

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

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

1. Adoption of the agenda

FLYNN/DOBSON: *To adopt the agenda as circulated.*

CARRIED

2. Opening remarks

The chair briefly reported on the most recent Council committee chairs breakfast meeting with members of the president's executive committee. Discussion at the last meeting focused on integrated planning and included the commitment of the president and provost to a planning process involving consultation with Council, likely through the planning and priorities committee.

The chair provided some reflections on the divisive events unfolding throughout the world, noting that many of these distressing incidents are based on fear and discrimination. She indicated that in her first months as chair that she had witnessed much evidence that the university is a place of hope that embraces diversity and solves problems through collaboration. She expressed her gratitude for this environment and asked all to resolve in the New Year to continue to break down barriers. Concluding her remarks, she expressed best wishes to all for a time of rejuvenation over the holiday season and the opportunity to be with family and friends.

3. Minutes of the meeting of November 17, 2016

GJEVRE/de BOER: *That the November 17, 2016 Council minutes be approved.*

CARRIED

4. Business from the minutes

The chair invited members to raise any business arising. A member requested leave to clarify the statement in the minutes that excellence in research does not preclude excellence in teaching. He noted there are opportunity costs associated with pursuing research versus teaching, and vice versa. In his opinion, the correlation between the two areas is relatively flat and requires differing skill sets.

5. Report of the President

President Peter Stoicheff referred members to his written report and provided additional remarks about the extension of the third integrated plan, the mandate and priorities of Universities Canada, and the information contained in the research update provided to Council each month. Universities Canada (formerly the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada) has a membership of 97 universities across the country and is an important forum that lobbies the federal government on post-secondary education. Priority areas are co-ops and internships, Indigenous education, research and innovation, and study abroad.

President Stoicheff also provided a brief update on the university's Canada Research Chairs (CRC) program and those chairs recently awarded and renewed. In January, a call for proposals will be issued for up to four new CRC chairs.

The chair invited questions of the president. A member asked for an indication of the university's research performance against comparator institutions. Karen Chad, vice-president research responded, indicating that a report on research performance and progress at the institutional and academic unit levels is made publicly available each January. The report is presented to the associate deans' research (ADR) forum with the request that ADR members share the document widely among faculty.

A comment was requested from the president on the recent \$5 million adjustment to the provincial grant and the effect of this loss coupled with the loss of the portion of the province's funding directed to the Northern Teacher Education Program (NORTEP). The member noted such actions lead to anxiety and instability and asked that the province be made aware of this climate. President Stoicheff recalled the need as president to be circumspect relative to any public commentary and assured Council of the high degree of engagement between members of senior administration with members of the provincial government. He characterized this engagement as intense, frequent, and ongoing, and indicated that the government has been informed of the difficulty the university has sustaining these types of reductions, especially if they continue.

A member commented on the process of indigenization and the slow pace at which he perceived this initiative to be progressing. The president acknowledged the concern and indicated that an internal university forum on building reconciliation is planned to occur in March as a follow-up to the national forum hosted a year ago. There are many different approaches being utilized to integrate Indigenous knowledge, including revisions to the *Learning Charter* and a search for a vice-provost Indigenous engagement.

6. Report of the Provost

Interim provost Michael Atkinson presented the provost's report to Council, providing additional comments on the "soft" launch to the integrated planning process and the number of searches for senior administrators underway.

A member referred to identification within the Métis community and asked what steps are being taken to ensure that candidates for the vice-provost Indigenous engagement who self-declare as Indigenous do in fact have connections to Indigenous communities. Patti McDougall, vice-provost teaching and learning and resource member to the search committee responded to the question. She assured Council that candidates must provide evidence of their academic integrity and ability to connect with Indigenous communities. As the search is an open search, short-listed candidates must stand up to public scrutiny. President Stoicheff as chair of the search committee asked Council to consider him duly alerted to the issue.

