



7 April 2021

To: City of Saskatoon Governance & Priorities Committee

Subject: City Councillor Representation on Research Connections Grant Awards Committee

On February 27, 2018, the City of Saskatoon (City) and University of Saskatchewan (USask) executed a formal Memorandum of Understanding which purpose was to better define each parties' current areas of engagement and areas of current or future collaboration, including a process through which each party may identify and commit to work collaboratively on current or future engagements.

A Working Group consisting of senior leaders from the City and USask was initially established in 2017, and meets quarterly to discuss areas of strategic engagement and collaboration. Task Teams were established to provide oversight and coordination of activities within each area of focus: Reconciliation Initiatives, Infrastructure & Land Development, Research Connections, and Student Engagement & Student Life.

As part of the Research Connections Task Team, a research grant program called Research Junction has been established. This program will involve at least one USask researcher and one City of Saskatoon staff member working together to address community needs around issues that include urban planning, reconciliation, transit, environmental sustainability, and youth issues. Half a dozen grants of \$10,000 to \$30,000 will be awarded through a competition to projects that support the City's strategic goals.

We are requesting that the City nominate one Councillor to sit on the award committee. In May, the award committee will be assembled to review the applications and make their award selections. The committee will also include a few USask and City Administration representatives.

Sincerely,

Laura Zink  
Director, Research Acceleration and Strategic Initiatives  
University of Saskatchewan