

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

The chair called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m., observing that quorum had been attained.

1. Adoption of the agenda

KALYNCHUK/DOBSON: To adopt the agenda as circulated.

CARRIED

2. Opening remarks

Jay Kalra, chair of Council provided opening remarks, recalling the establishment of Council as a representative body under the *1995 University of Saskatchewan Act* and noting the gala celebration to be held on September 25, 2015, to celebrate Council's 20th year anniversary. He indicated it was his great pleasure and privilege to welcome all present and acknowledged the chairs of Council's standing committees, elected student members, university secretary Beth Williamson and her staff. He encouraged respectful discussion and engagement and emphasized that Council has always worked and continues to work under three major principles: Council has always enjoyed academic freedom in the past and continues to value it; Council is a collegial self-governing body with responsibilities to govern itself accordingly; and Council is the university's academic governance body where academic matters are considered and decisions made. 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 June 18, 2015

The chair accepted a motion to approve the minutes and asked for any corrections. A Council member stated the minutes for item 10.3 Responsible Conduct of Research Policy: Report on policy breaches did not reflect either his question of Karen Chad, vice-president research or her response. He requested that the minutes be corrected to include his questions of whether the university has ever looked at using anti-plagiarism software and what support is given to faculty to assist them in recognizing plagiarism in student work and in understanding what constitutes plagiarism and Dr. Chad's response that the university has a mentorship program for faculty.

WILSON/DE BOER: That the Council minutes of June 18, 2015 be approved as amended.

CARRIED

4. Business from the minutes

The minutes having been corrected, the Council member requested that the question of whether the university has looked at any of the anti-plagiarism software that other U15 universities use be recorded as business arising from the minutes at the next meeting. The chair committed to bringing the member's question to the attention of Dr. Chad.

The chair noted three additional questions as recorded in the minutes under item 8.2 Report on Capital Planning:

1. A request for an update on the Clarion project;
2. When the Department of Mathematics and Statistics might be relocated to Thorvaldson; 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 ready.

Greg Fowler, vice-president finance and resources responded to the questions. He indicated that the Clarion Project would be considered under the university's new capital prioritization matrix to determine its priority relative to other capital projects submitted by the College of Arts and Science. The relocation of members of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics is presently in the planning and design stage, with plans to relocate the department by mid-2016.

Mr. Fowler reported that to his knowledge no classrooms have been closed in the Thorvaldson Building, although several classrooms are planned to close. A Council member objected to the response, citing the room numbers of several classrooms and labs on the second and third floors of the Thorvaldson Building that are no longer available, and requesting that the loss of any teaching space be identified prior to the closure of the space.

5. Report of the President

President Barnhart indicated he welcomed Dr. Peter Stoicheff as the university's 11th president. As Dr. Stoicheff's inauguration will take place on October 24, he noted October 23 would be his last day as interim president and his attendance at the Council meeting on October 22 would therefore be one of his last official functions. He expressed that this seemed to him most appropriate, as meeting with Council was his first official function when appointed interim president 17 months ago. He acknowledged the leadership of the Council chair and university secretary and thanked all members of Council for their support during his presidency. He reported that his focus over the days leading to the conclusion of his term would be on spending time with donors and alumni, including a second trip to China to meet with donors there.

The president highlighted several items from his written report to Council: the awarding of a \$37.2 M grant to the university under the leadership of Dr. Karen Chad and the Global Institute for Food Security (GISF) from the Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF)—the largest research grant ever received by the university; STEMfest, the second annual international Festival of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics to be held on campus September 27 – October 3; and the meeting of the provincial cabinet to be held on campus on September 22, which is planned to include a meeting of cabinet with members of the Board of Governors and a tour. The president closed his remarks by expressing thanks to Chris Stoicheff, government relations specialist, for his valuable assistance and guidance during his presidency as Mr. Stoicheff's own term also concludes on October 23.

The chair invited questions of the president.

A Council member spoke of the \$37.2 M in funding received, conveying that as a social scientist he did not join in the universal enthusiasm about the award when he reflected on farmers and farming communities. He provided a preface to his remarks, commenting on the change and extreme distress in rural communities as the size of the average farm increases and the number of farmers dwindles, with those who remain faced with a form of neo-feudalism around the buying of genetically modified seeds. While feeding humanity is a common buzzword, he noted there are other paradigms, such as food sovereignty, that assume a global interconnection of all farmers. In the 1950's and 1960's, the university did address these social dimensions. He asked the president what the university is doing or could consider doing in terms of the sociocultural dimensions of farming.

