

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

Chair Jay Kalra introduced himself and welcomed members of Council to the 17th year of the University of Saskatchewan's representative university Council. Observing that the assembly had reached quorum, he called the meeting to order and invited colleagues to present memorial tributes on behalf of deceased colleagues, as follows:

Dr. Peter Stoicheff, Dean of Arts and Science presented memorial tributes for three colleagues:

Professor Emeritus Taylor Steeves was recruited to the Department of Biology at the University of Saskatchewan from Harvard in 1959 and served the department as professor until his retirement in 1994, including two terms as department head. Dr. Steeves passed away September 6, 2011.

Professor Niall McCloskey, Department of Classics, taught in the Department of Classics from 1967 until his retirement in 2006, and passed away July 6, 2011.

Professor Gary Bortolotti, who had been a faculty member in the Department of Biology since 1987, died on July 3, 2011. Dr. Bortolotti began his career at the university as a University Research Fellow, and was the Stuart and Mary Houston Professor of Ornithology and Rawson Professor of Biology. He served as Assistant Head of the department for eight years.

Professor Emeritus Yvonne Brown presented a tribute to Helen Hobbs former professor in the College of Nursing, who passed away April 16, 2011. Professor Hobbs joined the university in 1962 and served as Associate Professor until her retirement in 1986.

Dr. Stewart Houston presented a tribute in honour of Olafur Laxdal from the Department of Community Health and Epidemiology, who died on May 23, 2011. Professor Laxdal joined the university in 1968 and was an Emeritus Fellow of the Canadian Pediatric Society. He retired from the university in 1991.

Professor Bob Besant paid tribute to Professor James Wilson, a former Professor of Mechanical Engineering in the College of Engineering who served in the department from 1964 until his retirement in 1997, and who was responsible for a host of research and development projects with application to farming and industry. Professor Wilson passed away June 3.

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

1. Adoption of the agenda

URQUHART/MARTZ: That the agenda be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

2. Opening remarks

Professor Kalra provided a brief history of the representative university Council, and commented on the importance of collegial self-governance and of participation by members of Council in the governance of the institution. He summarized the business before Council, and reminded new and continuing members of the usual procedures for debate and discussion.

3. Minutes of the meeting of June 16, 2011

PARKINSON/BRENNNA: That the minutes of the meeting of June 16, 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 president supplemented his written report with verbal comments on two matters: a recent meeting with provincial deputy ministers, and enrolment statistics.

With respect to the first of these, the president reported that he had met that morning along with Provost Brett Fairbairn and Peggy Schmeiser, Government Relations Officer, with deputy ministers in the Government of Saskatchewan to discuss the priorities of the university for 2011-12. The meeting, he reported, was a reminder of the many intersections between the interests of the University of Saskatchewan and those of the province, and particularly with the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment, and Immigration. These interests include all matters related to the university's operations forecast as well as mutual interests with the departments of agriculture, health, social services and even highways. He reported that there are regular meetings of members of the administration with individual members and groups of members of these ministries intended to foster a strong and positive relationship.

Further to the numbers reported on student enrolment, the president expressed satisfaction that earlier anxieties about demographics and potential enrolment declines have not been realized. There are two possible reasons for this: in a recession, people come back to further their education; and a vigorous and successful approach has been taken to recruitment and retention through the university's enrolment action plan.

A member rose to congratulate the president and members of the administration for the enrolment successes, then asked the president to comment on the decision not to include the university's cheerleading squad and some of its sports team as members of the Huskies. The president acknowledged that the question about where the university competes through formal CIS teams is an ongoing issue and that it is the responsibility of the Huskie athletic program to address those issues in the context of their overall program. He indicated it would be appropriate to address the concern to Huskie Athletics.

6. Report of the provost

The chair then invited Provost Brett Fairbairn to address Council. Dr. Fairbairn commended members to his written report and added a few verbal comments at the prior request of the chair with respect to priorities for the year ahead.

Referencing the university's planning process, the provost indicated that a number of significant things will happen this year both in completing the commitments of items in the second integrated plan, including

- continued development of signature areas of research including water and natural resources, mining, energy, agriculture and food;
- new efforts in outreach and engagement;
- engagement with aboriginal communities;
- sustainability;
- transparent and activity-based budgeting system;
- deferred maintenance and the Renew-U's program.

Similarly the year ahead holds planning for the four focal areas of the third integrated plan. Within those four areas (knowledge creation and impact; aboriginal engagement; culture and community including issues of accessibility and the student experience and distributed learning; and innovation in academic programs and services), the provost's office, through the Provost's Committee on Integrated Planning and with advice from the Planning and Priorities Committee, will be developing solid plans for implementation.

The provost also drew Council's attention to the information about the development of the operations forecast in his written report. The university's initial thinking was presented earlier this week to officials from the Ministry of AEEI and the Ministry of Finance and there was a positive discussion among government officials, university officials, and representatives of Council. Dr. Fairbairn referenced the volatility of the current economic environment as well as the uncertainty of enrolment forecasting, and the effect these have on development of the university's multi-year projections.

