Vision for the future
Draft statement a starting point for new strategic plan

Colleen MacPherson

“The University of Saskatchewan is recognized as among the eminent research-intensive universities of North America; we lead the world in education and research on themes of importance that have an impact on our region, our nation and our world.”

This brief draft statement Ilene Busch-Vishniac unveiled April 10 in her state-of-the-university address is the first step toward a new strategic plan for the University of Saskatchewan that the president hopes will galvanize the campus community and reflect its shared vision for the future.

Speaking about the genesis of the statement, Busch-Vishniac explained she has spent the first 10 months of her presidency talking about the university’s challenges—the need to restructure the College of Medicine, sustainability, membership in the U15, Aboriginal initiatives—“but they don’t tie together without an overarching vision. It became clear that we needed to craft a vision that would help people connect to why we are saying these are major challenges we must address, and where we are trying to get to.”

She stressed the vision statement is only a draft, “a starting point for people to consider,” and that it could be revised based on feedback.

Busch-Vishniac first took an initial version of the statement to the President’s Executive Committee where it was “tweaked to the point we could all feel comfortable with what it said.” Many issues were considered, she said, but there was no appetite to use a specific number, as in ‘the U of S will be nth in the world in …’, a statement that leaves open the question who will decide if that number is achieved, and by what metrics.

She pointed out the draft makes reference to North America rather than just Canada in terms of where the U of S intends to position itself. Already recognized for its research intensiveness in Canada, Busch-Vishniac said the time is right to “expand our vision to be recognized as among the best of that elite group in North America.”

Everyone should be sceptical of unrealistic goals “but to say we want to be recognized among the eminent research universities of North America is an achievable target.”

It has been more than 10 years since the U of S last released an overarching vision; Strategic Directions came out in 2002 and was updated in 2010, “but we don’t look the same yet.”

See Extensive, Page 9
Children are natural-born philosophers, fearless when it comes to asking the big questions about truth, justice, values, even their own existence. Now, with the help of some U of S students, a group of Saskatoon school children have learned how to pursue their own inquiries through creative and critical discussions; in other words, how to put philosophy into practice.

The unique partnership came about in a pilot 380-level course, Philosophy in Education: an introduction to philosophy for children, taught by Erin DeLathouwer, who is the learning communities program co-ordinator in the University Learning Centre. The course focused on both the theories and techniques involved in teaching philosophy to children. And for real-world experience, DeLathouwer took her students into Brad Will’s Grade 5/6 classroom at Hugh Cairns V.C. School. It was, she said, “a very enriching experience for everyone.”

DeLathouwer explained the role of her students in the classroom was to help the children build skills - how to give and ask for reasons, how to articulate their ideas, how to listen to peers, how to evaluate the ideas of others. “These are tricky things to teach” but Saskatoon Public Schools’ division-wide emphasis on inquiry-based learning made for an ideal connection with her class. The U of S students worked with small groups of children and started off by asking, “what are the things you wonder about?” By then shaping the conversations, “we gave them (the school children) the tools to evaluate other people’s ideas and to improve their ability to make judgements based on criteria,” said DeLathouwer.

She added one interesting observation of the process was that the school kids were quick to recognize the university students were not teachers but rather students themselves. “I think the kids had a real liberated feeling, that they could say whatever was on their mind because they weren’t being marked. They were dealing with people they didn’t see as authority figures.”

“My students also observed that the kids developed a set of norms in their small groups, their own rules of conduct for their discussions, and they held each other to those rules. That’s quite an impressive accomplishment in a short period of time.”

DeLathouwer believes the school students came away from the experience knowing “that it’s OK to think about the important questions in their lives,” and with critical-thinking skills that will serve them well throughout their education. For the U of S students, “this was an opportunity for the theory and practice of philosophy to come together … and for them to understand how philosophy can be practical in the entire system of education.”
Blaine Favel becomes 14th chancellor
First Nations leader, businessman assumes office July 1

Blaine Favel offered a “heartfelt thank you” to University Senate members for their vote of confidence April 20 after being confirmed as the University of Saskatchewan’s new chancellor.

