

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.

1. Adoption of the agenda

BRENNA/RENNY: That the agenda be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

2. Opening remarks

The chair expressed a warm welcome to guests and summarized the business to be conducted at today's meeting, including presentation of an initial draft of the university's third integrated plan. He reminded Council members of the upcoming Council elections and urged members to encourage their colleagues to allow their names to stand for election to Council and its committees.

3. Minutes of the meeting of December 15,2011

PROCTOR/BRENNA: That the minutes of the meeting of December 15, 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 invited Provost Brett Fairbairn to present the president's report. Dr. Fairbairn conveyed regrets from President MacKinnon, who is away on university business. He commended members to the written report, highlighting the announcement of Dr. Keith Carlson as Special Advisor, Outreach and Engagement as well as the establishment of the new Community Outreach Office, along with the First Nations and Aboriginal Engagement Office led by Candace Wasacase-Lafferty.

6. Report of the provost

The provost then moved to his own report, highlighting the updates on planning activities, the accessibility and affordability report, the strategic enrolment management project, and the transparent activity-based budget system (TABBS) project.

Dr. Fairbairn then invited questions from members of Council. There were no questions, but Vice-president Richard Florizone pointed out that on p. 12 of the report, the statement

that E Wing of the Academic Health Sciences Project Update will be on schedule for spring 2012 occupancy should read “for spring 2013 occupancy.”

7. Student societies reports

7.1 Report from the USSU

The chair called the attention of members to the written report of the USSU which was circulated at the door.

7.2 Report from the Graduate Students' Association

The report was presented by Ehimai Ohiozebau, Vice-president Operations of the GSA, who asked Council members to pay particular attention to the request sent out to colleges, schools and departments for funding of the graduate students' interdisciplinary conference which will take place in March.

The chair thanked Mr. Ohiozebau for his report and expressed appreciation to the GSA executive for having submitted a written report for inclusion in the agenda materials.

8. Planning and Priorities committee

Dr. Bob Tyler presented this report as committee chair.

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

Dr. Tyler referred members to the chronology laid out in the agenda materials and commented on the process of consultation that has taken place in the development of this draft of the plan, which is presented for discussion and input. Responses from unit leaders to the report on their plans were invited by February 4 in order to be included in the agenda package. He reminded Council members of the special meeting of Council for approval of the plan that will take place on March 1, and invited the provost to come forward and speak about the draft.

The provost noted that this meeting is part of a cross-campus consultation and discussion period which began with a town hall earlier in the week and will take place throughout the next month. A video of the town hall is available on the web site at www.usask.ca/plan. Dr. Fairbairn emphasized the reliance of the plan on the university's founding mission as articulated by its first president and on the 2002 Strategic Directions outlined by President MacKinnon. He defined what the university means by integrated planning, and spoke of the context in which planning is taking place in 2012. A copy of the presentation is attached as an appendix to these minutes.

There were questions and comments from Council members about the following:

- the role of development and advancement with respect to meeting the operating needs of the university;
- the vital importance to the goal of research intensiveness of supporting graduate students, given that our support for graduate students is among the

lowest for Canadian universities, and the need to emphasize this to the province;

- the possibilities for improving our scores on surveys of student satisfaction such as NSSE;
- the need to re-balance the plan to bring the fine arts back into the plan as a strategic focal area, including some mention of the Clarion project as one that links to all of the strategic goals;
- the importance of acknowledging that the platinum standard for evaluation of research impact and significance is peer review rather than relatively subjective measures;
- the need to acknowledge the signature areas as a means to an end and a tool rather than a goal in themselves;
- the need for specific initiatives to promote PhD enrolment;
- aligning all of our resources to directly support our goals, including ensuring all activities are respectful and supportive of researchers' time and contribute to their core job of teaching and research; this means avoiding administrative download and continuing process enhancement;
- a perceived gap in the plan with respect to internationalization and the importance of broadening our community into the global world;
- the need to keep Council informed through the draft plan and other means about the status and thinking behind the various institutes (e.g. Water, Nuclear institutes). In this regard, the provost suggested that Council may wish to request periodic updates from the Vice-president Research.
- the appropriateness of engaging with the K-12 system with respect to enhancing Aboriginal education, and a hope that this partnership could be broadened to include other initiatives related to the goals of the plan;
- the need to increase the number of Aboriginal faculty and graduate students;
- whether there is a strategy in place to make our applicants for research grants more competitive in the light of budget cuts for the tri-council agencies, e.g. through mentoring and advising, and encouraging more collaborative grant applications;

With respect to Aboriginal engagement, a member noted that next year the Native American Indigenous Studies Association will meet in our campus; this will be the association's first meeting outside the U.S. and will bring over 900 Aboriginal scholars to our campus next summer.

Several Council members expressed thanks to both the planning and priorities committee and the Integrated Planning Office for the tremendous amount of work they have done to draw this plan together. The chair thanked the provost for his presentation and Dr. Tyler and members of Council for their engagement.

9. Bylaws committee

Dr. Gordon Zello presented this report as committee chair.

9.1 Request for decision: Policy on Student Discipline and Policy on Student Appeals of Evaluation, Grading and Academic Standing

Professor Tyler introduced this policy revision by reminding Council members that these changes had been brought to Council in November for input. He described the reasons for the change and the consultations that have taken place.

ZELLO/TYLER: That Council approve the replacement of the current *Policy on Student Discipline and Appeals* with two separate policies: a *Policy on Student Discipline* and a *Policy on Appeals of Evaluation, Grading and Academic Standing* effective May 9, 2012

CARRIED

9.2 Request for decision: Revisions to Student Appeals in Academic Matters

Professor Zello noted that these procedures are linked to the just-approved appeal policy and reminded Council members that these changes replace the old procedures and the Forms A, B and C associated with those procedures.