The provost invited Acting Vice-Provost Martin Phillipson to comment on the university's withdrawal from the Access Copyright Agreement. Professor Phillipson described the changes to the operating environment in which the university exists with respect to copyright compliance. He encouraged Council members to take advantage of information sessions that will be offered through Department Heads Forum and the Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching Effectiveness. He noted that there is considerable expertise about copyright matters on campus, and an assessment is being made of the adequacy of existing resources for obtaining copyright clearance. The library is doing excellent work in exploring technological solutions for accessing licenses and coordinating clearance processes. In terms of compliance, the task for university administrators is to educate its students and faculty and units and to develop a response that is robust enough that if there is litigation, it is clear the university has done due diligence with respect to education and compliance. The environment remains uncertain; the law is in a state of flux and the Supreme Court is hearing a number of cases this year related to copyright.

In response to a question about the ability of faculty members teaching in very visual subjects to be in compliance, Professor Phillipson acknowledged that the impact on different disciplines will be different, and advised making use of the university's licensed image databases as well as seeking assistance from the copyright coordinator with assistance in seeking the necessary permissions. He urged instructors to keep copyright clearances in case proof is required.

Another member asked where colleagues could go for advice, and was directed to Jim Greer, Director of the University Learning Centre, who is taking the lead on the education piece. Professor Phillipson indicated that if anyone is likely to be sued over copyright infringement, it will be the university; this is why it is important for the university to do due diligence.

Another member asked about the university's core areas of strength, and specifically what the philosophy of the university is in providing a core education for Saskatchewan students who are here because they want to stay in the province but not necessarily in one of the areas that the university has identified as being a particular area of strength. What is the role of the university in serving students with diverse interests and educating them for citizenship? In responding, the provost referenced the consultative process by which the university arrives at its priorities in academic matters, including identification of signature areas of research—which are defined as those particular areas in which the university is already recognized as standing out from its peers and are therefore critical for our university's competitive position. This does not preclude other disciplines from becoming areas in which the university does distinguished research, nor does it necessarily define the areas in which distinguished teaching and learning are happening. Some of our current priorities for teaching and learning are to identify and respond to what students find relevant and compelling; to identify new and innovative approaches and methods in delivery, and to foster interdisciplinarity. 'Boutique' programs may have a place, but all of our programs need that sort of innovation. Dr. Fairbairn added that the university should be building on what AUCC has done at the national level and what we know from provincial studies about the value of a university degree.

7. Student societies reports

7.1 Report from the USSU

Scott Hitchings and Kelsey Topola, president and academic vice-president of the USSU, presented the report on behalf of the students. They referenced the success of this year's welcome week, including great weather; and the recently completed review by the executive of their bylaws and policies, including renewal of the vision and value statements. Upcoming events include Academic Integrity Awareness week and nominations for teaching excellence awards.

7.2 Report from the Graduate Students' Association

Xue Yao and Ehimai Ohiozebau president and vice-president operations of the GSA, presented a verbal report. One of their current priorities is to provide consulting opportunities for graduate students to help them be well prepared for their study and for employment following graduation; they would like to explore such opportunities with all units across campus. Another priority is to provide and build a cohesive graduate student

community. They are also working on their bursary program in collaboration with CGSR; they have received over 60 applications and are looking for other sources of funding. The graduate student orientation was held September 8: For the first time it was held in front of the graduate student commons and the turnout was great. The executive expressed thanks to Peter MacKinnon and Lawrence Martz for attending; they also thanked the colleges, schools, and departments who provided financial assistance for the event. Future and ongoing plans include recruiting more course counselors to represent students; continuing governance improvements, actively involving postgraduate fellows and addressing academic issues, such as academic integrity.

8. Nominations Committee

Dr. Dwayne Brenna presented this report as committee chair. In each case the chair called three times for nominations from the floor prior to calling for the vote. There were no additional nominations.

8.1 Request for decision: Review Committees for the Provost and Vice-president Academic and the Dean of Nursing

BRENNNA/KROL: That Council approve the following nominations to the review committee for the Provost and Vice-president Academic:

Four members of the General Academic Assembly:

Richard Schwier, Curriculum Studies

Susan Whiting, Pharmacy and Nutrition

Alex Moewes, Physics and Engineering Physics

Gerald Langner, Music

One member of Council who holds a senior administrative position in the University:

Trever Crowe, associate dean of graduate studies and research

CARRIED

BRENNNA/KROL: That Council approve the following nomination to the review committee for the dean of nursing:

One member of the General Academic Assembly who holds a senior administrative position in the University:

Harley Dickinson, Vice-dean, College of Arts and Science.

CARRIED

8.2 Request for decision: Appointment for Vacancy on Council

BRENNNA/KROL: That Council approve the appointment of Monique Mayer, Small Animal Clinical Sciences as a member at large for university Council for 2011-12.

