

Attendance: See Appendix A for list of Senate members in attendance.

1. Introductions of Senate members and Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chancellor acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on Treaty Six territory and the homeland of the Métis. He said that he had been honoured to serve as Chancellor and chair of the Senate and wished the Senate well for the future.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

HENDERSON/STEVENSON: That the agenda be approved as circulated.

GOUGH/HARVEY: That item 14.3 Senate election update be moved after item 12 so it may be heard before noon.

CARRIED

BUHR/HARVEY: That the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED

3. Approval of the minutes of the October 20, 2018 meeting

The president of the Graduate Students' Association asked that the minutes note that several senators spoke in favour of the successful motion presented by the GSA (item 7.1)

MENZIES/BILSON: That the minutes of the October 20, 2018 meeting be approved as amended.

CARRIED

4. Business arising from the Minutes

4.1 Results of electronic vote on changes to admission requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Engineering, the Doctor of Philosophy in Mechanical Engineering and the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy

The university secretary reported that the electronic vote conducted concerning the confirmation of the Council decision to approve these admissions changes had resulted in majority support for the confirmation.

5. Joint Committee for Nomination of the Chancellor – CONFIDENTIAL

This item is confidential and removed from these minutes.

6. President's Report

President Stoicheff acknowledged that the university is facing some financial challenges, but noted that this is true for post-secondary institutions in all provinces. He said that a well-run institution can not only "manage" these challenges, but can do great things in the face of them. As an example, he pointed to the university's success in partnering with the community to build Merlis Belsher Place.

He alluded to the Prince Albert campus of the university that will be opening in the fall of 2020. This project represents a step forward in the university's northern strategy. He noted that the majority of

students enrolled in programs in Prince Albert are Indigenous, and reaching those students is an important goal for the university.

He talked about the Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence which will be a global leader in research on environmental sustainability in the beef industry. He spoke of the significant effort made on this project by the Western College of Veterinary Medicine and the College of Agriculture and Bioresources, and said he had been pleased with the level of industry support for the centre.

He talked about the accomplishments of the Global Institute for Water Security, which is the top water research centre in the country, the 6th in North America and the 18th in the world. He mentioned the news from the Global Institute for Food Security and the College of Agriculture and Bioresources that their researchers had succeeded in mapping the genome for durum wheat.

Programs in Pharmacy and Nutrition, the Edwards School of Business, the Western College of Veterinary Medicine and the College of Medicine had all received accreditation of the past year.

The president said that there are close to 25,000 students enrolled at the university, which represents an increase of 3% this year. Other jurisdictions are facing declines in enrollment. There are approximately 3100 self-declared Indigenous students, which is close to reflecting the proportion of Indigenous people in the provincial population. The university has entered into MOUs with the Saskatoon Tribal Council and the Prince Albert Grand Council. The president recently attended a meeting of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations, the first president of this university to do so.

Finally, he said that health research activity is at an all-time high, and is gaining a higher profile.

Thus, despite financial challenges, the university continues to move forward.

A senator said part of the impact of financial challenges seemed to be growing animosity between the university and employee groups, giving as an example the university's decision to decline any further bargaining on the pension issue for CUPE 1975. The president said this was a fair question. He said that he thought the overall relationship between the university and its bargaining units was a positive one. At some times, there will be bargaining issues that have not been resolved; for example, negotiations are currently taking place with the union representing faculty members. The president said he takes the trouble to obtain frequent briefing, and to try and ensure the university does the right thing. As president, one of his major responsibilities is to help ensure the financial sustainability of the university, and that sometimes causes challenges. The university does value its employees and is committed to fair terms and conditions of employment. In the case of CUPE 1975, the university has decided that pension reform is necessary. Changes to the pension plans of all other bargaining units to a defined contribution model had already occurred. He said that, though the legal right of the university to proceed with pension reform was confirmed by an arbitration award over a year ago, the university had tried to reach a negotiated settlement.