“I will represent the University of Saskatchewan with the dignity and honour it is worthy of,” he said in a short acceptance speech. Favel begins his three-year term as chancellor July 1, replacing Vera Pezer who served in the position for two terms.

President and CEO of Calgary-based One Earth Oil and Gas Inc. and an influential First Nations leader and businessman, Favel earned a bachelor of education degree from the U of S in 1987, then went on to receive a law degree from Queen’s University in 1990 and a master’s of business administration degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Business in 2001. In 2012, the U of S awarded him an honorary doctor of laws degree.

Favel was Chief of the Poundmaker Cree Nation and served as Grand Chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations from 1994-98. During that time, he led the development of the First Nations Bank of Canada and the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority. He also served as a counsel on international Indigenous issues with the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, as a special advisor to the Assembly of First Nations National Chief Phil Fontaine, and was a panelist on the Indian Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

As chancellor, Favel will preside at university convocation ceremonies, confer degrees, chair University Senate and take a seat as an ex officio member of the Board of Governors.

In a U of S news release, Favel said he looks forward “to sharing the story of the University of Saskatchewan everywhere I go.” The U of S can play a positive role in shaping the province’s economic and social future, he said, and “as chancellor, I will have the opportunity to bring together the university and the various communities it serves in the spirit of common interest in order to deliver on the promise of growth and prosperity.”

Favel joins a group of esteemed individuals who have served the University of Saskatchewan over its history in the role of chancellor.

College of Medicine update delivered to Council

The first progress report on the implementation plan toward A New Vision for the College of Medicine was presented to University Council on April 18 by Lou Qualtiere, acting dean of medicine, and Martin Phillipson, vice-provost, College of Medicine restructuring.

‘What was agreed upon on in December is a significant re-conceptualization of the college,’ said Phillipson. ‘There will be changes that represent a radical departure from the status quo and the college will look very different in five years, because it must.’

Qualtiere reported on the continuing work of the Dean’s Advisory Committee (DAC), which is guiding and overseeing the restructuring and renewal process. Multiple working groups have already tabled written reports and the remaining documents will come together in the next month or so.

Qualtiere explained that the DAC will then be tasked with considering the recommendations put forward by each of the working groups and formulating a comprehensive implementation plan. College of Medicine Faculty Council will consider key elements of the proposed plan at a special meeting June 25.

‘Lessons learned – there should be no surprises when this document hits Council in August,’ said Phillipson. ‘My vision is that the implementation plan put forward by the DAC will be made up of chapters of smaller plans, and those will be shared widely within the college.’

One of those chapters will detail a faculty complement plan. College of Medicine restructuring.

Chancellor Blaine Favel

Morton’s history

This issue’s image is of Chief Robert Bear and Arthur S. Morton taken at the John Smith (Muskiyapi) Reserve, August 1942. Dr. Morton, professor of history, University Librarian and Provincial Archivist, pioneered the study of Western Canadian history. An avid explorer of historic sites, Morton discovered the remains of many fur trading posts and battlefields in Saskatchewan.

In 1922, the Dominion of Canada created the Historic Sites and Monuments Board, which frequently consulted Professor Morton regarding sites in Western Canada. In 1937, the University Act was amended creating the Saskatchewan Historic Sites Trust. The university was given the power to: ‘acquire by gift, purchase or in any other manner, and hold in trust for His Majesty, land having a historical interest, or buildings, monuments or other erections having a historical interest and the land on which the same are situated or so much thereof as is deemed advisable, and provide for the care, maintenance and preservation of property so acquired.’

Professor Morton encouraged the formation of local historical societies to support and assist in the maintenance of these sites. The trust in fact did little more than fund Morton’s summer field work. In 1945, the university’s duties regarding historic sites were transferred to the newly created Saskatchewan Archives Board. Morton’s research remains an important source about the historical landscape of Saskatchewan.
Seeing is believing

An acquaintance of mine from Toronto was in town a couple of weeks ago. It was her first visit to Saskatoon and she let me know she wanted to see John Diefenbaker’s grave, part of her quest to visit the final resting place of all of Canada’s prime ministers.

