

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

John Courtney, professor emeritus of Political Studies and Senior Policy Fellow at the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy presented a tribute for Professor Duff Spafford, Department of Political Studies and a minute of silence ensued.

The chair called the meeting to order at 2:40 p.m., observing that quorum had been attained.

1. Adoption of the agenda

KALYNCHUK/MICHELMANN: To adopt the agenda as circulated.

CARRIED

2. Opening remarks

Dr. Kalra, chair of Council, provided opening remarks welcoming Dr. Gordon Barnhart as the new interim president of the university appointed on May 21, 2014, to begin May 22, 2014. Council welcomed Dr. Barnhart with applause. Guests and media were welcomed, and the chair explained the meeting procedures and items to be addressed at the meeting.

The chair emphasized the following major principles of Council: that Council enjoys academic freedom; it is a collegial self-governing body with the responsibility to govern itself accordingly; and it is the governance body where academic matters are considered and decisions made.

The chair thanked the former president Ilene Busch-Vishniac and former provost and vice-president academic, Brett Fairbairn for their service.

A Council member asked about the implications of executive solidarity and how Council operates as a collegial body. He noted he understood that the executives on campus carry out decisions; however, the decision to terminate Dr. Buckingham for criticizing decisions with respect to the School of Public Health was made prior to Council considering the matter of the School of Public Health. This led to the supposition that the university administration, as decision makers, were making decisions on behalf of Council. The member asked how Council matters will come before Council for consideration in the future. The chair noted that this is a question for the president, and he would wait for the president's comments.

3. Minutes of the meeting of April 17, 2014

The incorrect spelling of Professor Brooke's name was noted.

DAUM SHANKS/MICHELMANN: That the Council minutes of April 17, 2014 be approved as corrected.

CARRIED

4. Business from the minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. Report of the President

President Gordon Barnhart thanked Council for the warm welcome. He noted that he is in an acting position until the university is able to choose a new president which will probably be a year to 18 months. He committed to do his best to serve the campus and province of Saskatchewan.

Dr. Barnhart provided a brief summary of his history on campus noting that he came as a student to the university in 1963, completed his undergraduate degree and honours degree and then returned later to complete his Ph.D. He expressed his goal as one of making the university a happier place than it has been as of late. Regarding TransformUS, the president noted that he had not yet been able to fully digest the process but would review it in the near future. He also stated his intent to identify where the university stands currently with respect to the projected deficit to determine how much has been saved to date and what further savings are required if there is still a projected gap. In economizing to save money, he indicated his hope is to do so in a relatively painless way to minimize the hurt to staff, faculty and students.

Dr. Barnhart also advised that he very much recognizes academic freedom, free speech, and that is what the university is all about. He recalled Council being a forum for healthy free speech in the past and his belief that as long as speech is respectful and thoughtful, good results arise. He advised that it is time to move on, to turn the page and look to the positive things being done on campus and get back to the university's true values of education, students, research and making this province a better place. The president advised that he will meet with both student bodies in the next few days, and that the university's goal is to educate students. He noted that as convocation approaches, Council has the opportunity to attend to celebrate with students and their families this important occasion. He stressed that he is here to listen to what Council has to say, and to hear Council members' suggestions of what can be done differently in the future. The president advised that his role is not to find all of the solutions, but to listen and learn how to do better without throwing stones at the past. The president then invited questions.

A student guest noted that the president has used the term "negative debate" in his comments and inquired as to what this meant. The president advised that debate is always positive and healthy, but if people are angry or insulting in the course of debate, then debate could be negative.

A Council member asked the president to respond to the question asked earlier in the meeting regarding what governance changes Council might expect. The president advised that there is a list of duties that Council is responsible for and that the university has four deliberative bodies: the Board of Governors, Council, Senate and the General Academic Assembly, and that each has an important role. As president, he indicated that he did not see that he would limit in any way the authorities of these bodies, but asked that if this were the perception, that Council let him know.

