

University of Saskatchewan Canada Research Chairs Program

Management of Canada Research Chair Allocations

USask management of the CRCP is designed to promote research excellence, alignment with institutional strategic directions, and achievement of institutional goals for equity, diversity and inclusion. Decision-making across most aspects of the chair program (theme/chair allocations, recruitment, nominations, renewals, and advancement) are managed through a dual committee structure designed to ensure engagement of both senior leadership (academic and research) and the broader collegium.

Since 2007, the USask CRC management structure has consisted of the:

- **CRC Advisory Committee** – co-chaired by the Associate Vice-President Research and the Vice-Provost Faculty Relations, this committee includes 3 faculty members representing each of the Tri-Agencies (SSHRC, CIHR and NSERC) and the director of the Strategic Research Initiatives. The Committee reviews and makes recommendations to the CRC Oversight Committee for: the selection of theme areas for chair allocations, nominations, advancement and renewal of chairs.
- **CRC Oversight Committee** - composed of the Vice-President Research and the Provost and Vice-President Academic, this committee is the final decision-making body for decisions related to management of all aspects of the chairs program.

The work of both committees is supported by the Research Acceleration and Strategic Initiatives unit of the Vice-President Research which ensures alignment with established university, and Secretariat, chair guidelines and practices:

- **Allocation of chairs** – vacancies in the university chair program are subject to an open call to all colleges and departments (see [June 2018 Call for CRC theme areas](#)). Academic units submit *letters of intent (LOI)* describing the proposed theme area, the fit with the USask and college strategic plans, and the potential for an innovative research, scholarly or artistic work program. The upcoming call also asks proponents to describe the EDI context of their discipline and how a chair will assist in addressing gaps. LOI calls may be either restricted to the Tri-Agency associated with the vacant chair or, as exercised more recently, open to all Tri-Agency areas. The Advisory Committee recommendations are made based on the quality of the LOI (excellence, fit with strategic and college directions, etc.); the Oversight Committee holds responsibility for maximizing the [corridor of flexibility](#).
- **Renewals and advancement of chairs** – In June 2016, the university established a new transparent renewal (and advancement) process by which the chairholder and college submit a formal request for renewal or advancement to the Advisory Committee. Following their recommendation, a final decision is made by the Oversight Committee.
- **Nominations** – The CRC Advisory Committee provides formative feedback in the development of a CRC nomination, and is responsible for providing a recommendation to



the Oversight Committee regarding the suitability of the candidate and the nomination to proceed to submission.

- Lost chair allocations - Cases in which chairs are lost in the bi-annual re-allocation processes are handled slightly different than other aspects of the program. In these cases, the Oversight Committee acts on the advice of the co-chairs of the Advisory Committee to identify which chairs to surrender. In the event that there are no vacant chairs, decision-making considers the following criteria: approaching end dates for second term chairholders (tier 1 or 2), and on-going alignment with strategic directions. Chairholders losing their chairs are considered for University Enhancement or other chair positions.

