

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

A tribute to Professor Terry Tollefson from the Department of Soil Science, College of Agriculture and Bioresources, was given by Dr. Richard Farrell, colleague and long-term friend of Professor Tollefson.

The chair called the meeting to order at 2:45 p.m., observing that quorum had been attained.

1. Adoption of the agenda

DOBSON/deBOER: To adopt the agenda as circulated.

CARRIED

2. Opening remarks

The chair welcomed members and visitors, and noted the items coming before Council. At the chair's invitation, the university secretary provided the election results for Council's members-at-large. The university secretary reported: (i) the 17 members who were elected to sit for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2017: Michael Bradley, Bev Brenna, Roy Dobson, Alexander Ervin, Richard Gray, Calliopi Havele, Jill Johnstone, Richard Julien, Jay Kalra, Franz-Viktor Kuhlmann, Lawrence Martz, Allison Muri, Matthew Paige, Chary Rangacharyulu, Erin Watson, Thomas Yates, Gordon Zello; (ii) the two members who were elected to sit for a two-year term beginning July 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2016: William Brown and Hongming Cheng; and (iii) the three members who were elected to sit for a one-year term beginning July 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2015: Gap Soo Chang, Nadeem Jamali, Venkatesh Meda.

3. Minutes of the meeting of February 27, 2014

The chair asked if there were any corrections to the minutes, and hearing none raised from the floor, he invited the university secretary to note the corrections that she received prior to the meeting.

The university secretary noted the following corrections to the minutes of the meeting of February 27, 2014, contingent on the approval of Council:

- On page 3 of the minutes, in the second complete paragraph, the second, third and fourth sentences will be corrected to read: "**When we look at other universities, we see that compensation costs rise from year to year** based on nominal settlements, and in addition there are changes to increments, merit, benefits and other variables. **At other universities these additional factors, beyond nominal rates of settlements, amount to additional 1.5 to 2% increases year over year. This means a nominal increase of 2% results in total compensation costs increasing approximately 4%.**"
- On page 3, in the fifth paragraph the last sentence will be corrected to read: "He also advised that tuition revenue sharing has been devolved to colleges that have used this amount for student scholarships **among other purposes.**"

- On page 4, in the fifth line at the top of the page, the sentence will be corrected to read: “There are steering groups that have **received** suggestions.”
- On page 4, in the second complete paragraph, the second sentence will be corrected to read: “The provost advised that **the fund consists of \$3.5M per year** for the third planning cycle and funds will be set aside for the fund in the fourth planning cycle.”
- On page 5, in the fourth paragraph, the second sentence will be corrected and a final sentence added, so the paragraph reads: “The provost advised that the APF **is not \$70M and** is guided by the university’s planning priorities and the nature of that planning process is transparent. The plan is one that has been agreed to as a university through our governing bodies and represents the priorities of the university as a whole. **The other funds referenced by the questioner included targeted funding for salaries and services in the Colleges of Medicine and Nursing and funds for the renewal of existing university buildings such as the Arts Tower, Murray Building, Biology, and Physics.**”
- On page 9 the last paragraph will be corrected to recognize that comments provided in the third sentence and thereafter came from two Council members rather than one.
- On page 12 the phrase in the first sentence of the fifth full paragraph will be corrected to read: “**roughly 5% to 10% of its faculty**”.

In response to a Council member’s question, the chair noted that these were corrections to reflect what was said at the meeting.

KALYNCHUK/deBOER: That the Council minutes of February 27, 2014 be approved as amended.

CARRIED

#### 4. Business from the minutes

Dr. Findlay noted that he thought the minutes reflected a fair and full record of his sentiments. He commented on his disappointment in how the motion he had put forward was revised and diminished. He clarified that he was not commenting on the validity of either the process or the vote, but asking that in the future when an individual puts forward a motion accompanied by a rationale for consideration by the coordinating committee, as was done in his case, that it be treated differently and that the rationale accompany the motion when it is put forward to Council. The chair thanked Dr. Findlay for his comments and assured him that in future such situations the coordinating committee will bring the rationale forward with the motion.