A guest asked why it is important to turn the page advising that he felt it needed to be read and understood first and that there should be some sort of inquiry into practices, expectations, and protocols that can cause the type of events that occurred over the last week. Without this analysis, he indicated it was too easy to assume that the circumstances and climate had nothing to do with the occurrence and just depended on an individual. He expressed the hope that the president will devise ways to monitor the university so that such events do not occur again. The president stated that he would look into it. Another guest suggested that the firing of a tenured professor was a team decision and that the university community needed to know who was involved in making the

decision. The president advised that he was not involved. Another guest noted that over the last two years on campus there has been stress, anxiety and fear, in part due to the TransformUS process. In a university of this size, he suggested that there are other ways of dealing with the deficit, and that it is not known if there is a deficit because there is no public accounting. He suggested that the president carefully study what TransformUS is all about as he believed it sounded like a draconian move to kill smaller programs and amalgamate them with larger units that have nothing in common. He suggested that the TransformUS process jeopardizes the programs as it is difficult to identify synergies, and this creates anxiety in the minds of students who are the university's primary stakeholders. He asked the president to find an alternative means to deal with the deficit and trash the TransformUS process absolutely.

A Council member noted that to move forward there is a need to know where we are now and although he is not asking for judgments to be made he believed that the question as to how we got to where we are now is an essential one to determine from whence we can emerge and how to go about doing that. He asked the president to determine what was a team effort and a non-team effort regarding Dr. Buckingham's dismissal and make it known to Council.

A Council member advised that as an elected member he is under no compulsion to speak or vote in any manner, other than in accordance with his own views, but that he believed some members of Council may possibly feel threatened to vote in a particular way. He asked the president whether he was prepared to release these members and allow them to vote their conscience and that mandated block voting should not be permitted in Council. The president stated his belief in the importance of Council members speaking their minds and advised that he would look into this further, but that there are instances, such as cabinet solidarity and a board speaking with one voice after a decision has been made, when senior leaders speak with one voice.

A guest noted that she would like the university to look for remedies that are both broad and deep and recommended amendments to *The University of Saskatchewan Act* to promote academic freedom and the people's university. She noted that the need to proceed cautiously regarding decisions which were made under a perversion of interest and asked the president to help the university do this.

A graduate student guest commented that the current mission statement speaks to the university's aim to serve the University of Saskatchewan and the former president opposed this statement, noting that it is the equivalent to slavery, and asked whether the president will consider bringing this back to the Vision 2025 statement. The president advised that he will have to look at it and could not make a comment at this time.

A Council member noted that at the recent General Academic Assembly in April, a graduate student raised a question about the former president looking into a matter of a culture of intimidation at the School of Public Health and asked the president to look into this.

A graduate student guest asked how long the deliberations on TransformUS will take and suggested that decisions of this type not be made at the end of the student term which was done in the past when the plan was released on May 1st.

A student guest noted that he had believed the role of deans is to represent their colleges and recently he has heard a different role described. The president responded that he will look into the role of deans.

A student guest noted that tuitions were increased by 5% this year and the student body was told it was because other universities were increasing tuition. He asked whether the president will look

into this matter and whether there is any hope of reverting this decision and if so when. The president noted that in his recollection in the past the university attempted to find the median of increases being done by other universities and although he did not know if that continues to be the case he will look into it. He also noted that tuition increases fall within the role of the Board of Governors.

A Council member asked the president to work with the chair to find a reconciliation of Council bylaws which state that Council members will exercise independent judgment and not act as any agent of any representative body or organization.

A non-Council member noted that there has been mobilization across the campus, province and country regarding the sacrosanct notion of tenure. He noted that over the past 40 years the collegial process has been based upon the deliberations of many committees that have been deciding on the academic acumen of our colleagues and that has now been reversed on what he believed to be a technicality. As tenure is a critical fundamental aspect of being a faculty member, which encompasses academic freedom, he asked the president to look at how this has happened as there is a need to know and understand the past in order to move into the future. He asked that the tenure decision be given to the faculty as outlined in the collective agreement. The president advised that this has already been a focus for him and that the Board of Governors is meeting next week and it will be on their agenda. He noted that he shares the faculty members' sorrow as a former student, faculty member and alumni of this university.