The recent visit of Maureen Mancuso of the Ontario Council of Academic Vice Presidents (OCAV) was discussed in relation to assessing the quality of the undergraduate learning experience. The OCAV has developed indicators and metrics that tie funding to learning outcomes, specifically workforce employment. Programs are therefore measured against those metrics generated by the institution rather than metrics developed by government. Provost Atkinson indicated that engaging

in a similar discussion at the U of S is a matter of foresight in anticipation of the province's interest in the student experience.

A general discussion of student rankings of institutions as reported by *The Globe and Mail* and *MacLean's* ensued, with speculation on the validity of rankings based on student surveys such as the *MacLean's* survey that involve 200 students or less than 1% of the university's student population. Comments followed on the lack of credence given at the university to the success of students after graduation and their contributions to society as a metric worth measuring and included specifically in the university's standards for promotion and tenure.

The president of the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) asked about the lack of a graduate student representative on the new Board of Trustees governing Huskie Athletics. Dr. Atkinson indicated that as he was not involved with Huskie Athletics that he could not immediately answer the question.

7. Student Societies

7.1 Report from the USSU

Brooke Malinoski, vice-president academic affairs of the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU) presented the USSU report. Ms. Malinoski provided a full report of events involving the USSU since October as the USSU was not able to provide a report at the November Council meeting. Topics covered included involvement in the "Let's Talk Housing" initiative with the University of Regina students' union to call on the federal government to address student homelessness. Other events included celebration of the achievements of women, better support of student groups on campus, and a campaign to create awareness about open educational resources. Ms. Malinoski reported on the significant savings realized in total by students through the use of open textbooks and acknowledged the support of the Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching Excellence and thanked those faculty who adapted teaching resources to support open textbook use.

The USSU has recommended that the province commit to minimum funding increases in line with the projected annual rate of the Saskatchewan Consumer Price Index, that tuition rate increases not exceed the consumer price index, and that the university implement a system by which students can project the full costs of specific degrees on a yearly basis.

Discussion of the USSU report included the request for an indication on the effect that the fall break has on students relative to topic coverage, quality of education, and experiential learning opportunities. Vice-provost McDougall noted that the Registrar's Office has data from a student survey about the fall break week and that she would provide this information to Council.

A Council member saluted the USSU, indicating that the USSU topped all other universities in Canada in the area of policies and practices in the recent campus freedom index published by Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms, available at <http://campusfreedomindex.ca/summary/>

In closing, Ms. Malinoski indicated the USSU is currently working on the Undergraduate Project Symposium, an annual event that highlights the research, scholarly and artistic works of undergraduate students. The event will be held on January 26 in the North Concourse of Place

Riel. Ms. Malinoski asked members to contact her directly if interested in serving as judges at the event.

7.2 Report from the GSA

Ziad Ghaith, president of the Graduate Students' Association, presented the GSA report to Council. Mr. Ghaith indicated that a strategic plan for the GSA will be presented for adoption at the GSA annual meeting in April 2017.

Mr. Ghaith also referred to the draft guidelines for graduate students and supervisors attached to the GSA report and invited feedback from Council on the draft guidelines. In response, the concern was expressed about what repercussions would exist if the guidelines are not followed. Adam Baxter-Jones, interim dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research indicated that a template is in place as an agreement between graduate students and supervisors and that two sets of guidelines are not contemplated. Graduate Council will therefore consider removing the current template that exists.

8. Nominations Committee

Tamara Larre, chair of the nominations committee, presented the committee report to Council.

8.1 Request for Decision – Nominations to the Review Committee of the Vice-Provost Teaching and Learning

Tamara Larre referred to the reports before members, indicating that the committee considered gender and disciplinary balance in nominating members. In addition the committee thought it important to have individuals interested in teaching serve on the review committee.

The chair called three times for nominations from the floor, with no response.

LARRE/GOODRIDGE: That Council approve the appointment of the following GAA members to the review committee of the vice-provost teaching and learning:

*Ken Van Rees, Department of Soil Science
Alexandria Wilson, Department of Educational Foundations
Hugo Cota-Sanchez, Department of Biology
Jay Wilson, Department of Curriculum Studies*

That Council approve the appointment of Chelsea Willness, associate dean, research and academic, Edwards School of Business as the senior administrator selected by Council to serve on the review committee of the vice-provost teaching and learning.

