

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

The chair called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m., observing that quorum had been attained.

1. Adoption of the agenda

DOBSON/SARJEANT-JENKINS: To adopt the agenda as circulated.

CARRIED

2. Opening remarks

Dr. Kalra welcomed all members and visitors in attendance. He recognized Mr. Greg Smith, chair of the Board of Governors and invited Mr. Smith to address Council. Mr. Smith thanked the chair for the opportunity to bring greetings and indicated that the Board values the university's unique governance structure and appreciates the work undertaken by Council. Mr. Smith also thanked senior administrative leadership. He briefly summarized the search process for a new president and reported that the search committee is presently working with a short list of candidates and hopes to be able to report on an appointment in July. A transition committee has been created to provide advice and assistance to the new president on building and maintaining appropriate relationships. In closing, Mr. Smith conveyed that the university continues to be an important and unique public institution, with a commitment to deliver on its promise and potential and to work with its partners, including the government of Saskatchewan. Questions were invited of Mr. Smith by the chair. There were none.

Dr. Kalra noted the important business before Council and shared the usual procedures for debate and discussion and the protocol for members of the media.

3. Minutes of the meeting of May 21, 2015

PARKINSON/WILSON: That the Council minutes of May 21, 2015 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

4. Business from the minutes

There was no business arising.

5. Report of the President and 6. Report of the Provost

The chair indicated that the president and the provost were unable to be in attendance, but that their written reports had been provided and members of senior administration would be glad to answer any questions of either report.

A Council member registered his concern that the task force formed to develop an action plan in response to the review of the School of Public Health lists the internal review member as a member of the task force, and asked why there would not be an entirely new task force membership. Karen Chad, vice-president research replied, indicating that Ernie Barber, provost and vice-president academic could respond more fully at the September meeting, if desired. But Dr. Chad also noted that as the next stage is to consider the review report through a reflective, analytical and strategic lens and many members of the broader community will be consulted as the task force considers various models and structures for the school, she did not believe any report or plan issued by the task force would be biased by having the internal reviewer on the task force. Further, she noted that the task force through the planning and priorities committee would bring any structural recommendations to Council for further discussion and debate, as academic structural changes are under the purview of Council.

7. Student societies

7.1 Report from the USSU

Jack Saddleback, president of the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union presented the report. He expressed his honour at being elected by his peers to enhance the student experience. The USSU is on track with many of its goals. These include mental health, safety, a new Safewalk app, a policy on sexual assault, tuition forecasting, a student bill of rights, sustainability measures and student relations. He invited members to connect with the USSU on any of these initiatives.

7.2 Report from the GSA

Rajat Chakravarty, president of the Graduate Students' Association provided a verbal report to Council. He reported that the GSA executive is focusing on team building and acquiring the skills and knowledge required of graduate student leaders. Naming representatives to the various committees with GSA representation is complete. A primary concern of graduate students is the 15% increase in the GSA Health and Dental Plan; the GSA vice-president external has attended a conference on health and planning to learn how to cut costs and create a better plan.

8. Planning and priorities committee

Professor Lisa Kalynchuk, chair of the planning and priorities committee, presented the reports to Council.

8.1 Item for information: Revised Notice of Intent Template for New Programs

Professor Kalynchuk reported that over the past year, the planning and priorities committee reviewed a large number of notices of intent for new programs. As it undertook this work, the committee realized that it was not receiving the information from the completed templates that it needed to fulfill its mandate. The revised template sharpens the focus on the assessment of resources, the rationale for the projected student numbers, and the risks associated with mounting or not mounting new programs. The changes are intended to better inform the committee and proponents about program viability and sustainability from a resource perspective at the outset.

Discussion ensued regarding the difficulty of ascertaining student demand for new programs and how to answer questions about resources in a meaningful manner with limited information. Professor Kalynchuk acknowledged the difficulty and suggested that as responsibility centre management (RCM) unfolds at the university, units will have better access to information on resources.