A senator asked what might be the leading restraints to the enrollment growth of the university. The president said that as student numbers grow, costs grow as well, and the university needs to be mindful of that. In addition, the university has been considering research that suggests the optimal size of a university is slightly larger than USask is now, but the university doesn't want to give up its relatively intimate atmosphere.

A senator, referring back to the issue of labour relations, urged the university to be visionary, and to consider the issue of pensions thoroughly before making changes. The president reiterated that there is no intention to show disrespect for employees.

7. Report on Undergraduate Student Activities (verbal report)

Regan Ratt-Misponas, the incoming president of the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union, said that his fellow executive members were Carlos Munoz (vice-president academic), Alan Lewis (vice-president student affairs) and Jamie Bell (vice-president finance and operations). He said that his personal priorities are to support decolonization, to create opportunities for students, and to draw students together. He said that he was looking forward to these conversations.

8. Report on Graduate Student Activities

Naheda Sahtout, president of the Graduate Students' Association, referred members of Senate to her written report. She raised some additional points. She said that the support in the federal budget for research, internationalization and Indigenization was encouraging. She said that the provincial budget showed less support for post-secondary education, and said it would be necessary to demonstrate to the government the importance of graduates to the province and to the economy. She said it is necessary to shift the thinking from viewing post-secondary education as necessary to viewing it as essential. She said that she had appreciated the opportunity offered through Senate to make connections for graduate students, not all of whom would enter academic careers, with representatives of other sectors.

9. Report on Board of Governors Activities

Joy Crawford, a Senate-elected member of the Board of Governors, referred members of Senate to the written report circulated with the agenda, and said that she had no additional comments.

A senator expressed appreciation for the written report, and said that she would still like to see more transparency around Board decision-making. Ms. Crawford said this is one of the issues being considered by the governance and executive committee of the Board.

10. University Council

10.1 Annual Report on University Council activities

Jay Wilson, chair of Council, noted that a written report had been circulated with the agenda. He expressed the thanks of Council to Chelsea Willness, who had been acting chair from October 2017 to October 2018.

He referred to a number of new programs that had been approved by Council, including the ESL certificate program in the College of Education, the certificate program in Indigenous storytelling in the College of Arts and Science, new certificate programs in the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, and the Ed.D. He also noted that significant changes had been made to the Learning Charter to reflect the goal of creating opportunities for all students to engage in Indigenous learning.

He also pointed to the approval of revisions to the regulations governing student academic appeals.

A senator asked about the marketing and messaging that goes with certificate programs. She said that degree-level certificates might entitle international students to different immigration status than non-credit certificates, and wondered whether the distinction was always made clear to students. The Council chair said that colleges have the responsibility for marketing their own programs, but he agreed that it is important to ensure that the implications of different kinds of programs are sufficiently clear to potential students, and that the university should make efforts to convey a consistent message. The interim dean of the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, Trever

Crowe, said that his office takes this responsibility seriously and directs students to the International Student and Study Abroad Centre, which provides excellent advice; he did not believe this was an institution that provided misleading information in order to recruit students.

Another senator asked how program proposals are discussed in relation to the changing job market. Professor Wilson said that the process for approval of programs involves extensive consultation, including tapping into sources of information on the potential link between a proposed program and employment.

A senator noted the change of name from the Department of Linguistics and Religious Studies to the Department of Linguistics. The Council chair advised that the religious studies program had been moved into Saint Thomas More College.

10.2 Requests for Confirmation of University Council Decisions

10.2.1 Admissions Qualification Change – English proficiency requirements for the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) program

HAMILTON/NEUFELDT: That Senate confirm Council's approval of changes to English proficiency requirements for the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) program, effective for admissions for 2020/21.

CARRIED

10.2.2 Admissions Qualification Change - Bachelor of Education Special (Mature) Admissions Category

The dean of education noted that all applicants to the program must meet academic requirements, but that supplementary factors are considered when reviewing the files of mature applicants.