President Barnhart spoke of the importance of being able to help people around the world grow more food and become self-sufficient. Mary Buhr, dean of the College of Agriculture and Bioresources responded that one of the four pillars of the CFREF grant application related to the social science dimensions of the science proposed. The college is also directed by the needs identified by Saskatchewan and Canadian producers. Although the population of Saskatchewan is aging, the college has experienced an increase in student enrolment in its Bachelor of Science in Agronomy. Many of these students are from farms and are returning to farms. In sum, she concluded the college is doing its best to address some of the very concerns raised by the Council member.

6. Report of the Provost

Ernie Barber, provost and vice-president academic, referred to his written report and provided additional comments about enrolment and the School of Public Health. He reported the university met its undergraduate enrolment targets for the 2012-16 planning cycle and made progress against its graduate student enrolment targets. The graduate target was far more aspirational than the undergraduate target, with its genesis in the university's *Strategic Directions* delivered by the president in 2002 and renewed in 2010. This year, as a new planning cycle begins, campus-wide discussion will occur regarding enrolment, including questions such as what size of institution do we want to be and what mix of programs should be offered, together with all of the resulting considerations of space, people, delivery, and activity. Dr. Barber emphasized that enrolment planning should be intentional, with its roots in the colleges and with diversity targets set by the colleges and schools.

Dr. Barber referred to the infographic handout on enrolment available at the door and noted that the production of such an infographic requires extensive work. Dr. Barber acknowledged the efforts of Russell Isinger, registrar and staff in Student Enrolment and Services in making this information available.

Dr. Barber recalled that the review of the School of Public Health (SPH) was discussed at the May and June Council meetings, and that at the June Council meeting there was a question about having the internal reviewer serve on the task force formed to develop the action plan in response to the review. Although the task force does not include representatives of all the voices that need to be heard, he indicated that those individuals assigned to the task force, including the internal reviewer, are all consensus builders and will deliver an interim report to the provost in October. A stronger partnership with the College of Medicine and with external public health agencies will be sought to better position the school in the future.

Although the review was focused on the School of Public Health, there were many references to Community Health and Epidemiology in the review. One of the concerns was that this unit should have had more opportunity to respond to the report prior to its being made public. Dr. Barber indicated that after he and the chair of the task force met with the department head of Community Health and Epidemiology and the dean of Medicine, he was satisfied that the review of the school was properly conducted. Nonetheless, he apologized for any failure to represent the department. He also reminded Council that consultation with the college and department did occur as part of the review, and that he would apply the lessons learned from the SPH review to the reviews of the other interdisciplinary graduate schools. An internal assessment of the School of Environment and Sustainability (SENS) is underway and the reviewers will attend campus in December; following that, the review of the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy will occur.

A Council member indicated that she was pleased to see that enrolment of Indigenous students was increasing but noted the university has lost some of its Indigenous faculty. She requested that the university also focus on its Indigenous faculty members and refuted any perception that Indigenous faculty are a difficult group to engage with. Dr. Barber noted that there will be additional investments in Aboriginal success in the areas of: student success and supports, the recruitment of Aboriginal faculty and staff members, and in senior leadership positions dedicated to this university-wide priority area. Dr. Barber concluded by indicating more would be said at the next Council meeting about the goals for joint action to advance Aboriginal success and about the Aboriginal Peoples Engagement and Scholarship signature area.

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. A successful USSU Welcome Week was held, followed by the campaign on academic rights led by Gabe Senecal, USSU vice president of academic affairs, called "Know Your Rights." There will be an important announcement in the North Concourse at 10 am on September 22nd coinciding with the university's Sexual Assault Awareness Week.

