

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:34 pm.

The Chair, Dr. Marjorie Delbaere, began with a Land Acknowledgement noting National Indigenous History Month and the many events taking place to pay tribute and celebrate the Indigenous Peoples of this land.

Chair reviewed zoom protocols and voting members are to sit in the Center for easier vote counting.

No members of the media identified themselves.

The Chair reminded members there are no recordings of Council meetings.

1. Tribute

Dr. Glenn Hussey, Department of Physics and Engineering Physics provided a tribute to Professor Henry Caplan.

2. Agenda

2.1 Adoption of the Agenda

(Augusta/Willoughby): *That the agenda be approved as circulated.*

CARRIED

3. Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair provided opening remarks noting that nominations for the Council Chair role are open until noon on June 17th. The Chair stated that annual committee reports will not be formally presented and questions on the reports will be taken during question period. The Chair announced that after 30 years in Neatby-Timlin Theatre, Council meetings are moving to Convocation Hall starting in September. Chair Delbaere thanked Secretary Demkiw and the Governance Office for their support through the year to make these meetings occur as well as thanked Council members for their contribution and participation throughout the year.

4. Minutes

4.1 Approval of Amended Minutes April 18, 2024

Motion (Bradford/Jones) That the amended minutes from April 18, 2024 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED
Abstention: Vassileva

4.2 Approval of Minutes May 16, 2024

Motion (Lieverse/J. Singh) That the minutes from May 16, 2024 be approved as amended.

A member noted a friendly amendment to be made to the May 16th, 2024 minutes as follows:

Original minutes:

A member asked if the donor disagreed with the search committee choice, can the funds be withdrawn? Cheryl Hamelin replied that no, the funder is not able to pull funding or stop USask from hiring our chosen candidate.

Many members expressed concerns about the negative effects of losing this donation will have on students.

A member expressed concern on the limitations of summary provided in the report on the discussion/negotiation. The member requested the President to explore the Montreal Declaration on AI Use.

Another member commented that anything can be used for weapons or for good and noted there is no indication to use the microchips for military purposes.

Amended minutes:

Many members expressed concerns about the negative effects of losing this donation will have on students.

In contrast, a member expressed concern on the limitations of the summary provided in the report on the discussion/negotiation and how the movers presented many policies and procedures that could be used to monitor or discipline the Chair; however, presented no evidence of how those policies and procedures had been used in the past and to what effect, calling into question whether the policies and procedures are effective. The member also expressed concerns that any monitoring would be reasonably expected by external or professional associations.

The member formally requested the President to explore the Montreal Declaration on AI Use, noting the 277 other institutions are already signatories.

Additionally, the member mentioned a meeting that took place in the College of Engineering earlier in the week with Council members to discuss the Chair in anticipation of the upcoming Council meeting.

The final comment before the vote:

A senior member of the university administration called for redress for a comment made by a council member when discussing the decision-making processes of senior administrators with respect to external funding.

Approval of May 16th minutes CARRIED
2 Opposed
Abstentions: Lamb and Freywald

5. Business Arising

6. Reports

6.1 Report of the President

President Stoicheff mentioned Indigenous History month noting there are many ways USask can improve, but believes USask are participants not bystanders in Reconciliation.

President Stoicheff presented a quick year in review noting the Rhodes Scholars, USask successes in rankings, success in research income, the campaign and the event this past week to mark one year remaining and the continued increase in enrolment. President Stoicheff mentioned a meeting with the municipal government meeting that took place this week along with the MOU agreement with the City of Saskatoon with a goal to work together. The President reiterated Mayor Charlie Clark's words- USask first need to be the university the city needs to go on to be the university the world needs. In addition the President mentioned the Horizon Funding as well as recent budget announcements reiterating the good working relationship with the government.

The President made mention of the eight successful convocation ceremonies last week and the great attendance all week.

President Stoicheff concluded his report by thanking the great leadership of Chair Delbaere as well as expressed an appreciation for the PEC meetings throughout the year with the council committee chairs stating how these meetings continue be a great source of information.

There were no questions.

6.2 Report of the Provost

Provost Airini noted that her final report is one of awards, recognition and celebrations. Dr. Airini also expressed her gratitude for the great celebration of convocation last week.