CARRIED

8.3 Request for Decision: Appointment of member to the Policy Oversight Committee

BRENNA/KROL: That Council approve the appointment of Chary Rangacharyulu, Physics and Engineering Physics, as the Council representative on the policy oversight Committee for a three-year term, until 2014.

CARRIED

A member of Council pointed out that the listing provided as an appendix to the report of the nominations committee incorrectly lists Doug Hills, rather than David Hill, as the dean of pharmacy and nutrition on the search committee for president.

9. Planning and priorities committee

Dr. Bob Tyler presented this report as committee chair. He began by seeking and obtaining the leave of Council to postpone items 9.1 and 9.2, which are items for information, to the next meeting.

9.1 Item for information: Capital Planning and Update on Major Capital Projects

It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

9.2 Item for information: College quarter North East Precinct

It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

9.3 Item for decision: Proposal to establish the Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation as a Type C Centre

In introducing this item, Professor Tyler explained the committee's rationale for bringing this centre forward as a Type C centre, and also described the consultation process that has taken place prior to bringing the item forward for approval.

Dr. Tyler pointed out the differences between this Centre and some of the other academic centres that have been before Council. He then introduced Dr. John Root, Interim Director of the Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation and a leading expert on nuclear research.

Dr. Root introduced himself and described the nature of the proposal. He acknowledged that the new initiative is the work of many people over many years; since June of this year he has worked with Tom Porter and Ian Swainson with support from Vice-presidents Chad and Florizone and has had dialogue with a number of committees that have shaped the nature of the proposal. Dr. Root's slides are appended to these minutes as [Appendix B](#).

The chair opened the floor to questions.

A member of Council spoke in support of the proposal as a member of the planning and priorities committee of Council and also in his capacity of Vice-dean of Humanities and Fine Arts. He spoke of the possibility for people working in the humanities and fine arts to

be key leaders in the centre, and emphasized the need for a fuller debate and dialogue with principled support for this kind of inclusion.

Another member of Council spoke of the possibilities for the advisory community to have a broader role than that presented in the document, and advocated for that committee as having the function of ‘bridging the divide’ as part of the annual dialogue.

Several non-members of Council, including a member of the University’s Senate, spoke against the proposal, citing the dangers connected with having a reactor on campus particularly in the wake of Fukushima, suspicion about growing connections on the part of the university with corporate interests, opposition to nuclear power, concern about nuclear waste, a perceived inappropriateness in having a funding agency reporting to the Board of Governors, and potential conflict of interest on the part of the chair of the Board.

The president urged members of Council to reflect carefully on what is being asked of them, noting that if these voices had carried the day in the 1950s, Sylvia Fedoruk would not have been allowed to do the kind of research she did, research that led to advances in radiation therapy and cancer treatment. What Council is being invited to conclude is that no further enquiry is needed—that in the academy of all places we ought not to pursue nuclear research or its applications.

A member of Council, who indicated that she herself is a recipient of diagnosis and treatment that relies on medical nuclear technology, asserted that nuclear energy is here to stay and that the university has an obligation to become a centre of research that can solve particular problems such as what to do with nuclear waste and to investigate the benefits that nuclear energy can give us.

Another member rose to critique the governance model of the proposed centre, wondering why the university would invest \$30M but only have two members on a board of eight. She expressed concern that this would limit the possibility for the university to have meaningful input. She was also critical of the proposed role of the executive director, who would apparently not have a faculty appointment but who would have authority to sign MOU’s that should be vested in the office of the University Secretary. She also expressed an objection to the lack of any guarantee that U of S researchers would be funded from the centre. Finally, she expressed concern over the apparent mandate from the government that expects the centre to educate the public on the benefits of nuclear energy but not on the risks. She then put forward a procedural motion for consideration by Council.

CARD/HAMILTON: To refer the matter back to the planning and priorities committee for further work on governance, and to require a written vote on this matter.

This motion was ruled out of order because these are two separate procedural motions, and because a procedural motion can only be moved on a substantive motion, not on another procedural motion. The mover and seconder were then invited to put forward just the motion to refer.

The chair indicated that, the procedural motion being before Council, debate would be permitted only on the motion to refer and not on the substantive motion before Council.

Several members of Council spoke to the motion, both in favour and in opposition to referral.

CARD/HAMILTON: To refer the matter back to the planning and priorities committee for further work on governance.

DEFEATED

The chair then invited further discussion on the main motion. Following debate and concluding comments from the chair of the planning and priorities committee, the motion was put to a vote.

TYLER/JAECK: That Council approve the establishment of the Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation as a Type C Centre at the University of Saskatchewan, and recommend the approval of the Centre to the Board of Governors.

CARRIED

10. Other business

No other business was raised.

11. Question period

There were no questions.

12. Adjournment and next meeting

KELLS/URQUHART: To adjourn the meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 5:24p.m. Council next meets on Thursday, October 20, 2011, at 2:30 p.m.