#### 5. Report of the President

President Ilene Busch-Vishniac spoke to a number of items of interest to Council. She reported on the provincial budget in which the university received a 2% increase to the operating budget as requested, in a year when overall budget expenditures are down. She noted that this illustrates the provincial government’s recognition of the important role that the universities play in helping the province. The university has continued to receive support from the provincial government for many key projects, including the health sciences building, the nursing and medical expansion, continued support for students, and expanded funding for the graduate student retention program to include both graduate and undergraduate students. The president advised that the university received more than what was expected, but not enough to reverse concerns about fiscal restraints.

On the federal level, the president noted the changes resulting from Minister Flaherty resigning as Minister of Finance, in that Minister Rickford has moved from the Ministry of State for Science and Technology to NRCan and Ed Holder has become the new Minister of State for Science and Technology. The president reviewed Minister Holder's background and what he brings to the position. Also at the federal level, the president noted that the deputy minister advocate for our university and the University of Regina, Colleen Volk, who serves as deputy secretary to cabinet and the deputy minister to the clerk of the Privy Council, has been visiting both universities in Saskatchewan.

Regarding recent events of note, the president praised the research conference and gala hosted by the Graduate Students' Association. She recognized the commendable performances of: the Huskie women's basketball team that went to the national championship and placed fourth; and the Huskie women's hockey team that won Canada West for the first time and a bronze at the national championship. The president also noted that Huskie men's hockey team was currently hosting the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) university cup. The president thanked everyone who helped organize the Aboriginal Achievement Week commending the USSU, Candace Wasacase-Lafferty and others on the arrangements. She specifically noted: the announcement of the establishment by Buffy Sainte-Marie of the Saskatchewan Cradle Board Initiative to encourage Aboriginal students to pursue math, science, engineering and technology; and the talks by both Cindy Blackstock and Shawn Atleo speaking about challenges and progress at the federal level. The president also noted the Alumni of Influence Gala for Arts and Science and the ITEP Round Dance, both of which had good attendance and were wonderful events.

The president provided an update on the College of Medicine advising that there is continued good progress. A letter has been received from the accreditors acknowledging that the university is addressing the major issues identified, but there are still some modest issues to address. The accreditors will return in 12-15 months to review progress at that time. The president noted that the government has become progressively more aligned with the university's sense of the structural changes required and generally things are going well with the health regions. The president indicated she was pleased to report that this year 63% of the university's medical students chose to stay in Saskatchewan to complete their residencies; this rate has not been above 50% in recent history. The president concluded her remarks regarding the College of Medicine by noting that a report from the Basic Sciences departments is expected in about a month regarding their proposed restructuring.

The president spoke to the Vision 2025 document commenting that she has met with well over 700 people and has received a significant number of letters and emails. She has generated a new draft incorporating many, although not all, of the comments received. The new draft has recently gone to the planning and priorities committee and she anticipates it coming forward to University Council and Senate in April and to the Board of Governors in May.

The president reported that the Board of Governors held its annual public meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup>. Several faculty members and students spoke primarily on topics related to TransformUS and tuition. There were also questions and positive comments about changes to the university's discrimination and harassment prevention policy to include transgender people.

The president concluded her remarks by speaking about child care funding. She advised that she feels responsible for not having handled information regarding child care funding as well as she should have. The university received \$1.25M from the provincial government for child care as well as a promise of \$1M from the USSU over ten years. The president explained that the difficulty is that the cost of the planned new building would be \$7M, which would require approximately \$5M plus operating costs to be raised before constructing the new facility. The president advised that

she does not want to spend 20 years waiting to raise the money because the need is urgent. Therefore she has asked administration to re-examine the options for expanding the university's child care facilities without building a new facility, so as to bring down the cost to an affordable level and allow the service to be provided much sooner. The president advised that it was clear that when preliminary approval was sought from the Board, that the Board would not entertain final approval without the funding being in hand or pledged. The president stated that the university is not abandoning its commitment to child care.

