

*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

DOBSON/KALYNCHUK: To adopt the agenda as circulated.

A Council member raised an amendment to the motion to add a motion requesting a report on the proposed deficits and supporting financial documentation.

The university secretary described the procedures for adding an item to the agenda after the agenda had been circulated. She noted that approval requires a two-thirds majority of those present and voting. It was also noted that the Chair had reviewed the motion in advance of the meeting and determined that it was a substantive motion, which, if approved for addition, would be added to the agenda as item 11.a. Finally it was noted that debate at this time was restricted to the request to amend the agenda and not permitted on the substance of the motion.

Professor D'Eon spoke to the motion noting that if a two-thirds majority was not received today that the motion would be added to the agenda for the December Council meeting. He argued that this is an important urgent motion that needed to be addressed sooner than later. He stated that although he had submitted it to the university secretary in advance, it was too late to be included on the agenda so that was why it was coming from the floor. Professor D'Eon referred to comments in the coordinating committee's report from the October Council meeting encouraging Council to raise suggestions on how to address the concerns raised by earlier motions seeking further information on the proposed deficit. He suggested that although people may want more time to ponder the issue, it has been thought about for a few months based on the motions raised originally in May. Those motions were considered by two Council committees and then were reported on to Council in October. Professor D'Eon suggested that the question for supporting financial documentation not be postponed further. He also believed that the materials on the agenda today would allow for this additional item to be added and addressed during the meeting. He encouraged Council to nurture its democratic fabric by agreeing to entertain a motion from the floor.

The Chair opened the matter for debate.

A Council member spoke in favour of adding the motion to the agenda suggesting that it is a discussion Council should have and it did not hurt to have it. She also suggested that items under other business on the Council agenda could be considered at the next meeting so felt that adding it to the agenda would be non-obstructive.

The following motion was then passed with at least a two-thirds majority:

Motion: D'EON/SOLOSE: That the agenda be amended to add the D'EON/SOLOSE motion regarding a request for a report and supporting financial documentation as described to Council today, as agenda item 11a.

CARRIED (51 for/12 against)

Council then voted on the amended motion that the agenda be adopted as amended.

DOBSON/KALYNCHUK: To adopt the agenda as amended.

CARRIED

2. Opening remarks

Dr. Kalra, chair of Council, provided opening remarks. He invited the university secretary to update Council on those GAA members elected by Council to the Search Committee for the President. The university secretary advised that Claire Card (Large Animal Clinical Sciences), Pamela Downe (Department of Archaeology and Anthropology), Len Findlay (Department of English) and Lisa Kalynchuk (Department of Medicine) were elected.

The Chair noted the usual process for debate and the items for consideration on the agenda.

3. Minutes of the meeting of October 23, 2014

The following corrections to the minutes were noted: to include Lisa Kalynchuk, Department of Medicine as the sixth nominee in the list of nominees in the motion set out on pages 9 and 10 of the minutes. A Council member also noted that his comments and question regarding the report of the provost set out in item 6 on page 3 should read as, "He noted in particular that based on the definition the university uses, the number of faculty members may be over reported. As this number is used in the denominator for many of the performance measures it may be causing our university to be ranked lower. The faculty member asked for an explanation regarding the extent to which this is happening. The vice-provost teaching and learning indicated that she would convey these points to Dr. Barber and made note of a project under Dr. Barber's leadership to consider various metrics reported and how the university might better position itself relative to institutional ranking systems."

DOBSON/FINDLAY: That the Council minutes of October 23, 2014 be approved with the corrections as noted.

CARRIED

4. Business from the minutes

A Council member referred to page 3 of the minutes of the October Council meeting where the minutes refer to the decision to appeal the Sims arbitration. The Council member stated that he had been advised that former president Peter MacKinnon had been encouraging senior officers to continue this arbitration and he asked for reassurance that this was not the case. Ernie Barber, provost and vice-president academic, responded to the Council member's question as the president was not in attendance. He advised that the decision to continue this appeal had been arrived at in consultation with the entire senior leadership team, legal advisors, and the Board. He stated that the decision was made by the president and made by the current leaders of the University of Saskatchewan.

