

**1. Chair's Opening Remarks**

Chancellor McCreath, chair of Senate, was not able to attend the spring meeting and requested that President Peter Stoicheff, vice-chair of Senate chair the meeting in her absence. President Stoicheff welcomed senators attending virtually via Zoom and those in-person to the spring meeting of Senate. He acknowledged that Senate meets on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respects to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of our gathering place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

The president extended a thank you to members of Senate for their service to the University of Saskatchewan and acknowledged members with terms expiring. He then explained the procedures for the hybrid meeting.

The President confirmed quorum and the meeting commenced.

**2. Consent agenda**

The adoption of the agenda, the minutes of October 30, 2021, and businesses arising (items 2, 3, and 4) were presented via the consent agenda.

**BROTHWELL/BURSHTYN:** That the consent agenda items be approved by Senate.

*CARRIED*

**5. President's report**

President Peter Stoicheff invited questions of the written report distributed with the agenda materials. No questions were received on this item.

**6. Report on undergraduate student activities**

University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU) president, Tasnim Jaisee invited questions of the written report distributed with the agenda materials. No questions were received on this item.

The president thanked Tasnim for the report and noted that although this is her last Senate meeting as USSU president, she has been elected as a student representative on Senate for 2022-2023, effective May 1.

**7.. Report on graduate student activities**

Graduate Student Association (GSA) president, Rafat Zhan was not able to attend today's meeting. The president introduced incoming GSA president, Mostafa Kamal, to present the report.

Mostafa Kamal invited questions of the written report distributed with the agenda materials. No questions were received.

## **8. Report on Board of Governors**

Joy Crawford, one of two Senate-elected members to the Board of Governors, invited questions of the written report distributed with the agenda materials. No questions were received.

## **9. Student Enrolment Report**

Dr. Jay Wilson, interim vice-provost, teaching, learning and student experience (TSLE), presented the student enrolment report. He commented that enrolment at the University of Saskatchewan and across Canada is in good shape considering the onset of the pandemic and the increase in online studies. He proceeded to invite questions from Senators.

*Comment:* Debby Burshtyn, Dean, Graduate and Post-Doctoral Studies responded to concerns expressed by the GSA in its written report to Senate regarding program completion rates at the University of Saskatchewan in comparison to other U15 universities. The university is aware that longer completion adds to financial burden and delays in important life decisions such as joining the work force to contribute to economy, beginning a family, purchasing a home, etc. The university is actively looking into how it might offer the degrees within a more reasonable amount of time.

Dr. Wilson added that statistics are currently being examined and processes are in place to further support students. All colleges have worked in very innovative ways to accommodate and support students' learning through this pandemic. In some instances, traditional ways of teaching and learning have been further enhanced because of new innovations.

*Questions:* Senator Gough submitted a few questions to Dr. Wilson via email. She asked when Senators could expect to receive a new dashboard that will reference Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) data as it is collected from students; and in reference to a total student population breakdown by gender provided in October 2021 – could the same breakdown be provided by college? Nursing and Engineering - has gender balance been received in these colleges?

Dr. Suzanne Kresta, Dean of Engineering responded that there have been steady increases in applications from females and the college is optimistic that the increases will continue.

Dr. Wilson responded that work on an EDI strategy is well underway and will be brought to a future meeting of Senate.

There were no questions from the Zoom chat. The president thanked Senator Gough for her questions.

## **10. University Council reports**

### **10.1 Annual Report on University Council activities**

Dr. Susan Detmer, chair of university council, invited questions of the written report distributed with the agenda materials. There were none.

## **11. Senate Committee Reports**

The President invited Michelle MacDonald, elected member of the senate executive, to present the reports, as he was chairing the meeting.

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## 11.1. Executive Committee Report

### 11.1.1 Report on activities

The written report was submitted for information. There were no further questions.

### 11.1.2 Nominations to the Nominations Committee

Michelle MacDonald presented the nominations slate.

**HAMILTON/BELL:** That Senate approves the recommendation of the Senate executive committee and appoints Rhonda Gough, Tasnim Jaisee, Jordan Robertson, and Grant McKercher (as chair), to the Senate nominations committee for a one-year term beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023.

*CARRIED*

## 11.2 CONFIDENTIAL: Honorary Degrees Committee Report

*(This item has been removed from the non-confidential minutes)*

## 11.3 Nominations Committee Report

### 11.3.1 Nominations for Senate committees

A report was submitted by Don Hamilton, chair of the nominations committee.

**MACDONALD/KELLY:** That Senate approves the appointments to Senate committees as indicated in the attached schedule for 2022/23, effective July 1, 2022.

*CARRIED*

## 12. Senate Education Committee

### 12.1 Senate Education Committee Report on Activities

A written report was submitted Max Bilson, chair of the education committee, attending via Zoom. No questions were received for this information item.

### 12.2 Senate Education Committee Report on Academic Program Admissions Changes

A written report was submitted by Max Bilson, chair of the education committee. No questions were received for this information item.

## 13. Senate Education Committee Topic

Max Bilson, chair of the education committee introduced the education topic, Usask Research Signature Areas and invited Dr. Baljit Singh, vice-president research and provost Airini, and their team to the podium. Dr. Singh commented that the renewal process for the University of Saskatchewan's signature areas of research is taking place with the spirit of responsiveness in mind. The presentation spoke to the process in renewing the signature areas including engagement and learning, the pitch process, collaboration, and decision-making. Following the presentation, questions and observations were invited from Senators.

**14. Items for Information**

**14.1 Senate Engagement Plan**

The President invited Chelsea Willness, university secretary and chief governance to speak to the Senate Engagement Plan.

**14.2 Senate Election Update**

An election update was provided by Chelsea Willness, university secretary and chief governance officer. No questions were received for this item.

**15. Adjournment 1:30 pm.**