The president called for questions. A Council member asked whether on the issue of child care there had been any thought to approaching faculty and staff to pledge a small amount per month to allow this initiative to keep moving forward. David Hannah, associate vice-president, student affairs, noted that if approval from the Board is received, administration has considered bringing a request forward to staff and faculty. Another Council member noted that University Advancement is considering a child care campaign among faculty and staff, and asked whether this was high on the agenda within the upcoming capital campaign. The president noted that as Heather Magotiaux, vice-president advancement and community engagement, was unable to attend, she was not certain as to the answer but thought that some donors had been approached about a child care centre and there had been no interest to date.

## 6. Report of the Provost

Brett Fairbairn, provost and vice-president academic, noted his written report and drew attention to four matters. The first was his academic address delivered in February entitled, "Can Universities Change?" He noted the address is now posted on the university website. Secondly, the provost provided an update on implementation of the Third Integrated Plan. He highlighted one project completed is the identification of those Aboriginal symbols the university will incorporate in its communications. The provost reiterated the announcement of the extension of the implementation period for the Third Integrated Plan, that will now be five years and conclude in 2017. This will allow more time to implement projects and to align with the Vision 2025 document under development. He drew Council's attention to in his written report regarding key milestones that will involve Council consultation for the university's Fourth Integrated Plan.

The third matter raised by the provost was CALDO, a consortium of a number of U15 universities, of which the U of S is a member. The provost noted that one activity of CALDO is the recruitment of international students, particularly graduate students. Recruiters have been travelling in South America and initial reports are very positive. He encouraged Council members to watch for further results of this group.

As the fourth item of note, the provost commented on the announcement of Michelle Prytula as the new dean of the College of Education beginning July 1, 2014, and introduced her to Council. He thanked the current acting dean Robert Regnier and others in the college. He noted that this brings to conclusion the current cycle of searches and reviews for deans at the university, and that the new cycle has already begun with four new reviews this spring.

The provost called for any questions. A Council member questioned some of Dr. Fairbairn's comments about models of interdisciplinary programs within the provost's academic address. The provost advised that what he included in his address regarding interdisciplinary programs could stand on its own.

A Council member noted the research with South American colleges and asked whether as a consequence the university was interested in maintaining its courses in Spanish or possibly Portuguese. The provost advised that when looking at recruiting international students the direct

tie for our university is the preparation of the incoming students for English as an additional language – although he noted his belief that the students from other countries enhance our campus in all ways. The Council member clarified that she was thinking of collaborative research to which the provost advised that one of the university’s focal points should be the development of multi-developmental partnerships with other institutions.

## 7. Student Societies

### 7.1 Report from the USSU

Jordan Sherbino, vice-president academic affairs of the USSU presented the report to Council. He advised that the USSU elections were underway with voting on March 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> and results to be announced March 27<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Sherbino commented on the important issue of tuition, an issue that is relevant for both undergraduate and graduate students. He noted that tuition posed a major roadblock for many students in lower socioeconomic demographics and may prohibit students from coming to university. He commented on the recent tuition increase of 4.5% that accompanies a climate of cuts and uncertainty, with many students concerned about the academic education they are receiving and student service support. He advised that he is raising this issue before Council because although tuition increases are set by the Board they are influenced by deans and others in colleges. He noted that although the provost believes deans are speaking with students on this issue, this is not the case. Without this occurring, the Board does not receive full and complete information for its consideration. If the Board is following good procedure and governance all sides and perspectives should be raised when these decisions are being made. He noted that he believes there is a failure of communications both within the colleges and from the colleges to the provost.

Mr. Sherbino advised that students have compelling stories regarding accessibility and affordability and Council should care about these stories. To do this means bringing students to the table, welcoming them as colleagues, peers and people who have something to contribute, and listening to them to learn what tuition means as a financial burden and what they are receiving in return. He suggested that this should be done throughout the year, not just in the lead up to tuition increases. Mr. Sherbino noted that tuition is not the only issue of concern to students but the most relevant right now.