A senator asked whether there are supports in place for students when the categories for admission are broadened to include applicants who rely on factors other than academic performance. The chair of Council said that this is one of the issues considered by the Academic Programs Committee of Council when proposals are made. The dean of the university library said that the library is always involved in these conversations as the library is the home for a number of student supports. A senator asked whether these admission criteria would permit a high school dropout to apply to the program. The dean of education responded that technically it would be possible, but the admissions process is very competitive, so it is unlikely that such an applicant would be successful.

MCKERCHER/TOYE: That Senate confirm Council's approval of changes to the admissions qualifications for the Bachelor of Education Special (Mature) Admissions Category, effective for the 2019/20 admissions cycle.

CARRIED

11. Senate Committee Reports

11.1 **For decision:** Honorary Degrees Committee Report – **CONFIDENTIAL**

This item is confidential and removed from these minutes.

11.2 Executive Committee Reports

11.2.1 Report on the work of the Senate Executive committee

President Stoicheff, the vice-chair of the executive committee, presented the report. He pointed out that the committee had been discussing a possible policy for recording and/or live-streaming Senate meetings. The committee had also had a debrief on the Senate-sponsored public forum on cannabis policy, and had concluded that it was a successful event. A working group has been put in place to plan a forum sometime in the fall.

A senator asked about the guidelines on recording that had been included in the materials. The university secretary said that these had been adopted on an interim basis, and that the executive committee would bring forward guidelines at a future meeting of Senate.

11.2.2 ***For decision:*** Nominations to the Senate Nominations Committee

MCMILLAN/COLE: That Senate approve the recommendation of the Senate executive committee and appoint the following Senate members to the Senate nominations committee for a one-year terms beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020: Brooks DeCillia, Don Hamilton (as chair), Rhonda Gough and Susanne Berg.

CARRIED

11.2.3 ***For decision:*** Report of the Conflict of Interest Review Working Group

Corinna Stevenson, a member of the working group presented the report. She indicated that the members of the working group were Leah Howie and Iain Luke from the education committee and herself and Aidan Murphy from the executive committee, with support provided by the office of the university secretary. She said that the committee had met a number of times and had engaged in extensive discussion of the terms of reference for the review of conflict of interest policies. She said that the committee would make an interim report to the Senate in October, with a final report in April. She said that the participation of the Board of Governors and Council had been confirmed. She noted that the working group had developed criteria for selecting an external member of the committee and had considered a number of candidates, with the result being a recommendation of Merrilee Rasmussen, whose bio was circulated with the Senate agenda. She said that the working group had decided to recommend that the external member not chair the review committee, as this might inhibit the committee from drawing fully on that member's expertise.

STEVENSON/LUKE: That Senate approve the attached terms of reference for the Conflict of Interest Policies Review Committee, and the appointment of Merrilee Rasmussen as the external member of the committee.

CARRIED

11.3 Nominations Committee Report

Stuart Garven, the chair of the nominations committee, presented the report. A senator asked whether consideration had been given to a balance of experienced and new members. The university secretary pointed out that many of the people on committees had only served one year, and the nominations committee were satisfied that there was a balance of newer and more experienced members. A senator asked whether more information could be provided to indicate the terms of committee members.

11.3.1 ***For decision:*** Appointments to Standing Committees

JURGENS/MORRISON: That Senate approve the appointments to Senate committees as indicated in the report for 2019/20, effective July 1, 2019.

CARRIED

11.3.2 **For information:** Appointment to Review Committee for President

The chair of the nominations committee advised that the nominations committee had named Suzanne Berg as the Senate representative to the review committee for the president.

11.3.3 **For decision:** Appointments to Conflict of Interest Policies Review Committee

GARVEN/HUNT: That Senate approve the recommendation of the Senate Nominations Committee to appoint Marcel de la Gorgendière and John Rozdilsky to the ad hoc Conflict of Interest Policies Review Committee.