Provost Airini mentioned the teaching excellence awards will be recognized next week and encouraged members to attend on June 18th.

Provost Airini concluded her report by extending her appreciation to all council and council committee members.

There were no questions.

6.3 Report from the GSA

GSA President David Ohene-Amoako presented his first report to Council noting the GSA is in a transitional period and are working hard to learn their new roles. It was noted that this year is the 40th Anniversary of the GSA and they will be working on all financial challenges with a goal to leave the organization debt free.

The full report can be found in the agenda package.

There were no questions.

6.4 Report from the USSU

USSU President Krunal Chavda presented his first report to Council mentioning the USSU will be focusing on three pillars this year Advocacy, Awareness, and Alliance.

The full report is in the agenda package.

There were no questions.

7. Executive Committee

7.1 Item for Information: 2023/24 Executive Committee Annual Report

Annual reports were not formally presented at the meeting. Questions on the report will be noted in question period.

8. Planning and Priorities Committee (PPC)

Angela Lieverse, Chair of the PPC Centres Subcommittee presented items 8.1-8.3

8.1 Item for Information: Review of the Diefenbaker Canada Centre in the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy USASK

- The review was presented to the Centres Subcommittee and PPC in April and May.
- Both the Centres Subcommittee and PPC lauded the efficiency of the review process.
- They also acknowledged that the Centres Policy requirement for strategic reviews every five years is not being abided, or at least is not being reported to Council's committees.
- Highlights of the recommendations of the Review Committee:
 - will inform the next stages for DCC in strategic planning
 - recommendations included establishing an advisory committee, which is a requirement for all centres
 - enhance partnership with USask community, at an equivalent level as K12 is currently engaged

8.2 Item for Information: Disestablishment of the Centre for Evidence Based Library and Information Practice (C-EBLIP)

- The Library decided to reposition the support for these research activities to members of the Library faculty rather than through a centre.
- PPC has the authority to determine the appropriate level for approval of centre closures based on the scope and extent of their activities on campus.
- Therefore, this decision is being reported to Council for information only and was approved by PPC.

8.3 Item for Information: Provisional Global Institute for Energy, Minerals, and Society (GIEMS)

- This is the first time that PPC has approved the establishment of a provisional centre under the Centres Policy of 2020.
- PPC has the delegated authority from Council for such approvals, so this is being presented for information only.

A member noted to ensure there is a comma in the title after Minerals in all the documentation, so it reads correctly.

8.4 Item for Information: 2023/24 PPC Annual Report

Annual reports were not formally presented at the meeting. Questions on the report will be noted in question period.

8.5 Item for Information: 2023/2024 Enrolment Report

Deputy Provost Patti McDougall presented the report on behalf of Jerome Cranston. The enrolment report [slides are attached](#).

There were no questions.

9. Academic Programs Committee (APC)

Dr. Carolyn Augusta, Chair of the Academic Programs Committee presented the committee's items.

9.1 Item for Information: Change to Academic Calendar 2024-25

9.2 Item for Information: 2023/24 APC Annual Report

Annual reports were not formally presented at the meeting. Questions on the report will be noted in question period.

10. Governance Committee

Vicki Squires, Member of the Governance Committee presented the committee's items.

10.1 Request for Decision: Nominations Committee Selection and Chair

The Governance Committee is responsible for nominating members of Council to the Nominations Committee, as well as the Nominations Committee Chair. The nominees were outlined in the circulated agenda package

The Chair called for nominations from the floor.

Motion (Squires/Augusta) It is recommended by Governance that Council approve the slate of nominations, effective July 1, 2024.

CARRIED

10.2 Item for Information: Council Bylaw Editorial Changes

Over the past several months the Governance Committee has been reviewing the full Council Bylaws and Regulations. The Governance Committee is to report any editorial changes to Council on an annual basis. All editorial changes were included in the circulated agenda package.

There were no questions.

10.3 Item for Information: Student Appeal and Misconduct Report 2023-2024

The Governance committee requested that the University Secretary report on the nature and number of student appeals under Council's regulations on Student Appeals in Academic Matters, as well as appeals of decisions related to Academic Misconduct. The report was included in the circulated agenda package.

There were no questions.

10.4 Item for Information: 2023/24 Governance Annual Report

Annual reports were not formally presented at the meeting. Questions on the report will be noted in question period.

