

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.

The Reverend Dr. Ron Griffin presented a tribute to the Reverend Thomas James Hanrahan C.S.B, chaplain and past president of St. Thomas More College, who passed away February 8, 2012. Father Hanrahan joined the university in 1982 and retired in 1990.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The chair indicated that at the request of the Planning and Priorities Committee, he would seek Council's permission to reorder item 8 so that consideration of item 8.1 follows 8.2.

PROCTOR/JAECK: That the agenda be adopted as reordered.

CARRIED

2. Opening remarks

The chair welcomed members to Council and reminded members that Council elections are in progress. He asked the secretary to read the names of the 17 members who have been elected by acclamation following the February 3 deadline, and encouraged members to ask their colleagues to run for one of the remaining seven seats.

The chair then provided a brief overview of the business on the agenda of today's meeting.

3. Minutes of the meeting of January 26, 2012

TAYLOR GJEVRE/SEMCHUK: That the minutes of the meeting of January 26, 2012, 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

In the president's absence, the chair invited the provost to speak to his report. Dr. Fairbairn commended Council members to the president's written report; there were no questions.

6. Report of the provost

The provost pointed out that his academic address on the topic of what difference a university makes took place a week ago and that it is accessible online in both video form and in written form. He provided an update on current searches and reviews, noting that several of the searches and reviews in progress are in an extremely active phase and that he looked forward to their successful conclusion.

A member asked for an update on the progress of the College of Engineering decanal search; the provost indicated that there is no news to report and that the search committee expects to convene again before summer to re-launch its search, with the intent to conclude its work during the 2012-13 academic year.

7. Student societies reports

7.1 Report from the USSU

The report was presented by Kelsey Topola, Academic Vice-president. She conveyed regrets from USSU president Scott Hitchings who was unable to be at this meeting of Council. Ms. Topola reported on a number of items:

- all bylaw amendments put forward by the USSU passed at the Annual General Meeting.
- nominations for all USSU executive and student council position are open and will remain open until March 9; campaigning begins March 19 and voting will take place at the end of March.
- 'We are all Treaty People' week takes place the last week of February.
- The nomination process for teaching excellence awards has wrapped up: over 70 professors and over 3500 students have been surveyed.

The chair invited Council members to join him in thanking the USSU for their written report and Ms. Topola for her remarks.

7.2 Report from the Graduate Students' Association

The report was presented by Xue Yao, President of the GSA, who reported as follows:

- the university's childcare expansion project is an important one for graduate students.
- the GSA's interdisciplinary conference 'Speak up for Change' is an opportunity for students to present their research in any area of work at the U of S. The conference will be held March 7; this is the GSA's biggest event of the year.
- there is a career development workshop happening Feb 17 and more than 100 students are registered; the numbers are increasing every year, and the goal is to try to provide more opportunities and services in various fields.

- The GSA is working with CGSR to establish a bursary for graduate students in the spring term. Some graduate students are facing financial problems and need support; the hope is to solicit more donations in support of this initiative.
- elections for GSA executive will be held in March; Council members are urged to help the GSA build awareness of the upcoming opportunities to run for the executive.

The chair asked Ms. Yao to convey to the GSA Council's thanks and also that it is Council's preference to receive a written report so that it can be included with the agenda materials.

8. Planning and Priorities committee

Dr. Bob Tyler presented this report as committee chair; in accordance with the reordering of the agenda, item 8.1 was considered after item 8.2.

8.1 Request for input: Third Integrated Plan: 2012/13-2015/16

Dr. Tyler indicated that there is one more day to provide comments to the Assistant Provost as input to the draft plan; all input will be reviewed and taken into account by the committee in time to be distributed for approval at the March 1 meeting. Dr. Tyler then invited the provost to come forward to present the consultation draft of the plan.

The provost took Council members through the recent history of the development of the plan, reminding members that it was exactly four months ago that the unit plans were due. Since then these have all been reviewed by the Unit Plans Review Committee (UPRC), and a draft version of the third integrated plan was created. The version before Council today, he pointed out, is the same one that came out in mid January. Since then there has been a town hall, and conversations at deans' council, various committees of Council, meetings of department heads, associate deans academic, and commitment leaders; there have also been consultations with Regional Advisory Councils in several cities around the province, with the USSU and GSA executive, and in different colleges, schools and units, as well as feedback received by email and from the web site. Both the president and the future president have provided comments, as well as members of the Board of Governors, Senate, the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration, Saskatoon Health Region, and the City of Saskatoon. The provost reported that the most important thing to say is that the feedback has been uniformly supportive and constructive, and that the themes identified in the first draft have clearly resonated. Comments reflect a view that the plan is honest, clear, principled and pragmatic. People have been particularly attracted to the Aboriginal engagement theme and the links between innovation and simplification. The culture and community area is one people liked though they asked for more focus in that section. Comments also suggested that the final draft could be shorter and simpler, and that fewer commitments would be better. In short, advice pointed to sharpening and focusing rather than adding on and embellishing. The provost committed to Council seeing a revised draft a few days in advance of March 1—likely on Feb 28.