8.2 Item for information: Report on Capital Planning

Professor Kalynchuk referred members to the committee's annual report on capital planning and provided a brief update on three items of interest: 1) The hotel project which is proceeding and that consultation continues about the ice rink as various models are considered; 2) the relocation of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics to the Thorvaldson Building; and 3) a new strategy to support capital asset renewal.

In response, Council members asked a number of questions: 1) A request for an update on the Clarion Project; 2) When the Department of Mathematics and Statistics might be relocated to Thorvaldson, and if McLean Hall which presently houses the department will be re-purposed once vacated; and 3) A question about classroom space in the Thorvaldson Building as this space is no longer available for lectures to those faculty who are now housed in the new Health Sciences Building complex, and the new classroom space in the A and B wings of the new complex is not yet ready.

Professor Kalynchuk committed to consulting with the appropriate offices in order to report back with the answers to the questions at the September Council meeting.

8.3 Item for information: Annual Report to Council

Professor Kalynchuk asked that any questions on the committee's annual report be directed either to her or to the committee secretary. She thanked and acknowledged all members for their contributions and the many meetings attended and in particular thanked Professor Dirk de Boer, committee vice-chair and Sandy Calver, committee secretary for their efforts on behalf of the committee and herself.

9. Academic programs committee

Professor Roy Dobson, chair of the academic programs committee, presented the reports to Council.

9.1 Request for decision: Academic Courses Policy

Professor Dobson provided a summary of the input received and changes made in response to the feedback received on the draft Academic Courses policy, which was submitted to Council in draft form May 2014, September 2014, and most recently, May 2015. The policy is an important policy for all instructors as it prescribes the university-level requirements for delivery of academic courses and the assessment of student learning, including the conduct of examinations.

DOBSON/KROL: That Council approve the revisions to the Academic Courses Policy effective September 1, 2015.

CARRIED

9.2 Request for decision: Master of Water Security (M.W.S.)

Professor Dobson reported that the Master of Water Security is a professional master's program within the School of Environment and Sustainability that seeks to capitalize on the many facets of faculty member expertise across water-related research on campus. The program comprises 30 credit units to be completed within 12 months of full-time study. Student enrolment is expected to increase each year by 8 students from an initial cohort of 8 students until a full complement of 32 students is reached.

DOBSON/KROL: That Council approve the Master of Water Security degree in the School of Environment and Sustainability effective September 1, 2016.

CARRIED

9.3 Request for decision: Joint Degree with the University of Tromso, Norway – Master of Governance and Entrepreneurship in Northern and Indigenous Areas (M.G.E.N.I.A.)

Professor Dobson clarified that the effective date in the motion to approve the Master of Governance and Entrepreneurship in Northern and Indigenous Areas should read September 1, 2015, not September 1, 2016. The program represents a high degree of collaborative learning between two Indigenous northern regions with faculty teaching and student exchanges. The program is the only joint degree in western Canada among very few such degrees in all of Canada.

Professor Bill Brown, Council member and head of Bioresource Policy, Business and Economics requested that consultation occur with the department in the future as the department has expertise in northern resource economics. Assurance was provided that consultation had occurred with the Department of Political Studies.

DOBSON/KROL: That Council approve the Master of Governance and Entrepreneurship in Northern and Indigenous Areas (M.G.E.N.I.A.) a joint degree with the University of Tromsø, Norway effective September 1, 2015.

CARRIED

9.4 Request for decision: Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (M.A. in TESOL)

Professor Dobson described the Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages as a unique, inter-collegial program with the ability to attract students from abroad and nation-wide. Attaining the degree will demonstrate post-graduate-level training in teaching English as a second, foreign or additional language. The program consists of 30 credit units of course work and will provide a graduate studies alternative for students interested in Linguistics, Education and English Language Teaching.

DOBSON/ KROL: That Council approve the Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (M.A. in TESOL), effective September 1, 2016.

