and express their concerns about the closure, which was announced Nov. 15. Suspending activity at the aging facility, which needs at least $3 million of work to bring it up to health and safety standards, will mean the loss of two positions at the university and operational savings of about $500,000 between now and 2016.

The town hall meeting was one in a series of information sessions designed to provide the campus community with updates on the university’s financial situation. Led by Provost and Vice-President Academic Brett Fairbairn and Greg Fowler, acting vice-president of finance and resources, the hour-long meeting included a short presentation and then a question and answer period. Audience members were provided with cards on which to write comments and were also invited to speak from the floor.

To begin, Fowler outlined the current financial situation, which includes a projected gap between revenues and expenses of $44.5 million annually by 2016 if the university takes no action. This represents 8.5 per cent of the institution’s operating budget. There is also a $15.5 million deficit projected for this year.

So far, the university has made $2.5 million in permanent budget reductions, he said, and $7 million in one-time cuts but “there is much more to do this year” with the rest of the annual deficit expected to be addressed by the end of the year.

Fairbairn outlined the prin- ciples that govern the budget adjustment efforts, principles designed to ensure decisions about budget and the workforce are strategic, comprehensive and sustainable. Fowler described the three projects already underway: workforce planning; gathering $2 million from central and college sources for one-time tran- sition funding; and procurement process improvements.

Fowler acknowledged that workforce planning is causing anxiety but “we must … improve our organizational structures to gain efficiency and reduce dupli- cation,” a process that will take place over the next four years.

In addition to these projects, Fairbairn said the university is also exploring a process for program prioritization that will align resources with institutional priorities. He added the Board of Governors has provided direction that “no stone go unturned.”

In the question period, audience members expressed concern about maintaining the cultural and heritage integrity of the Kenderdine site, including Fairy Island, home of a cabin used by Saskatchewan artist Ernest Lindner. Originally called the Emma Lake Art Camp, the property has been in use since 1935 during summer months for artists’ retreats and more recently, for environmental learning opportunities for students.

Both Fairbairn and Fowler reiterated the decision to halt activities at the seasonal campus was difficult but necessary as the university does not have the capital to invest in the property. They assured audience members the university will continue to monitor the site and do necessary maintenance to prevent further deterioration.

Fairbairn pointed out the closure was announced early enough to allow those planning on using the site for programs and courses to find alternatives for next summer.

Fowler and Fairbairn also fielded questions about the univer- sity’s overall financial situation, including why the $44.5-million deficit was underestimated. Fairbairn explained that the insti- tution’s four-year budget planning process anticipated growth of about four per cent annually in its provincial operating grant until last spring. Then, when the grant was increased by only 2.1 per cent, grant increase projections were revised downward to reflect a new reality across the country in post- secondary funding.

“You could argue that we should have seen the writing on the wall,” he said, but even a two per cent increase “may in fact be desirable … relative to what’s going on in other provinces.”

Asked if the university was looking to increase revenue other than raising tuition, Fowler said there is an information item being prepared for the Board of Governors about potential devel- opment of parts of the almost 1,000 acres of land the university owns within the city limits. The plan relates to Vision 2057, a long-term development project, but it will have only a minor effect by the end of the four-year budget adjustment period.

Two questions about priva- tizing services on campus were answered with a firm commit- ment that such action is not being considered and would contravene labour law and the university’s values.

Kenderdine questions dominate town hall

Toxicologists present at international conference

For the sixth year in a row, U of S toxicologists have presented more papers than any other university in the world at a major international conference. The only organizations that presented more were Environment Canada and the U.S. Envi- ronmental Protection Agency.

“We have the premier, comprehensive environmental toxicology and chemistry group in North America,” says John Giesy, Canada Research Chair in Environmental Toxicology. Giesy led the group of U of S faculty, postdoctoral fellows and students at the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry North America annual meeting in Long Beach, California Nov. 11-15 where they presented 45 papers.

U of S research presented at the conference included studies of the effect of metal and hydro- carbon contamination on soil organisms, fish, birds and other wildlife. Others looked at the effect of PCBs on birds ability to navigate, how uranium interacts with organisms living in lakes and stream bottoms, and how contaminants such as anti-inflammatory drugs may affect fish.
Chaplains recognize, honour diversity

Ashleigh Mattern

The Multi-faith Chaplains Association and the ecumenical chaplaincy at the University of Saskatchewan have a code of ethics that is different from other religious groups on campus; other religious groups will often actively try to convert students who approach them, but this chaplains do not.