CARRIED

8.2 Request for Decision – Nomination to the Search Committee for Vice-Provost Indigenous Engagement

The chair called three times for nominations from the floor, with no response.

LARRE/GOODRIDGE: *That Council approve the appointment of Priscilla Settee, Department of Indigenous Studies, College of Arts and Science to the search committee for the vice-provost, Indigenous engagement.*

CARRIED

9. Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships

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

9.1 Request for Decision – David L. Kaplan Chair in Music

Vice-provost Germida noted the establishment of this chair is made possible by the generous contribution of two alumni of the college.

CHIBBAR/WILSON: *That Council approves the David L. Kaplan Chair in Music and recommends to the Board of Governors that the Board authorize the establishment of the Chair.*

CARRIED

10. Academic Programs Committee

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

10.1 Report for Information – Academic Calendar 2017-18

Professor Flynn reported that there was some discussion by the committee of where the Labour Day holiday falls. Programmatic concerns must be balanced with student experience concerns and student orientation. The 2017-18 academic year will have 62 teaching days; each year there are anywhere between 60 to 64 teaching days. There were no further comments, and no questions.

10.2 Report for Information – Curricular Changes – College of Education Direct Entry Program

Professor Flynn reported that the approved changes to the B.Ed. program arise from the change of the program to a direct-entry program, with the first students entering the college directly this fall. To address the issue identified of direct-entry students having no formal exposure to the pedagogy of teaching prior to their third year of the program, the college has repatriated 12 cu of electives from the College of Arts and Science in years one and two of the program and replaced these elective credit units with 12 cu of required coursework in the College of Education. The change also permits the College of Education to manage its own learning communities. There are budgetary implications to both colleges as a result of the change. Notably, the College of Arts and Science will lose tuition revenue. However, the College of Arts and Science has indicated it supports the change on academic principles, and the spirit of partnership exhibited was viewed favourably by the academic programs committee in its review.

11. Other business

The chair invited Beth Williamson, university secretary to provide an update on Council elections. Ms. Williamson reported that Professor Christopher Eskiw of the Department of Food and Bioproduct Sciences was the newly elected faculty member representative of the College of Agriculture and Bioresources for a term beginning immediately until June 30, 2017.

12. Question period

A member lamented the loss of provincial funding to the NORTEP program and asked if there were any discussions by senior administration with the provincial government to advocate for the program prior to its demise. Provost Atkinson indicated that the university was not advised of the loss of funding prior to the announcement. Following, at the request of the province, the dean of education, vice-provost teaching and learning, and others met with provincial representatives and a joint council of NORTEP/NORPAC members about assuming administration of the program. Subsequently, the province issued a call for expressions of interest in assisting with a program transition. In response, the university submitted a proposal that would permit existing students to complete their B.Ed. degrees based on U of S and University of Regina courses delivered by distance education.

Additional commentary focused on the planned discontinuation of the B.A. in Northern Studies and the overall concern about the university's capacity to provide programming to northern communities and advocate for Indigenous programs. The request was made for a brief report on the recent trip of a delegation of administrators to China to recruit international students to the College of Education. The speaker indicated the request was prompted by the financial needs of programs, such as NORTEP, balanced against the costs of international recruitment. Vice-provost McDougall suggested that Michelle Prytula, dean of education, respond to the question as the individual best able to report on the trip in terms of its intent and desired outcomes.

A member asked that the minutes of the meeting record his regret of the unilateral paternalism of the provincial government in its recent actions regarding NORTEP.

A member noted the value of hearing visiting speakers and requested that Council receive a report on the number of visiting speakers hosted by the university over the span of a year and how this number compares to comparator institutes. The Council chair indicated she would take the question away and consult with others on how it might best be answered.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by motion (FLYNN/GJEVRE) at 4:25 pm.