CARRIED

11.4 **For decision:** Membership Committee Report

Leah Howie, the chair of the membership committee, presented the report.

HOWIE/NEUFLDT: That Senate approve the addition of the Saskatchewan Library Association to the professional society membership of the Senate, and that the Saskatchewan Environmental Society be removed from the membership of Senate, both effective immediately.

CARRIED

11.5 Education Committee Report

Leah Howie, the chair of the education committee, referred members of Senate to the written report circulated with the agenda.

12. University of Saskatchewan Senate Statement on Provincial Government Funding Cuts

Dan Danielson, a member of Senate, introduced the motion that the executive committee had agreed to place on the agenda. He said that the funding of the university was declining in actual dollars, and that the reserves of the university had been depleted. He also pointed to the obligations of the university under pension plans. He said that these cuts must affect the institution, especially since enrolment has been increasing. He said that he suspected that the inflation rate for the university was 4-5% and the funding level has not kept pace. He said that he was confident that the university had done what it could in terms of cutting costs and raising tuition fees, but he felt the public should know that the university was facing a serious situation,

The vice-president finance and resources said he would prefer that the motion not refer to an “emergency” although he acknowledged that the funding situation does present a challenge. He said that the university has managed to maintain a high credit rating, and that the government has given assurances that the budget would resume a more stable course after the three-year budget balancing project is complete.

A senator asked whether this type of motion would affect the government relations strategy of the university. The president said that he would be disappointed if the public were told the university was facing an “emergency” as this might suggest that students could not rely on receiving a high quality education. A senator said he would speak against the motion, and said he would prefer that the Senate

emphasize the important role of the university in relation to technological change, building the capacity of Indigenous people and contributing to the provincial economy.

A senator said he felt it would be appropriate for the Senate to express dissatisfaction to the government, and that this was part of the mandate of Senate.

The proponent of the motion said that he thought it was important to acknowledge the challenges facing the university. He said the motion was intended to be respectful, but that it was also important to state clearly that things were not going well.

The motion was deferred until later in the day for some suggested revisions, and was brought back at a later point in the agenda.

When the motion was brought back for consideration, a senator asked whether this issue actually falls under the jurisdiction of the Senate. The university secretary responded that, though the Senate would not have the authority to direct any action in relation to this issue, it is permissible for the Senate to make a statement on their views of an issue important to the university.

DANIELSON/MORRISON: THE University of Saskatchewan Senate body hereby informs the Saskatchewan Government and the general public that while the provincial budget may appear balanced the resulting cuts to the University of Saskatchewan have now reached a critical juncture where it is very difficult for this University to perform its mandate including providing a high quality of education for its growing number of students.

DEFEATED 24/18

14. Items for Information

14.3 Senate Elections Update (verbal report)

The university secretary reported on the status of current Senate elections. A senator running for re-election registered her frustration about her inability to have a way of communicating with the alumni in her district, as the alumni lists are controlled by the alumni affairs office. The university secretary indicated that she and the associate vice-president alumni affairs are working on a plan for the next round of elections in 2020 to attract more interest from alumni and increase the level of communication.

14.1 Student Enrolment Report (verbal report)

Patti McDougall, the vice-provost teaching learning and student experience combined her report on current enrolment with the presentation on the strategic enrolment plan (item 14.2).

14.2 Enrolment Plan 2025 (verbal report)

The vice-provost outlined the factors being considered in developing a strategic enrolment plan to take the university to 2025. The information provided at this meeting was based on university-level goals. Further work is being done to formulate projections at the college and school level. The university is facing a competitive post-secondary environment. Several years ago, it was anticipated that there would be a decline in the population of high school students in Saskatchewan who might move on to post-secondary education, but this population has remained quite stable.

There has been an increase in the number of graduate students over the past few years, and the current graduate student population is composed of roughly one-third students from Saskatchewan, one-third from out of province, and one-third international students. She said that the number of

graduate students in thesis-based programs has been increasing. With respect to international graduate students, China remains the largest source of international students; other important source countries are Iran, India, Bangladesh, Nigeria and the US.