“We have a code of ethics that we abide by, and part of that is that we don’t proselytize,” said Reverend Emily Carr, the University of Saskatchewan’s ecumenical chaplain. “We’re not here to convert students. So if a student shows up and they’re a Roman Catholic, of course they’re welcome to be a part of our group, but I would be helping them to find a place in the Roman Catholic community.”

As the ecumenical chaplain, Carr represents the Anglican, Presbyterian and United churches. Other university chaplaincies include Pentecostal, Lutheran, Catholic and Muslim clergy, a rabbi and First Nations elders. All have offices on campus or nearby, and all work together and support each other through the Multi-Faith Chaplains Association.

“Chaplains recognize, honour diversity of course they’re welcome to be a part of our group, but I would be helping them to find a place in the Roman Catholic community.”

“The project followed much the same principles of RenewUS,” said Bryan Bilokreli, director of institutional capital planning. “The upgrading was successfully refurbish the space so that we are renewing it both academically and physically.”

Carr has been working hard to create excitement around the university’s ecumenical chaplaincy’s role, and to bring attention to the Multi-faith Chaplains Association since she started in August.

She created a Facebook page, handed out flyers at Welcome Week, started a regular weekly service on Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m., started a Friday afternoon music jam, moved the office hours to later in the day, and is working with the University of Saskatchewan Students’ Union to create a support program for student parents.

The ecumenical chaplain’s office in the Memorial Union Building is busier than ever, she said. But a university ministry has a particular challenge that not all ministries face: studies have shown that higher education leads to less religious affiliation.

“There’s a sense among certain members of the university community that having faith is misinformed or unintelligent,” said Carr. “There’s a sense that in order to be a Christian you have to believe in things a certain way. But that’s not true. On campus, we have history professors, scientists, people in sociology, English, the arts, professors, teachers and students who have faith in God.”

Carr hopes her office will become a safe space for anyone in the university community to discuss religion, ask questions and find support. Her door is open three days a week. Wednesday to Friday from 1 to 6 p.m. for anyone who wants to talk, whether in a group discussion or confidentially in private.

Ashleigh Mattern is a Saskatoon-based freelance writer.

RenewUS starts small

A one-room renovation in the Arts Building has provided the university with a glimpse of how its academic mission and the need for space improvements come together through RenewUS.

Over the summer, the Facilities Management Division (FMD) made major changes to one arts classroom, replacing the floor, painting, installing state-of-the-art multimedia equipment and adding new furniture, said Dan Swerhone, director of operations and maintenance in FMD. The room had not been renovated since it was built in 1959.

Initiated by the College of Arts and Science, the $55,000 renovation was highlighted in the university’s 2013-14 operations forecast as an example of successfully dealing with deferred maintenance issues by blending them with academic renewal of teaching, learning and research space.

“The project followed much the same principles of RenewUS,” said Bryan Bilokreli, director of institutional capital planning. “The upgrading was done from a holistic perspective whereby we not only addressed the deferred maintenance in the space but we also revitalized it to meet the teaching and learning needs of current classroom pedagogy.”

The RenewUS program was introduced in 2011. Information in the operations forecast indicates the university’s current deferred maintenance backlog is about $543 million, and that in 2013-14, classroom renewal will be the main focus of the program. The Arts Building contains about 20 per cent of the university’s total classroom inventory.

Bilokreli said other potential RenewUS projects will be evaluated to see “if we can successfully refurbish the space so that we are renewing it both academically and physically.”

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In praise of superior technology
Beth Matheson’s two careers devoted to books

Kris Foster

You don’t need to be Sherlock Holmes to deduce that Beth Matheson loves books. A quick look at her two careers, one as a library assistant at the U of S and the other as a publisher, writer and illustrator of children’s books, should be the only clue required.

“Absolutely I love books. I love writing them, illustrating them, laying them out, binding them, repairing them. I love the whole process of making them,” said Matheson, a part-time reference and circulation assistant in the Law Library since 2002.

For Matheson, “books are superior technology” compared to e-readers or iPods. “They are biodegradable, other technologies aren’t. Fifty years from now you will still be able to read it, not sure you can say that (about ebooks). But I am starting to learn how to make ebooks.”