CARRIED

9.5 Item for information: Annual Report to Council

Professor Dobson expressed his appreciation at being able to chair the academic programs committee for the past three years and acknowledged the detailed reviews undertaken by committee members, the support provided by Jacquie Thomarat of Institutional Planning and Assessment, Russell Isinger, Registrar, and staff in the Student and Enrolment Services Division, Jeff Dumba and staff in Financial Services, Patti McDougall, vice-provost teaching and learning and the contributions of Alex Beldan, Amanda Storey and Sandy Calver from the University Secretary's Office in the role of committee secretary.

10. Research, scholarly and artistic work committee

10.1 Item for information: Report to Council on Artistic Works

Professor Tim Nowlin, member of the research, scholarly and artistic work committee and department head of the Department of Art and Art History, presented the report to Council.

Professor Nowlin indicated as a representative from a Fine Arts department he found it especially gratifying that the committee prioritized the area of artistic work as a focus for discussion this year. The report presents a number of questions on the relationship of artistic work contrasted to research and to the health of the fine arts, especially in a climate of research intensiveness. The report also presents a number of voices and points of view concerned for scholarship in this area. He conveyed that there continues to be a lack of understanding on how artistic work relates to academic scholarship and research and a reductionism of artistic work as unprofitable from a research point of view.

Several Council members commended the committee in recognizing the value of artistic work as an important intellectual endeavor, noting such work offers reflections by individuals that often mirror the thoughts of society as a whole, and intersect with other disciplines to provide many interdisciplinary areas of study. A Council member made two recommendations following upon the report: to expand the title and office of the vice-president research office to include scholarship and artistic work, and to refer to scholarly and artistic work in referring to the university's mission; the mission statement presently refers to teaching, discovering, preserving and applying knowledge. Another Council member urged the committee to go one step further in its conclusions and recommend to college review committees that professional and artistic work be considered equivalent to other areas with respect to merit reviews.

Professor David Parkinson, vice-dean, Fine Arts and Humanities indicated that he and Peter Stoicheff, the dean of the College of Arts and Science would welcome the opportunity to meet with the committee. He indicated that if they had done so previously, they could have offered additional information, which although it would not have materially affected the conclusions of the report, would have given the committee the opportunity to present a better rounded report. Notably, Professor Parkinson referred to the increase in investments by the college in the fine arts departments over the past five years, and further increases that will occur in the Departments of Art and Art History and Drama in July. Professor Nowlin indicated the committee would be pleased to meet as suggested.

Professor Krol, chair of the nominations committee noted with respect to the recommendation in the report that there be a designated seat on the committee for a representative from the

fine arts, the nominations committee is cognizant of representation in this area, and nominates a member from the fine arts to serve on the committee.

The chair thanked members for these comments.

10.2 Item for information: Annual Report to Council

Professor Paul Jones, member of the research, scholarly and artistic work committee presented the committee's annual report, and acknowledged the efforts of fellow members, the chair, and members of the secretariat office who supported the committee. Questions were invited of the report. There were none.

10.3 Item for information: Responsible Conduct of Research Policy: Report on policy breaches

Dr. Chad presented the report. Dr. Chad indicated she wished to applaud the work of the research, scholarly and artistic work committee and echo the earlier comments about making artistic work a priority. She indicated that rather than using the term research intensiveness she would rather see the university adopt a broader definition, such as "discovery-led" to signify new knowledge, creativity and imagination.

Dr. Chad indicated the report on policy breaches of the Responsible Conduct of Research policy was an annual report provided to Council as required under the policy. In response to the report, there were questions about whether support is provided to faculty members who face a hearing of this nature for an alleged violation and what is done to assist faculty members, particularly new faculty members, to enhance their awareness of plagiarism so they do not unknowingly co-author with a graduate student who has plagiarized. Specifically, a Council member asked what support is given to faculty to assist them in recognizing plagiarism in student work and assisting faculty in understanding what constitutes plagiarism. The member also asked if the university has ever considered anti-plagiarism software to assist in identifying plagiarism so that policy breaches can be avoided.

