

*Attendance: See Appendix A for listing of members in attendance.*

Roy Dobson, vice-chair of Council called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m., observing that quorum had been attained, and that he would chair the meeting on behalf of Jay Kalra, Council chair.

Vipen Sawhney, Professor Emeritus of the Department of Biology, College of Arts and Science, delivered a memorial tribute to honour Professor Emeritus Ram Manohar of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

1. Adoption of the agenda

WILSON/ZELLO: To adopt the agenda as circulated.

CARRIED

2. Opening remarks

Professor Dobson provided opening remarks and outlined the usual procedures for debate and discussion. He expressed it was his great pleasure and privilege to welcome the university's 11<sup>th</sup> president and vice-chancellor Dr. Peter Stoicheff and asked Council members to join him in welcoming President Stoicheff.

3. Minutes of the meeting of October 22, 2015

FLYNN/KLAASSEN: That the Council minutes of October 22, 2015 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

4. Business from the minutes

The vice-chair noted one item of business arising from the October minutes in response to the statement in the provost's report that PCIP approved \$11.5M toward supporting institutional research priorities, including graduate scholarships, major research competitions, and Tri-agency compliance. Dr. Dobson indicated that a member had asked about the real cost to the university of ensuring compliance with the Tri-agencies, and at the October meeting Dr. Barber, provost and vice-president academic advised that a response to the question would be provided at the November meeting.

Karen Chad, vice-president research, responded to the question on behalf of Dr. Barber, indicating that \$270,000 in renewal funding was allocated to the university's internal control process to ensure the university remained in continued Tri-agency policy compliance. The internal controls project was initiated several years ago after a Tri-agency audit found the university to be non-compliant in a number of areas and facing the possible result of having its Tri-agency funding withheld. She expressed thanks to those who contributed to business improvements in the

university's internal controls and reported that since the project was established, the university has been recognized by the Tri-agencies as a leading model in best practices for institutional controls.

## 5. Report of the President

President Peter Stoicheff provided remarks in addition to his written report. He welcomed all present and thanked those who attended his installation ceremony. As a former member of Council, he expressed his appreciation for Council's debate, student reports, and the engagement of its faculty members, administrative members, and of the staff who support Council. He recognized Council as being well supported by many committees and offered recognition and appreciation for their work.

The president offered comments on the role of the university and the role of a president. President Stoicheff spoke of the role of the president in changing discourse to reconcile the culture of an institution with the need for change, and the role of Council as being a higher agent of cultural change, concluding with the statement, "We are a cultural institution; we drive cultural change." He expressed his belief that within a complex and imperiled society, universities are more important than ever to sustain a civil society.

The president articulated many of the other qualities he believed important to elucidate as the university's president and emphasized the importance of students, the research experience, pedagogical innovation, high-quality facilities, working with other post-secondary institutions and government, and building Aboriginal identity into everything the university does and is. He outlined the importance of the university to the city, province, nation and globally, and in select areas of research, scholarly, and artistic work to improve the lives of others.

The university's last collective vision statement was created in 2002 and renewed in 2009, as the vision document approved by Council in 2014 was later rescinded. President Stoicheff outlined his intent to begin the process to develop a new vision, mission, and values statement. The process to arrive at a new statement will begin in the New Year by a committee led by a faculty member and will be consultative, iterative, and efficient. The committee will begin by first reviewing the strategic plans, foundational documents, and agreements which provide a long and complex statement of what are the university's vision, mission, and values. The president indicated he would speak more of the process in the coming months.

President Stoicheff reported on the recent forum "*Building Reconciliation: Universities Answering the TRC's Calls to Action*", which he described as a wonderful success, providing details of the speakers, the purpose of the forum, and how the results will be communicated to the over 50 universities and other bodies that participated in this national event. In particular, he recalled the remarks of the Honourable Justice Murray Sinclair that education is the key to reconciliation, and that the civil service, business sector, education, health and other sectors are all occupied by individuals who come through universities, and that therefore universities can be the nexus for change.

The purpose of the forum was to gather university, student and Aboriginal leaders to talk through the call for actions that were directed to post-secondary education so that these actions could begin to be understood and a means found to implement the calls. President Stoicheff observed there are 24 post-secondary institutions in the province, including regional colleges, and that the presidents and executive directors of these institutions were able to draw up a simple but direct memorandum

of agreement on the importance of reconciliation and working together to close the education gap of Aboriginal peoples.

The president reported on a recent change to the university's financial situation. Due to current financial pressures on the provincial government, the government is adjusting its 2015-16 allocation to the university through one-time budgetary reductions in the areas of capital and scholarship and the deferral of the provincial contribution to one of the Canada Excellence Research Chairs. Greg Fowler, vice-president of finance and resources reported the mid-year adjustments applied to the university by the provincial government in order to meet expenditures for the current year are: a one-time \$0.56M decrease to the Saskatchewan Innovation and Opportunity Scholarship fund, a one-time \$7.9M reduction in capital funding, and a deferral of the province's \$1.35M contribution to the CERC Water Security Chair.