Although she began writing at the early age of five—her first novella, complete with illustrations, featured her father, an Anglican minister, walking up the many stairs to his office at the church. “I also used to write stories and draw illustrations for my nieces and nephews. I would make them little books on their birthdays,” explained Matheson, who studied English at the U of S.

But Matheson’s publishing career did not really get started until about seven years ago, she explained, when she took up drawing again. Following that, she ran into a couple authors with whom she wanted to work. “I didn’t have a publisher, so I became one.”

Matheson earned income from art and writing for several years until her company—aemworks—became official in April 2009. “It got to the point that it was pulling enough money that the government said it had to be an official business (for tax purposes).”

Since then, aemworks has published four titles, the most recent being a Christmas story entitled Jennie’s Nightie and the Christmas Concert by Verley Robson.

Matheson, along with fellow U of S library assistant Kate Hodgson, also operates a non-profit business called Happy Leopard Chapbooks that creates a short run of hand-made books to sell. All profits are donated to charity. They have completed seven projects with funds going to Station 20 West, New Hope Dog Rescue, SCAT and Farmers Helping Farmers. The most recent was a cookbook that raised $2,000 for the Edna Warrington Library Bursary for Student Library Assistants at the U of S.

All the chapters in Matheson’s life make for busy days, but “how can I complain? I get to work with books and I get to interact with interesting people no matter where I am working.”

Accreditation next goal

From Page 2

From the Council on Education for Public Health, the other accreditation body, requires a faculty complement of 25. “My marching orders when I started were simple: grow the school, get national recognition and international visibility. I’ve kept my vision straight and true.”

Accreditation with ASPHER, he continued, is another step towards this vision and should take about 12 months, lining up with the end of his five-year term. “This was my goal for my time here. It was never my intention to go beyond my five-year term.”

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Master teacher mastering change

Lorin Elias tailors teaching for students

Kris Foster

Even with the Master Teacher award in hand, Lorin Elias said he still doesn’t think he has mastered the craft of teaching.

“This is not being coy,” said Elias who received the highest U of S teaching award at full convocation. “The landscape of teaching is evolving faster than we are. We are seeing textbooks being phased out and replaced with online courses. So much is in flux. Today’s student has a very different toolkit and skill set than the student of 1998 when I started this job. Cellphones and laptops are ubiquitous in the classroom, and they can be used to contribute to the educational experience, not just distract from it. There is no comfortable spot where I say to myself, ‘I’ve got it. There is no comfortable spot.’ The landscape of teaching is evolving faster than we are.

Lorin Elias

need to keep the attention of one class and challenge the other.”

Not to mention how he uses online courses. “I had one student in Switzerland who was trying to be a professional hockey player. Online courses are a great way to keep these students.”

For Elias, the students he teaches are priority number one.

“Everyone on campus, we all teach. The reward cycle for teaching is much shorter than research. In a classroom you can see the impact you have on their faces and you can change their views in a relatively short time. The reward cycle in publishing is typically much longer.”

Although Elias considers himself a specialist in teaching, he also balances a full research agenda—one Tri-Council-funded project focuses on neuropsychology related to biases and spatial attention. Elias is also about to delve into the administrative world too, as he takes on the role of department head in psychology this January.

“It is a little ironic that I am becoming department head because I would rather be in the classroom. I identify more with instructors, but the roles aren’t mutually exclusive. Administration allows teaching in class and labs, and exploration and research to happen. It really is a privilege to be working here.”

Gold medal, star status for U of S ball player

Kris Foster

Brennan Pokoyoway struck gold earlier this year as the only member of the Canadian national men’s fastball team from Saskatchewan, and discovered that in Colombia, ball players are on par with rock stars.

In September, Pokoyoway, with 15 of his Canadian teammates, travelled to Medellin, Colombia for the Pan Am Championships and after 12 grueling games, brought home gold from what may be one of the world’s most violent cities because of drug cartel wars.

“We had police escorts the entire time, everywhere we went. They followed us from the airport to the hotel to the complex where we played,” said Pokoyoway, an electronic engineering technician in the Department of Civil and Geological Engineering. “We weren’t in danger, but we also didn’t get out too much.”

But when the team did get out, it was to the fields where they took on nine other teams and ended up beating Venezuela in the finals by a score of 4-1 in front of about 2,500 Colombian fans of which “about 95 per cent were cheering for us. We were throwing all sorts of stuff, hats, T-shirts and pins, into the stands,” said Pokoyoway who plays shortstop.

