

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

Lisa Kalynchuk, chair of Council called the meeting to order at 2:34 p.m., observing that quorum had been attained.

Garnet Packota, professor, Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology delivered a memorial tribute to honour Kunio Komiyama, professor emeritus, College of Dentistry.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The chair of Council noted the chair of the academic programs committee had received new information about item 12.2 and therefore requested that this item be withdrawn so the committee can consider this information prior to bringing the item to Council.

AITKEN/WILSON: To adopt the agenda as amended with the removal of item 12.2 and subsequent reordering of the agenda.

CARRIED

2. Opening remarks

The chair welcomed Lee Ahenakew, chair of the Board of Governors and acknowledged Professor Vicki Squires of the Department of Educational Administration, who was in attendance along with students of her class EADM 438/838: Administration and Governance in Post-Secondary Education.

The chair also welcomed Michael Atkinson as the new interim provost and vice-president academic, noting that she was sure that University Council would continue its constructive relationship with the provost's office.

The chair briefly reported on the most recent Council committee chairs breakfast meeting with members of the president's executive committee. The discussion focused on the priorities in the coming months of Debra Pozega Osburn, new vice-president university relations and Michael Atkinson, new interim provost and vice-president academic. Vice-president Pozega Osburn indicated her focus would be on the integration between and among people and functions in the University Relations office. Provost Atkinson spoke of supporting senior leadership, recruiting new senior leaders, and opening discussion on revisions to the university's standards for promotion and tenure.

The chair indicated she expected a fulsome discussion of the *Vision, Mission and Values* at the meeting and took the opportunity to remind Council members of Council's usual practice for discussion and debate, as follows:

- Those members wishing to speak should wait to be recognized by the chair; once recognized the members should begin by stating their name and indicating whether they are a Council member or not. Council members have the first priority to speak and if time permits, others will be recognized.

- The chair indicated she would recognize each individual once to provide an opportunity for as many different Council members as possible to contribute to the discussion. If members have a new point to make, they may ask to speak again but only after everyone has had an opportunity to speak about the issue on the floor.
- Although remarks will not be limited to two minutes as in the past, the chair asked that members be as brief as possible in making their points.
- Members were asked to preface their remarks by stating whether they were in favour or against the motion on the floor, and to direct their remarks to the Council chair, and not to one another.

The chair also asked that Council members remain in the room until the end of the meeting, as all Council business is important and decision items are often at the end of the agenda.

3. Minutes of the meeting of September 22, 2016

A member noted the reference to Aboriginal and Métis students in the minutes and described the linking of Aboriginal and Métis or Aboriginal and First Nations as confusing and inaccurate. She requested that future minutes correct this language usage explaining that Aboriginal is an umbrella term used in Canada to describe Métis, First Nations and Inuit peoples.

FLYNN/ZELLO: *That the September 22, 2016, Council minutes be approved as circulated.*

CARRIED

4. Business from the minutes

The chair noted two items of business arising from the minutes: access to Council committee minutes and the President's recent trip to China. She noted the coordinating committee of Council had further discussed the issue of access to the minutes of Council committees and referred the matter to the governance committee for review, in particular to clarify how Council members are to request minutes from committee chairs. She informed Council that questions about the president's trip to China would be addressed by the president in his report to Council, as the next agenda item.

5. Report of the President

President Peter Stoicheff noted the university has achieved much recently, including becoming the only university in Canada to have received two Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) awards. Other achievements include the award of federal funding for the new Collaborative Sciences Research Building, the opening of the university's first standalone child care centre, and the announcement of the Huskie Athletics Board of Trustees.

In addition to the appointment of Professor Graham George and Professor Jo-Anne Dillon as fellows to the Royal Society of Canada, the Society has named four professors from the university—Markus Hecker, Maggie Kovach, Angela Lieverse and Dwight Newman—as new members of the College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists. Professor Jim Waldram is one of three finalists for the \$50,000 2016 SHHRC Insight Award, given in recognition of significant contributions to knowledge and understanding about people, societies and the world. Professor emeritus Bill Waiser has been short listed for the 2016 Governor General's literary award for non-fiction for *A World We Have Lost: Saskatchewan Before 1905*, a prequel to *Saskatchewan: A New History*.