Dr. Chad responded that all graduate students must take a mandatory course in ethics that includes integrity in scholarship; the university also has a mentorship program for faculty. With respect to faculty member support, Jim Basinger, associate vice-president research recalled that any faculty member facing an investigation or hearing under the policy is innocent until demonstrated to be in breach of the policy. When an allegation is made, the university must be careful neither to arbitrarily dismiss nor find fault but follow due process as required under the Tri-Agency Framework on Responsible Conduct of Research. The hearing boards have a very important role in assessing the substance of the allegation.

11. Teaching, learning and academic resources committee

Professor Jay Wilson, chair of the teaching, learning and academic resources committee presented the reports to Council.

11.1 Request for decision: Language for Acknowledgment of Indigenous People and Lands

Professor Wilson reported that the initiative to develop a formal statement of acknowledgment began under the guidance of Deborah Lee, university librarian and former

committee member and continued with the efforts of Candace Wasacase-Lafferty, Director, First Nations and Métis engagement, English River with support from Patti McDougall, vice-provost teaching and learning. Professor Wilson emphasized how important it was for Council and other groups to have this language available in order to provide proper recognition to Indigenous peoples. The intent is that Council meetings will be opened next year with a reading of the statement.

Professor Wilson indicated that in developing the statement, the teaching, learning and academic resources committee tried to be as inclusive as possible. The Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching Effectiveness is working with Ms. Wasacase-Lafferty to provide training and learning opportunities to ensure that the university is a place of respect for Indigenous peoples and their territories. A Council member asked whether there were any concerns expressed by the Dakota Nation, as the closest nation that is not a signatory to Treaty Six. Ms. Wasacase-Lafferty indicated that the term “First Nation” was intended to represent all first nations in Saskatchewan, and that consultation occurred primarily with the on-campus Aboriginal community.

WILSON/B. BRENNNA: That Council adopt the following language for use at the start of its meetings effective September 1, 2015: As we gather here today, we acknowledge we are on Treaty Six Territory and the Homeland of the Metis. We pay our respect to the First Nations and Metis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

CARRIED

11.2 Item for information: Annual Report to Council

Professor Wilson acknowledged committee members, expressing gratitude for their enthusiastic and constant support and attendance at meetings.

12. Governance committee

Professor Roy Dobson presented the reports to Council on behalf of Louise Racine, chair of the governance committee.

12.1 Request for decision: Nominations to the Nominations Committee for 2015/16

The chair called three times for nominations from the floor. There were none.

DOBSON/WILSON: That Council approve the nominations to the nominations committee for three-year terms effective July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2018, and that Ed Krol be re-appointed as chair for a one-year term effective July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016.

CARRIED

Professor Dobson referred to the notices of motion presented in the written materials and noted the motions would be presented to Council for decision in September.

12.2 Notice of motion: Bylaws Amendments –Planning and priorities committee terms of reference, Council Bylaws, Part Two, s. VI

DOBSON/WILSON: That Council approve the amendments to the terms of reference of the planning and priorities committee of Council as shown in the attachment.

12.3 Notice of motion: Bylaws Amendments – Teaching, learning and academic resources committee terms of reference, Council Bylaws, Part Two, s. IX

DOBSON/WILSON: That Council approve the amendments to the terms of reference of the teaching, learning and academic resources committee of Council as shown in the attachment.

12.4 Notice of motion: Bylaws Amendments – Scholarships and awards committee terms of reference, Council Bylaws, Part Two, s. VIII

DOBSON/WILSON: That Council approve the amendments to the terms of reference of the scholarships and awards committee of Council as shown in the attachment.

12.5 Item for information: Number of student appeals from 2013/14 and 2014/15

Professor Dobson indicated the report on the number of student appeals was before Council for information and invited questions. There were none.