“Afeter the game, we celebrated and so did the crowd,” he recalled. “It took us three hours to leave the parking lot because we were signing autographs and having pictures taken. Even the police escorts were getting our autographs. That’s about as close to rock star as it gets for softball players.”

The fans, he continued, were “so gracious and friendly, but it was literally a mob scene. It was definitely different than playing in North America, not at all the same atmosphere; the fans are energetic, loud and they sing.”

It was Pokoyoway’s first international tournament and certainly a change from what he has experienced playing for his home team, the Saskatoon Diamondbacks, but what stood out more than anything was playing for his country.

“Fans were giving me attention to stats, I just did whatever the team needed. We were just focused on winning,” said Pokoyoway, who, in the final game ended up being the tying run with the next batter hitting a three-run homer to make the final score 4-1.

“It was an unbelievable experience. It sounds cliché, but to put on the Canadian jersey and compete at the highest level is just special. And to win and be the best of the best, we just had real pride in our country. Nothing compares.”

More stories, photos and comments online

November 23, 2012
Hearing program formalized

Not everything we hear is music to our ears, especially at work. But thanks to a new hearing conservation program initiated by Workplace Safety and Environmental Protection (WSEP), U of S employees have protection from those noises.

“Hearing protection activities, like identifying hazardous noise, measuring noise levels, possible sources and the necessary, providing advice, direction and training on required hearing protection, and giving guidance on noise reduction options have been on campus for many years,” explained Brian Bjorndal, director of WSEP. “We make workers aware and provide them protection. We have always done that, but now we have a formal program.”

The Hearing Conservation Program formalizes best practices in hearing conservation at an institutional level and specifies roles and responsibilities in support of the program, Bjorndal explained. “We are mainly concerned with loud and sustained exposure to noise. We’ve all walked by a lawnmower or leaf blower, but what we are looking for is prolonged exposure, not periodic. Like if you work with a drill for four hours a day, that’s a concern because it can cause permanent hearing loss.”

Once a noise level is determined to be a concern, WSEP staff will either work with the client to determine if noise levels can be reduced, or will provide hearing protection. “Based on noise exposure information gathered during an assessment, individuals or groups may be asked to participate in routine audiometric testing to monitor hearing acuity over time.”

The first audiometric test, he continued, is used to establish a person’s baseline hearing acuity and then retesting is typically conducted every two years to monitor hearing performance. Hundreds of U of S employees are exposed to loud levels of noise at work everyday and will benefit from this program, said Bjorndal. “Workers in the trades on campus, like in shops with machinery and tools, and faculty and staff in agricultural sciences are good examples.”

Normal conversation is about 60 decibels, he explained, “and any prolonged exposure to noise over 80 decibels is a concern and could cause damage. Most offices and labs are typically not an issue, but if you think there is a risk, contact us.”

Awareness and understanding are important, he said. “We want it known that this is a hazard and that there are measures you can expect from Mark & Barb. Wouters.

Software will connect procurement systems

From Page 1

hard to attach a dollar value to people’s time, she said, but “if streamlining the system can save a researcher time that she or he would have spent reconciling a PCard statement, I think that’s valuable.”

Miller pointed out the university’s integrated plan calls for effective stewardship of institutional resources, and that government and research funding agencies “want value for money.”

With the problems identified, Miller’s efforts have turned to finding a software solution that will connect procurement seamlessly across campus. She said she will meet with college and unit representatives to document processes, do some measurements, and ask for suggestions about what improvements can be made. “Those comments will help us find the right software.”

Miller is building the business case to show that investment in a new system—up to $500,000 per year—will realize significant savings. A proposal is expected to be ready for consideration by the Provost’s Committee on Integrated Planning and the Board of Governors by March.

Any change to the procurement process “will touch a lot of people,” particularly the 1,000 current PCard users, she said, but the real benefit comes in what Miller called strategic sourcing—using the university’s massive buying power to get the best possible price from vendors. She used lab supplies as an example.

Last year, the university spent about $9 million on lab supplies from 1,533 different vendors. “We know there’s a high markup on lab supplies so if we can use a competitive bid and say that we’re going to spend $9 million with the winner this year, we can then negotiate a great discount. We understand that everybody on campus wants to do their own thing but we really need to work together. When we do that, we can be stronger.”