A non-Council member advised that many have observed security guards and support people escorting people off campus following their loss of employment, and this hurts her to see colleagues escorted off the campus and told not to return and that this influences the whole campus environment. She asked for assurance that this will be re-evaluated and discontinued in the immediate future. The president agreed with the faculty member's comments, stating that he did not approve of having escorts in terms of people leaving an office. The president advised that we need to treat all of our people with great dignity and if the economic circumstances mean we need fewer people, and he hoped that that is not the case but could not promise, he would assure that these types of escorts will not happen under his watch as it is an insult to people's dignity.

A Council member encouraged everyone to understand to make Council meetings a sounding board and see this as where people can bring their first ideas and that they can help debate or brainstorm on issues. She asked that Council members think of those faculty members, who have not yet received tenure, and what can be learned from these recent experiences.

The president thanked all for their comments noting that although some were not gentle none were rude. The Council chair commented that he was impressed with the president's openness, ability to listen and the president's statement that every person is to be treated with dignity and respect. He asked Council to thank the president for his openness and respect which was greeted with applause.

6. Report of the Provost

The chair noted that there is currently no provost to present the written report; however, there are individuals present to respond to any questions on the report. There were no questions.

7. Student Societies

7.1 Report from the USSU

Max FineDay, president of the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU) presented the report. He welcomed Interim President Barnhart to the university and introduced the new USSU vice-presidents: Elias Nelson, vice-president, operations and finance; Jack Saddleback, vice-president, student affairs; and Desirée Steele, vice-president academic (who was absent). He acknowledged the guests, in particular the students present at the meeting today noting that he has been impressed with how students have participated in the past week and shown their care about the university and thanked them for taking the time to do so. He thanked President Barnhart for taking the interim role and looked forward to meeting with him and talking about the future of the university.

Mr. FineDay noted that the university is in a tough spot right now as the people's university has had its image tarnished on the international stage. He advised that he is proud to be a student here and many students and faculty are being recognized for prestigious awards but it will take more to restore the university's reputation than the support of its students and faculty. Mr. FineDay advised that TransformUS was not conducted collegially or consultatively and now the university is suffering the consequences. He agreed it is time to turn the page and urged new leadership to think carefully and purposefully on how to move forward. He advised that he would expect that if students are not brought in, the university will again be in trouble and there are many students willing to be involved. He noted that students do not want another town hall or to be told to look at the blog, or have information talked at them. University building is a change effort and should be driven with that in mind, and administration should actively bring in college leadership and the USSU. Mr. FineDay advised that students are interested and capable in being included in these decisions and that he looked forward to making this a reality. He noted that the university is strong, but only when all parties work together.

7.2 Report from the GSA

Izabela Vlahu, president of the Graduate Students' Association (GSA), presented the report. She noted that the past few weeks have been very eventful and being newly elected her first concern is to recognize the graduate students' concerns. She stated that graduate students have serious concerns with the TransformUS process and have expressed this in a number of ways. Several letters have been sent to the Board of Governors expressing concerns with university leadership and TransformUS. Their concerns include: reputation of the university; importance of efficient and accountable governance; validity of the deficit; importance of student involvement in TransformUS and all processes at the university; and elimination of programs. Many students also expressed their feeling in the student-organized rally, "DefendUS". Ms. Vlahu stated that the feeling of the GSA is that students need to gain trust in the university leadership and that TransformUS needs to be completely reconsidered. As much as students are here to study and conduct research and help with the dissemination of knowledge, it is part of their role to be activists and defend the ideals in which they believe, including academic freedom. Ms. Vlahu welcomed student activism as constructive criticism. She stated that the involvement of students and faculty members will demonstrate on the international scene that the university has substance and will improve.

8. Research, scholarly and artistic work committee

Professor Caroline Tait, chair of the research, scholarly and artistic work committee, presented this information item to Council. In her initial comments she noted her sadness at the events that have occurred and encompassed her colleagues.

8.1 Report for information: undergraduate research

Professor Tait advised that the research, scholarly and artistic work committee looked at the practice and concept of undergraduate research this year and how it could be incorporated into daily practices in the curriculum to enhance research. Recognizing that there needs to be a balance between advancing innovative and creative initiatives while recognizing pressures on faculty resources and time, the committee believes that integrating undergraduate research into the curriculum is doable and supported by students. She invited all of Council to read the report provided and send any questions to the committee. She thanked fellow committee members for their hard work and also thanked Sandy Calver, committee secretary for her efforts in supporting the committee.