13. Nominations committee

Professor Ed Krol, chair of the nominations committee, presented the reports to Council.

13.1 Request for decision: Nomination to the Review committee for the Vice-Provost Faculty Relations

Professor Krol indicated the nominations committee strives for distribution across disciplines in its recommendations. The chair called three times for nominations from the floor. There were none.

KROL/WOTHERSPOON: That Council approve the following nominations to the review committee for the vice-provost faculty relations: Doug Chivers, Department of Biology; Bill Roesler, Department of Biochemistry; Vera St. Denis, Department of Educational Foundations; Angela Kalinowski, Department of History; Kishor Wasan, Dean of Pharmacy and Nutrition.

CARRIED

13.2 Request for decision: Nomination of Council vice-chair

Professor Krol noted that the nomination was in response to the resignation of Council's vice-chair. If approved, the nominee would transition from being a committee chair to vice-chair. The chair called three times for nominations from the floor. There were none.

KROL/WOTHERSPOON: That Council approve the nomination of Roy Dobson, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition as vice-chair of Council for a two-year term ending June 30, 2017.

CARRIED

13.3 Request for decision: Planning and priorities committee nomination

A resignation from the planning and priorities committee requires that a new member be appointed. The chair called three times for nominations from the floor. There were none.

KROL/WOTHERSPOON: That Council approve the nomination of Catherine Niu, Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering to the planning and priorities committee for a two-year term ending June 30, 2017.

CARRIED

14. International activities committee

14.1 Item for information: Annual Report to Council

Professor Gap Soo Chang, chair of the international activities committee, presented the report to Council and indicated he would be pleased to take any questions by email.

15. Joint Chairs and professorships

Dr. Jim Germida, chair of the joint committee on chairs and professorships presented the report.

15.1 Request for decision: Fedoruk Chair in Animal Imaging

Dr. Germida referred to the written decision item provided and invited questions. There were none.

ALLEN/SINGH: That Council authorize the Board of Governors to establish a Fedoruk Chair in Animal Imaging.

CARRIED

15.2 Request for decision: Industry Chair in Agri-Food Innovation

Dr. Germida invited consideration of the Industry Chair in Agri-Food Innovation. A Council member queried how it was possible to conduct independent and critical research under the auspices of one of the largest agricultural corporations of the world, and purported that the chair was an example of what many people have been criticizing in relationship to the claim that the university has become a corporate university. Mary Buhr, dean of the College of Agriculture and Bioresources responded, indicating the terms of the chair are very clear that the funding agency does not have any control over the research conducted, which is independent of the agency. There are no publication constraints. She noted that the individual who will assume the chair has been working in this area for a number of years and is well known to have expressed and published views that are not necessarily favourable to industry. Therefore she was convinced of the lack of threat to the academic freedom of the chair holder. Dr. Germida supported this view, indicating the funding for the chair was under the control of the college.

In response to a request for clarification of the status of the chair holder at the conclusion of the chair term, Dr. Germida indicated the individual in the chair would continue in a tenure-track position.

BUHR/SINGH: That Council authorize the Board of Governors to establish an Industry Chair in Agri-Food Innovation.

CARRIED

16. Other business

There was no other business.

17. Question period

There were no questions.

18. Adjournment

The chair thanked departing Council committee chairs Roy Dobson, Gap Soo Chang and Ravi Chibbar for their contributions and offered special thanks to Bob Tyler, departing vice-chair. He also thanked Elizabeth Williamson, university secretary, Sandy Calver, associate secretary, Amanda Storey and Lesley Leonhardt of the secretariat office, the president's and provost's office staff members, and Ivan Muzychka, associate vice-president communications and staff. Above all, he concluded Council would not be possible without the commitment of its members and asked that all members join him in a round of applause for themselves.

The meeting adjourned by motion (PARKINSON/D. BRENNNA) at 4:25 p.m.