It was a cold evening when we parked outside the Diefenbaker Canada Centre and headed toward the river. My heart sank when I saw the size of snow drifts beside the path but I waded in, thinking I could clear away just enough snow to prove John and Olive rest in Saskatoon. We’d all but given up when, just metres ahead, we came upon what we were after, and the large grave marker was absolutely clear of snow. Thank you to whoever takes the time to tend this important national site all winter long.

Photo evidence collected, it was then time for one of my favourite activities – conducting a tour of the U of S campus. We circled around Campus Drive and I pointed out the sites – education, agriculture, vet med, engineering. A quick turn around had us travelling past the CLS and through Innovation Place. Out on Preston Ave., I drove my guest past the new dairy barn, the old dairy barn, cows, sheep and the expanse of fields where crops grow each summer.

Parking outside the Admin Building, we headed into the Bowl. On the front steps of the Peter MacKinnon Building, I filled her in on Collegiate Gothic architecture, Tyndale stone from Gilles Quarry in Manitoba and fieldstone from along the South Saskatchewan River. And pointed out the cornerstone laid by Sir Wilfred Laurier. Inside, a nice custodian opened Convocation Hall for us. Apparently it’s not nearly as big as Conv Hall at the U of T, but it’s our Conv Hall.

We toured the Geology Building and then it was back out to the architecture of the Health Sciences building, we headed back toward the car as I prattled on and pointed out the magnificent details of this campus. I even shared my favourite campus myths, like the one that Thorbergur Thorvaldson is buried in the concrete cube outside the building that bears his name. Not the way we treat our esteemed faculty, I assured her.

Later, back at her hotel, my guest reacted as most people from away do when they see the University of Saskatchewan for the first time. “I had no idea,” she said, “no idea about the range of our academic endeavours, about how visibly connected we are to Saskatchewan’s agricultural roots, about how absolutely beautiful is our campus. My hope is that back in Toronto, she will tell two people, and our campus.

Our academic endeavours, about how visibly connected we are to from away do when they see the University of Saskatchewan for campus. I even shared my favourite campus myths, like the one that Thorbergur Thorvaldson is buried in the concrete cube outside the building that bears his name. Not the way we treat our esteemed faculty, I assured her.

Sometimes, seeing really is believing.
Hold the salt, please

Researchers in the Department of Food and Bioproduct Sciences are taking aim at two of the biggest sources of salt in the Canadian diet: our daily bread and the processed meats that often go with it.

“Canadians are consuming way too much salt in their diet,” said Mike Nickerson, the Ministry of Agriculture Strategic Research Chair who leads a team working with industry to reduce salt in bread and baked goods.

World Health Organization statistics show Canadians are among the highest consumers of salt in the world, according to a 2010 report by Health Canada’s Sodium Working Group, bread and baked products are the single largest source of salt in the Canadian diet, at 14 per cent. Processed meats are second, at nine per cent.

Public health consequences such as high blood pressure, heart and kidney disease, and obesity have prompted a Health Canada decree to bring salt intake down by 2016, a deadline that has industry scrambling.

Nickerson explained salt is a huge challenge for organizations like Canada Bread, one of the country’s largest bakeries and one of the funders of his project. Bakers are looking to cut salt levels by nearly a third, and one of the funders of his project. Bakers are looking to cut salt levels by nearly a third, but reducing it can make the dough a sticky, equipment- fouling mess, he said. Nickerson’s task is to shed light on how sodium controls dough structure.

“Dough is a really complex system and trying to understand that to solve these issues is extremely challenging.”

Meanwhile, wheat breeder Pierre Hucl at the Crop Development Centre is drawing on more than a century of Canadian wheat development to see what varieties perform well in low-salt bread recipes. What he finds could determine what varieties will be grown in the future to serve Canadian and international markets.

