



*Minutes of University Council
2:30 p.m., Thursday, March 17, 2016
Arts Building Room 241 Neatby-Timlin Theatre*

Attendance: 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

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

CARRIED

2. Opening remarks

Dr. Kalra, chair of Council conveyed the usual procedures for debate and discussion and outlined the important business before Council. Beth Williamson, university secretary provided an update on the Council elections. In response to the call for nominations to the remaining three one-year term vacancies, eight nominations were received. Email correspondence will be sent to all GAA members inviting members to vote in the digital election which will close on March 30. Ms. Williamson encouraged all Council members to vote and to encourage fellow GAA members to vote.

Council's nominations committee will soon begin its important work of populating Council committees. The chair encouraged all present to consider serving on a Council committee by contacting either the university secretary or submitting an online volunteer form from the forms section of the university secretary web page.

3. Minutes of the meeting of February 25, 2016

DE BOER/KROL: That the Council minutes of February 25, 2016 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

4. Business from the minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. Report of the President

President Peter Stoicheff presented the president's report to Council. He referred to the student elections on campus and reported that one of the privileges of his role was that of meeting regularly with student leaders who continually consider what is best for the university while representing their constituencies.

The university has been involved in City Council's early-stage deliberations of a strategic growth plan. If the city continues to grow at the projected growth rate of an annual 2.5% increase for the next three decades, the city will reach a population of 500,000 people. As universities create great

talent in all walks of life in all professions, there is synergy between being a great city and a great university. President Stoicheff indicated that it is incumbent on the university to determine what size it should be as the city grows around it. The president indicated that he had no preconceptions as to what this size should be and would be seeking feedback from colleges and units on the future size of the university's undergraduate and graduate student populations and other subcategories within.

The president reported on the survey launched by the visioning committee and the responses received, which number over 3,000 responses. He introduced members of the visioning committee present at the meeting: Brent Cotter and Elizabeth Harrison, committee co-chairs and Wendy Roy, committee member and member of Council. The visioning committee plans to share an early draft of the new Vision, Mission and Values document with the university community in early April, followed by consultation with internal and external communities, including the planning and priorities committee of Council. The committee's goal is to present a final version of that document at the June meeting of Council for approval. The president encouraged all members to participate in the consultative process leading to the final document.

President Stoicheff conveyed that he had been meeting with individuals from the university's sustainability office, and that he would report further on environmental sustainability as a priority at the General Academic Assembly in April.

The chair invited questions of members on any aspect of the president's report. There were none.

6. Report of the Provost

Ernie Barber, interim provost and vice-president academic presented the provost's report to Council. Provost Barber highlighted the renewal of the university library facilities, infrastructure, systems, and library services and invited questions. In response to a question about the tuition rates for distance education course offerings, Patti McDougall, vice-provost teaching and learning, clarified that the reference in the provost's report is to the review of the tuition rates for non-credit distance education offerings and that for-credit course offerings will continue to align with the tuition rate of regular course offerings.

Peta Bonham-Smith, interim dean of the College of Arts and Science noted a correction to the number of tenure-track faculty appointments the college plans to make over the next year. The college plans to make 25 tenure-track faculty appointments, not 35 appointments, as stated in the provost's report.

7. Student societies

7.1 Report from the USSU

Jack Saddleback, president of the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union, presented the report to Council. He highlighted the USSU's participation at the recent Educational Developers Conference hosted by the Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching Effectiveness to consider Indigenous content in the university curriculum. In response to a question about the "nothing about us without us attitude in institutions" bullet point in the USSU report to Council about the conference, Mr. Saddleback clarified that this refers to having Indigenous peoples at the table when Indigenous content in the curriculum is being discussed.

7.2 Report from the GSA

Rajat Chakravarty, Graduate Student Association President, presented the report to Council. Mr. Chakravarty reported on the events and participation of Graduate Student Achievement Week, which was staged by the GSA with the Indigenous Graduate Students' Council at the Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre and the GSA Commons. Nominations for the 2016-17 GSA executive open on March 29, and the campaign begins April 6. This year, the current executive is preparing transition manuals for the new executive. A new initiative by the GSA is the launch of an emergency loan program for students in need.

Mr. Chakravarty thanked members of the USSU for co-hosting the Elections Forum held March 15 where representations from the Saskatchewan Party, Saskatchewan Liberals, NDP and Green Party presented on their election platforms. The GSA is also working with the USSU to have representation for students accused of non-criminal legal matters, such as parking offenses.

8. Academic Programs Committee

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

8.1 Item for Information – 2016-17 Admission Templates Update Report

Professor Flynn referred to the definitions in the university's Admission Policy for qualifications versus criteria. Changes to admission qualifications require Council approval; however, changes to selection criteria are approved by the relevant college and reported to Council and Senate. The report to Council reports only on changes to selection criteria and is presented for information. Questions on the report are directed to Karen Gauthier in the Admissions and Transfer Credit Office of Student and Enrolment Services.

8.2 Request for decision – Certificate of Proficiency in One Health

Professor Flynn provided the background to the request, noting that Council approved a graduate certificate in One Health the previous year. One Health is an interdisciplinary field across the health sciences and other disciplines and is identified as one of the six signature areas of the university. Although there are graduate certificates in One Health across the country, this will be the first undergraduate certificate. The program will be housed in the Western College of Veterinary Medicine for administrative purposes, as is the graduate certificate in One Health, but will be overseen by a committee of faculty from related colleges across campus. The certificate comprises 12 credit units and must be taken in conjunction with a degree program. The program tuition requires approval by the Board of Governors, which is intended to occur at the March Board meeting.

Discussion of the proposed program included clarification of the university's nomenclature for degree-level certificates, clarification of restrictions on double counting of courses taken in the certificate program versus degree programs, and the program's credit unit requirement. At this time, only the College of Arts and Science has a defined template for certificate programs offered within the college, specifying how many credit units a certificate program must comprise. A certificate subcommittee of the academic programs committee and the planning and priorities committee is considering whether standards for certificate programs should be developed across campus.

FLYNN/KROL: *That Council approve the Certificate in One Health in the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, effective September 2016.*

CARRIED

9. Nominations Committee

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

9.1 Request for Decision – Nomination to the Search Committee, Associate Vice-President research

KROL/LARRE: *That Council approve the appointment of Keith Carlson, Department of History, College of Arts and Science; Julita Vassileva, Department of Computer Science, College of Arts and Science; and Volker Gerdts, Department of Veterinary Microbiology, Western College of Veterinary Medicine, as the three members of the General Academic Assembly selected to serve on the search committee for the associate vice-president research search committee.*

CARRIED

10. Other business

There was no other business.

11. Question period

The chair invited questions from Council members. There were none.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by motion (DOBSON/FLYNN) at 3:50 pm.