The president emphasized that the reductions are one-time occurrences, do not affect the university's operating budget, and are not a cause of immediate concern as they do not require fundamental shifts to the university mission or work force. He requested the opportunity to speak more fully on university finances at the December 17 Council meeting after the Board of Governors has had the opportunity to consider options of how the university will deal with the adjustments with the least impact on the university.

The vice-chair invited questions of the president. A Council member asked for clarity on the purpose of the vision statement and its relation to planning, recalling that for some individuals the most recent vision document appeared to be as much a planning document as a statement of values. He asked the president to comment on the point of the document and what it would accomplish in a pragmatic way. President Stoicheff clarified that often a simple mission and vision statement does not refer to the underlying values, which give members of the university the important opportunity to express "who we are." The purpose of the document is to enable the president to speak with confidence of the collective mission, vision, and values of the university. Practically, having a statement which has been debated and stands for a period of time closes continuous debate on what the university's mission and vision statement should be.

In response to the question as to how the group which will lead the process will be identified and selected, President Stoicheff indicated that a small committee would be formed and that he would select both the committee members and the chair. Members of the university community will be asked to suggest the names of suitable individuals to serve on the committee.

## 6. Report of the Provost

Dr. Ernie Barber presented the provost's report to Council. He reported on the Building Reconciliation forum as a significant event and recognized the leadership of Patti McDougall, vice-provost teaching and learning; Blaine Favel, university chancellor; Gordon Barnhart, past interim president; and Peter Stoicheff, president in making the forum a reality. Dr. Dobson invited questions of Dr. Barber.

A Council member spoke of data discrepancies between the tuition figures reported by Stats Canada and those reported by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA), and observed that according to the CCPA, the province of Saskatchewan has the worst regime for low-income students with respect to tuition and grants. He asked why the university and the Board of Governors are not taking on a more aggressive role to reduce student tuition and fees, especially within a province and country that is among those with the lowest corporate tax rates in the developed world.

Dr. Barber noted in his response that Saskatchewan is the only province whose universities are not subject to some type of provincial mandated tuition regulation. The cost of student tuition must be considered in conjunction with accessibility to a university education, of which tuition is a factor. Over the coming year, the university will review its tuition policy and there will be the opportunity for debate and discussion on tuition rates.

## 7. Report of the Vice-president Research

Karen Chad, vice-president research thanked members for the opportunity to present to Council and briefly spoke of the top research priorities and strategies for 2015-16, prior to providing an update on the ongoing work and development of [UnivRS](#), the university's web-based research system. The goal of UnivRS is to serve as a central repository for research-related data and permit individuals within and outside the university to collaborate on research projects in a secure data environment. Dr. Chad clarified that UnivRS is intended to gather information about faculty member activity and research, but also to assist faculty members in sharing information with others about their research to better connect faculty members.

The UnivRS project charter outlines four stages: stage 1 pre- and post-research award stage; stages 2 and 3 ethics, cv and publications; and stage 4 clinical trials and graduate students. The intent is to fully implement UnivRS by 2019. Presently, the colleges of Agriculture and Bioresources, Arts and Science, and Veterinary Medicine are using UnivRS to test its research award management capabilities. A demonstration of UnivRS's capabilities to manage personal and publication data was provided by Ms. Sarah Savage, member of the project team, using the university internet.

## 8. Student societies

### 8.1 Report from the USSU

Jack Saddleback, president of the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union, presented the USSU report to Council. Mr. Saddleback reported on USSU activities including support of campaign activities for the upcoming provincial election, the Remembrance Day ceremony at the University Memorial Gates, nominations to the USSU Teaching Excellence Awards, and the new USSU Question Period to hear comments, concerns or questions from students. Mr. Saddleback spoke in support of university efforts in consultation with students to improve campus safety and highlighted the fundraising event titled "Peace of Mind" in support of student mental health.

On November 5<sup>th</sup> the University Students' Council passed a motion to support a public inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women. Given the direction that Council provides to the larger university community, Mr. Saddleback urged Council to put forward a motion to support a national public inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women, to combat this issue through societal change and research, and to make campus safer for women. Mr. Saddleback indicated that the message from the Building Reconciliation forum is that this is the right place and time, and that as an Indigenous student leader speaking for the USSU, he would be pleased to walk with the university community in this direction.

A Council member asked for feedback on the net benefit of the Fall Reading Week after its second year. Mr. Saddleback noted the importance of students being able to rest and have reading time, and for instructors to have the same opportunity, but that he could not comment specifically other than to convey the appreciation of students for this time.

## 8.2 Report from the GSA

Rajat Chakravarty, president of the Graduate Students' Association presented the report to Council, offering congratulations on the Building Reconciliation forum. Mr. Chakravarty highlighted numerous activities of the GSA since the last Council meeting, including a games night, industry talks, health coverage information sessions, and activity to support the GSA 2015 Conference and Awards Gala. The GSA has initiated a tuition consultation project to engage with colleges on the question, "Does the tuition that you are paying for correspond to a satisfactory graduate student experience?" An advocacy project is being explored with the USSU to consider the possibility of having an advocate officer or lawyer helping students.

