

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

The chair called the meeting to order at 2:36 p.m., observing that quorum had been attained.

1. Adoption of the agenda

URQUHART/ TYLER: To adopt the agenda as circulated.

CARRIED

2. Opening remarks

Dr. Kalra welcomed members and visitors, and advised that Max FineDay had been elected as USSU president and Ehimai Ohiozebau had been re-elected as the Graduate Students' Association president.

3. Minutes of the meeting of April 18, 2013

MICHELMANN/WEI: That the Council minutes of April 18, 2013 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

4. Business from the minutes

No business was identified as arising from the minutes.

5. Report of the President

President Busch-Vishniac noted a number of events that had occurred since the last Council meeting, including: first meeting of the Senior Leadership Forum; she had completed visits to all 17 colleges and schools; first meeting of the board of the Global Institute for Food Security; and the announcement of the establishment of the Canadian Wheat Alliance as a partnership between the university and the federal and provincial governments.

The president advised that the U15 executive heads have been working together to convince the federal government of the establishment of an Excellence Fund specifically for research intensive universities of Canada. The Canadian government has agreed in principle, but funding sources have not yet been identified. The funding to each university will likely be provided based on the university's proportion of tri-agency funding.

Regarding the university's two other governing bodies, the president reported that the Senate met in April receiving presentations on student enrolment, the university's centres and the operating budget adjustments. The Senate unanimously approved the appointment of Blaine Favel as the university's Chancellor-designate, and there was unanimous confirmation on the four matters brought forward by University Council. The Board of Governors met in May and among other matters, the Gordon Oakes-Red Bear Student Centre was approved and groundbreaking will be in June.

The president reported that the Senior Leadership Forum met for the first time, and a second meeting is planned. Traditionally the university did not have a way for Deans and Associate Vice-Presidents to meet.

The president noted that there has been a lot of conversation about workforce planning and the pain it causes on both sides of the table. The president reported that she has eliminated the position of director of government relations, one of the six positions in her budget, because she needed to be accountable for staffing reductions in the same manner as others. She reported that by the end of the process the university will have removed between 150 and 200 positions - some of which were vacant. The president advised that she realizes the trauma this is causing for those in the positions being eliminated.

Regarding the strategic vision for the university, the president reported that she is crafting a high-level strategic document that will mesh with IP3, and inform IP4 and IP5, as it will be focused on where we ought to be going in 10 to 20 years. She reported that she is working on the outline and a list of questions she thinks need to be answered which will be discussed at the next meeting of the Senior Leadership Forum and then deans will be asked to share a draft with their academic units for further input. Through this process the president is planning to have a new high level strategic document by the end of the calendar year.

The president then called for questions. A member asked if the federal Excellence Fund will be tied to previous tri-agency funds, and also if the funding is not based on peer review, then how will it support funding of research excellence. The president noted that if it is not new money then it will not do anything for the university. Currently the U15 receive 75% to 80% of funding from the tri-agencies, yet the funding available is inadequate to the task. The universities are asking to be given the ability to determine where it will focus their excellence. The U15 is asking the federal government to focus significant funding on their research intensive universities.

Regarding the workplace adjustments being made by colleges and units, a member noted his concern that the Dean of Agriculture and Bioresources had made decisions without first consulting with department heads in the college, and asked whether the president had advised Dean Buhr not to discuss these matters with the department heads. The president advised that deans, by virtue of their position, have authority and responsibility to balance their budgets and determine how they will do that; also, this is a university that values collegial processes. She noted she was aware that there were concerns in the college, but had not yet spoken with the Dean about this to hear her side of the discussion. She noted that she had not given Dean Buhr advice in this area herself, but other senior administrators may have. Dean Taras of the Edwards School of Business noted that the deans were engaged in workforce planning, and were advised not to share the difficult decisions so as to maintain the confidentiality of those affected. The deans received specific advice to not make these decisions collegially, so as to protect those involved. The president noted that she had not realized the question was related to personnel decisions, and confirmed that the deans had been instructed to value the privacy of those who will be losing their jobs and that this was best practice.

It was noted by the council member that one of the terminated positions was filled by a person who was planning to retire shortly and it could have been managed better. He noted that he understood the concerns around confidentiality, but that many were unsure about what would happen which makes a difficult and painful position for everyone. The president agreed that it hurts and she wished that we were not in this position, but that the university had been following best practice and was trying to move quickly, focusing on the well-being of the people losing their jobs.