In closing, Professor Tait also invited suggestions from Council members regarding areas of priority and focus for the committee in the coming year.

9. Nominations Committee

Ed Krol, chair of the nominations committee presented this report to Council.

9.1 Request for decision: Nominations to committees for 2014-15

Professor Krol noted the process the committee followed in developing the list of nominees. He advised that the committee looks at the skills and experience of the nominees and considers equity in representation and balance among members. In keeping with the committee terms of reference, the committee solicits nominations widely from the Council and the General Academic Assembly. In recommending committee chairs the committee considers experience, leadership, continuity and commitment as key attributes of chair nominees.

In addition to the nominees listed in the nominations committee report, as stated in the handout distributed to Council at the meeting, Joel Bruneau from the department of economics has been nominated for a three-year term until June 30, 2017 on the planning and priorities committee.

The Council chair called three times for nominations from the floor and none were made.

A Council member requested that since Council has very little information and knowledge about the candidates that the motion be tabled until there is more information as to the candidates' qualifications, characteristics and criteria, and the manner of selection.

The university secretary informed Council that the rules allow for a motion to defer to a stated time so the motion could be deferred for consideration of the slate of nominees to the next Council meeting. To do so would require approval by a majority of the votes cast. A Council member spoke against the request for additional information, supporting that Council respect the evaluations the nominations committee has made, and indicating that if Council is

asked to review all nominations directly, then Council has no need of a nominations committee.

SOLOSE/VLAHU*: Motion to defer the motion to the next Council meeting, in order for the nominations committee to provide information to Council regarding the candidates' qualifications, and the criteria and manner of selection.

DEFEATED

KROL/WOTHERSPOON: That Council approve the nominations to University Council committees, Collective Agreement committees, and other committees for 2014-15, as provided in the nominations committee report and at the meeting.

CARRIED

10. Governance Committee

Louise Racine, a member of the governance committee, presented this report to Council.

10.1 Notice of motion: Council bylaws amendments

Professor Racine described the proposed amendments to the Council Bylaws, and noted the rationale for the requested motions, as provided in the written meeting materials.

10.2 Request for input: Amendment to Procedures for Student Appeals in Academic Matters

Professor Racine noted the committee is seeking input with respect to the proposed amendment to the *Procedures for Student Appeals in Academic Matters*, regarding the ability to modify the student's involvement when there is a question raised regarding the student's behavior and there is a concern about the well-being or safety of others. She advised that comments can be submitted to Carol Rodgers, committee chair, or the university secretary. The intent is for this amendment to the Procedures to be submitted for approval at the June Council meeting.

10.3 Request for decision: Nominations to the nominations committee

Professor Racine noted the Council members nominated for the nominations committee, and corrected the department name associated with Andrew Van Kessel to read Animal and Poultry Science. The Chair called three times for nominations from the floor and there were none.

RACINE/DOBSON: That Council approve the nominations to the nominations committee effective July 1, 2014 as provided in the governance committee report, and Ed Krol as chair of the nominations committee for a one year term effective July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015.

CARRIED

11. Planning and Priorities Committee

Dr. Fran Walley, chair of the planning and priorities committee, presented this information item to Council. She advised that the committee had more than one discussion about the plan and how it might come to Council. It was acknowledged that the plan is not the committee's but rather ownership rests with the provost's committee on integrated planning (PCIP). Although the plan has already been released to the university community, it was ultimately agreed that the planning and

priorities committee would formally submit the TransformUS action plan to Council in recognition of the committee's mandate for university-wide strategic planning. Dr. Walley advised that the intent is to invite discussion of the action plan. Regarding the committee's contribution to the action plan, Dr. Walley advised that the committee reviewed a draft version of the plan at its April 23rd meeting providing suggestions and comments and in response the plan was modified by PCIP and on April 30th the committee received the final action plan and provided further comments. Dr. Walley advised that the report is presented for information with no accompanying detailed analysis from the planning and priorities committee as the action plan was received and discussed but no recommendations were made with respect to substantive changes. The accompanying project briefs and summary were not reviewed by the committee prior to release of the action plan by PCIP. Dr. Walley advised that the committee's comments centered upon areas for clarification within the action plan, Council's jurisdictional authority, the need for consultation, and enhancing student accessibility and understanding of the plan.

