

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

The chair called the meeting to order, observing that quorum had been attained.

Dr. Benjamin Rosser, Head of the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology delivered a tribute to Dr. Sergey Fedoroff. Dr. Fedoroff passed away on March 19<sup>th</sup> at the age of 87. He was hired at the University on July 1, 1958 and retired on June 30, 1992.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Chair noted that item 9.2 Establishment of the Global Food Security Institute as a Type B centre was deferred at the request of the executive sponsor for the institute.

ANAND/BRENNNA: That the agenda be adopted as circulated with this change.

CARRIED

2. Opening remarks

Dr. Kalra welcomed members and guests to Council and provided a brief overview of the business on the agenda of the meeting. He indicated that the concept paper for the College of Medicine had been inadvertently included in the Council agenda package, and that the Provost would address the concept paper in his remarks.

3. Item for Information: Council Election Results

The acting secretary referred members to the Council election results included in the agenda package.

4. Minutes of the meetings of March 15, 2012

RENNY/URQUHART: The minutes of the meeting of March 15, 2012 were approved as circulated, with the correction to the reference of the lifespan of the Vision 2057 plan in item 8.2 as being 50 years.

CARRIED

5. Business arising from the minutes

No business was identified as arising from the minutes.

## 6. Report of the president

President Mackinnon expressed regrets at missing a number of Council meetings this year, as a result of increased travel commitments associated with recognizing the end of his term as president. He then invited questions on his written report and on any other matters.

A member asked for a final report of the budget reductions undertaken from 2009-2011, including those expenditures that grew during this period of fiscal constraint. On the president's behalf, the provost reported that the \$10 million in budget measures included differentiated targets based on strategic priority and capacity and offered to provide the report prepared a year ago on the final budget adjustments. He noted that pressures on the university's operating budget at that time included uncertainties regarding the investment market affecting returns on trusts and endowments, the unpredictability of pension payments, the possibility of declining enrolments, and uncertainty regarding the provincial grant.

The same member then asked for an update on the parking lot improvements. He noted that to date no visible change had occurred and spoke of the intention for improvements to be funded from the revenue from increased parking rates. Mr. Greg Fowler, acting vice-president of finance and resources reported that the report of the consultant retained to assess the university's parking lots had been received. A related proposal is being finalized with Facilities Management Division and will be submitted to PCIP at the end of the month. The first step is to pave several of the roads leading to university parking lots over the coming summer months.

A member spoke with cautious optimism of the recent federal budget and the possibilities it presents for partnerships for innovation funding but expressed concern that under these programs, discovery-based research would be ineligible for funding. He expressed the view that increased funding in this area has not led to dramatic innovations and wondered if this was the sentiment held by university presidents across the country. President MacKinnon indicated that overall the response to the federal budget has been favourable and that to some degree, these comments arise from dampened expectations in the months leading up to the budget. He emphasized the importance of basic research and committed to continuing to work to give voice to the importance of foundational research, as the bedrock of discovery and innovation.

## 7. Report of the provost

The provost referred members to his written report, highlighting that the final consultation session for phase 2 of the TABBS project was complete, placing the university at year four of an eight-year timeline for full implementation of the model. This point in time signifies an important transition point whereby the critical design features of the model are assembled and the model will now become functional. A town hall meeting will be held in June to present the TABBS model to the university community.

He then announced the appointment of Dr. Toddi Steelman as the new Executive Director of the School of Environment and Sustainability (SENS) and highlighted Dr. Steelman's many accomplishments.

The provost then provided a brief update on the College of Medicine concept paper, signaling that the paper was first presented to the faculty, staff and students in the college last week, and that a series of open meetings were planned in the weeks ahead. The concept paper proposes a new academic model for the clinical areas in the college and is submitted in response to issues surrounding accreditation of the college's undergraduate medical education program, research productivity and service outcomes within the health regions. Given the nature of the issues outlined in the concept paper, there is some urgency related to the timeframe within which to begin to implement a solution. Council's approval of the new model of clinical instruction and structural changes in the college will be sought at its May meeting. Feedback is being sought widely during the present consultation period, including from the health regions and the Ministry of Health. Throughout, he emphasized that the changes proposed have been initiated while being mindful of students in the program to ensure their educational outcomes remain a top priority.

The provost then spoke of the recent tuition fee increases announced earlier in the week amounting to a 4.4% increase within three categories. He referred to the MOU signed with the province on tuition rates as an important step toward setting forth the principles by which the university sets tuition and categories of tuition: namely, comparability, access and affordability and enabling quality. He then referred to the gap identified in the university's operating budget and key pressures in the university's multi-year budget framework. These comprise the national decline in post-secondary funding; the discrepancy between the growth in operating revenue and expenses, notably salaries and benefits; projected pension payments; and the costs associated with deferred maintenance and capital operating costs.

