

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

The chair called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m., observing that quorum had been attained.

1. Adoption of the agenda

DOBSON/WALDRAM: To adopt the agenda as circulated with the removal of item 11.2.

CARRIED

2. Opening remarks

Dr. Jay Kalra, chair of Council provided opening remarks. At the chair's request, Ms. Elizabeth Williamson, university secretary reported that Professor Stephen Urquhart of the Department of Chemistry was elected to the university review committee.

The chair outlined the usual procedures for debate and discussion and noted one change—that as chair he would continue to entertain questions following the president's and provost's reports as long as the questions were directly related to the reports, but that questions unrelated to the reports would be heard during Question Period. The chair thanked members in anticipation of their following these guidelines, noting a number of members had spoken to him regarding the length of the meetings and that the change was due to time constraints.

The chair informed members that there would be no report from the president as President Barnhart was away for the month of January. The president's trip was scheduled prior to his being asked to be interim president, and his acceptance of the position was with the understanding that he would be away in January.

3. Minutes of the meeting of December 18, 2014

DOBSON/ZELLO: That the Council minutes of December 18, 2014 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

4. Business from the minutes

The chair advised that the vice-president finance and resources would respond at the February 2015 Council meeting to the motion and questions submitted by Professors D'Eon and Solose, which Council passed at the November 20, 2014 Council meeting.

Regarding the question at the last meeting of how much funding for research is received from endowments, Dr. Karen Chad, vice-president research, reported that there are 56 funds with a value of \$98 M and a spendable portion of \$3.3 M.

5. Report of the President

There was no report.

## 6. Report of the Provost

Provost and vice-president academic Ernie Barber referred members to his written report. Responding to a question by a Council member at the December Council meeting, the provost reported that the university is under no obligation to take up curricular or financial responsibility for the courses in the Confucius Institute after the initial four or five years of operation of the Institute. He further clarified that the courses in the Confucius Institute are not offered for credit and are directed primarily toward spoken communication in Mandarin Chinese, primarily for conversation and business communication. The simplified system of written characters is used. By contrast, the courses in Religion and Culture are offered for credit and are directed primarily toward a reading knowledge of Mandarin Chinese, primarily for research purposes. One emphasis in these courses is the traditional system of written characters.

## 7. Student societies

### 7.1 Report from the USSU

Desirée Steele, vice-president academic affairs of the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU) presented the report to Council. She urged all present to attend the Undergraduate Project Symposium January 29<sup>th</sup> in the North Concourse of Upper Place Riel and to take in the events scheduled to mark Aboriginal Achievement Week, February 2 – 6, 2015, in particular USSU sponsored speaker Dr. Robert-Falcon Ouellette.

The 2015-16 tuition rates have been announced. Ms. Steele urged the university to ensure that tuition supports the continuing quality of university education, to improve the student experience, and to pay close attention at the college level regarding how budgetary decisions are made. Making multi-year tuition forecasting a reality would constitute a major improvement and set out the university as a leader in student success.

### 7.2 Report from the GSA

Izabela Vlahu, president of the Graduate Students' Association (GSA), presented the report to Council. Ms. Vlahu referred members to her written report and provided additional comments on the topic of the recent special general meeting of the GSA at which a motion was carried to endorse the campaign to unionize graduate student teaching and research assistants. She noted the campaign is being led by graduate students and not the GSA Executive.

## 8. Academic programs committee

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

### 8.1 Request for decision: Graduate Certificate in Social Economy and Co-operatives

Professor Dobson introduced the proposal to approve a graduate-level certificate in the study of social economy and co-operatives as an interdisciplinary offering drawing on specialized knowledge of the co-operative sector. The program is similar to a program offered by the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School (JSGS) at the University of Regina campus of the JSGS, and is regarded as an excellent recruitment tool to the Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree offered by the JSGS.

A member noted the recent increase in the number of certificate of proficiency programs submitted to Council for approval and inquired whether a set of standards exist against which the academic programs committee measures certificates of proficiency. Professor Dobson indicated the College of Arts and Science has developed a template for certificate programs offered by the college which Council has approved. However, apart from the College of Arts and Science, there is no standardization. Professor Dobson indicated that the academic programs committee (APC) and the planning and priorities committee (PPC) were aware of the issue, and the committee executives were meeting the next day to discuss the question of what constitutes proficiency at the certificate level, as there is a wide variation depending on the area of study.

DOBSON/KROL: That Council approve the Graduate Certificate in Social Economy and Co-operatives, effective May 1, 2015, and that Council's Bylaws be amended to reflect the name of the new program.

CARRIED

## 8.2 Request for decision: Graduate Certificate in One Health

Professor Dobson noted the program before Council is a new certificate program at the graduate level, with the goal of developing capacity in interdisciplinary problem-solving in the emerging area of One Health, defined as multi-disciplinary teams working together to obtain optimal health for people, animals, and the environment.

