

*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 and acknowledging that the meeting was occurring on Treaty Six Territory and the Homeland of the Métis.

1. Adoption of the agenda

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

CARRIED

2. Opening remarks

Jay Kalra, chair of Council provided opening remarks. In addition to sharing the usual procedures for debate and discussion, he indicated it was his pleasure to welcome all in attendance and recognized the presence of Ms. Naomi Barnhart. He commented on the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Council gala celebration, which was well attended, and expressed his appreciation for the support and contributions from colleges, administrative units and students and acknowledged the efforts of the organizing committee and subcommittees in making the evening a success.

3. Minutes of the meeting of September 17, 2015

AITKEN/WOTHERSPOON: *That the Council minutes of September 17, 2015 be approved as circulated.*

CARRIED

4. Business from the minutes

Dr. Kalra noted two items under business from the minutes, indicating the first arises from item 4 and comprises a request for a response from Dr. Chad, vice-president research to the question of whether the university has looked at any of the anti-plagiarism software that other U15 universities use to detect plagiarism. Dr. Jim Basinger, associate vice-president research, replied on behalf of Dr. Chad.

Dr. Basinger indicated anti-plagiarism software has been under consideration for some time and the question has prompted deeper probing of the issues it presents. In addition to concerns about checking student assignments and course work for plagiarism, the use of anti-plagiarism software raises concerns about intellectual property and where information is stored. The question posed by the Council member takes on a new tangent: checking one's own work to ensure that work done with students does not contain plagiarized material so that researchers can minimize risk when engaged in collaborative publication and authorship.

Dr. Basinger reported that there is no consistent approach among the U15 group. Some member universities have engaged external providers. Other universities allow individual units to access

services as they wish. The university has a component of Blackboard<sup>1</sup> called Safe Assignment that can be used to check for plagiarism, but it is awkward as it requires special permission for the faculty member to set up a mock course in the system. The university is continuing to work on the issue to provide some resolution and will soon provide an indication of what direction will be pursued.

The Council member who posed the question indicated his concern stems from the procedures used to look at faculty misconduct and the fact that the university has procedures to investigate academic misconduct but does not have a procedure that is fair to faculty to allow them to check if co-authors have plagiarized. Additional concerns relate to the storage of data in the USA by the system suggested and the *USA Patriot Act*. Dr. Kalra asked Dr. Chad to consider the concerns raised.

Dr. Kalra reported the second item was from item 9 of the minutes and relates to incidental changes to the Council Bylaws and the level of approval required. Ms. Beth Williamson, university secretary clarified the process, reading the motion Council approved in 2011 permitting changes to the Council Bylaws to be submitted for approval without a 30-day notice of motion if the changes were necessitated by or consequential to Council decisions, or amendments of a housekeeping nature. She thanked the Council member for his comment as it provided the opportunity to clarify how these changes are dealt with. In this instance, the comment was correct in that notice to Council was not required for the changes to the titles of administrative officers submitted, but as the items submitted also included other more substantive changes, notice of motion was required.

## 5. Report of the President

President Barnhart provided a brief oral update to his written report indicating that during his most recent trip to Hong Kong, Jilin, and Beijing he had 21 meetings in 12 days focused on relationship building and various alumni events. He encouraged Council to continue to sustain the university's international relationships and conveyed the importance of recognizing cultural differences and meeting donors in person. Dr. Barnhart indicated that \$11.1 million in potential donations was discussed with donors during this most recent trip and one donation is for the placement of a statue on campus honoring recently deceased professor emeritus David Kaplan.

Dr. Barnhart also reported on the recent events involving the provincial government, including a meeting with the Treasury Board and a meeting on campus of the provincial cabinet. An invitation to the leaders of official opposition to meet on campus has been extended. Closing his remarks he acknowledged the success of the recent Council gala and the importance of Council, thanking members for their support during his presidency.