Significantly, a gap has been created due to the 2.1% increase in the provincial grant received for 2012/13 relative to the 5.8% increase requested. Dr. Fairbairn outlined that approximately a \$10 – 12 million budgetary shortfall is forecast for 2012/13 reaching a \$40 million deficit by the end of 2015/16 if no action is taken. Indications are that the provincial government has embarked upon a period of restrained growth in public expenditures, and therefore a multi-year strategy is proposed which will include short- and longer-term adjustments. Throughout, the priorities of the university's integrated plan will continue to be emphasized. He committed to regular communications and encouraged Council members to visit [www.usask.ca/finances](http://www.usask.ca/finances) for current information and to access the materials from the most recent financial town hall meeting.

A member voiced concern regarding the recent announcement by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) regarding an agreement with Access Copyright and a new recommendation for a model license with universities. The provost indicated that several prominent universities have concluded agreements with Access Copyright based on this model, and it appears the majority of Canadian universities will follow suit. The university has been offered an option to extend its license with Access Copyright as of May 1<sup>st</sup> at a cost of \$26.00 per full-time student, with significant retroactive discounts. Martin Phillipson, acting vice-Provost faculty relations indicated there is no feasible alternative other than to accept the licensing arrangement, as its rejection would expose the university to intense scrutiny from Access Copyright for copyright infringement. He noted the irony in having Access Copyright's extensive

lobbying against copyright reform funded from the contributions of universities through licensing agreements.

A member questioned the investments already made to ensure copyright compliance during the period of time the university terminated its agreement, given the university will now renew its agreement with Access Copyright. Mr. Phillipson emphasized the importance of continuing to make these investments in anticipation of future steep increases associated with licensure renewal. Such increases may necessitate that the university declines to renew its agreement in the future.

A member inquired of the 16.6% increase in tuition for students registered in the College of Law and asked whether the tuition increase would be phased in. Dean Anand explained that even with this increase, the tuition in the college is the lowest of all law schools in the country. The increase is necessary to ensure the college meets the competencies mandated by the Federation of Law Societies. A percentage of the revenue from the tuition increase is directed toward student bursaries.

A member expressed concern that the College of Medicine Faculty Council had not discussed the concept paper and questioned that a unique process for consideration appears to have been initiated that bypasses the processes Council is accustomed to. In response, the provost indicated that it was inappropriate to ask for approval of a motion with such widespread consequences within the college. He indicated the restructuring would cause a reconfiguration of the positions within the college. The concept paper does not address the specifics of what these might be. The university is committed, however, to the processes outlined in the respective collective agreements for those individuals who may be affected by the transition.

## 8. Student societies reports

### 8.1 Report from the USSU

The report was presented by Scott Hitchings, USSU President, and Kelsey Topola, Academic Vice-President. Ms. Topola expressed her pleasure at working with members of university administration and Council during her term as academic vice-president. Mr. Hitchings also expressed his gratitude to the university during his three years as a member of the USSU Executive. He recalled that the two most significant accomplishments during his term as USSU President were the changes within the USSU Bylaws that clarified representation within the University Students' Council and its electoral procedures. As a result, the electoral response this year was double that of last year and one of the highest turnouts in the USSU's history.

### 8.2 Report from the Graduate Students' Association

Ms. Xue Yao, President of the GSA, presented the report. Ms. Yao indicated that this also was her last meeting and thanked all members for their attention to graduate students and graduate education at the university. She indicated the GSA is focusing on transition with a newly elected executive and turning its attention to the next academic year and projects

related to increased bursaries for graduate students, increased health and dental coverage, and an enhanced orientation and graduate student conference.

9. Planning and Priorities committee

Dr. Bob Tyler presented the report as committee chair.

9.1 Request for decision: Establishment of the School of Professional Development

Dr. Tyler indicated that the school will serve as a base for delivery of novel academic programming and outreach to support the needs of engineering students and graduates in the areas of professional communication, entrepreneurship, project management, risk management and leadership. The proposed name of the school is in keeping with the definition of a professional school, i.e. one that is focused on the delivery of a professional program housed within a college with the head of the school, reporting to the dean of the college. In this instance, the school oversees two program options in the college and offers a number of undergraduate courses, and there are plans to develop a professional-based graduate program. He indicated the process of consultation is well described in the proposal and the college has provided assurance of the capacity to meet the associated budgetary requirements. The motion was introduced:

TYLER/RENNY: That Council approve the establishment of the School of Professional Development and authorize the Board of Governors to provide for the establishment of the School, and

That Council's Bylaws be amended to reflect the establishment of the School.