A member observed an almost complete lack of engagement with the many health research scholars and disciplines within the College of Arts and Science, such as Medical Anthropology, and asked why these scholars had not been invited to participate in the development of the proposal. Professor Bruce Reeder, co-leader of the One Health signature area, indicated that a diversity of academic disciplines have been involved with the new certificate program. The program is an evolving program, there is much excitement regarding the collaboration involved, and scholars from the College of Arts and Science are welcome to contribute to the diversity of the program, which emphasizes the importance of different ways of knowing. He concluded his response by indicating that an invitation to researchers in related fields within the College of Arts and Science would be extended.

A member asked about the One Health designation and how widely recognized the term was and whether potential employers of graduates of the program would recognize it. Professor Reeder indicated the term is not new and represents the holistic thinking around One World, One Health, which has been more prevalent over the past decade. The team that developed the program judged that the name One Health best described the program, based on members' experiences working with American, European and other colleagues. The term One Health is trending to be the current term and therefore was selected as the best labelling choice for the program.

DOBSON/KROL: That Council approve the Graduate Certificate in One Health, effective May 1, 2015, and that Council's Bylaws be amended to reflect the name of the new program.

CARRIED

### 8.3 Request for decision: Certificate in Practical and Applied Arts

Professor Dobson indicated that the Certificate in Practical and Applied Arts is intended to replace the teaching area in Industrial Arts and Home Economics in the Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) degree. The certificate is intended to be taken primarily post-graduation. An increased tuition fee is anticipated in the future in order to cover program costs.

A member spoke of the presentation of three certificate programs to Council at the meeting, and indicated that although he was not aware of how many certificate programs the university offers, that in general the concept of adding a certificate on to a graduate degree seemed to him like a good idea to make a degree more marketable. He questioned, however, that he had no means of knowing whether his assumption was correct or not and whether the increase was market-driven, or whether the programs represented the research interests within the units offering the programs, or whether the university was becoming involuted with a plethora of certificates. He noted that two of the certificate programs submitted had or intended to have increased tuition fees beyond the norm, and wondered how this might factor into consideration of these programs.

Professor Dobson indicated that these questions go to the heart of why the APC and PPC executive members were meeting to discuss certificate programs. These questions and others, such as whether certificates offer the best promise of flexibility and reflect the needs of students, need to come before Council. A member requested that when the group meets that it also consider that certificates call upon existing expertise, resources, courses, and their establishment makes clear to prospective students and employers the value of taking that group of courses. Other members asked that consideration be given to whether the structure of a certificate fits with the mission of the university or would be better placed at a polytechnic level.

In reference to the Certificate in Practical and Applied Arts, and whether it should be a program in a polytechnic rather than a university, Professor Jay Wilson, head of the Department of Curriculum Studies and the department where the proposed certificate will be offered, made the distinction between an individual trained to work in the trades, who undertakes training at a polytechnic institute, versus an individual trained at a university to be a teacher of subjects, such as Home Economics and Industrial Arts at the secondary school level. Professor Dobson assured members of Council that any criteria devised would be submitted to Council.

DOBSON/KROL: That Council approve the Certificate in Practical and Applied Arts, effective September 1, 2015, and that Council's Bylaws be amended to reflect the name of the new program.

CARRIED

### 8.4 Request for input: Articulation and Transfer Credit Policy

Professor Dobson indicated the policy will establish transfer credit and articulation principles, define common terminology, outline roles and responsibilities, clarify authorities, and determine common procedures and guidelines to implement the policy. The policy has been developed through extensive consultation. Questions from members related to the time limit in which to apply transfer credits—time limits are set by each college—and whether the new

policy will include prior learning assessment (PLA)—a policy on PLA will be developed separately.

#### 8.5 Report for information: Items for information

A report of items approved at the committee level was presented for information. Items reported included: Native Studies Program Name Change to Indigenous Studies; creation of a Certificate in Jazz, creation of Geological, Mechanical and Chemical Engineering Mining Options; terminations of the Postgraduate Diploma (PGD) in French, Master of Agriculture (M.Agr.) non-thesis option, Minor in Jazz Studies, Four-year B.Sc. in Computing, and Post-degree Specialization Certificate in Computer Science.

### 9. International activities committee

Professor Gap Soo Chang, chair of the international activities committee, presented the report to Council.

#### 9.1 Report for information: University Partnerships with International Institutes

Professor Chang spoke to the question of the university's partnership with countries known to have oppressive regimes, with reference, in particular, to the Confucius Institute at the university. Professor Chang reported the Confucius Institute was established in 2012 with Council's approval and outlined the process of consideration of the institute by Council committees at that time.