### 7.2 Report from the GSA

Kari Staples, vice-president of the Graduate Students’ Association, presented the GSA report to Council. Regarding the UPASS referendum, Ms. Staples advised that there was a 40% turnout of students eligible to vote and overwhelming support for the UPASS, which will now be in effect for the foreseeable future.

Regarding the GSA bursary fund, Ms. Staples advised that there were 60 applicants for the winter term and 15 bursaries of \$1,000 each were awarded. She noted that the call for nominations had gone out for elections of the new GSA executive and voting will be on April 11<sup>th</sup>. She looked forward to a smooth transition for the new executive, which will include addressing the lack of transitional memory.

Ms. Staples reported on the recent GSA conference noting that there were a number of prominent key note speakers, such as Senator Lillian Dyck, resulting in a successful conference and thanked all those who assisted. Regarding the GSA gala, Ms. Staples advised

that it was a wonderful event with approximately 400 in attendance and 10 deserving awardees. She extended thanks to the president, Council chair, deans and unit representatives who were able to attend.

## 8. Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources Committee

Professor Aaron Phoenix, chair of the committee, presented this item to Council.

### 8.1 Item for Information: Experiential Learning Concept Paper

Professor Phoenix noted the powerful learning opportunity of the Experiential Learning Concept paper. The predecessor of the teaching, learning and academic resources committee commissioned the concept paper in support of implementation of the Third Integrated Plan. With the assistance of the Gwenna Moss Centre and the research and projects office from the provost's office, the experiential learning concept paper was developed and is now being presented to Council for information. He invited Dr. McDougall to provide further comments.

Patti McDougall, vice-provost, teaching and learning, advised that the data in the paper reflects the regular academic terms from September to April, but additional summer data will be integrated into the final report before it becomes public. In 2012-13 there were 80 courses offered in the summer that were of an experiential nature resulting in 1,000 additional students accessing experiential learning.

## 9. Item for Information: Winter Term Enrolment Report

Russ Isinger, university registrar and director of student services, presented the report to Council. He noted the report is based on information taken as of the winter census day, February 10, 2014. The overall enrolment was 20,305 students, down 0.2% from last year. This plateau follows years of moderate growth. The handout distributed at the Council meeting that summarizes his report is attached as *Appendix B*.

Following his report, Mr. Isinger received a number of questions. A Council member asked whether tuition increases may affect retention or attraction of students to the campus, and was there any way this could be tracked with the data that has been collected. Mr. Isinger advised that it would probably require more survey data. He explained that a survey is conducted of students admitted who choose not to come to ascertain their reasons and suggested that the necessary data could be sought during that process. Dave Hannah, associate vice-president student affairs, noted that Saskatchewan has a low participation rate for university attendance overall, being in the bottom quartile of the country, but it is difficult to tease out whether this is due to the lure of good jobs or tuition rates.

A question was asked regarding how the international and domestic numbers compare to the U15. Administrators from the College of Graduate Studies and Research advised that there are more international students at the University of Saskatchewan and that the international differential tuition has not reduced the number of our international students.

There was a question regarding why the credit units were lower in the winter term than in the fall term to which Mr. Isinger advised that there were fewer students taking fewer classes on the winter census day than on the census day in October because the university loses some students over the year. There were no further questions.

## 10. Other business

There was no other business.

11. Question period

There were no questions.

12. Adjournment

The chair reminded Council members that elections for faculty representatives on University Council are ongoing in the colleges of Agriculture and Bioresources, Medicine, and Veterinary Medicine, and they are scheduled to close on March 27<sup>th</sup>. He encouraged all Council members in those colleges to vote and to encourage their colleagues to vote.

DOBSON/KROL: That the meeting be adjourned at 4:05p.m.

CARRIED

Next meeting – 2:30 pm, April 17, 2014