Indigenous students currently represent 15% of undergraduate students, and 8% of graduate students. It is a goal to grow the proportion of Indigenous graduate students.

54% of graduate students and 57% of undergraduate students are female, with a variation in the proportion in different programs. Her office has noted this, although they have not worked through the implications of this information.

Over 1500 students are registered with Access and Equity Services, an increase of 76% over the past five years. The majority of these are students with invisible disabilities.

Teaching activity is up 2% over the past year, with off-campus teaching (about 15% of total teaching) up about 7%.

In formulating a new strategic enrolment plan, she has been cognizant that enrolment is tied to student experience, teaching and learning, and that the objective is to prepare learners the world needs, to use the terminology of the University Plan. She has been part of a dialogue with a number of universities in different parts of the country about identifying skills and looking for ways to integrate and certify them. Part of this is to prepare students to communicate clearly about the skills they have gained.

Some of the elements of the enrolment plan are to meet the demands of the city, the province and the world; to be attentive to the needs of business and industry; to adjust tuition appropriately; and to decide what an optimal size for the university would be. The current assessment is that there is still room for growth to support research and to meet demands associated with the demographics of the province. The province and the city are both growing, which suggests that there will continue to be demand. The current plan is to grow to 28,000 students by 2025, which would be an increase of 9%; the growth over the last four years has been 8%.

One of the objectives in formulating the plan is to identify areas of strategic growth. For example, it is clear that numbers in computer science, biomedical science and business could grow. Colleges are being asked to identify what might be areas of growth in their own programs.

A senator asked whether the apparent lack of demand for teachers would create difficulties for the increased numbers of students in the college of education. The dean of education said that the move to direct entry had made a difference to enrolment. She said the college is trying to be imaginative in providing combinations of degree and certificate programs to meet particular needs, such as those of First Nations. She said an ongoing challenge is persuading students to move outside urban areas, and the college has introduced a regime of rural practicums to try and demonstrate to students the advantages of living in rural areas.

13. Senate Education Committee Topic: The Challenges of Indigenization

Jackie Ottmann, vice-provost Indigenous engagement, began the session with a presentation about the significance of the concepts of reconciliation, Indigenization and decolonization and their importance in the context of the university. Senators moved into small groups for a discussion of their own experiences and their ideas for strategies that could be adopted to advance the goal of reconciliation.

12. University of Saskatchewan Senate Statement on Provincial Government Funding Cuts

This item was described earlier in the minutes at page 7.

15. Other Business

There was no other business.

16. Question Period

A senator asked whether the new criterion of predictability in the Tuition and Fees Authorization Policy had been implemented. Vice-provost McDougall said that developing an appropriate model to address this criterion is complex, and the question is being addressed. President Stoicheff said that one of the factors that makes it challenging to develop a model for tuition predictability is the lack of predictability in the university's own budget. He suggested that senators are in a position to become informed ambassadors and to speak to their own constituencies about this complicated set of issues.

The president went on to thank Chancellor Romanow for his service over the past three years. He said that he felt no other Canadian university had a chancellor of such stature and profile. He mentioned that the conversations with three former prime ministers to mark Canada 150 could not have happened without the chancellor's assistance. On behalf of the Senate, he presented the chancellor with a framed photograph showing the Peter MacKinnon Building with a number of tepees in front of it.

The chancellor said that it had been an honour to serve as chancellor. He said that his parents were Ukrainian immigrants of limited means, but they had always encouraged him to pursue and education, and that every opportunity that he had in his life was owed to his education at the university. He reminded members of Senate of their important role as defender and advocate for the university. He said that the university had a very strong president and that it was important for the Senate to assist in creating a stronger university, and thus a stronger province.

17. Adjournment and Dates of Future Convocation and Senate Meetings

Spring Convocation: June 3-7, 2019

Fall Senate: October 26, 2019

Fall Convocation: November 13, 2019