The chair of the planning and priorities committee referred to the template for the disestablishment or merger of departments as referred to on page 8 of the October Council meeting minutes and to the question that was raised at that time about whether students would be able to complete any programs affected by a disestablishment or merger. She advised that she reviewed the template and agreed that the template should be modified to make it clearer that if there are any structural changes, students would be allowed to complete those programs affected by the structural change.

## 5. Report of the President

The chair noted that the president had sent regrets as he is on a university related trip, and Provost Barber was available to address any questions at this time. The provost followed up on a question that was asked at the October meeting in connection with the university's legal fees on the Iliopoulou case and advised that the total legal fees to date are approximately \$230,000. A Council member noted that at the October Council meeting he had also asked what the projections are of the total future costs related to this matter, and Dr. Barber advised that the budget he has seen suggested that total legal costs will not exceed an additional \$20,000.

A Council member commented that the president had noted he received a warm welcome in Ottawa and that next week the Council member would be part of a CAUT group going to Ottawa and he expected to receive no attention from the party in power and suggested that the idea of a warm welcome in Ottawa had a selective application.

## 6. Report of the Provost

Provost Barber introduced Beth Bilson as the interim dean in the College of Law to a round of applause.

The provost addressed the tuition question raised at the October Council meeting noting from the minutes that a member had asserted that the University of Saskatchewan has the highest tuition in the country and that 30% of our budget is paid through student fees. He noted that Statistics Canada reported that the University of Saskatchewan had the second highest increase to tuition in the country; and he advised that in 2014, for programs, except Dentistry and other niche programs at the graduate level, our students pay tuition fees that are lower than the median of our peers. For Arts and Science tuition fees are 10% lower than the median of our peers. Secondly, regarding the correction to our operating costs, \$120M comes from tuition fees which accounts for 23% of our operating budget. The provost commented that he realized it brought no comfort to some of our students that our tuition fees are lower than the median of our peers and that it is only one-quarter of the operating budget – as we need to continue to be aware that tuition can be a barrier to students. He advised that the university is addressing this through a number of scholarships and bursaries and we must continue to do more to address the issue and not lose sight of it.

The provost introduced John Rigby in his new role as associate provost, institutional planning and assessment. Dr. Rigby provided comments on the work being done around surveys and rankings. He advised that we need to pay attention to what is important to us as an institution and that instead of rankings deciding our strategic behavior, we need to decide what is important to us. He pointed out as an example of what we see as important to us, that Vice-president Heather Magotiaux had hosted the second meeting of a campus group focused on how to better identify and meet the needs of Aboriginal communities and individuals. Doing a better job of this will not tweak our rankings, but we need to do it anyway to be a better university.

Dr. Rigby advised that tracking some of the university's results is one of the priorities of his new position, in addition to ensuring we are tracking measures that are useful and important. He advised that in the main he believed we are tracking our results and we need to use this information to understand where we are and monitor how we are doing over time. He noted that it is reasonable to also look to the rankings to determine how what we are doing that is important to who we are internally affects our rankings so that the organizations that issue the rankings know what we believe is important in what we do and why. He also informed Council that he believed it was egregious that the ranking organizations use reputation as an input, as clearly this is circular

and reinforces biases; and that they accentuate differences as over the years the Canadian system has worked to diminish such differences, and that any undergraduate student can receive a solid education from any Canadian university. However, we need to pay attention to rankings because students, parents, the provincial government and international students notice them. Therefore under the direction of Troy Harkot a task force/advisory committee will look at the rankings to see which rankings really matter to us. There are a lot of rankings and they are not all equal or paid the same attention. Dr. Rigby advised that fundamentally this committee will look at the information we do have to determine if it is useful and used, and how it fits together. He believed that if we do this, the rankings should look after themselves, and so we need to be conscious of them, but not have them as strategic drivers.

The provost advised that over the past month he has become aware of some fantastic accomplishments recognized on the international level with our students, faculties and long-standing partnerships and we need to continue to celebrate these.

A Council member noted that resource allocation is one of the provost's top five priorities since this directly affects the functioning of our academic programs and revenues and she asked what guides PCIP's allocation and decision-making. Dr. Barber advised that the university receives the provincial grant and the provost directs that to the work of the university. This is aided by the provost's committee on integrated planning (PCIP). This is relatively easy when the university receives year over year increases and receives as much money as we think we need; but when we are not in such a situation this means having to withdraw resources from units. As we move to 2015-16 there will be money to provide some inflation indexing of fixed costs, but what we have hanging over is the \$12M that was removed from college programs through the faculty retirement program. The net is \$7M taken out of colleges in a non-strategic manner. So the biggest decision now is how to determine where the \$7M should come out of the colleges' total operating income of \$400M.