6. Report of the Provost

Brett Fairbairn expanded on two items from his written report, first noting the TABBS scenario analysis tool referenced in his report and the website link to find it. He advised that TABBS is being implemented and PCIP is using the scenario analysis tool to analyze proposals coming forward, and assess the impact on teaching and as a research activity and therefore on related revenues and expenditures. Secondly he referred to the next financial town hall on June 13th which will provide an opportunity to look at the past year's budget results and look ahead to 2016.

The chair called for questions or comments, but there were none.

7. Student societies

7.1 Report from the USSU

Max FineDay, president of the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union, presented an oral report. He reported that he will be focusing on the following initiatives:

- Student mental health related to implementing a first term reading week, which has been implemented at other universities in Canada to reduce student stress.
- Academic innovation related to exploring open textbook licensing, with the goal of up to 50 textbooks provided online for free which would save students on average approximately \$400 per year.
- Ensuring undergraduate students are providing a strong voice on TransformUS and workforce planning.

Mr. FineDay introduced the other USSU executive noting the areas in which each will be focusing their efforts:

- Jenna Moellenbeck, Vice President (Operations and Finance), will be working with the city to provide better public transportation; working to have better financial benefits for students; and provide a tax clinic on campus
- Jordan Sherbino, Vice President (Academic Affairs), will be establishing an undergraduate research symposium; working on open textbook licensing; creating a movement of study smart; and also working on improving public transportation
- Nour Abouhamra, Vice President (Student Affairs), is working on providing in September a sexual assault awareness week; sustainability; and take a stand against racism week

7.2 Report from the GSA

Mr. Ehimai Ohiozebau, president of the Graduate Students' Association, presented an oral report to Council. Mr. Ohiozebau advised that in implementing the UPass for graduate students, the GSA had been challenged on how to ensure effective implementation, but these details had now been addressed. He noted the travel assistance plan for GSA members, which will give additional financial support to those graduate students already receiving travel assistance for conferences from the university. The GSA executive hope to have a retreat in June, and then will be able to outline what the executive plans to do in the next academic year.

The GSA executive in attendance introduced themselves. Sara Worsham, VP Finance, noted she was looking forward to establishing new initiatives and planning for all of the GSA's actions to be guided by a fair and balanced budget. Reanne Ridsdale, VP Student Affairs, indicated she planned to continue working on UPass initiative, as well as the government's graduate retention program, student housing and childcare. Izabela Vlahu, VP Academic, indicated she hoped to assist graduate students who may be struggling, especially as the university is going through a major transformation. Steve Jimbo, VP External Affairs (formerly GSA VP Student Affairs) expressed his goal was to plan cordial relationships with external stakeholders.

Mr. Ohiozebau also noted, Maily Huynh, VP Operations, and Nicole Callihoo, Aboriginal Liaison, who were unable to be at the meeting. He noted that he hoped the GSA would continue to receive Council's support in the next year.

8. Academic Programs Committee

Prof. Jim Greer, member of the academic programs committee, presented these reports to Council.

8.1 Request for decision: College of Graduate Studies and Research – Program Termination for Master of Continuing Education

Prof. Greer noted that no students had been admitted to the M.C. Ed. program since 2004, and no courses would be terminated.

GREER /TYLER: That Council approve the termination of the Master of Continuing Education (M.C. Ed.) effective immediately.

CARRIED

8.2 Request for decision: College of Arts and Science – B.Sc. in Applied Mathematics

Prof. Greer explained that the proposal is for the creation of a new Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics degree program. The program offers greater flexibility in course content and is common among U15 peers. The college has put resources in place for a five-year trial period for the program.

A Council member asked whether the new program would be subject to the TransformUS process. The Provost replied that he did not know the answer to the question, but the mandate given to the academic task force is to review processes for which resources are allocated, so he will ask them if it will be on their list of programs to be reviewed and report back to Council.

GREER/TYLER: That Council approve the proposal from the College of Arts and Science to create a new Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics degree program.

CARRIED

8.3 Request for decision: College of Arts and Science – Certificate in Global Studies

Prof. Greer explained that the academic programs committee is recommending Council approve the creation of a certificate of proficiency in Global Studies. He noted that the program has been under development for quite some time. He explained that it will be available to any undergraduate student at the university, and described the requirements of the program. It is an interesting proposal because it offers students the ability to add on a certificate, in some cases reusing courses and adding considerable value. Prof. Greer advised that the program was a positive step in internationalization of our curriculum.