ZELLO/TYLER: That Council approve the revisions to *Student Appeals in Academic Matters*, to take effect for appeals of all decisions rendered on or after May 9, 2012.

CARRIED

There was a question about how a department head would get information about the informal consultation that had taken place with the instructor and it was pointed out that the Request for and Report of Re-assessment includes a section for the student to provide information about the informal consultation; with that information a department head could then consult further with the instructor.

10. Academic Programs Committee

Dr. Len Proctor presented this report as committee chair.

10.1 Request for decision: CGSR: Revised admission qualifications for Master of Business Administration

PROCTOR/TYLER: That Council approve a revision to the College of Graduate Studies and Research admission requirements for the Master of Business Administration program, effective September 2012.

CARRIED

10.2 Request for decision: Engineering: Revisions to Engineering programs in Electrical Engineering, Computer Engineering, and Engineering Physics

PROCTOR/TYLER: That Council approve the replacement programs for Bachelor of Science in Engineering in Electrical Engineering, Bachelor of Science in Engineering in Computer Engineering and Bachelor of Science in Engineering in Engineering Physics, effective September 2012.

CARRIED

10.3 Request for decision: Arts & Science: Increased language requirement for Humanities majors

PROCTOR/TYLER: That Council approve the increased language requirement for Humanities majors in Bachelor of Arts Three-year, Four-year and Honours programs effective July 1, 2012.

CARRIED

There was a question about what languages are available for students to study at the University of Saskatchewan. Another member sought clarification about the necessity for students to have taken prerequisite courses in high school or elsewhere. Vice-dean David Parkinson responded by describing the language options available through the Department of Language and Linguistics, the Department of Language and Culture, the Department of History, the Department of Native Studies, the College of Education's SUNTEP program, and St. Thomas More College.

10.4 Request for decision: Arts & Science: Program termination of BA Four-year and Honours Sociology (Indigenous Peoples and Justice Program) major and minor in Indigenous Peoples and Justice

Professor Proctor clarified that students who have begun the program will be permitted to complete it, and explained that the Indigenous Knowledge area of study inherent in this program will be transferred to the Native Studies Department.

PROCTOR/TYLER: That Council approve the termination of the Bachelor of Arts Four-year and Honours Sociology (Indigenous Peoples and Justice Program) major and the minor in Indigenous Peoples and Justice effective July 1, 2012.

CARRIED

10.5 Request for decision: University of Saskatchewan Admissions Policy

PROCTOR/TYLER: That Council approve the University of Saskatchewan Admissions Policy effective May 1, 2012.

CARRIED

10.6 Request for decision: Revisions to Academic Calendar Procedures

Professor Proctor invited discussion of this item, which includes two separate motions relating to the academic schedule. With reference to the motion on the examination

period, a student asked whether the shortened period before examinations would be invoked every year; the Registrar indicated that the default preference would be to keep 48 hours, but given the trend to more and more examinations during the Christmas exam period, it has become challenging to fit all of the examinations into the existing schedule. Mr. Isinger referred to the practices at other institutions and the challenges associated with finding appropriate space for examinations. A member asked if there was enough flexibility in programming to prevent students not writing on several consecutive days; the Registrar responded that the system both ensures Council's regulations about 3-in-a-row are honoured and that there are no conflicts and an optimization to prevent too many consecutive examinations.

Liz Harrison pointed out that in some programs, such as those offered by the School of Physical Therapy, an exemption has been granted from the standard exam period because of the structure of the program.

PROCTOR/TYLER: That Council approve a change to the Academic Calendar procedures to permit Fall and Winter examinations to begin between 24 and 48 hours after the last day of lectures.

CARRIED

In speaking to the next motion, a member wondered whether the day might be named something other than "Reading Day" and suggested the possibility of a name relating to a Cree moon month. It was pointed out that in the course calendar the break is referred to as "Term 1 break day" and that wording should be consistent. There was a question about what consultation has been done, since one day in a short program has significant consequences. The Registrar responded that the question of why there is a break in Term 2 but not in Term 1 is perennial; the question was brought to the Associate and Assistant Deans and they encouraged his office to do some research into the practice of other institutions. The schedule based on the proposed change went out to all colleges and administrative units. The USSU was consulted at its January meeting and offered positive feedback on the reading day (though somewhat less enthusiasm about the shortened period before exams).

The chair thanked the students who commented for their participation and engagement with Council.

PROCTOR/TYLER: That Council approve implementation of a "Reading Day" in the fall term.

CARRIED

10.7 Item for Information: 2012-13 Academic Calendar and List of Teaching Days

This item was received for information.

Professor Proctor thanked the offices involved in putting together these items.

11. Other business

No other business was raised by Council members.

12. Question period

There was a question about the policy on accommodation of disabilities and whether there had been any discussion of resourcing it at the board level. The provost responded that at every stage, including at the Board of Governors, there had been discussion about resource implications, so there is certainly a level of awareness that compliance with the policy and the law will involve expenditures. These costs are not predictable, however, so rather than designating a special fund or allocation, the expectation is that at each level there will need to be a discussion of what resources are required to accommodate a particular disability, and if it exceeds the resources available at that level, then it will be elevated to the next level.

13. Next meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Council next meets on Thursday, February 16, 2012, at 2:30 p.m. The Chair reminded members of the special meeting to approve the third integrated plan on March 1 at 2:30 p.m.