A Council member noted that we are ranked as part of the U15 and we are somewhere near the bottom as we are categorized as a medical doctoral university. He asked whether the U15 allocation is made by *Maclean's* or is a voluntary designation, as he believed the U of S is more comparable to the comprehensive category. He also noted that the comments from the October Council meeting regarding tuition fees had come from him and were based on information he had from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. The provost asked that the Council member please forward that report reference to him for his information. The provost also noted that the U of S categorized itself as a medical/doctoral university long ago. *Maclean's* has identified the U of S as a medical/doctoral university for many years and this is not necessarily the same as being in the U15. Karen Chad, vice-president research added that the university does not pick the category in which *Maclean's* puts us but rather if you have a medical/doctoral college then you are by definition in the medical/doctoral category.

A Council member commented on the cost of the university's administrative apparatus becoming bigger and the faculty continuing to shrink and stated that the university does not need more committees or assessments but rather it needs to hire more faculty and give them more time to do their jobs in peace and then the rankings will go up and the students will be happy. She noted that some departments are well-fed and well-maintained and others are starved. The example she gave was in the Department of Religion and Linguistics where there are only two faculty members in religion and two in linguistics and she noted that they are finding it difficult to address the increasing student demand.

A Council member asked for a definition of what peer group meant and also asked what tuition increases can be anticipated for the coming year. She noted that last year the former provost

agreed that there would likely be a 4% increase planned for the total budget in 2016 and she was wondering if there was an update or any re-projection or recalculation of this amount. Dr. Barber advised that they are aiming to have the 2015-16 tuition approved by the Board at their December meeting. His belief and hope, based on preliminary information from the colleges, would suggest that the increase should be a lot closer to 2% but he did not know exactly what it would be. He noted that this year there was a good process to look at what tuition fees should be and he has been talking with deans about what principles should be used and the deans have been talking with those in their colleges about these principles, and he understood that students have also been engaged in the conversations about tuition fees.

Regarding peer groups, Dr. Rigby advised that the definition of the peer group depends on the situation. For most conversations the university looks to the U15 as its peer group but in some circumstances looks at the prairie universities (University of Manitoba, University of Calgary, University of Alberta and University of Regina). Dr. Rigby advised that when talking about research aspirations, we focus on the U15 but when we talk about programming, we pay more attention to what is happening in the prairies. Dr. Barber added that on the university's website our tuitions are compared to all of the U15 ([usask.ca/tuition](http://usask.ca/tuition)).

A non-Council member noted that in the last decade there was a freeze on tuition fees for more than one year and he was wondering if this administration is making the case for that again with the provincial government. He also noted that there are several countries that have zero tuition fees (e.g. Germany, Nordic countries, Wales and Scotland) and asked whether this administration would consider aiming for that as a realistic goal given that it exists in other countries. Dr. Barber advised that in Saskatchewan there was what appeared as a freeze on tuition a number of years ago but really the university had partnered with the government to provide what we thought tuition fees ought to be and the government addressed this through its grant. He noted that wherever freezes on tuition fees are held too long, there is often a catch up that comes shortly after the freeze is removed. He advised that the university values its autonomy and our Act says we set tuition fees and we believe setting tuition fees is our decision. We spend about \$1B, of which \$120M is from tuition fees. If we want to continue to spend this amount and have zero tuition fees, we would have to determine how to obtain this revenue elsewhere. The provost noted that as a middle-class family, if his children's tuition was free that would be a direct subsidy for him so he believed there should be tuition fees but also subsidies available to those for whom tuition would be a barrier.

#### 7. Bi-annual report of the vice-president Research

Karen Chad, vice-president research advised that every month at Council there is an update on the university's discovery mission either in the president's or the provost's report. Approximately one year ago Council also asked for bi-annual highlights on this mission so she now provides this in November and the spring. She noted that her comments are not intended to be comprehensive but to note some highlights.