The other part of the salty sandwich – processed meats – is the target of associate professor and meat scientist Phyllis Shand. Together with colleague Professor Darren Korber and others, Shand is working on reducing the salt content in meats.

“The salt in processed meats has very important technological functions that make it very difficult to take sodium out,” she said. Salt helps preserve meat, she continued, a role less critical with modern refrigeration but still important because reducing it could encourage the growth of bacteria.

In the meat research lab in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources, Shand and her team prepare products such as bologna using equipment similar to that used in industrial practice. In this case, low-sodium low-fat bologna was run through a battery of tests and evaluated, then cooked the next day.

“We have to understand the functions of salt, and that it’s not an easy task to replace sodium in a product such as meat,” Shand said. ■

Phyllis Shand (right) and research technologist Marilyn Edrosolam test compression and springiness of low-sodium bologna samples.

Kalra returned to Council chair

Dr. Jay Kalra has been returned by acclamation to the position of chair of University Council.

The professor in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine will begin his second term as chair July 1. He was first elected to the post in May of 2011. Prior to that, Kalra served as head of Council’s Planning and Priorities Committee.

When he assumed the chair, Kalra said his goals included increasing student involvement in Council, encouraging more faculty engagement in governance, and enhancing communication between Council and the General Academic Assembly.

“While I believe we have moved forward in achieving some of these goals, we still face many challenges,” he said. Council plays a vital role in the university’s planning process, he continued, and must continue to be a forum “for the voices of the academy in informing and influencing the academic direction of the institution.” ■

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Taking the lead on TransformUS

On Campus News sat down with the four co-chairs of the TransformUS task forces—Beth Bilson and Lisa Kalynchuk on academic, and Kevin Schneider and Bob Tyler on support services—to talk about the past, present and future of program prioritization at the University of Saskatchewan.

OCN: Why did you want to be on the TransformUS task forces?
Bob Tyler (laughing): “Want” is a funny word. But I believe in the process and I think we need a comprehensive, systematic prioritization of what we do because the alternative is decision making the old-fashioned way without transparency.

Lisa Kalynchuk: For me, I think this can make the university better. It’s a worthwhile endeavor so that we can emerge providing the kind of services and ties for the university are and to see that our programs and services are aligned with those priorities.

Kevin Schneider: I think it is an important time for the university and it’s important to do this process transparently, collegially and fairly and so to be part of a group of committed individuals looking at program prioritization is a worthwhile endeavor.

OCN: Do you think the fact that this is driven by budget creates more fear?
BT: I think it amps up the fear because it is absolutely crystal clear that something has to go. The alternative is across-the-board cuts … which we say we don’t want so this is the alternative and a very worthwhile undertaking. Generally, we look at prioritization and assessment and we don’t usually see any impact, but this time it is starkly clear that decisions have to be made. There will be casualties from the process and that worries people. Why wouldn’t it?

BB: And it (the projected deficit) is a big number and I think that creates anxiety. It really is significant.

KS: It is being driven by budget cuts, not necessarily budget. Certainly to look at the process and to do some prioritization around budget to try and look at priorities and see if programs are appropriately funded is an interesting thing to do. But having this notion that there are cuts at the end of it, that makes it real.

LT: The interesting thing is that the province hasn’t cut our funding; we are doing budget adjustments during a time when funding is still increasing from the province. It’s just the trajectory of our expenses and the trajectory of our revenues are different so that we have this gap even though we’re not being cut.

LK: Well, I think that shows we are being proactive, we are anticipating that there are going to be problems given the slopes of those lines, cost line versus revenue line.

KS: I know there have been some concerns, you know, will we have enough time to look at the sheer number of programs that may be identified, but I think the people who are on the task forces are very committed to making sure that they are dealing with things fairly.

BT: I’m hoping once we get rolling, campus will take comfort in the fact that there are 47 people, many of whom have been on campus for a while, engaged in this process and it’s not just a few people or just one person making these decisions. Once we get rolling and people understand the alternative, maybe that will be the case and that should give people comfort although it isn’t at the moment.

BB: And we’re representative of a wide range of academic disciplines and administrative services.