The GSA VP Academic noted that this program was for undergraduate students and asked whether it would help graduate students in any way. Prof. Greer explained that certificates are not sufficient for admission into graduate degrees. They provide added value to existing degrees, and education options for people outside the degree program. It is expected that more certificates will be brought to Council for approval in various kinds of specialties, so there may be the possibility of certificates being ladderred together to form a degree program.

A Council member asked what was the expected enrollment, to which Prof. Greer advised that it is difficult to determine, because students will claim the certificates after the requirements have been completed, rather than enrolling in advance. He expected a substantial number of students who have done study abroad to take advantage of the program.

A Council member asked what type of graduation or celebration would be provided for recipients of certificates, to which the Registrar replied that certificate recipients are recognized at convocation.

A Council member noted that there is currently a similar certificate in Global Health, and asked what consultations were held between the two, as there is a tremendous opportunity for one to piggy-back on the other. Prof. Greer explained that ideas for the two certificate programs were born simultaneously, but the certificate in Global Health moved more quickly. The similarity between the two certificates is not accidental, except the Global Health certificate includes an extra local component in either the north or community-based, that is not in this certificate program.

GREER/TYLER: That Council approve the proposal from the College of Arts and Science to create a Certificate in Global Studies.

CARRIED

8.4 Request for input: Revisions to Open Studies and Minor Curricular Corrections

Prof. Greer noted that Open Studies was an experiment that has been around for a few years. It has been determined that these activities can be as well or better performed directly in colleges. The main idea is to find alternative opportunities for those who wish to be casual learners. Open Studies is also a venue for students who have been required to discontinue for academic reasons, and are permitted to register in Open Studies to improve their average. Based on the data collected, the academic needs of these students are not being met in the current program.

A Council member requested assurance that alumni from elsewhere would continue to be able to take courses from the university. Professor Gordon DesBrisay, designated dean of Open Studies replied this would continue to be the case, but that these individuals and the university's own alumni would register through the related college, rather than Open Studies. The chair noted that any other questions could be sent by email to Professor Greer, Professor Roy Dobson, committee chair, or Sandra Calver, University Secretary's office.

A number of minor curricular corrections approved by the academic programs committee were noted by Professor Greer, as outlined in the Council materials.

9. Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee

Prof. Urquhart, chair of the research, scholarly and artistic work committee, presented these items to Council.

9.1 Request for input: Human Research Ethics Policy

Prof. Urquhart noted that the *Human Research Ethics Policy* is the responsibility of Council and the committee is acting on behalf of Council. This policy is being brought forward for a request for input, with the intent that it be approved at a future meeting. Once approved, the policy will replace the existing policy on *Research Involving Human Subjects*. It has been restructured following the format of Council policies, and will bring us within the national standards and principles articulated in the current tri-agency policy.

9.2 Request for input: Responsible Conduct of Research Policy and Procedures

Prof. Urquhart advised that the *Responsible Conduct of Research Policy* is intended to replace the *Research Integrity Policy*, and has been amended to comply with the tri-agency policies

and contains many clarifications on the procedures and the role of hearing boards. The revisions were extensive and are described in the written materials.

In response to the invitation for comments and feedback, a number of issues were submitted by members of the Graduate Students' Association. Concern was expressed regarding: the protection of those making allegations in good faith; the advisability of the removal of the right to appeal the decision of the senior administrator as to whether the matter will proceed to hearing; and the removal of any reference to sanctions, as under the new procedures, hearing boards are no longer responsible for any disciplinary action. A recommendation was made for the university to have an ombudsperson for students.

Professor Urquhart acknowledged the questions received. Due to their detailed nature and references to compliance with *The Tri-Agency Framework: Responsible Conduct of Research*, he requested that these questions, and any others, be submitted in writing, either to himself or to Sandra Calver, committee secretary. A question was raised by the GSA VP Academic about whether a person making an allegation in good faith is being protected to the extent possible, or if this has been weakened in the new policy. Prof. Urquhart asked that the question be sent to him in writing.

10. Governance Committee

Prof. Carol Rodgers, member of the governance committee, presented these reports on behalf of Professor Gordon Zello, committee chair.

10.1 Request for decision: Statement on Recording of Council Meetings in Part One, Section III, 5 of the Council Bylaws

Prof. Rodgers advised that the notice of motion was presented at the last Council meeting. This amendment has been suggested to facilitate free debate in Council meetings. Prof. Rodgers noted that a question has been raised regarding how we would address recordings being done to accommodate for disability. Prof. Rodgers suggested that if Council agreed, she would recommend a friendly amendment. A Council member suggested that the motion be amended to read "...refrain from **unauthorized** audit or video recording..."