On February 19, the GSA will host the national graduate caucus for graduate student association executives across Canada. Mr. Chakravarty reported that the police will not lay charges in the fraud investigation of the GSA in March and April, 2014, and therefore the GSA will pursue allegations through civil court.

Concluding his report, Mr. Chakravarty indicated that the GSA also believes strongly that an inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women should occur, and that the university is in the position to focus research on this issue. The GSA Council also passed a motion in support of an inquiry.

## 9. Nominations Committee

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

### 9.1 Request for decision – Nominations to the Search Committee, Dean, College of Graduate Studies and Research

The vice-chair called three times for nominations from the floor. There were no nominations received.

*KROL/D. BRENNNA: That Council approve the appointment of Fred Rémillard, associate dean, research, and graduate affairs, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition as the senior administrator selected by Council to serve on the search committee for the dean, College of Graduate Studies and Research.*

CARRIED

### 9.2 Request for decision – Nominations to the Policy Oversight Committee

The vice-chair indicated that as he was one of the nominees to the policy oversight committee, the university secretary would chair this item. Ms. Williamson called three times for nominations from the floor. There were no nominations received.

*KROL/D. BRENNNA: That Council approve the appointments of Roy Dobson, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition and Allison Muri, Department of English as the Council members on the Policy Oversight Committee for terms effective immediately and ending June 30, 2018.*

CARRIED

## 10. Governance Committee

Louise Racine, chair of the governance committee, presented the notice of motion to Council.

### 10.1 Notice of Motion – Student Member Terms on Council and Council Committees

Dr. Racine indicated the change in student member terms on Council and Council committees is prompted by the desire to enhance student member participation in May and June. The notice of motion proposes that student member terms run from May 1 to April 30 rather than from July 1 to June 30 so that student members begin their service to Council at the same time that they take office. The change is supported by the GSA and USSU.

*RACINE/GRAY: That Council approve that the term of student members elected to Council and appointed to Council committees be from May 1 to April 30 and that the Council Bylaws be amended as shown in the attachment.*

CARRIED

## 11. Academic Programs Committee

Kevin Flynn, chair of the academic programs committee presented the committee reports to Council.

### 11.1 Request for decision – Cross-departmental Ph. D. in the College of Education

The College of Education has four departments. Of these, only the Department of Educational Administration has a regular Ph.D. program; the departments of Educational Psychology and Special Education, Educational Foundations, and Curriculum Studies rely on special-case Ph.D. programs. To enhance cross-disciplinary research and increase the number of Ph.D. students, as enrolment in special-case programs is limited to four Ph.D. students, a regular-case Ph.D. program is proposed that will cross the three departments to create a common site for doctoral graduate student research. Questions of proponents included confirmation of the composition of the graduate affairs committee for the program, clarification of the wording on the degree parchment to award a Ph.D. in Education, and discussion of the rationale to pursue a single regular-case Ph.D. program across the three departments as opposed to a regular Ph.D. program in each of the three departments.

*FLYNN/RACINE: That Council approve the Cross-departmental Ph. D. in the College of Education, effective May, 2016.*

CARRIED

### 11.2 Report for information – 1) Changes to the D.V.M Program 2) Deletion of the Project Option for the Master of Public Administration program 3) Deletion of the Veterinary Microbiology Field of study in the Master of Veterinary Science program

Professor Flynn briefly outlined the changes approved by the academic programs committee and reported to Council for information. The changes to the DVM program result from the replacement of two courses in the program, resulting in an overall reduction of total credit units from 127 cu to 125 cu, effective September 2016. The Veterinary Microbiology field of study in the Master of Veterinary Science program (project option) has not had any students registered in it for the past ten years, and is therefore considered obsolete. The preference of students is for

thesis-based degree programs. The termination of the project option within the Master of Public Administration program is proposed due to low enrolment. There have been only two graduates from the program. The program deletion will align the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy program offerings on both campuses; the option has already been approved for deletion by the University of Regina.

#### 11.3 Report for Information – Thesis Option for the Master of Public Health Program

Dr. Flynn reported the thesis option within the Master of Public Health program is in addition to the existing course-based MPH program offering. Students registered in the thesis option will continue to meet the core competencies required by the Public Health Agency of Canada and in addition, will have the opportunity to publish a thesis. Students will be recruited from within the existing student body in the School of Public Health.

### 12. Policy Oversight Committee

#### 12.1 Item for Information – Policy Oversight Committee Report 2013-2014 and 2014-2015

Beth Williamson, committee chair, presented the report for information and invited questions. There were none. Ms. Williamson indicated that the report covers two years and apologized for the lack of submission of a report the previous year.

### 13. Other business

There was no other business.

### 14. Question period

The chair invited questions from members. Dr. McDougall responded to an earlier question by reporting to members that the registrar will solicit feedback on the impact of the Fall Reading Week through a survey, and that the survey results will be reported to Council.

### 15. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by motion (D'EON/FLYNN) at 4:00 pm.