LK: And perspectives.

OCN: Have people been reacting differently to you since you were appointed to the task forces?
LT: Actually yes, some people have. I’ve noted coy smiles and certain looks since I’ve been on the task force.

KS: I think that is unfortunate if that’s the case. We’re only making recommendations. What we’re trying to do is make plain the process; have everyone put their best foot forward presenting the programs and...
With the committee, make some decisions as to how they come out in the list of priorities.

LK: We would hope that if we're going to spend a lot of time on this that the information we provide is useful and that it actually will be the basis of some decision making but we're not making the decisions. Any decisions about, elimination, merger or anything like that would go through the normal governance procedure.

LK: There is certainly a high degree of awareness of this project on campus. I think people are apprehensive about it and I think they're certainly reacting to their colleagues who are on the task forces in a way that makes that clear.

BT: I hope at some point, and I hope it's not too far down the road, that people will say "I understand why this has to happen and that's a pretty decent group of people. It is unfortunate that we have to do this at all, but we do. Better them than others I don't know."

LK: If you look at the longer-term view, it is ultimately going to help the university be stronger and be better. That's a positive. You can't shy away from making difficult decisions, and having a transparent process is better than just having arbitrary decisions made behind closed doors.

BT: Our modus operandi for many, many years has been shining away from making difficult priority decisions. I take some comfort in the fact that planning and priorities committee took this to Council and they endorsed it without a whole lot of negative commentary. Council didn't say this is the perfect process, but Council did say we approve this in principle because we think it needs to be done.

LK: On the flip side, there will be programs identified for additional resources and that's exciting because we are going to identify some programs that are high priorities that might be able to expand or might be able to do more than what they are doing now.

LK: And I think we're also asked to look for opportunities for reconfiguration of existing programs which seems to me also offers some exciting possibilities.

KS: I think the key point is that these committees will have broad perspective on all the academic and non-academic programs, on the budget characteristics of these programs. That is something that has never been done on this campus before.

BT: We have 25 members on one task force and 22 on the other and if we are going to get 75 per cent approval of a motion it is going to take some discussion. That broad perspective is going to be incredibly useful and valuable.

LK: It's human nature to view change as scary or frightening or threatening or intimidating but change can also be exciting. As much as people might be afraid of outcomes, they should also be excited about what the U of S is going to look like after we get through this process.

BT: The difficult thing is that cuts have a real human element there, and there already have been human casualties in this budget adjustment exercise. There is no getting around that. That's unfortunate, but a reality when you have to reduce your expenditures and 75 per cent of your resources are in people.

OCN: How do the committees ensure biases don't play a part in the process?

LK: One of the reasons you have larger task forces is to try and eliminate individual biases as much as you can. Everyone has a voice, but if everybody else in the room doesn't share the bias, you aren't going to be able to influence the group.

BT: The other thing is we're planning to collect information in a really structured and consistent way. That makes it more difficult for people to react emotionally because we actually have to go through a number of specific factors and people have to decide on the basis of those factors.

BT: The criteria, weightings, categorization, as much as possible, represent a quantitative exercise based on the information provided by the program or functional area along with solid qualitative information. One person's bias won't have any significant impact.

LK: And their responses will be public so the campus community will be able to see the informational basis we are using.

BT: I think task force members are fully aware that there will be people on the task forces that could significantly be affected by the outcomes of this entire process.

OCN: How do you see the process unfolding over the coming weeks?

BK: We keep trying to communicate this process as fully as possible as we go along and create opportunities to ask questions and register comments on different things. We've invited input on criteria and weightings at this point and will be inviting comments on the templates we are going to use. So there will be opportunities to connect with the process. If people think we are going to go away and spend the next six months in the dark, we're hoping that won't be the impression they have.

BK: That would be easier for us. It doesn't make our lives easier to be revealing where we're at and what we're doing because that generates commentary and criticism. But it is the only way to do it.