At the request of the coordinating committee of Council, the international activities committee reviewed the documents submitted to the May 2012 Council meeting, which included the two agreements between the university and the Confucius Institute Headquarters (HanBan) and the university and the Beijing Institute of Technology, as the partner institute. In reviewing these documents and the minutes of the Council May 2012 Council meeting, Professor Chang indicated the committee found no political statements in the documents and no concern was registered by the committee with respect to the activities of the Confucius Centre at the university. Professor Chang conveyed that the committee holds the view that Council's role is to consider academic matters not political issues. In the future, however, the committee recommends that any such agreements be submitted to the planning and priorities committee and the international activities committee prior to being signed, and also that the committees review any reports at the time of renewal of the agreement.

A member spoke of the 2011 agreement as containing a non-disclosure clause, which placed the HanBan, the Beijing Institute of Technology, and the University of Saskatchewan in a position of secrecy, which has no place at a university. He questioned the committee's decision to consider non-credit language and cultural instruction as non-political, and referred to the Cultural Revolution as an extreme example of political involvement in culture and language. He indicated that he was working on a recommendation for the university to discontinue its relationship with the Confucius Institute and urged its placement off campus. He inquired on what basis the international activities committee made its decision, in particular whether the committee consulted the December, 2013 decision by the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) that Confucius Institutes not be allowed on Canadian universities, or whether the committee considered the University of McMaster decision to rescind its agreement with its Confucius Institute and the University of Manitoba decision not to have a Confucius

Institute. Another member reiterated these concerns, noting that on the internet he quickly came up with over 100 references to Confucius Institutes and various Canadian institutes that have rescinded these Confucius Institutes. He expressed that he was dissatisfied with the depth of research shown in the committee's report.

The opinion that the committee made a false dichotomy between academic and political issues, and that political issues should have direct bearing was expressed. Further, that current-day Chinese policy calls for the expunging of any references to Tiananmen Square, Taiwan and Tibet. A member noted *The University of Saskatchewan Act, 1995*, permits Council to make recommendations to the president, board, or senate respecting any matters of interest to the university, and that Council could express an opinion regarding the situation. Other members spoke of the difficult choices other universities have made, which should compel the university to consider its Confucius Institute with due process and scrutiny by completing a thorough investigation. A coherent approach was called for, which respects diverse views, but also includes safeguards, and which will require considerable discussion at Council led by Council committees.

A member referred to the suspension of the non-disclosure clause in the agreement, and expressed that the university's relationship with the institute was dynamic and open to the university's continuing involvement, and that the university exercises vigilance through its oversight and management of the institute. He urged caution in severing this relationship without also seriously considering the benefits afforded by the relationship. Similar views and concerns were expressed of how such an action would be viewed collectively by people from China, with dual or single citizenship, and whether it was ethical to sever relationships with others due to some aspect of culture, law, or attitude, which does not conform to the prevailing way of thinking. As the university has its own oversights and mechanisms, including ethics, principles, and intellectual freedom, a member spoke in favour of separating the intellectual from the political, rather than the academic from the political, in order to allow for differing views.

The ability of the international activities committee to make a coherent comment on the appropriateness of the relationship was called into question by a member who recalled that when he was a member of the committee, month after month would go by where meetings did not achieve quorum, and it was unclear who was a voting member and who was a non-voting member. At the time he was member, he expressed that it would not have been possible for the committee to attempt to consider so serious a matter.

Professor Chang indicated that the committee understood why there were concerns regarding the Confucius Institute but that China is one of many, many countries with political issues and that such issues are discussed in classrooms. He indicated the committee would continue to work on a policy regarding partnership with international agencies. In reviewing the scope of the Confucius Institute as it was established, such political issues did not enter into the agreements, and there appeared to be no threat to academic freedom.

The chair closed discussion by thanking members for their engagement and invited members to submit any further opinions in writing to the university secretary, to be shared with the international activities committee.

10. Governance committee

Professor Louise Racine, chair of the governance committee, presented the items to Council.

10.1 Request for decision: Amendment to the Council Bylaws Part III section 1 to include the Certificate in Classical and Medieval Latin

Professor Racine noted the motion represented a housekeeping amendment to the Council Bylaws.

RACINE/DOBSON: That Council approve that Council's Bylaws be amended to reflect the approval of the Certificate of Proficiency in Classical and Medieval Latin.

CARRIED

10.2 Notice of Motion: Part One, section IV.1. Creation and Composition of Council Committees

Professor Racine indicated that the current Council Bylaws provide no comment on consecutive terms of service by committee chairs or committee members, and the proposed amendment ensures a break in service for committee renewal.

RACINE/DOBSON: That Council approve the amendments to the Council Bylaws, Part One section IV.1. Creation and Composition of Council committees as shown in the attachment. (See appendix B)

11. Nominations committee

11.1 Request for decision: Nomination to the search committee for Dean of Kinesiology

KROL/WOTHERSPOON: That Council approve the appointment of Steve Milosavljevic, Director of the School of Physical Therapy, to the search committee for the dean, College of Kinesiology.

CARRIED

12. Other business

There was no other business raised.

13. Question period

There were no questions.

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m. by motion (DOBSON/ROBERTSON).