In addition to using group buying to get the best pricing, a procurement software system will ease the paperwork and time burden. “It will be almost like online shopping but with direction to our preferred vendors and our pricing.” Users will log in and create an electronic requisition, which can then be sent electronically for approval. The information from the requisition flows automatically into a purchase order, and the vendor sends an electronic invoice. Once the purchaser confirms receipt of the goods, the vendor is paid. “There’s no reconciliation because it’s done as the process unfolds,” explained Miller. “That eliminates all this chugging of paper and, as a bonus, it’s sustainable.”

Miller stressed that procurement should not simply be the concern of PCard holders or financial analysts. “Everybody on campus either buys or consumes goods and services. Other than salaries, this is where the university’s money goes.”
Olympic Experience
- Nov. 21, 7-10 pm, PAC Room 232, U of S. Speaker: Al Bodnarchuk will speak about his experiences as part of the Canadian Olympic Team at the 2012 London Olympics.

Myrle Crawford Memorial Lecture
- Nov. 30, 7-10 pm, SaskTel Theatre, University Hospital, Sheryl Reimer-Kirchman, professor of nursing at University of Toronto, will deliver the Myrle Crawford Memorial Lecture entitled Integrated Knowledge Translation: Exemplars from a Palliative Care Approach Initiative. Reimer-Kirchman will give a public lecture Nov 27, 7:30-15 pm, SaskTel Theatre, RUM, as she speaks toward the development of the Palliative Careی نهایی موسیقی

Verbal Seminars
- Nov. 19, 3-4 pm, U of S, Lecture Theatre, Brian D’Arcy Jakubowski, will host two upcoming seminars:盘这才
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Working Spaces
The University Library will be unveiling four pieces of art: Nov 28 at 2 pm in Murray 103, part of an effort to make it more inviting for all students and faculty. Metis artist David Garneau, who received his MFA from the University of Saskatchewan, will speak about his work at the event.

Tech Venture Challenge
The deadline for submissions to the Tech Venture Challenge, the annual business plan competition for entrepreneurs with a technology-based business idea, is Nov. 30. For more information, go to the Industry Liaison Office website.

Cancer Research Day
From Molecular Biology to the Human Experience of Cancer is the theme of the 12th annual Cancer Research Day to be held Dec. 16 at TCU place in Saskatoon from 8:30 pm to 4:30 pm. This event recognizes and promotes excellence in translational research and encourages updates on cancer research activities in Saskatchewan and provides participants an opportunity to network. Keywords speaker will be Margaret Fidler, head of science and co-director of patient and family support at the Dalkeith Cancer Centre. Sponsored by the University of Saskatchewan Health Sciences Centre in Toronto.

ICT Training Services
For information or to register, email tlc@usask.ca or visit training.usask.ca/telegram
- Adobe Photoshop - Beginning Course, Oct. 16, 8:30 am-4:30 pm, $150 students, staff, faculty; $185 others
- Adobe Photoshop - Intermediate Course, Dec. 11 and 12, 8:30-4:30 pm, $150 students, staff, faculty, $185 others
- Adobe Photoshop - Advanced Course, Dec. 19, 8:30 am-4:30 pm, $225 students, staff, faculty, $250 others
Local philanthropists Henry and Cheryl Kliemann have donated their Franklin Delano Roosevelt collection to the University Library. Valued at about $35,000, the collection of material on the 32nd president of the United States consists of more than 1,000 items, predominantly print monographs but also print periodicals and audio-visual items produced between 1925 and 2010. Selected pieces from the collection are on display on the main floor of the Murray Library.

Campus Incidents

Selected incidents reported by the Department of Campus Safety. Report all information about these and other incidents to Campus Safety at 966-5155.

November 5-12

- Among the tickets issued were:
  - 1 for driving while suspended
  - 1 for a learner driver unaccompanied
  - 1 for driving without reasonable consideration for others
  - 1 for reckless driving
  - 24-hour suspension
  - 1 for using a cell phone while driving
  - Officers investigated the theft of a cell phone from an unlocked vehicle parked at a meter.
  - Officers investigated a theft of copper and brass from the Health Sciences building. Approximate value of missing items is $1,300.
- A fire alarm was set off in Sours Hall by excessive smoke from food that had burnt on a stove. No damage.
- A water pipe valve section in Thorvaldson Building ruptured resulting in a significant accumulation of water on the ground to third floors. Cost of damage is unknown at this time.
- While workers were loading a steam roller onto a semi flatbed, it fell off the side of the trailer. No one was injured.