The chair invited questions of the president. There were no questions, however several Council members expressed their appreciation of Dr. Barnhart's contributions to the public interest in the university, thanking him for his optimism and positive spirit, for making success possible for his successor, and for bringing in a great deal of positive support for the campus. The chair asked Council members to join him once again in thanking Dr. Barnhart. Several presentations followed. The first of these was to thank and honour Dr. Barnhart. A cheque in the amount of \$10,000 to the University of Saskatchewan was presented to President Barnhart to be used as scholarship support

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<sup>1</sup> Blackboard refers to the Blackboard Learning Content Management System used to manage course material.

for students. A second cheque in the amount of \$2,000 to the Child Hunger and Education Program (CHEP) Good Food Inc. was presented to Dr. Susan Whiting, on behalf of CHEP. Thanks were received from Dr. Barnhart and Dr. Whiting.

Dr. Kalra indicated that the proceeds donated in both instances were from the donations received from sponsors for the Council Gala. In considering how best to use the surplus funds, the coordinating committee thought it fitting that these funds be used to serve students and student success and to assist those in need.

## 6. Report of the Provost

Ernie Barber, provost and vice-president academic, referred to his written report and invited questions. A member asked about the PCIP allocation of funding toward supporting institutional research priorities, including Tri-agency compliance, and asked what the real cost to the university was to ensure compliance. Dr. Barber requested that he and Dr. Chad report back at the next Council meeting and provide some figures in support of their answer. Dr. Kalra noted this would be an item under business arising at the next meeting.

## 7. Student societies

### 7.1 Report from the USSU

Jack Saddleback, president of the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union, presented a verbal report to Council. Mr. Saddleback echoed the comments about interim president Gordon Barnhart and thanked him on behalf of undergraduate students for his hard work and service to the university.

Mr. Saddleback reported the first draft of the university sexual assault policy has been well received by undergraduate students. A positive response was also received to the USASK Votes campaign and the candidate debates held on September 30. Mr. Saddleback reported on a number of other events: the Ernest Manning Innovation Awards ceremony; the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women's Awareness Week held November 16 – 20; and Mental Health Awareness Week November 2- 6.

### 7.2 Report from the GSA

Rajat Chakravarty, president of the Graduate Students' Association provided the report to Council. Mr. Chakravarty reported on the increase in voting by graduate students as students become better educated on the electoral process; the GSA Newsletters issued in September and October; the increased participation of GSA councilors at GSA Council meetings; and the resolution of the GSA's legal bills.

## 8. Nominations Committee

Ed Krol, chair of the nominations committee presented the reports to Council. For each report, the Council chair called three times for nominations from the floor. There were no nominations received in response to any of the reports presented.

### 8.1 Request for Decision – Nomination to the Search Committee, Dean, University Library

KROL/WOTHERSPOON: *That Council approve the appointment of Jack Gray, vice-dean, research, scholarly and artistic work, College of Arts and Science as the senior administrator selected by Council to serve on the search committee for the Dean, University Library.*

CARRIED

#### 8.2 Request for Decision – Nomination to the Search Committee, Dean, Arts and Science

KROL/WOTHERSPOON: *That Council approve the appointment of Hope Bilinski, associate dean, Central Saskatchewan Campus and Health Sciences, College of Nursing as the senior administrator selected by Council to serve on the search committee for the Dean, Arts and Science.*

CARRIED

#### 8.3 Request for Decision – Nominations to the Search Committee for Provost and Vice-President Academic

Dr. Krol reported the nominations committee is required to nominate four members of the GAA and a member of the GAA who is a senior administrator to the search committee for the provost and vice-president academic. He thanked all individuals who put their names forward or who were nominated. The nominations committee selects a slate of nominees to present to Council based on considerations of balance with respect to gender, experience, and discipline. Dr. Krol noted it is difficult to represent all disciplines when choosing four individuals.

- (1) KROL/WOTHERSPOON: *That Council approve the appointment of the following GAA members to the search committee for the Provost and Vice-President Academic:*

*Helen Nichol, Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology  
Kathleen James-Cavan, Department of English  
Michael Bradley, Department of Physics and Engineering Physics  
Gary Entwistle, Department of Accounting*

CARRIED

- (2) *That Council approve the appointment of Carol Rodgers, Dean, College of Kinesiology as the senior administrator selected by Council to serve on the search committee for the Provost and Vice-President Academic.*

CARRIED

#### 8.4 Request for Decision – Nomination to the Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee

KROL/WOTHERSPOON: *That Council approve the appointment of Lorraine Holtslander, College of Nursing to the research, scholarly and artistic work committee effective immediately for a two-year term until June 30, 2017.*

CARRIED

### 9. Planning and Priorities Committee

Lisa Kalynchuk, committee chair, presented the reports.