Dr. Chad's PowerPoint presentation is attached as Appendix B to these minutes.

Dr. Chad provided comments on the following areas:

- Canada First Research Excellence Fund – a new government fund and the terms will be released in the next month;
- Canada Excellence Research Chair – global food security;
- CIHR support unit – tries to ensure our discoveries make a difference in our communities, with patients and their families;

- CIHR – last year the U of S received two out of ten awards in the amount of approximately \$10M each; this goes to a broad program that supports faculty, students, research projects and networking opportunities;
- Aboriginal peoples: engagement and scholarship – there are discovery vignettes in terms of language and telling a story of research accomplishments and impact on faculty, students and community partners illustrating who is doing what with whom and what are making differences. Also having community cafes to recognize internal and external colleagues and to build on our strengths and fill important gaps of our discovery missions in this signature area;
- enhancing our research community – regarding our undergraduate research this semester we have had over 1,000 students from Agriculture and Bioresources, Kinesiology and Arts and Science engaged in research projects;
- met with two post-doctoral fellows regarding recruitment and what they saw as important factors and the supportive environment necessary for their success;
- associate deans of research are looking at how we ensure that we recognize and reward inter/multidisciplinary researchers as the type of work they do does not fit into our traditional reward system.

Dr. Chad also provided an update to Council on improving the service delivery of the Office of the Vice-president Research. She explained that a review of the entire office was conducted four years ago when she first started in this position to determine whether we are making it easy for students, faculty and staff to be successful in their discovery mission. She has been working on amalgamation of research services and ethics; amalgamation of three clusters to provide consolidated support for national programs and strategic initiatives; and a consolidated international office. Dr. Chad also noted some of the research success stories as illustrated in more detail in the attached Appendix B.

Dr. Chad then received a number of questions. A Council member asked how much the university spends on research as compared to other universities in the U15. Dr. Chad indicated that she would report back with that information.

A Council member noted that we are hiring other universities' Ph.D. graduates as our faculty and inquired as to whether we know if other universities are hiring our Ph.D. graduates and if those numbers are being collected. Dr. Chad advised that is the type of information, we would look to our new metrics to provide. In the spring she indicated she would try to provide an overview of metrics and our performance and where we might have more work to do.

A Council member noted that in her conversations with Research Services she has not received the help she was looking for and asked what Research Services is really about and advised that we need a research facilitation service. Dr. Chad commented that it is her responsibility to make sure that when faculty members need help they are getting it in this area, and she committed to follow up with the Council member. She also noted that the university has a long way to go. They have started to look at the position profiles for associate deans of research to understand the roles and responsibilities of those individuals and there will soon be a review of the research assistant pilot project in colleges. She acknowledged that faculty members need to know easily where they can get answers and she committed to report in April on these questions and also to assist the Council member personally.

A Council member noted that TransformUS was doing the opposite to celebrating faculty successes as the message to those who were ranked as three or less was that they should go elsewhere.

A Council member asked whether Dr. Chad could say a few things about support for artistic work on campus noting that the community-based experiential work is very important. Dr. Chad confirmed that this is an area where we need to do more, both internally and with our community partners. She advised she has begun conversations with Caroline Tait, chair of the research, scholarly and artistic work committee, and this is a theme the committee has taken up. Those working in the area of artistic work need different initiatives, recognition and supports. She advised that she has not lost sight of this and it is a priority both at the RSAW committee and for her office.

A non-Council member noted that recently she had an experience looking at budgets for an AUCC program that the university operated and had negative experiences both in doing the budgets and auditing them. Her concern was that as there are now fewer staff members in these areas nothing was handed over to other people so the work is not being done. She found it frustrating that there is no one that understands how to fill out the budget and when people are eliminated their work is not transferred to someone else. She raised the concern that the staff in the Office of the Vice-president Research had advised that they do not have the time to work through contracts and provide the assistance as the offices have become so lean. She noted that she spent a week attempting to find money for the interdisciplinary work she was attempting to do.

The non-Council member also noted that SWITCH is a great program and it is a disgrace that the university cannot support this student initiative.

Dr. Chad advised that last spring she provided a presentation to Council that showed that researchers spend approximately 40% of their time on research administration. She noted that the UnivRS project is a new electronic system intended to address these concerns and committed to reporting on this initiative again in the spring.