LK: It is a lot more work to go through all these processes and seek input and communicate broadly with the community, but again, we want to establish the credibility of the task forces and create a level of trust. We want people to know that we are trying to do our absolute best and we all believe in this. We understand the seriousness of the exercise.

OCN: What has been the most surprising thing is this process?

BT: What surprised me most is how enthusiastic all task force members are to get rolling and down to work.

LK: You're right, I've never seen people so eager to do such a time-consuming task. I've never experienced that on a committee before.

LK: I've noticed that there's a high degree of common understanding of what the job is. Not that there aren't details to work out, but I think people very early on had a common understanding of what the mission of these task forces is and wanted to get moving.
Going mobile

JENNIFER WEBBER FORREST

The world is going mobile, and the University of Saskatchewan is going mobile with it. In fact, a quick survey of the country’s leading research universities suggests the U of S may be leading the pack when it comes to the mobile accessibility of its homepage, course catalogue, library, events calendar and more.

Part of the reason for that success is a small team in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) that is encouraged to respond to changing demands.

“We’re paying attention to the emerging needs of students,” said Todd Trann, manager of ICT web applications and leader of the team behind the university’s improved mobile accessibility. The team monitors usage carefully, he said, and actively solicits feedback through features like a prominent feedback tool in the iUsask smartphone application.

As of April, the main U of S homepage at www.usask.ca, as well as most of the first-level pages accessible from there are fully functional on mobile devices like smartphones and tablets, said Trann. More U of S sites will soon follow; a new mobile website template that ICT makes available free to any U of S department makes the transition much easier. The PAWS portal will also be more mobile friendly by July, with all channel content expected to be mobile accessible by 2014.

But mobile websites are not the only way to go mobile, he said. Smartphone applications or “apps” are another option but one that involves a lot less “pinch and zoom” when it comes to finding content online.

Use of the iUsask smartphone app, which was the first of its kind at a Canadian university, has exploded; at the start of the term in January 2013, the iUsask app was being opened some 14,300 times a day, almost double September’s usage.

Trann expects that upward trend to continue. So, should the university focus its mobile efforts on websites or apps? Trann said that is not his team’s call to make but he wants to see better choices for users. “Right now, we’re trying to offer people the best possible experience through both mobile-accessible pages and apps,” Trann said, adding that the group now needs to analyze where people go online.

It all comes down to asking, “how do people want to interact with the university?” But the answer to that question can change quickly, especially since the field of mobile technology is still so new. “Mobile is like the web was 10 years ago,” said Kyla Hoffman, who leads the work on the university’s Web Content Management System. “It’s the wild west.”

Jennifer Webber Forrest is communications specialist in ICT.

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Safety with saws

Dwayne Neustaeter, who got his start in the tree industry at the U of S nursery in 1987 while a student, led a chainsaw safety course on campus in the fall. Sponsored by Arboriculture Canada, the course covered main

Next deadline is May 2
Our aim will be to get as much comment as possible so we get a sense of where we have struck a cord.

Ilene Busch-Vishniac

We get a sense of where we have struck a cord and where we have totally sounded something off key.

Busch-Vishniac said feedback on the draft vision should consider a number of questions, including “what do they want to be when they grow up, and I’m talking about something 10-20 years from now?” Where would we like to find ourselves? What do you think are the major challenges that keep us from getting there, and what are our major strengths on which we should build?

It is important that external stakeholders be given an opportunity to comment too, she said, “but we cannot be everything to everyone, and we are an autonomous institution that must chart our own future. What our stakeholders say is important, what our internal community says is more important.”

Competition is a young person's game

“We want our students to not be sheltered,” he continued. “If they’re not aware of where they stand in the field of mathematics, when they graduate they won’t be competitive. Competitions are an external measure of their future potential.”

Putnam team:
Jim Seong Bae, Daniel Gomez, John Hynes, Ivan Vendrov and Omar Zarifi

MCM teams:
David Fairbairn, Daniel Gomez, Omar Zarifi
Seth Dueck, Victoria Martinez, Angel Misevski
Charanpot Brar, Evan Smith, Paul Smith
Jim Seong Bae, Tanner Bohn, John Hynes

Putnam is a young person’s game, says is more important.”