11. Scholarships and Awards Committee:

11.1 Item for Information: 2023/24 Scholarships and Awards Annual Report

Annual reports were not formally presented at the meeting. Questions on the report will be noted in question period.

12. Nominations Committee

Dr. Scott Bell, Vice-Chair of Nominations presented the items.

12.1 Request for Decision: Omnibus Committee Selections

The Chair called for nominations from the floor.

Motion (Bell/Singh): It is recommended that Council approve the attached slate of nominations effective July 1, 2024.

CARRIED

Abstentions: Bradford and Chernoff

12.2 Item for Information: 2023/24 Nominations Annual Report

Annual reports were not formally presented at the meeting. Questions on the report will be noted in question period.

13. Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources Committee (TLARC)

13.1 **Item for Information:** 2023/24 TLARC Annual Report

Annual reports were not formally presented at the meeting. Questions on the report will be noted in question period.

14. **Research, Scholarly and Artistic Works Committee (RSAW)**

14.1 **Item for information:** 2023/24 RSAW Annual Report

Annual reports were not formally presented at the meeting. Questions on the report will be noted in question period.

14.2 **Item for Information:** Vice President Research Annual Report

Vice President Baljit Singh noted that 2023/2024 is a year of unprecedented success with over 417 million dollars in research awards was received making this the highest amount USask has received in a single year. Dr. Singh made mention of the continued work and engagement with local communities and the impact of RSAW.

The full report is in the agenda package.

14.3 **Item for Information:** College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies Annual Report

This report was not formally presented and can be found in the agenda package.

15. **Other business**

There was no other business.

16. **Question period**

Pre-submitted Question #1:

At the June 2023 council meeting I asked about how the University was engaging with the City of Saskatoon regarding cyclist safety at the College and Wiggins intersection. I would like to follow up on this question given a number of recent developments:

- Safety Audit of College and Wiggins
- Recent City Council motion to install a bike box at College and Wiggins
- Recent report to the Transportation Committee endorsing a bikeway on Munroe Ave (item 7.1.2 on the May 5 Standing Committee for Transportation meeting).

The last development has significant implications for the University because it would direct a large number of commuter cyclists entering campus into the pedestrian dense areas in front of Medicine. I would ask for an update on any discussions the University may be having with the city regarding this plan, and if enacted how the University would ensure safe and efficient cyclist movement into the core campus.

Wade Epp, Associate Vice-President Services responded to members noting that USask is working closely with City of Saskatoon and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. As a result, USask engaged with a consulting group to discuss where and impact can be made on College Drive. Mr. Epp explained that a 3m wide pathway will be built as part of the review.

Mr. Epp explained that USask has been planning to review Wiggins Road which has been accelerated and will take place this summer to review the traffic flow as part of the BRT changes.

Members are welcomed and encouraged to participate and provide feedback in the process as it moves forward.

Pre-submitted Question #2:

When the revised awards policy came up for approval at the January council meeting, I asked a few questions, one of which was *“Computer Science gives out awards a department graduation banquet. With this more careful approach to personal criteria, does this mean we cannot announce recipients at banquets?”* responded that we needed to get explicit permission. That is, the recipients need to opt-in (in matching the rationale *“Financial Aid will forward to the University Advancement only the names of award recipients who have given permission for the release of the names.”* I do not recall the name of the support officer and the meeting minutes only contain a vague mention of questions related to the gender and indigeneity changes.

I’ve been informed by the Director of Advancement that this opt-in approach caused concern with some donors, and that an opt-out approach is acceptable. In other words, we can simply tell the recipient, *“If you ... do not want your award to be acknowledged publicly, please let us know and we will be happy to respect your wishes”* with the clear implication that unless you refuse, we will announce.

Clearly these two answers are contradictory. Since the policy is at University Council level, can Council provide a decision on which approach applies?

This question will be sent to the Awards Officer and the Scholarships and Awards Committee for reply at a future meeting.

Questions from the floor:

A member inquired about the decline in success rates of graduate international enrolments. Deputy Provost Patti McDougall acknowledged the question and agreed that there is a decline. Dr. McDougall will connect in with CGPS to gather more information to bring back to Council.

17. Adjournment

Motion (Jones): The meeting was properly adjourned at 4:15 pm.