A focus of the USSU will be the federal election on October 19th and the provincial election April, 2016. The USSU is working with individuals across campus and other external organizations to bring about USask Votes, a campaign to show how to vote and register, especially for out of province students, and to showcase the overall importance of voting and voter participation to students, faculty, and staff. Mr. Saddleback announced that a debate among candidates in the university riding would take place on September 30 at 4 pm and invited members to attend. More information can be found at <http://ussu.ca/main-page/usaskvotes/>

7.2 Report from the GSA

Rajat Chakravarty, president of the Graduate Students' Association provided a verbal report to Council reporting on the Fall Wine and Cheese Social attended by 250 people and the GSA Orientation and Fall BBQ, attended by close to 1800 individuals. He thanked Facilities Management Division (FMD), the College of Graduate Studies and Research (CGSR), and the USSU for their cooperation and assistance in hosting the orientation. Mr. Chakravarty spoke of the numerous other sports and social events to inform and foster engagement amongst the

graduate student body. A focus of the GSA is the elections and the September 30th candidate forum is presented jointly by the GSA and USSU.

Mr. Chakravarty reported the GSA has a backlog of audits to be completed over the past three years; the first one-year audit is complete and once all audits are completed, the GSA will issue a report which will be shared with Council.

8. Nominations Committee

Ed Krol, chair of the nominations committee presented the committee reports to Council. Three calls for nominations from the floor were made by the chair for each motion.

8.1 Request for Decision – University review committee nominations

KROL/LARRE: That Council approve the nomination of Nick Ovsenek, Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology and Marvin Painter, Department of Management and Marketing to the university review committee for terms effective immediately and ending June 30, 2018

CARRIED

8.2 Request for Decision – Research, scholarly and artistic work committee chair nomination

KROL/LARRE: That Council approve the nomination of Rainer Dick, Department of Physics and Engineering Physics to serve as chair of the research, scholarly and artistic work committee effective October 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016.

CARRIED

8.3 Request for Decision – Academic programs committee nomination

KROL/LARRE: That Council approve the nomination of Nathaniel Osgood, Department of Computer Science to the academic programs committee for a term effective immediately and ending June 30, 2018

CARRIED

9. Governance committee

Louise Racine, chair of the governance committee presented the committee reports to Council, summarizing the changes to the resource membership of each committee in turn. Notices of motion for each of the three amendments to the Council Bylaws were provided at the June 2015 Council meeting. A Council member noted his recollection was that changes to the title of an individual serving on a committee did not require Council approval but could be considered incidental changes reported to Council for information.

9.1 Request for Decision – Bylaws Amendments – Planning and priorities committee terms of reference, Council Bylaws, Part Two, s VI

RACINE/GRAY: That Council approve the amendments to the terms of reference of the planning and priorities committee of Council as shown in the attachment

CARRIED

9.2 Request for decision: Bylaws and amendments – Scholarships and awards committee terms of reference, Council Bylaws, Part Two, s. VIII

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

CARRIED

9.3 Request for decision: Bylaws amendments – Teaching, learning and academic resources committee terms of reference, Council bylaws, Part Two, s. XI

RACINE/FLYNN: 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.

CARRIED

10. Academic Programs Committee

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

10.1 Request for input – English Proficiency Policy

Professor Flynn reported the new English Proficiency policy did not represent a change or alteration to the standard for English proficiency but was a fine-tuning of the instruments by which the standards of proficiency are measured. The reference to appendix D in the policy document is a typographical error and should read “appendix C.” Comments on the draft policy can be directed to Alison Pickrell.

A Council member asked whether there was any correlation between students’ scores on English proficiency tests and academic performance once in their program. Professor Flynn responded that he was not aware of any related studies or data to support this correlation. However, the committee could look into the relationship between international student completion rates and performance relative to English proficiency entry scores if Council wished.

11. Joint committee on chairs and professorships

Jim Germida, vice-provost, faculty relations and chair of the joint committee on chairs and professorships (JCCP) presented the report.

11.1 Request for decision – LaBorde Chair in Engineering Entrepreneurship

Dr. Germida indicated that the LaBorde Chair in Engineering Entrepreneurship is an endowed chair, which will provide academic leadership in the Engineering Entrepreneurship Option for the College of Engineering and partner with the Edwards School of Business to deliver courses relevant to the option.

CHIBBAR/WEGNER: That Council authorize the Board of Governors to establish the LaBorde Chair in Engineering Entrepreneurship.

CARRIED

12. Other business

There was no other business.

13. Question period

There were no questions.

14. Adjournment

Prior to adjournment, President Barnhart commented on the close cooperation he observed between the USSU and the GSA and congratulated both student groups on working together so closely.

The meeting adjourned by motion (DOBSON/FLYNN) at 4:02 pm.