## 8. Student Societies

### 8.1 Report from the USSU

Desirée Steele, vice-president, academic affairs of the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union presented the report to Council. She advised that the USSU has heard feedback regarding the fall reading week, most of which was positive. She welcomed any comments from Council regarding the new fall reading week.

Ms. Steele advised that the USSU continues to move forward to develop a campus-wide mental health strategy. As mentioned at the last Council meeting the Mental Health Awareness Week went well and was a good initiative to get students to think about the broader mission of seeing what others experience. She noted that Jack Saddleback, Patti McDougall, Lisa Kalynchuk and Terry Fitzpatrick continue to build a team of key individuals on campus to create a campus-wide mental health strategy. A mental health summit will take place in early March to address issues on campus and generate solutions. She invited Council members to think about what they would recommend and provide comments in March.

Ms. Steele commented on the campus climate survey that was released this week. Members of the USSU enjoyed the opportunity to discuss these results with faculty, administrators and other students at the student forum. Questions of what to make with the data, which areas to focus on and how to improve different aspects of the campus climate are of significant interest to the USSU. She advised that the USSU looks forward to supporting debate and action toward bringing the reality on our campus closer to our vision of welcoming, supporting and respecting each student.

Ms. Steele noted that she was happy to hear about the expanding undergraduate research initiative and the expanding pilot project. Undergraduate researchers have the chance to present their work at the Undergraduate Project Symposium coming up on January 29<sup>th</sup>, and she asked Council members to encourage students they know who have research, scholarly or artistic work to share to visit the USSU website where they can submit their project for consideration by December 5<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Steele noted that students have had an opportunity to provide input on tuition and she has heard from a number of students about the opportunities, or lack thereof, to provide this input. She is working with students and deans to provide a report on what worked and what did not and recommendations for the future.

Ms. Steele concluded by noting that November 20<sup>th</sup> marks the annual Vigil for the Transgender Day of Remembrance presented by the USSU Pride Centre, and she invited Council members to join the Saskatoon community tonight for a short presentation and speakers in the Neatby-Timlin Theatre at 6:00 p.m. followed by a candlelight vigil to honour those who have been lost.

## 8.2 Report from the GSA

Izabela Vlahu, president of the Graduate Students' Association (GSA), presented the report to Council. She spoke about the impeachment attempt directed at her, which she advised started with an unsigned defamatory article in *The Sheaf* and continued with a meeting called for November 17<sup>th</sup>. She advised that at the same time that she was discussing the concerns, the students voted the meeting out of order and left. She noted that what would have been relevant would have been to have a discussion of concerns and address them, and she was sad that did not occur. She also noted that she was sad to have witnessed that some of these defamatory comments distributed by *The Sheaf* affected members of the faculty in an unexpected way as a planning and priorities committee meeting with the GSA was cancelled due to what was stated to be unrest among the GSA executive. She was disappointed in the manner in which the meeting had been cancelled and that no one had contacted her to confirm whether there was in fact any unrest with the GSA. She also noted that she had received a number of emails of support from students and faculty regarding the defamatory comments in *The Sheaf*. Ms. Vlahu commented that her hope was to be able to move on from this and for everyone in the university to act in a professional manner.

## 9. Academic Programs committee

Professor Roy Dobson, chair of the academic programs committee presented the committee items.

### 9.1 Request for decision: termination of the Bachelor of Science in Engineering – Biological Engineering

Professor Dobson highlighted the key points regarding the termination of the Bachelor of Science in Biological Engineering. He noted that the request was due to historic low enrolment and failure to make significant changes in the program over the past few years. Other areas are now serving the areas originally served by this program. He advised that those students registered in the program will be allowed to complete their program and the accreditation of the program is assured. He noted that there may be some concern due to the historic nature of the program and the college was aware of this and had assured the committee that they were addressing any concerns from alumni.



A Council member asked a question regarding the term “low enrolment” commenting that this is a relative term. He noted that whether this should be defined as low enrolment is for the college to determine and he thought it was not appropriate for the committee to bring this to Council in this matter. Professor Dobson advised that the reference to this program as having low enrolment came to the committee from the College of Engineering and that its faculty had approved the deletion of this program.