Discussion focused upon the name for the school. Dean Barber indicated the school would not be branded as distinct from the college and would always be presented as a unit within the College of Engineering. However, concerns remained that the school might be perceived as being responsible for professional development activities broadly throughout the university, due to the lack of any reference to the College of Engineering in its name. The potential also exists for the school to be confused with the Professional Development and Community Education (PDCE) program area within the Centre for Continuing and Distance Education (CCDE).

Dr. Cram, executive director for the CCDE expressed concern regarding the lack of consultation with the CCDE, given the potential overlap with the CCDE's non-credit programming in communications and leadership. Notwithstanding, he conveyed confidence at being able to work out a collaborative arrangement with the school.

Dr. Tyler suggested that Council consider the establishment of the school as distinct from the name of the school, with the intent that a recommendation would be submitted to Council for a name that would more closely associate the school with the College of Engineering.

An amendment to the motion was proposed:

TARAS/HAMILTON: That Council approve the establishment of a school of professional development in the College of Engineering and authorize the Board of Governors to provide for the establishment of such a school, and

That Council's Bylaws be amended to reflect the establishment of the school.

The amended motion was CARRIED.

- 9.2 Request for decision: Establishment of the Global Food Security Institute as a Type B Centre

Dr. Tyler indicated this item was deferred.

- 9.3 Request for decision: Dissolution of the Department of Women's and Gender Studies

Dr. Tyler indicated that the formal dissolution of the Department of Women's and Gender Studies would complete the process initiated two years ago to move the undergraduate program in Women's and Gender Studies to the Interdisciplinary Centre for Culture and Creativity and to relocate the department's faculty members to other departments in the Division of Humanities and Fine Arts. As the Department has been empty since July, 2011, its formal dissolution will bring closure to the matter.

TYLER/RENNY: That Council approve the dissolution of the Department of Women's and Gender Studies, and authorize the Board of Governors to provide for the disestablishment of the Department, and

That Council's Bylaws be amended to reflect the dissolution of the Department.

CARRIED

- 9.4 Report for information: Reflections on the Integrated Planning Process

Dr. Tyler indicated that the report consists of a memo to the Institutional Planning and Assessment Office containing the committee's observations, reflections, comments and recommendations based on its experiences associated with the development of the Third Integrated Plan. A member recalled that previous questions had been raised at Council regarding the demographics on campus associated with its faculty and staff complements. He suggested that the planning and priorities committee review the change in the faculty and staff complements over time, indicating such a review was relevant to institutional-wide planning. On behalf of the committee, Dr. Tyler committed to undertaking such a review and reporting back to Council.

## 10. Academic Programs Committee

Dr. Len Proctor presented the report as committee chair.

10.1 Request for Decision: Agriculture and Bioresources- BSc in Animal Bioscience

PROCTOR/SCHWEIR: That Council approve the proposal from the College of Agriculture and Bioresources to create a new Bachelor of Science in Animal Bioscience [B.Sc. (An.Biosc.)] degree program in the field of study of Domestic Animal Biology.

CARRIED

11. Scholarships and Awards Committee

Dr. Gordon DesBrisay presented the report as committee chair.

11.1 Request for Input: Revision of the Undergraduate Awards policies

Dr. DesBrisay spoke of the intent to make available information on the university's undergraduate awards available in a clearer, consistent and more condensed format for greater accessibility. In response to a question of how the new policies would affect awards funded by donors external to the university, Dr. DesBrisay responded that if specific terms of reference exist, for example for awards funded by donor contributions, that these terms would supersede the awards policies.

12. Governance Committee

Dr. Gordon Zello presented the notices of motion as chair of the committee.

12.1 Notice of Motion: ZELLO/KROL: Changes to Part Three of Council Bylaws and Regulations – Part 3, Section VI-VIII

Dr. Zello referred members to the side-by-side version of the Bylaws changes presented. These changes bring these sections up to date in content and language.

12.2 Notice of Motion: ZELLO/KROL: Change to Council Bylaws and Regulations – Part B, Section V, Membership of the Open Studies Faculty Council

Dr. Zello indicated the proposed changes update the membership of the Open Studies Faculty Council.

13. Item for Information: Enrolment Report

Mr. Russell Isinger, Registrar presented the report on behalf of David Hannah, associate vice-president, student affairs.

There were several suggestions for greater definition in the report as follows:

- that graduate student enrolment be indicated as research based (thesis and project) versus non-thesis (course-based);

- that attention be drawn to the fact that the number of Aboriginal students is likely greater than that reported, as some Aboriginal students elect not to self-identify.

A member asked about the availability of statistics on women, visible minorities and students with disabilities; Mr. Isinger indicated these statistics are housed on the Information Strategy and Analytics Office website.

14. Other Business

No other business was identified.

15. Question Period

No additional questions were submitted.

16. Adjournment and next meeting

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m. Next meeting is at 2:30 p.m. on May 17, 2012.