

Attendance: J. Kalra (Chair) See appendix A for listing of members in attendance.

Observing that the assembly had reached quorum, Dr. Kalra called the meeting to order and invited Dr. Daphne Taras, Dean of the Edwards School of Business, to present a tribute in memory of Professor Emeritus Geoffrey England, who was a faculty member in the Edwards School of Business, teaching in the area of labour and employment law, until his retirement earlier this year. Professor England passed away August 24, 2011.

Following a moment of silence, the meeting was called to order, and the business of Council resumed.

1. Adoption of the agenda

PROCTOR/KELLS: That the agenda be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

2. Opening remarks

The chair welcomed members of Council to the November meeting and expressed a welcome to visitors, including the chair of the Board of Governors, Nancy Hopkins, and to all student members. He stressed the importance of student representation on the Council in the work of governing the university.

3. Minutes of the meeting of October 20, 2011

KULSHRESHTHA/GREER: That the minutes of the meeting of October 20, 2011, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

4. Business arising from the minutes

No business was identified as arising from the minutes.

5. Report of the president

The chair conveyed regrets from President MacKinnon and invited Provost Brett Fairbairn to present the report on the president's behalf. Dr. Fairbairn drew members' attention to a letter from the president (circulated at the door) that will appear in tomorrow's edition of *On Campus News* in response to a *Viewpoint* piece published by Professor Len Findlay on November 4. He also provided an update on recent developments concerning the Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation, which was approved by Council at its September meeting and subsequently approved by the Board of Governors at its October meeting. He indicated that as a result of discussion of the business and governance framework by a committee of the Board, and in response to suggestions made at the Council meeting where

the Centre was recommended for approval by the Board, there were some revisions made to the text accompanying the decision item. These revisions included revision of the tag-line on the title page (now “Medicine, Materials, Energy and Environment”), and to the section on governance as it relates to the size and composition of the board, to provide for flexibility in the size of the board and to emphasize the control exercised over the Centre’s board by the university’s Board of Governors by stating specifically that the University, as Owner, holds the sole responsibility and right to approve and then appoint members to the CCNI Board of Directors.

There were no questions for the provost on the president’s report.

6. Report of the provost

The provost then presented his own report, inviting Council members to pay particular attention to the updates on integrated planning and on the TABBS budget model consultations. He noted that October 31 was a significant date in the context of capital projects, since this was the date by which the various projects that received federal stimulus funding had to be substantially completed.

The provost then invited questions on any matter contained in his report.

There was a question from a student member about Project Hero, and particularly about limits on the number of students who can be accepted under this program. The provost asked the registrar to comment; Mr. Isinger indicated that it was unlikely there would be a great deal of uptake, based on the experience of other institutions. Currently there are 70 participating institutions in Canada, and in our 18 peer institutions only 4 have taken up these awards to date.

A member asked what help would be provided to department heads to assist in the additional work involved in changes to copyright arrangements. At the provost’s request, Professor Greer responded, explaining the reasons for the decision to ask the department heads—those who are ‘close to the action’--to monitor compliance rather than having this done centrally. He encouraged heads to have conversations with their faculty about copyright compliance, and with their deans about any associated workload issues. He also expressed the view that the additional workload associated with the change in procedures is likely to be short-term, until a new steady state is achieved.

In response to a question about whether he would be chairing all of the searches and reviews enumerated in his report, the provost answered in the affirmative. Responding to a follow-up question about the status of the decanal search in the College of Engineering, the provost reminded Council of the process involved in the search for a new dean, indicating that until a recommendation has gone to the Board of Governors for a decision, it would be premature to comment.

7. Student societies reports

7.1 Report from the USSU

Scott Hitchings, USSU President, and Kelsey Topola, Academic Vice-president, presented the report. Mr. Hitchings began by reporting on the upcoming Annual General Meeting of the USSU. Items before the AGM, which takes place this evening, include a motion to amend the bylaws, particularly those setting forth the membership and role of University Student Council and the relationship of that body with college student societies, including the question of authority for elections. There will also be an amendment to remove a portion of the bylaws relating to the timing of meetings of the Board of College Presidents.

Ms. Topola announced that the USSU has received about 40 nominations so far for Term 1 teaching excellence awards.

In response to a question concerning mechanisms for ensuring student representation on the General Academic Assembly, Mr. Hitchings indicated that while there are no specific bylaws changes being proposed in this regard, the USSU intends to appoint elected students from the Undergraduate Students' Council to fill the 35 positions on the General Academic Assembly.

7.2 Report from the Graduate Students' Association

Xue Yao presented the report of the GSA as president. She began by thanking the College of Graduate Studies and Research for the funding provided to students to attend the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS) 49th annual conference. Topics covered at the conference include educating for the future, student professional development, student funding, and student-supervisor relationships. She also referenced the GSR 984 course on Thinking Critically: Professional Skills for Global Citizens, as one of the initiatives being undertaken to enhance graduate professional development. The GSA will hold a session on developing career potential for graduate students on November 18; these initiatives are part of an ongoing partnership of the GSA with CGSR and the Centre for Teaching Effectiveness to develop competencies for graduate students.

8. Coordinating committee

8.1 Request for decision: Revisions to the university's Policy on Naming of University Assets

Dr. John Rigby presented this report as committee chair. He began by explaining the background and context of this revision, which has been requested jointly by the Board of Governors and the Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships.

RIGBY/TYLER: That Council approve revisions to the Policy on the Naming of University Assets (approved in March 2011 by Council), and recommend approval of the policy to the Board of Governors.

CARRIED

DRAFT until approved at the next meeting

9. Bylaws committee

9.1 Report for information: Report on student appeals for 2010/2011

Dr. Gordon Zello presented this report as committee chair; it was received for information.