Dr. Walley spoke to an email she received from a Council member earlier in the week asking for information regarding the committee's discussions and deliberations particularly with regards to the passages on page 25 of the report that begins, "finally, PCIP sees an important opportunity to partner with University Council and its committees in the actions that follow from the TransformUS task force reports." The passage goes on to describe various scenarios in which PCIP intends to partner with Council. Dr. Walley advised that the Council member indicated he was concerned that this treads on Council's authority, and inquired what can be done to ensure independence of the planning and priorities committee from PCIP. Dr. Walley advised that it seemed appropriate for her to provide the answer to Council directly. Dr. Walley advised that the committee did discuss this passage in particular and the authority of Council in general on both April 23rd and April 30th. She then shared excerpts from those two committee meetings that speak to this issue (attached as Appendix B to these minutes). Dr. Walley informed Council that she shared these excerpts of these minutes to indicate the consideration and discussions of the committee. Consensus was not reached regarding wording of the action plan about the role of Council, but neither was the goal of the committee's discussion to reach consensus given that the document is not owned by the committee. Any changes to the draft or final version of the action plan, although informed by the discussions at the committee, were left entirely to PCIP to make.

Dr. Walley advised that at a recent planning and priorities committee meeting, the possibility that Council may signal a wish for the committee to thoroughly review the action plan and provide a report to Council was discussed. The committee's hope is that today's discussion at Council will provide direction for planning and priorities committee in this regard. Dr. Walley advised that she would be pleased to take any questions regarding the role of the planning and priorities committee with respect to the action plan, but invited Council to direct any other questions about the plan to Greg Fowler, vice-president finance and resources and vice-chair of PCIP.

Mr. Fowler then provided comments. He advised that he and his colleagues on PCIP are listening carefully to the comments of the planning and priorities committee as well as the comments of President Barnhart and the Board of Governors. He advised Council that given the current circumstances, PCIP has decided to slow down to examine the action plan and to provide for further faculty and staff input and to listen to the university community. The most recent up-to-date information on the fiscal status of the university will also be provided at a future Council meeting.

The Council chair noted that this item has come to Council for information and any information can be sent to Dr. Walley, chair of the planning and priorities committee or the university secretary. The floor was then opened for questions.

A Council member noted a portion within the last paragraph on page 25 of the action plan which reads, "Other potential areas for Council's consideration include an examination by Council's committees, such as the academic programs committee, of the prioritization framework used by the academic programs task force and its potential for incorporation into templates used by the committee when proposals for new or revised programs are brought forward for approval or for program termination." The Council member noted that this is clearly an academic programs committee matter and it appears that PCIP is referring to use by the academic programs committee of a process and procedures employed by the academic programs task force. He noted that these procedures have come under quite a bit of criticism; many believe they are irreparably flawed and incapable of discerning the connections of this institution, and that the procedures represent a reductionist, "rough and ready" process. He called for the academic programs committee to act independently and use its own best judgment in assessing programs. The Council member noted that what has been seen recently is that the TransformUS process has brought the university community to the most difficult situation. Given that the action plan preceded recent events he stated his intent to make a motion. After discussion to clarify the motion, the motion proposed by the Council member was: "That the TransformUS process be suspended, pending a report to Council to the Senate and to the Board of Governors of a forensic audit into the projected deficit of \$44.5M."

The university secretary indicated that there are two aspects of the motion to clarify: (1) whether prior notice of the motion has been given; and (2) whether the motion is a substantive motion. If the motion is deemed to be a substantive motion, as determined by the Chair, then Council should follow its rules and procedures which call for ten days' notice of the motion be provided for Council's consideration. She advised that in this case this has not been given, and therefore to add a substantive motion to the agenda once the meeting has commenced requires unanimous approval by Council.