DOBSON/KALYNCHUK: That Council approve the termination of the Bachelor of Biological Engineering program effective September 1, 2015.

CARRIED

## 9.2 For information: Change to Academic Calendar

Professor Dobson noted the academic programs committee had approved a requested change to the 2014-15 calendar that affects year 2 dentistry students. They will now finish a week earlier than expected and the students are in agreement with this change.

## 10. Governance committee

Professor Louise Racine, chair of the nominations committee, presented the reports to Council, advising that they are all notices of motions for amendments to the Council Bylaws.

### 10.1 Notice of Motion: Election of Faculty Members to Council, Council Bylaws, Part One, s. II

Professor Racine advised that the proposed amendment to the Bylaws is to ensure that the election of faculty members to Council is aligned with *The University of Saskatchewan Act, 1995* in terms of effective appointment and filling of vacancies.

RACINE/DOBSON: That Council approve the following amendments to Council Bylaws:

1. The replacement of the statement in Part One, II, 12: “Should vacancies on Council occur between the time of the election and the date of the first Council in the fall, such vacancies will continue to be filled by those unelected candidates on the voting list who received the greatest number of votes” with the statement,  
  
“Candidates on the voting list who receive the greatest number of votes are elected to Council effective July 1. Should candidates so elected decline or otherwise be unable to accept a position on Council, such positions shall continue to be filled by those unelected candidates that received the greatest number of votes.”
2. The inclusion of a new statement immediately thereafter, which reads: “A vacancy on Council for a college representative under Section 53(2) (b) or (c), a librarian under Section 53(2) (d) or (e) or a faculty member under Section 53(2) (i) shall be filled by an election held within 90 days of the vacancy, if the vacancy occurs within 27 months of that member being elected. A vacancy arising after that time shall be filled at the next annual election.”

10.2 Notice of Motion: International Activities Committee Terms of Reference, Council Bylaws, Part Two, s. IV

Professor Racine noted that the International Activities Committee (IAC) requested changes to their terms of reference to reflect the terms of the committee as they presently exist and to formalize the non-voting resource members to the committee. The proposed revisions are indicated in the right-hand column in the materials.

A Council member questioned what kind of activities would promote, foster or encourage interactions by this committee as he was concerned that the committee may not have the necessary resources. Gap Soo Chang, chair of the IAC, advised that the committee is trying to develop initiatives for learning and discovery opportunities internationally. Currently, there are no resources so the committee is looking to how to coordinate with the university and other units on campus.

RACINE/DOBSON: That Council approve the amendments to the terms of reference of the International Activities Committee of Council as provided in the written meeting materials.

10.3 Notice of Motion: College of Law Faculty Council Membership, Council Bylaws, Part Three, s. V

Professor Racine advised that this amendment is in relation to membership on the faculty council of the College of Law and the request is to include one student from the graduate degree program in law. The governance committee supports this request and the faculty council of the College of Law had approved this amendment unanimously.

RACINE/DOBSON: That Council approve the amendment to the membership of the College of Law Faculty Council to include one student from a graduate degree program in law.

11. Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships

Jim Germida, vice-provost faculty relations and chair of the joint Board/Council committee on chairs and professorships presented the following two items.

11.1 Request for Decision: Co-operative Retailing System (CRS) Chair in Co-operative Governance

Dr. Germida advised that the proposed chair is a three-year enhancement chair funded by Federated Co-op. There was a question as to whether the search to fill this chair will be external or internal to the university. Dr. Germida advised that the expectation is that this would normally be the director of the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives who is currently Murray Fulton.

A Council member asked how having these entities supporting these research chairs is not a conflict of interest and asked how the provision of funds from a particular group with interest in the area allows the researcher the necessary academic freedom to do the research without undue pressure. Dr. Germida advised that there is no control exercised over the chair by the funding entity. The chair continues the research that the centre has already been doing.

CHIBBAR/SINGH: That Council authorize the Board to establish a Co-operative Retailing System (CRS) Chair in Co-operative Governance.

CARRIED

11.2 Request for Decision: Canadian Canola Growers Association Agricultural Policy Chair

Dr. Germida advised that this is an endowed chair supported by a \$5M donation to the university by the Canadian Canola Growers Association for establishing a policy chair in the Department of Bioresource Policy, Business and Economics. He advised that there would be recruitment for a tenure or tenure-track faculty member to fill this chair.