November 13-18

- As a result of a routine traffic stop for an inadequate license plate light, a male was arrested on two outstanding warrants. He was issued a warning ticket and released with a court date for the warrants.
- As a result of routine traffic stop, a driver was charged with operating an unregistered vehicle and having beverage alcohol in a vehicle. A small amount of marijuana and drug paraphernalia were seized and turned over to an unregistered vehicle.
- As a result of a routine traffic stop, a male was arrested on an outstanding warrant.
- As a result of routine traffic stop, a male was arrested on an outstanding warrant.
- As a result of a routine traffic stop, a driver was charged with operating an unregistered vehicle and having beverage alcohol in a vehicle. A small amount of marijuana and drug paraphernalia were seized and turned over to a police officer for destruction.

Financial Services

Help us help you

You may have already received your invitation—or will shortly—to take the FSD Customer Survey. It’s issued to all employee finance users on campus. Started in 2008, the survey comes out every two years and is:

- your opportunity to help us help you
- a measurement tool we use to monitor and improve FSD services
- one way we determine if more or different training and communication are needed for any of our services.

We have streamlined the survey design so that you see primarily the questions relevant to your finance-related activities. So, if you are one of the lucky recipients of an FSD Customer Survey invitation, please take a few minutes to complete the survey. Thank you!

Training Overview

Regularly Scheduled

- Introduction to Accounting
- Journal Vouchers
- FAST Financial Reporting

Register at training.usask.ca
Contact: unifisupport@usask.ca

Training videos

youtube.com/user/UniFiSupport

On Request

FSD provides training and support on relevant issues to our campus customers on request.
Contact: unifisupport@usask.ca

Periodic

Dates announced once schedule is set.

FSD Customer Choice: hands-on assistance in a live, computer-lab setting for 1V preparation and specific entries.

Selling Goods & Services

Workshop: learn how to record the sales of university goods and services, including invoicing and accounts receivable.

Reviews and Documentation

Workshop: learn how to record revenue generated from the sales of university goods and services, including invoicing and accounts receivable.

Information Sessions:

- University requirements and procedures for importing and exporting goods; broker, importer and supplier responsibilities; documentation; penalties; U.S. customs information.
- Cash Management Workshop: procedures for handling cash per the university’s Managing and Controlling Money policy.
- University Financial Fundamentals (for Deans and Senior Administrators): accounting fundamentals; the university fund structure; financial statements; financial administration roles and responsibilities; internal controls; and TABE.
- Budget Process: introductory and advanced sessions related to the annual budgeting cycle for those involved in budgeting processes at the unit level.

Need help with UniFi?

Call 966-8783 or email unifisupport@usask.ca

Leadership Conference

May 8 & 9, 2013 • TCU Place, Saskatoon

Centre for Continuing & Distance Education

Keynote Speakers

Ken Blanchard
Jeremy Gutsche
Rick Mercer

Leverage Your Leadership Edge

To register: leadershipconference.usask.ca 966.5539
A shut down at the Canadian Light Source (CLS) is a perfect time for important maintenance at the synchrotron facility. It’s also a chance for a close-up look at the storage ring without suffering a lethal dose of radiation.

Grant Bilbrough, a CLS accelerator physicist, led the tour of part of the 178-metre ring which looks, to the untrained eye, like nothing more than a dizzying array of brightly coloured pipes and valves and hoses and wires and machinery and warning signs. Inside the ring, electrons travel round at the speed of light (each lap in less than a second), passing through both straight stretches of the ring and sections where powerful magnets bend the stream of electrons. This bending creates a burst of photons, most often in the form of X-rays, which is then directed down beamlines to where the science happens on the experimental floor.

Key to the whole process, explained Bilbrough, is ensuring the electrons maintain light speed because they lose energy as they travel around the ring. “It’s like a child on a swing,” he said. “You get them as high as they can go and then it just take a little push with each swing to keep them there.” For electrons, that push comes in the super-cooled, super-conducting cavity. “All the energy they’ve lost is put back, in one push, right here,” he said, patting a large metal vessel that contains the shoebox-sized cavity.

When he’s not providing media tours, Bilbrough is one of the synchrotron operators, does diagnostics when things go wrong and is working on a re-design of the linear accelerator, which generates electrons for the CLS.