Whatever the competition, Brooke admits it is “a young person’s game. It takes a fresh mind” but he also sees many advantages to competing, not the least of which is a maturation process for students. “They certainly understand themselves better in terms of their own limitations, and they understand what real competition is about. It’s often a wake-up call, they may be on top of the local heap but they discover that it’s a big world out there.”

Around the Bowl

Jens Mueller has been appointed the new Thoralvson Professor for the Department of Chemistry. The appointment lasts for five years, beginning July 1, and recognizes outstanding contributions made by a chemistry faculty member teaching, research, graduate student supervision and administration at the University of Saskatchewan.

Trevor Nerdahl is the new Director of the School of Business effective July 1, and recognizes outstanding contributions made by a chemistry faculty member teaching, research, graduate student supervision and administration at the University of Saskatchewan.

Nerdahl
The Office of the Provost and Vice-President Academic has announced the following appointments:
- Scott Walsworth as head of the Dept. of Human Resources and Organizational Behaviour in the Edwards School of Business effective July 1.
- Lois Berry to the position of acting dean in the College of Nursing for one year starting July 1.
- Doug Surtees to the position of associate dean academic in the College of Law for the period July 1 to June 30, 2016.

Walsworth
Surtees
Neufeld

Tonya Wirchenko has been appointed executive assistant to the Vice-President Research starting July 1, and replaces Maureen Woruchenko who has worked at the U of S for over 12 years, most recently as an analyst for the Provost’s Committee on Integrated Planning (PCIP) and for the Advisory Committee (PCIP:AC) in the office of institutional Planning and Assessment.

John Cornell has taken up the position of financial compliance officer in the Financial Services Division. He was with Audit Services for almost 10 years, most recently as associate university auditor.

Wirchenko
Cornwell

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- No pets allowed

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extensive consultation plan will help shape strategic plan

At all,” said Busch-Vishniac. “We’ve changed dramatically in the last decade so I think this is the beginning of crafting a new high-level strategic plan.” She added the proposed vision complements rather than conflicts with the university’s well-established integrated plans and processes.

“Articulating an overarching vision starting with a statement like this … really helps us inform not only the current integrated plan but plans that will succeed that.”

The president said she plans to do some writing over the summer that will contextually discuss the vision and what we are doing.

Asked when she would like to see a new strategic vision for the university adopted, Busch-Vishniac replied, “the answer is always yesterday.” The best-case scenario would see a new visionary document completed by the end of the calendar year but we have an integrated plan, we know what we’re doing. This is not a huge departure from where we’ve clearly been heading so taking as much time as we need to have this conversation is appropriate.”

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  - 2 BD: $920 – $970
  - 3 BD: $1035 – $1085
- Includes water, heat, F/S and free parking
- Walking distance from SAST
- No pets allowed

Suites available at 306 20th St E downtown
- Unfurnished executive suites available at Vienna apartments
  - 1 BD: $1560
  - 2 BD: $1905
  - 3 BD: $1810
- Parking: $40 per month
- Extra storage: $20 per month
- F/S, D/W, Wi-Fi included
- Suite has its own furnace and air
- Electricity and gas are not included
- No pets allowed

If you are interested please call (306) 374-4333

extensive consultation plan will help shape strategic plan

At all,” said Busch-Vishniac. “We’ve changed dramatically in the last decade so I think this is the beginning of crafting a new high-level strategic plan.” She added the proposed vision complements rather than conflicts with the university’s well-established integrated plans and processes.

“Articulating an overarching vision starting with a statement like this … really helps us inform not only the current integrated plan but plans that will succeed that.”

The president said she plans to do some writing over the summer that will contextually discuss the vision and what we are doing.

Asked when she would like to see a new strategic vision for the university adopted, Busch-Vishniac replied, “the answer is always yesterday.” The best-case scenario would see a new visionary document completed by the end of the calendar year but we have an integrated plan, we know what we’re doing. This is not a huge departure from where we’ve clearly been heading so taking as much time as we need to have this conversation is appropriate.”