A Council member noted that the written materials refer to the Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS) but it is not in the terms of reference and he asked whether it will play a part in the recruitment strategy. Dr. Germida advised that bringing in an individual to focus on agricultural policy is something that would be important to GIFS but it is just an opportunity and there is no requirement.

CHIBBAR/SINGH: That Council authorize the Board to establish a Canadian Canola Growers Association Agricultural Policy Chair.

CARRIED

11.a Agenda item added from the floor – D'Eon/Solose motion requesting financial information

Professor D'Eon spoke to the motion. He noted that learning how the university has arrived at a proposed deficit may help us to stay out of such a situation in the future. He noted that the motion lays out the interests of Council and the interest is for a clear explanation rather than specific documents. He referred to previous comments from the planning and priorities committee where it was noted that there are questions about the previous projected deficit and the current projected deficit. He also noted previous comments from the coordinating committee where that committee encouraged Council to raise any questions and seek the appropriate answers in this area. As further support for this motion being within Council's jurisdiction, Professor D'Eon noted that he imagines that some academic programs would have been asked to make sacrifices and there may have been funds diverted to different units or academic activity and so in that sense he clearly sees that financial issues are influencing and driving the academic mission so the motion asks for a clear explanation for the previous projected deficit, the current deficit and the transition from one to the other. He urged Council to vote in support of what he believed to be a reasonable motion.

A Council member spoke in favour of the motion noting that although he felt comfortable with the information he had received as a Council committee chair, he realized that others on Council may not have been given as much information and so he thought that it was appropriate to seek this information. Another Council member also spoke in favour of the motion noting that it is a nice summary of what the university community has been asking for over the last several months and that she believed that it did not require a lot of additional effort from administration.

A Council member noted that based on the language in the second item there is the assumption that there will always be a deficit position and she wondered what was intended or whether it should be reworded. A Council member noted in response that he thought the assumption may be within the gloomy milieu in which we live. The Council member also spoke in favour of the motion noting that the university is supposed to be going from money to mission, so he was in support of Council reasserting its interest and right to collegial oversight to resources attached to what relates to the academic mission.

The provost also spoke in favour of the motion urging Council to support it. He advised that he thought it was important for Council to understand this information and although he believed administration has tried to provide this information he was happy to provide further information to ensure that Council understands it. His one concern was how to measure whether the information that is provided is adequate.

The chair of the planning and priorities committee spoke in favour of the motion noting that although the planning and priorities committee has had a lot of this information presented to it she realized that Council may not have been exposed to the same information.

A Council member suggested in response to the provost's concern that administration provide budget books similar to what was prepared in the past and provided to the University Archives.

D'EON/SOLOSE: Whereas University Council is responsible for overseeing and directing the academic affairs of the university, and

Whereas detailed financial information in the form of reports and documents are instrumental in fully considering the academic affairs of the university, we move that:

University Council be provided with a report and supporting financial documentation that clearly shows:

- 1) the origin of the previously projected \$44.5M deficit,
- 2) the present actual deficits as well as future projected deficits, and
- 3) how and why the \$44.5 million projected deficit was adjusted to reflect the actual and future projected deficits.

CARRIED (unanimously)

Professor D'Eon commented on the deficit language noting that it was his understanding that minor deficits are expected in the future budgets.

## 12. Enrolment Report

Patti McDougall, vice provost teaching and learning, presented the fall term enrolment report, an annual report to University Council reflecting the census snapshot taken at the end of the fifth week of classes. Dr. McDougall stated that in addition to patterns of enrolment change (up and down) over periods of years, of interest is the extent to which our enrolment maps onto strategic targets that have been set. The reference point for target information presented today points to enrolments mapped out by colleges and PCIP in the last planning cycle, with goals set to 2015-16.

Although total enrolment for the fall term was down slightly (0.4%) as compared to last year, spring and summer enrolment for 2014 was up marginally (1.0%) from the spring/summer session a year ago. In general, enrolment can be interpreted to be stable. The enrolment goal for total number of students was set in the last planning cycle to 22,897, suggesting that we are currently at 92% of that target. In the fall term, we saw that graduate students were almost at 15% of the population, which is just below our target of having 19% of students as graduate students by 2015-16. In contrast, our proportion of undergraduate students (80%) is slightly higher than our aspirations.