A Council member argued that Council has had a year to consider TransformUS and therefore does not require notice to consider the motion. Another Council member requested that a vote not be taken as a forensic audit is a complex process, requiring the engagement of many parties, and that such an audit may be unnecessary in order for Council to receive information outlining the university's projected deficit picture.

BROOKE/VLAHU*: To add the proposed motion to the agenda.

DEFEATED

Mr. Fowler advised that there are elements in the action plan outside of Council's authority in order to ensure Council was aware of the varying actions in the plan.

The Council member that brought the motion noted that he voted against his own motion due to the discussion of the motion which made him realize that the motion was an impromptu motion, and suggested that perhaps the motion could be re-worked and submitted to the coordinating committee for consideration to add to the meeting agenda of the next Council meeting.

The Council chair informed Council that any information or input provided by Council members would be submitted to the chair of the planning and priorities committee. The incoming chair for the planning and priorities committee requested instruction from Council regarding whether Council wished the committee to provide an analysis of the action plan. The Council chair affirmed that any related comments could be submitted directly to the chair of the planning and priorities committee or the university secretary.

A Council member noted that she would be interested in learning what concerns the planning and priorities committee had and what advice they gave to PCIP that may or may not have been considered. Dr. Walley replied that this was noted in the reading of the minutes excerpts from the committee's April 23rd and April 30th meetings.

A Council member noted that in a previous question there was a reference to the academic programs committee and the role it should be taking and he invited the chair of the academic programs committee to comment. The chair of the academic programs committee spoke to the independence of the committee and the comments in the action plan. He stated that the committee does not take direction from PCIP regarding the criteria by which the committee assesses programs. The committee is presently reviewing and clarifying the criteria by which programs are assessed to ensure consistency, and will submit the revised criteria to Council for information once its review is complete.

12. Academic programs committee

12.1 Request for decision: Termination of the General Honours degree

Roy Dobson, chair of the academic programs committee, presented this item to Council. He advised that there are no students enrolled in the program presently and that other means exist for students to obtain an honours degree.

DOBSON/KROL: That Council approve the termination of the General Honours degree (in the College of Arts and Science), effective September 2014.

CARRIED

13. Other business

Dr. Walley, chair of the planning and priorities committee noted that as no feedback had been offered in relation to the committee providing Council with the committee's analysis of the TransformUS action plan, that this question could be revisited at the June Council meeting.

The chair noted that any comments on the plan could also be sent to Greg Fowler, vice-president finance and resources and vice-chair of PCIP.

14. Question period

A Council member noted that he appreciated the comments made at the meeting; and referenced in particular Professor Tait's note that this is not a time of triumph but a time of setback for the institution, notwithstanding his pleasure at the appointment of Dr. Barnhart. He requested that the coordinating committee consider bringing forward a motion to rescind the motion approving the Vision 2025 document, and that if the committee declines to bring forward the motion, that the committee explain to Council why the committee believes the document should stand. He advised that it seems inappropriate that Council would bind any future president to a plan approved three weeks prior.

A Council member noted that the two circles with which she is familiar include the circles with her Indigenous colleagues and also with her non-tenured colleagues. She advised that people in these two circles are nervous, scared and angry and she wished to make the reflection that contributions from these two circles might not happen promptly and asked to have some space to hear from people first as that input may come after there is a step towards creating more trust.

A Council member asked if the planning and priorities committee had access to financial information and the total budget of the university. Dr. Walley, chair of planning and priorities committee, confirmed that the committee regularly receives information about the university's budget.

A non-Council member asked the president whether he would step aside from the board of the International Minerals Innovation Institute, as his service on the IMII board and his service to the university as president represents a conflict of interest. President Barnhart confirmed he would be stepping down from the IMII board.

15. Adjournment

The chair noted the final meeting of the 2013-14 year will be June 19, 2014, and encouraged people to attend.

DOBSON/MICHELMANN: That the meeting be adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

CARRIED

Next meeting – 2:30 pm, June 19, 2014

* Izabela Vlahu, was elected as president of the Graduate Students' Association effective May 1, 2014. She assumed that this meant she also became a Council member at that time. In fact student Council members begin their term July 1, therefore Ms. Vlahu was not a Council member at this meeting.