A Council member suggested recording discussions could be an impediment to free discussion, but it may also cause people to lose rights, and asked what evidence the decision is based upon. Members of the coordinating committee, where the request for the statement originated, recalled that the request stemmed from the view that having a statement would enable discussion to occur more freely and would permit members to more readily change their minds without concern of a record of their former position on a topic.

The member noted that as there have been no complaints and no evidence exists that allowing recordings impedes discussion, that the concern that recording of Council meetings will impede discussion is simply a hypothesis. He speculated that likely a major impediment to discussion is the reluctance of individuals to make public statements in a public forum. As Council meetings are open public meetings with written records of what people say, he expressed that he did not understand why digital recording might be an issue, given the lack of evidence, of complaints or concerns raised. Secondly, he noted that it would be difficult to enforce as he felt the wording of the motion "...are expected to refrain from ..." was ambiguous. He concluded that he did not think the amendment was necessary and secondly, that he did not think the wording of the motion was clear.

A Council member asked what practice was currently followed when media attend Council meetings. The chair advised that media in attendance are asked to refrain from recording the

meeting, and a media interview is arranged through a communications officer after the meeting.

A Council member noted that one risk associated with video and audio recordings is that portions and clips can be used out of context, which can be damaging and is why the university has a classroom recording policy. The current wording encourages people not to record which is the intent of the amendment.

A Council member spoke in support of the phrase, "... expected to refrain...", as it sets a more positive tone and allows Council to have exceptions in some cases.

A Council member noted that if the concern is what people might do with the recording outside of the meeting, it would be better to say, "Do not slander people".

The chair called for the vote and the motion as amended was carried.

RODGERS/RACINE: That Council approve the addition of the following statement to Part One, Section III, 5 of the Council Bylaws: "Attendees at Council meetings are expected to refrain from unauthorized audio or video recording of the proceedings and to respect the rulings of the chair."

CARRIED

10.2 Notice of Motion: Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee terms of reference changes

It was noted that the proposed motion included the effective date of May 16, 2013, and it should be June 20, 2013. It was agreed to amend the motion by friendly amendment.

RODGERS/RACINE: That Council approve the proposed changes to Part Two, Section I, VII of the Council Bylaws, the terms of reference of the research, scholarly and artistic work committee, effective June 20, 2013.

Prof. Rodgers advised that the proposed amendment to Council's bylaws is to clarify the role of the research, scholarly and artistic works (RSAW) committee with both the vice president research office and the college of graduate studies and research, and to reference receipt of an annual report from the university's research ethics board. The proposed amendments have been reviewed by the RSAW committee and the governance committee.

The chair asked that any questions be sent to Prof. Rodgers.

10.3 Notice of Motion: Academic Programs Committee terms of reference changes

It was noted that the proposed motion included the effective date of May 16, 2013, and it should be June 20, 2013. It was agreed to amend the motion by friendly amendment.

RODGERS/RACINE: That Council approve the proposed changes to Part Two, Section I, I of the Council Bylaws, the terms of reference for the academic programs committee, effective June 20, 2013.

Prof. Rodgers noted that the amendments to the academic programs committee's terms of reference were mostly changes in titles. A statement has also been added to recognize the role of Aboriginal students regarding curricular changes.

Russell Isinger, Registrar and Director of Student Support Services noted that he was remaining as a member of the committee and not being replaced, but rather the Director of Enrolment and Student Affairs was being added to the committee as a resource personnel. He asked that the description of the membership changes be corrected to reflect this. Prof. Rodgers agreed that this would be done.

10.4 Notice of Motion: College of Education Faculty Council membership changes

Prof. Rodgers noted the proposed revisions to the Education Faculty Council's membership.

RODGERS/RACINE: That Council approve the revisions to the College of Education Faculty Council membership.

11. Nominations Committee

11.1 Request for Decision: Nominations to committee for 2013-14

Prof. Pain presented the nominations committee report to Council.

The chair asked three times whether there were any further nominations from the floor for any of the positions or committees. There were none.

PAIN/KROL: That Council approve the nominations to University Council committees, Collective Agreement committees, and other committees for 2013-14, as described in the attached list.

CARRIED

Prof. Pain thanked all those who allowed their names to stand, noting that the committee greatly appreciated their service.

12. Update on Enrolment – Russell Isinger, University Registrar and Director of Student Services

Russell Isinger provided a report on enrolment based on the winter census day in February 2013. Total enrolment increased 2.3% to the highest ever of over 20,000 students. Enrolment at the university has grown more than 9% over the past five years of winter terms. Mr. Isinger provided details on the breakdown of enrolment by graduate studies, non-degree program, post graduate clinical and undergraduate. Graduate students comprise 14.3% of the student body, undergraduates 81.1%, non-degree 3% and post-grad clinical 2%.