The proportion of Saskatchewan students in direct entry programs is declining, whereas the numbers of out-of-province and international students are both increasing. The university's goal is

to increase the diversity of the student population. With a graduate student body consisting of 35% international students we are at an all-time high. Our goal, out to 2015-16 was to have 31% of the graduate population come from outside Canada so we are now above our original goal. The corresponding goal at the undergraduate level was to have 7% of the population be international students, and we met that target this fall. With regard to Aboriginal students, the fall undergraduate population is 11% Aboriginal. Our overall goal by 2015-16 is to reach a level of 14% Aboriginal undergraduates. Aboriginal graduate students constitute 6% of the undergraduate population, just shy of our goal to have 7% of the graduate population be Aboriginal by 2015-16. In the spring and fall 2014 convocation ceremonies, Aboriginal students received 9.5% of the total number of degrees, diplomas, and certificates awarded.

Dr. McDougall's PowerPoint presentation is attached as Appendix C to the minutes and there is also more information on enrolment on the website at <http://www.usask.ca/isa/statistics/students/headcount-demographics.php>. Dr. McDougall thanked those that worked in the areas of SESD, Information Systems and the Registrar for the enrolment information. She then called for questions.

A Council member noted that the comparison between current enrolment and target enrolment is very important and advised that he understood we have more room for graduate students but realized there is an additional cost. He asked whether the university had developed a plan to accommodate the increased number of students. Dr. McDougall replied that in the last two years there was a strategic management project which resulted in ten recommendations. The first and second recommendations specifically dealt with what we are providing to graduate students and how we are providing it and that work needs to be done. Adam Baxter-Jones, acting dean of graduate studies and research has already been implementing and leading that work and she advised that the resources and needs to try to achieve those goals are under consideration.

Daphne Taras, dean of the Edwards School of Business, noted that the competition for business and engineering schools and professional schools is fierce and most of these schools are going out with substantial offers and are getting them out earlier. She noted that we were among the last schools to make scholarship offers this past year and then students needed to wait well into the summer to learn if they were successful. She recommended that the university try to give out scholarship monies faster as we have an extraordinary amount of scholarships available. She noted that other schools also invite admitted students to spend a weekend at the university at the university's expense.

Dr. McDougall introduced Lisa Shepard, manager of admissions and noted that the university is rolling out an automated system so that our offers will be out by the first week of April. Ms. Shepard also noted that the university has been admitting students early based on grade 11 marks and many have already received offers from the Edwards School of Business, Engineering and Kinesiology.

A Council member from Nursing raised three concerns related to having increased students and increased campus locations. Although the university and college want to maintain a high level of education, her concern is that with the increase of students and possible further expansion in satellite sites, the kind and quality of education students at the satellite sites will receive needs to be considered. There is also a concern about the workload of faculty members. If the university wants to be more successful in research, it needs to create an environment conducive to research success since she did not know if increasing the number of students will lead to that. Thirdly she was concerned about recruiting and attracting high quality faculty members.

A non-Council member noted that her concern is that she has no idea how to recruit graduate students because there is a complex health sciences umbrella and potential students do not know how to find her and she does not have anything to offer them. Her approach now is to put out a call on the list serve to her colleagues to look for students, but she noted it would be great for someone to take the lead and help her. Dr. McDougall responded that the recruiting of graduate students is international centric and has a lot to do with packages being offered and the timeliness of these offers. Dr. Baxter-Jones informed Council that on November 28<sup>th</sup>, a one-day workshop will be held in the graduate commons including a topic on recruitment of graduate students. He advised that a student financial aid report is planned for release in December as well as a report coming out on graduate education. He advised that the institution is recognizing it wants to increase graduate students by an additional 1,200 students to a total of 4,500 students. A major stumbling block is the scholarships being offered, and the university is well aware of this. He advised that the university would like to be able to inform a student when making an offer what minimum funding they would receive.

The chair thanked the presenters and Council members for their engagement.

13. Other business

There was no other business.

14. Question period

There were no questions.

15. Adjournment

ZELLO/B. BRENNNA: That the meeting be adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

CARRIED