10. Planning and priorities committee

10.1 Report for information: 2012/13 Operations Forecast

Dr. Bob Tyler presented this report as committee chair. He commented that a limited number of copies of the Operations Forecast were available at the door, but that the report has not been circulated in print form with the agenda package for two reasons: to save paper, and also to encourage members to see the on-line version of the report, which includes colour photos. He explained the role of the Planning and Priorities Committee in the development and review of the Operations Forecast. He reiterated the assessment of the committee that the request of government is prudent, realistic and based on the academic priorities of the University. He invited the provost to make a brief presentation on the Forecast.

Dr. Fairbairn began by acknowledging the work of a number of offices including University Advancement, Institutional Planning and Assessment, Financial Services and Facilities Management. The slides from this presentation are attached as [Appendix B](#).

There was a question about how a tuition increase that is more than the cost of living increase is likely to be received. The provost reminded Council that the university's tuition model is not based on cost of living but on comparability with other institutions, and that the U of S tuition lags that of comparable programs by a significant factor. He stressed the importance of thinking in terms of accessibility rather than cost, and cited a new study on student debt and perceptions of debt that explores the factors that actually limit access to university. The study shows that the three best predictors of low participation in post-secondary education are Aboriginal ancestry, being from rural and remote locations, and the educational attainment of parents. The financial means of the family or the student rank significantly lower. These findings suggest that accessibility issues are not primarily about tuition.

There was another question about the priorities given to various facilities in need of renewal under the capital plan. The provost referenced the RenewUs strategy, which aims ultimately to address all of the university's capital deficiencies in a systematic way. He indicated that so far the project has been about raising possibilities and providing examples, but that the projects have not yet been ranked. In each case prioritization will need to take strategic factors (such as the likely appeal to government and other funders) into account.

The provost also responded to questions about the status of asbestos removal and about day care. On the latter point, he invited Associate Vice-president David Hannah, who heads a steering committee looking into day care spaces, to comment. Dr. Hannah cited the short-

term goal of doubling day care spaces by 2013, and indicated that the demand for day care spaces now exceeds 800 spaces, on a current base of only 110 spaces.

11. Academic programs committee

Dr. Len Proctor presented the report as committee chair.

11.1 Request for decision: Program termination of BA Three-year in Ukrainian

PROCTOR/SCHWIER: That Council approve the termination of the Bachelor of Arts Three-year program in Ukrainian.

CARRIED

11.2 Items for information

The following items were provided for information:

- Arts and Science: New Minor in Ukrainian Studies
- SESD: change in dates for Moribund Course Archive policy

12. Joint Council/Board committee on chairs and professorships

12.1 Request for decision: Murray W. Pyke Chair in Geological Sciences

Dr. Jim Germida presented this report on behalf of the committee chair. There was a question about the scope of the chair, based on a \$5.5M endowment and what revenue it would generate in comparison with a Canada Research Chair. In response, Dr. Germida commented on the staged nature of the donor's gift.

BONHAM-SMITH/PARKINSON: That Council approve the Murray W. Pyke Chair in Geological Sciences, and recommend to the Board of Governors that the Board authorize the establishment of the Chair, subject to the terms being accepted by the donor.

CARRIED

13. Enrolment Report

Dr. David Hannah, Associate Vice-president for Student Affairs, presented this item for information. Dr. Hannah noted that the report represents a more graphic and web-based approach to presentation of enrolment statistics, and commended Council members to the web site where the information is posted. There was also a copy of the report available at the door. Dr. Hannah committed to presenting another report based on the February Census Day. He drew Council's attention to a new strategic enrolment management plan being undertaken by his division in collaboration with the College of Graduate Studies and Research. The intent of this plan is to establish new long-term targets and goals. He informed members that college-specific and more detailed demographic information is available on the web site of Information Analytics and Strategy (<http://www.usask.ca/isa>)

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and invited Troy Harkot, Director of Information Strategy and Analytics (ISA), to demonstrate the functionality of the web site.

There was a discussion about the need for gaining a better understanding of the factors influencing student retention for particular target groups (including Aboriginal students and international students), and to design university services and programs around the findings, as well as the need to consider how success is defined in terms of retention and time spent in programs. It was noted that this year has seen a disturbing decline in retention of international students, and that this is something new.

The Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research commented on the implications of the tuition model for graduate students, which makes a 3 cu count less meaningful than headcount. He pointed out that the year-over-year increase in the number of graduate students has begun to decline, and that to achieve a 20% increase in the number of graduate students by 2015, the year over year growth will need to be sustained at 8% or higher over the next four years. This will require greater attention to graduate student recruitment, particularly in the Canadian market. He congratulated Mr. Harkot on the significant improvement in the reporting mechanism.

Members of Council and the chair echoed Dr. Martz's praise of the report, and expressed thanks to Registrar Russ Isinger and Mr. Harkot for their work in preparing an excellent presentation of the enrolment data. The chair reminded Council that as recently as 3 or 4 years ago there was concern about whether it would be possible even to keep enrolment flat, and expressed the view that those involved in student recruiting have clearly done a fantastic job. Dr. Hannah reminded Council that not all of the increase in student numbers is due to recruitment: retention is also very important and accounts for perhaps half of the enrolment growth. He reiterated that retaining students is everyone's business. The provost pointed out that the conversation shows that having data directs our attention to areas where it would be useful to dig more deeply, and suggested that there is additional work to do to understand root causes of what we observe in our data.

On Council's behalf, Dr. Hannah expressed thanks to Troy Harkot and Russ Isinger and their teams.

14. Other business

No other business was raised.

15. Question period

No further questions were raised.

16. Adjournment and next meeting

The meeting adjourned at 4:26pm. Council next meets on Thursday, December 15, 2011, at 2:30 p.m.