Undergraduate enrolment is up 2.6% in the winter term since last year, and 7% since 2008. Mr. Isinger noted the reasons for the increased enrolment included: nursing enrolment is up significantly due to changes in the nursing program changes and Arts and Science is up due partly to first year students in pre-nursing, accounting for 50% of the undergraduate increase; out of province in direct entry and Open Studies has increased by 20%; new first time international students increased, with the bulk of international students coming from China; and new first time Saskatchewan students increased slightly. Mr. Isinger provided a slide showing the undergrads by origin, with 80% from Saskatchewan, 10% out of province, 7% international, and a high number of unknowns at 3%.

The number of international undergraduates by country was illustrated, showing China as the biggest provider, Nigeria a distant second, and India third. Mr. Isinger provided information by type of programs for graduate students, and explained the reasons why graduate enrolment increased. Graduate students are one-third international and two-thirds domestic. China provides the most graduate students, India second, Iran third, and there are a high number of unknowns that need to be addressed. Total number of international students is up 6.8% since winter term last year.

Mr. Isinger reported that the total number of Aboriginal students is up 10.9% since last year, although enrolment had decreased last year. He advised that self-declaration is voluntary, and it is believed that there are more Aboriginal students attending than what our numbers would indicate. Mr. Isinger described the efforts being made to increase Aboriginal enrolment, including: establishment of a working group; a public self-declaration campaign has been launched with the language being changed from “self-identification” to “self-declaration”; the language on the admission forms has been changed to fulfill legal requirements, make the language more affirming, provide reasons why we are asking for this information and explain what the student will benefit from self-declaration; an email is sent from the president and special advisor every term encouraging students to self-declare; a data error in the system has been fixed; working on central recording so students will only have to declare once; and moving to use the same system SIAST uses which has 2600 Aboriginal students. Mr. Isinger advised that the goal is to have more than 2000 self-declared Aboriginal students at the university by October 2013.

Graduate enrolment increased 3.5% since last year winter term, and 30% since 2008. The rate of growth has declined but there is still growth. Mr. Isinger illustrated graduate enrolment by program type.

The Aboriginal graduation rate, after a decline, has increased 5.2% over last year, and represents 7% of total convocation. Mr. Isinger noted that he is working with the university secretary to incorporate aboriginal ceremony at convocation.

There is a 93.6% retention rate from first to second terms for direct entry and Open Studies colleges. The international retention rate is about 90% but it has fluctuated. The Aboriginal rate has dropped and is on its way up, currently at 92%. Everyone else is fairly stable at 93.9%. Retention rates from first to second years are fairly good.

Three credit unit activity for all students in the winter term is up 3% over last year. The five-year trend line has been steadily increasing. Off campus three credit unit activity for all students has increased 12.7% in our winter term as compared to last year. Off campus activity accounts for more than 10% of our total credit unit activity, which would make it one of our largest colleges if it was a stand-alone college and it speaks to the growing importance of off-campus learning.

Mr. Isinger commented on the enrolment reporting generally, advising that they have moved to term-based reporting. High level data will be released in September with reports provided in fall and spring to Council and Senate. Detailed enrolment data is now available through the self-service website, through uView and the self-service reporting tool is expanding with more data. Work continues to finalize the strategic enrolment plan against which future enrolment will be measured.

Mr. Isinger thanked those who assisted in preparing the report.

A member noted that he was pleased to see the effort being exerted to encourage self-declaration by Aboriginal students, but was concerned how the university may use that data. He noted that the numbers we report will be misleading in the positive, and there may be the temptation to use these figures inappropriately. He encouraged caution that the university’s Aboriginal student enrolment be reported with an indication that any increase may be due to new means of self-reporting. Mr. Isinger assured him this would be the case.

The chair thanked Mr. Isinger for his presentation.

13. Other business

Prof. Signa Daum Shanks noted that the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) conference was being held at the university June 13-15. Topics involving indigenous people will be discussed, including such things as food sovereignty and land rights. Prof. Daum Shanks encouraged everyone to attend, and encouraged her colleagues to look for issues that could be brought into their classwork and knowledge.

14. Question period

There were no questions.

15. Adjournment

DESBRISAY/ D'EON: That the meeting be adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

CARRIED

Next meeting – 2:30 pm, June 20, 2013