



Purpose

The University of Saskatchewan (USask) is at a unique and pivotal point in time. At no point in our university's proud history has our vital core of research, scholarly, and artistic work enjoyed greater recognition – and more urgent possibility – than it does today.

In 2010, USask identified six signature areas for its research enterprise. These areas have been an integral part of the university's identity and have been credited as playing a critical role in elevating USask's reputation, profile, and impact as a research-intensive university. However, after a decade of being in existence, an examination of their strengths, areas for enhancement, and future directions is required.

Co-chaired by the Vice President Research (VPR) and the Provost and Vice-President Academic (P-VPA), the Signature Areas Steering Committee is a decision-making body. The Steering Committee will make decisions regarding changes to the current existing 6 signature areas, receive and adjudicate "pitches" for new signature areas, determine a governance and reporting framework (including resource allocation methodology and leadership) for the individual signature areas as well as any other priority actions to ensure long-term success and vitality of the university's signature areas.

Responsibilities

The Signature Areas Steering Committee will be responsible for presenting its findings to the USask Community and to a group of external stakeholders, soliciting feedback and determining next steps.

Key decisions anticipated for this committee include:

- Any changes to the current existing 6 signature areas
- Addition of new signature areas, based on the "pitch your ideas" sessions
- Resource allocation methodology for the signature areas
- Leadership structure for the individual signature areas
- Annual reporting framework
- Other priority decisions to ensure long-term success and vitality of the university's signature areas.

The Signature Areas Steering Committee's deliberations will be heavily informed by:

- Findings from nine stakeholder engagement sessions that were held in May 2021 and that are being analyzed by the Signature Areas Advisory Circle and CHASR
- Recommendations from the Signature Areas Advisory Circle
- Pitch your idea sessions held across campus in early fall 2021 (at which Advisory Circle members will be present)

Membership

The Signature Areas Steering Committee shall be comprised of the following members:

- **Dr. Baljit Singh**, Vice-President Research (Chair)
- **Dr. Airini**, Provost and Vice-President Academic (Co-Chair)
- **Dr. Preston Smith**, Dean, College of Medicine
- **Dr. Angela Bedard-Haugh**, Dean, College of Agriculture and Bioresources
- **Dr. Peta Bonham-Smith**, Dean, College of Arts and Science

- **Dr. Loleen Berdahl**, Executive Director, Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy
- **Dr. Volker Gerdts**, Director and Chief Executive Officer, Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization
- **Dr. Jay Wilson**, Chair of University Council
- **Dr. Marjorie Delbaere**, Chair of Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Works Committee of Council
- **Dr. Angela Jaime**, Co-Chair of Signature Areas Advisory Circle
- **Dr. Julia Montgomery**, Co-Chair of Signature Areas Advisory Circle
- **Dr. Jake Moore**, Director, University Art Galleries
- **Ms. Kari Harvey**, Chief Executive Officer, Innovation Saskatchewan
- **Dr. Aaron Genest**, Applications Engineering Manager, Siemens

The Signature Areas Steering Committee will be supported by the following members:

- **Mr. Christopher Martin**, Executive Officer, Office of the Vice-President Research
- **Ms. Heather Persson**, Director Research, Profile and Impact, Office of the Vice-President Research
- **Ms. Tonya Wirchenko**, Manager of Executive Initiatives and Projects, Office of the Vice-President Research

Meetings

The Signature Areas Steering Committee will meet multiple times between August 15, 2021 and October 1, 2021. Meeting frequency will be determined by the membership. Due to the global pandemic, meetings will be held virtually.

The Committee will be co-chaired by the Vice President Research and the Vice President Academic. The Secretary shall be the Manager of Executive Initiatives and Projects (Office of the Vice-President Research).

Reporting

The Steering Committee will engage a select panel of external stakeholders to provide feedback. The Signature Areas Steering Committee will present its decisions to the Presidents Executive Committee, University Council (and appropriate sub committees of Council) as well as to the University campus more broadly in early Fall 2021.