9.1 Request for Decision – Name change of the Department of Civil and Geological Engineering

The new name of the Department of Civil, Geological, and Environmental Engineering is requested to create greater awareness of the department as the administrative home of the college's interdisciplinary B.E. [Bachelor of Science] in Environmental Engineering. The name change also meets the recommendation of the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board to the college to provide greater recognition of this program.

*KALYNCHUK/de BOER: That Council approve that the Department of Civil and Geological Engineering be renamed the Department of Civil, Geological and Environmental Engineering, effective September 1, 2016<sup>2</sup>, and that Council's Bylaws be amended to reflect the new name of the department.*

CARRIED

9.2 Report for Information – 2016-2017 Operations Forecast and Economic Impact Analysis

Dr. Kalynchuk indicated the Operations Forecast document is an annual submission from the university to the province detailing the university's budgetary request for the coming year. An economic impact analysis was included this year to support the operations forecast request and other university strategic planning. This year the committee was engaged earlier than usual with the forecast, which gave the committee the opportunity to comment on the proposed themes and general arguments and targeted areas. The committee was unable to review the final document due to the deadline and the timing of committee meetings.

The chair indicated she attended a meeting in September where discussion between government officials and university officials took place. The exchange of information was positive and there was appreciation on the part of government officials for what the university is trying to accomplish. The meeting did not include any discussion of the timing of the provincial budget prior to the provincial election in the spring, and the provost spoke of the challenge to the university in preparing a budget without knowledge of the provincial grant.

9.3 Report for Information – Reorganization of Centrally Organized Teaching and Learning Activities

Dr. Kalynchuk reported that the initiative to reorganize centrally organized teaching and learning activities was directed by Patti McDougall, vice-provost teaching and learning. The initiative was also one of the eight institutional priorities identified the previous year. A member noted that the reorganization of the Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching Effectiveness (GMCTE) provided the centre with a new mandate to provide opportunities for professional development and Indigenous awareness. She indicated that faculty development in other areas of teaching and learning appeared to be missing. Dr. McDougall clarified the intent was to advertise the GMCTE workshops in the areas of professional development and Indigenous awareness as areas of special focus, and that Council would see efforts designed to help faculty as these continue to be part of the GMCTE mandate.

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<sup>2</sup> The minutes correct the date in the motion, which read September 1, 2015, in the report presented to Council on October 22, 2015.

#### 9.4 Report for Information – Report on the College of Graduate Studies and Research and the Administration of Graduate Programs

Dr. Kalynchuk extended regrets from Dr. Adam Baxter-Jones, interim dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research. The committee met with Dr. Baxter-Jones on at least three occasions prior to being presented with the final report. The report contains a number of recommendations, most significantly that the college remain an academic unit due to the lack of support for the college becoming an administrative unit. Two changes which will come about in response to the report are a name change for the college and a change to the title of the dean of the college. Dr. Barber acknowledged the work of Dr. Baxter-Jones in creating the report and the extensive review conducted by the college of how other peer institutions manage graduate studies. It was noted that with this tabling of the report with Council, the search for the dean of the college will commence.

#### 9.5 Report for Information – Update on the Third Integrated Plan (IP3)

The report from the Institutional Planning and Assessment (IPA) office reports on the university progress against the goals articulated in IP3. Dr. Kalynchuk reported that good progress has been made in a number of areas, including mentorship of new faculty and diversity targets, among others. She advised that the committee noted challenges remain to the university in meeting its knowledge creation and translation goals.

### 10. Academic Programs Committee

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

#### 10.1 Request for Decision – English Proficiency Policy

Dr. Flynn reported that the policy had been submitted to Council as a request for input the month prior and confirmed by Senate the previous Saturday contingent upon Council approving the policy. The policy does not change the standards for admission but rather captures current policy. What appears to be a change in the required Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score to move the TOEFL score from 80 to 86 for undergraduate students is a comparative adjustment to bring the score in line with the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) score already employed by the university.