Putting the Bowl to the test:
Becoming part of the solution
Lana Garcelon tackles Aboriginal justice at home and abroad

Kirk Sibbald

After spending the past seven months counselling criminals in Vancouver and mediating land claims in New Zealand, Lana Garcelon is ready to apply her passion for Aboriginal justice closer to home.

Garcelon spent the past academic year in the Aboriginal Justice and Criminology (ABJAC) program, housed in the sociology department in the College of Arts and Science. The program—open only to students of Aboriginal descent—was established in 1991 and remains unique in North America, helping prepare students for justice-related careers through helping prepare students for justice-related careers through

VIDO-InterVac receives certification

Research and development on vaccines to fight existing and emerging diseases can now proceed with receipt of final certification of the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization’s International Vaccine Centre (VIDO-InterVac) at the University of Saskatchewan.

A U of S news release issued April 23 announced the facility had been approved for operation, having met the stringent requirements of the Public Health Agency of Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency for handling animal and human pathogens.

InterVac, a $144-million expansion to VIDO, is one of the world’s most advanced research centres. Its advanced facilities will allow scientists to safely conduct research into level-three diseases like tuberculosis, hepatitis C, HIV/AIDS and avian influenza as well as prion diseases like mad cow disease and chronic wasting disease in elk and deer.

“This project is a collaborative effort among many partners, who all deserve our heartfelt thanks,” said VIDO-InterVac Director Andy Potter in the release. Karen Chad, U of S vice-president of research, added the facility “greatly enhances our capacity to develop new tools, technologies and policies to help prevent disease and save lives.”

Funding for InterVac came from the Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan, the Canada Foundation for Innovation and the City of Saskatoon with support from the U of S.

Garcelon

Robert and Brenda Gordon Business Catalyst MBA Awards

Five annual awards valued at $10,000 each will be awarded to full-time Edwards MBA students who demonstrate a keen interest in transforming their good ideas into great businesses. Recipients will have non-business academic backgrounds and the desire to use the MBA to accelerate their progress towards participating in a strong and sustainable provincial and national economy.

In order to be eligible, students must:

- not have obtained a previous business discipline degree.
- provide a two-page statement outlining how they will parlay their prior training (e.g., engineering, medicine, arts, etc.) in tandem with an MBA into a transformative venture or innovative career path that benefits the province and nation.
- The statement should discuss the student’s motivation for the MBA, leadership ability, and the type of positive outcome that could be expected from the combination of a good idea with sound business training.

Selection will be made on the basis of the overall merits of the MBA admission package as well as the submitted statement, as determined by the Award Committee.
This year, On Campus News is using the back page to explore places on campus that are off the beaten path—often behind locked doors—and to introduce you to the people who work in them. Suggestions for this feature are always welcome; email ocn@usask.ca

Chapel chat

The busier the chapel is at St. Andrew’s College, the happier it makes college Principal Lorne Calvert.

Opened in 1961 as an addition to the original college building, the wood-paneled chapel hosts three services a week for college students and faculty, explained Calvert. It has also become the site of services held by both the university’s Ecumenical Chaplaincy and the College of Emmanuel and St. Chad, “but our idea is the chapel ought to be available to the entire community of campus,” he said.

Located in what was once a prominent campus location, the college and its chapel are now relatively isolated by new buildings like Health Sciences, but there is some appeal in being removed from the hustle and bustle. With its stained glass, star blanket and soaring ceiling, it holds a lot of appeal for quiet contemplation or intimate gatherings.

Calvert said the unique configuration of the sanctuary – communion table in the middle with pews ranged in a surrounding oval – speaks to “the changing sense of the theology of worship and is reflective of a small community.”

Anyone can visit the chapel when the building is open, but be careful not to park too close. Calvert said the steep roof tends to shed ice and snow with such velocity that it’s been know to break the windows of cars parked beneath.

Lorne Calvert will provide a video tour of the St. Andrew’s chapel in the May 3rd issue of On Campus Now.