8.2 Request for Decision: University Plans Review Committee (UPRC) Reports on the College, School and Administrative Unit Plans 2012/13 – 2015/16

Dr. Tyler began by explaining the reasons for the University Plans Review Committee's review of the unit plans. He referred members to the summary of overarching and common themes and messages contained in the committee's report. On behalf of the committee he expressed thanks to the unit leaders who met with the committee and responded to questions. He also indicated that his committee will be doing a review of the planning process with a view to continuing to improve the planning process. In closing he expressed thanks to members of the committee and in particular to Sandra Calver for her tremendous support of the UPRC.

TYLER/JAECK: That Council accept the Unit Review Plans Review Committee reports on the College, School and Administrative Unit Plans for the 2012/13 – 2015/16 planning cycle, as submitted February 16, 2012.

CARRIED

A member of Council expressed thanks on behalf of Council to Dr. Tyler and his committee for their excellent hard work. Another member commented that some units might benefit from learning from others that did a particularly good job on various facets of their unit plans. Vice-president Florizone confirmed that opportunities for such feedback occur both formally and informally through PCIP and the planning parameters discussions, as well as the annual reports on progress against the plan. The provost also mentioned the symposium being planned in the next cycle on ways of achieving institutional goals in the area of Aboriginal engagement; he also sees this happening through positions such as the Vice-provost teaching and learning.

9. Bylaws committee

The report was presented by Dr. Gordon Zello, chair of the committee. Professor Zello began by asking to correct an omission at the January Council meeting where Council approved procedures and policies relating to student appeals and discipline; he neglected to thank all those involved in the two-year process leading up to the acceptance of these revisions, including the university secretary and the acting university secretary.

9.1 Notice of Motion Change to Council Bylaws re Membership of the Engineering Faculty Council

That Council approve the changes indicated to the membership of the Engineering Faculty Council (ZELLO/DOBSON).

9.2 Notice of Motion Change to Council Bylaws re Membership and Terms of Reference of the Teaching and Learning Committee

That Council approve the changes indicated to the membership and terms of reference of the Teaching and Learning Committee (ZELLO/DOBSON).

DRAFT until approved at the next meeting

9.3 Notice of Motion Change to Council Bylaws re Name Change for the Bylaws Committee of Council

That Council approve a change of name for the Bylaws Committee of Council, to the Governance Committee of Council, as well as consequent changes to the Bylaws of Council (ZELLO/DOBSON).

10. Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee/ International Activities Committee

10.1 Report for Information: Report on Principles and Strategies in Support of Internationalization

This report was presented by Professor Stephen Urquhart, chair of the committee on Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work, and Professor Hans Michelmann, chair of the International Activities Committee. It was noted that the report focuses on an area of common concern between the two committees. Professors Urquhart and Michelmann indicated that they were somewhat disappointed by the lack of focus on internationalization in the integrated plan and will be forwarding some suggestions concerning the importance of such initiatives as study abroad programs. Dr. Michelmann drew Council's attention to a recent report in the *Globe and Mail* about the lack of international experience for Canadian students.

Professor Urquhart corrected a reference to the world map of international research, indicating that an expanded version was now available [see: <http://webgis.usask.ca/intl1.0/>]

The following comments were made in response to the document:

- with respect to the first principle, it is preferable to have internationalization endeavours assessed qualitatively rather than quantitatively, and that the criteria for putting grants forward be more clearly stated.
- there is some discrepancy between the countries currently identified as areas of strength and those identified by previous International Activities Committee reports.
- support for internationalization at the individual and unit level is important because many initiatives are faculty-driven and there should be financial incentives for faculty to develop MOU's or study abroad programs.

The provost thanked both committees for their comments, noting that these draft principles have more weight because two committees are promoting them. He encouraged both committees to become involved in the upcoming Strategic Enrolment Management initiatives because these need to address issues related to incoming international students as well as outgoing students. He noted that the consultants who looked at what we have in place for international students were impressed and wondered why we were not doing more to promote our institution to international students. There is an opportunity here to offer an attractive experience to international students.

The dean of agriculture and bioresources added her voice to the comments about designated countries of focus; she also urged more work on the principles, particularly the first one, which is not really clear in its intent. She wondered whether the principle is really a ‘bifocal’ one: that the university will from time to time designate areas of focus but will also support serendipitous relationships based on individual academic freedom and opportunities.

11. Other Business

No other business was raised by Council members.

12. Question Period

In response to a question about the status of a Confucius Institute at the university, Professor Tyler reported that this initiative, which results from an agreement with the Beijing Institute of Technology, has been reviewed by the Centres Subcommittee and the Planning and Priorities Committee and requires review by PCIP prior to Council consideration. The institute is likely to be focused at least initially on non-credit programming in Chinese language instruction and activities and will probably be structured as a centre, subject to confirmation from PCIP that the necessary funding is committed.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m. Next meetings are as follows:

- 2:30 p.m., Thursday, March 1 (to approve the Third Integrated Plan)
- 2:30 p.m., Thursday, March 15 (regular meeting of Council)