The president of the GSA commented that students have not been presented with any evidence of higher academic achievement based on a higher English language entrance score. Dr. McDougall indicated she was unable to comment on the correlation but that the change in the TOEFL score for undergraduate students is to match the band on the IELTS, with a score of 6 indicating a competent user and a score of 7 indicating a good user of English language. The intent is to ensure students have a good opportunity to succeed in programs offered in English.

Dr. Flynn noted the policy outlines the minimum requirements and the appendices outline the standards. Under the policy colleges can contemplate specific standards for their college. There is no proposed change to the minimum test standards of proof of English proficiency for graduate students as set out in appendix C of the policy, although the College of Graduate Studies and Research is currently reviewing the English admission standards for

international students. If the standards for English proficiency for international graduate students are changed, these will be presented to Council.

The USSU president requested greater communication of the policy and information on the language services available to students. There was note of a number of programs offered in conjunction with the Language Centre to allow students to take language and academic courses at the same time. There are also programs to facilitate students' entry to the university that begin at a level lower than the university standard for admission. Dr. McDougall thanked both student body presidents for their comments and noted she had identified the need to do a better job of communicating to students the supports available for English language training.

FLYNN/DOBSON: *That Council approve the English Proficiency Policy effective for the September 2016 intake of students.*

CARRIED

## 10.2 Report for Information – Items for Information

- Revision of Bachelor of Music (B. Mus) in Music Education Programs in the College of Arts and Science

The elimination of EMUS 490 from the overall program requirements for the Bachelor of Music in Music Education reduces the program from 126 credit units to 123 credit units. The EMUS 490 course is designed to be taken after completion of the four-month internship of students registered in the Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) Sequential Music Program and is better placed within this program.

- Deletion of the Physical Education Studies Field of Study in the College of Kinesiology

The program was introduced in 1997 for students wanting to teach in elementary and middle school years who were not able to enter the College of Education through the combined Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology and B.Ed. program. Since that time, program demand has declined and there currently are no students registered in the stream. The courses comprising the stream will continue to be taught in the combined program and effective May 2016, the field of study will be eliminated.

## 11. Joint committee on Chairs and Professorships

Jim Germida, committee chair presented the committee's annual report.

### 11.1 Report for Information – Annual Report

Dr. Germida referred to the written report, which reports on the committee's activities over the 2014-15 year and invited questions. There were none.

## 12. Other business

A Council member asked about the \$20M one-time reduction in the base provincial operating grant to be reinstated at a future time. Dr. Barber responded, providing greater detail on the province's action and the university's response. In his response he referred to the university's reserve policy

and the different expectations and operational strategies of the province and the university. The expectation of the government is that funds will be spent for the purpose for which they have been given in the year they are given, whereas the university uses the strategy of having internally restricted reserve funds that are held for specific purposes in future years. In this respect, the university's reserve policy and fund balances are consistent with other U15 universities.

The Council member also spoke of the IP3 progress report and her disappointment that the university has not significantly increased its numbers of publications over the term of the plan. Dr. Kalynchuk responded, agreeing that although there have been advancements, particularly in some colleges that have received very large grants, achieving Tri-agency success across the university continues to be challenging. The planning and priorities committee noted the report has a three-year time period as its basis, which is relatively brief, and therefore the progress made is not indicative of the university's long-term projection in this area. Further discussion is required on how the university will achieve the research funding goals it has set. Other comments related to the purpose of the report, which is intended to track very specific objectives identified in the plan and provide some of the leading indicators of progress, and that as the university reduces some of the administrative burdens on researchers, an expected benefit is an increase in research outputs in the form of publications and knowledge translation.

A Council member referred to the *Macleans* magazine survey to be published in the first part of November and referred to the committee constituted under the direction of Troy Harkot, director, institutional effectiveness to look at institutional rankings. The member requested that the committee's outcome report be submitted to Council and Senate. Dr. Rigby committed to submitting the recommendations of the committee to Council for information in the coming months.

### 13. Question period

There were no questions.

### 14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned by motion (KALYNCHUK/WASAN) at 4:20 pm.