The president encouraged all to attend the Convocation ceremonies on October 22 and advised that William Deverell will receive an Honorary Doctor of Letters degree and Kay Nasser will receive an Honorary Doctor of Science degree. Other award recipients to be recognized at Convocation include: Jane Alcorn, Distinguished Graduate Supervisor Award; Chris Clark, Master Teacher Award; Carin Holroyd, J.W. George Ivany Award for Internationalization; Liz Scott, President's Service Award; Timothy Kelly, New Researcher Award; Sarah Buhler, Award for Distinction in Community Engaged Teaching and Scholarship; and John McKinnon, Award for Distinction in Outreach and Public Service.

President Stoicheff recognized Michael Atkinson in his role of interim provost and vice-president academic and outlined his former service as the university's first provost and as executive director of the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy. The president also recognized Debra Pozega Osburn as the new vice-president of university relations, a position redesigned from the position of vice-president advancement and community engagement.

The president expressed his pleasure at the appointment of Roy Romanow as the university's new chancellor. Mr. Romanow begins his appointment November 1 and will be formally installed at the Convocation ceremonies in June 2017. President Stoicheff also recognized Chancellor Blaine Favel and the service he has provided to the university, from the national forum on building reconciliation to the opening of the Gordon Oakes Red Bear Centre and other forms of student support.

The president spoke of the timing of his trip to China, which necessitated that he submit regrets to the September Council meeting. Having never gone to China before, he emphasized that he thought it important to do so, given the number of alumni and international students from China. One of the events he attended was an annual alumni event in Beijing, also attended by representatives from Saskatchewan Polytechnic, the University of Regina and the premier of Saskatchewan.

The president reported on his meeting with Lin Xu, chief executive of the Confucius Institute Headquarters and director general of Hanban. He recalled the debate in response to the signing of the first agreement to establish the Confucius Institute at the university and expressed thanks to Karen Chad, vice-president research, the international activities committee of Council, and those who served on the *ad hoc* committee struck to explore the workings of the Confucius Institute. President Stoicheff cited the features of the new agreement in response to concerns raised. These include a statement about transparency, academic freedom being valued, and control by the university over the hiring, curriculum and academic practices of the Confucius Institute.

The Council member who had inquired about the president's trip expressed that the new agreement was an improvement but questioned the relationship of the Hanban with the Chinese Ministry, and recalled several instances of human rights violations by the Chinese government. In response, President Stoicheff indicated that not signing the renewal agreement was a risk, and signing presented a risk. Between the choice of the two risks, he spoke in favour of an open approach in response to the revisions to the agreement and the opportunity to build bridges and therefore signed the agreement.

Other comments from members reflected varying degrees of support, with support for developing ties to China given the many students from China studying at the university, but concern that although academic freedom is reflected in the agreement, there are other principles from the

proposed *Vision, Mission and Values* of the university that are absent. Given the time available, the chair indicated other questions could be posed to the president during question period.

6. Report of the Provost

Interim Provost Michael Atkinson presented the provost's report to Council. As interim provost, he indicated that during his term he would launch the university's fourth integrated planning process. Other priority areas of focus for him include the quality of student learning and the student learning experience. If there is interest and response from the university community, he indicated he could also begin the process of revisions to the university standards for tenure and promotion.

A member requested that Council be kept informed about the responsibility centered model (RCM) for budgeting that will be implemented through the university's transparent activity-based budget system (TABBS), and any changes that come about to the curriculum in response to implementation of the model, which assigns revenue based on activity metrics. Provost Atkinson committed to bring to Council any implications RCM and TABBS have for academic programs and for academic quality.

7. Report of the Vice-president Research

Karen Chad, vice-president research presented her biannual report to Council, highlighting two initiatives underway: working with the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (CGPS)¹ on an initiative for the university's post-doctoral fellows (PDFs); and the International Blueprint for Action.

Dr. Chad provided background to the impetus to develop formal policies for PDFs as an important and necessary institutional support, given the concerns identified related to limited community support for PDFs, limited opportunities for professional development, lack of support staff overseeing administration of PDFs, and that PDFs across the university are not tied to institutional planning. In response, a coordinator of postdoctoral studies position has been established within the CGPS, a database to track and monitor PDF appointments has been created, and an on-line PDF application and appointment process developed. Other initiatives include the creation of a postdoctoral studies committee within the CGPS tasked with developing a strategic plan and policy for PDFs, new professional development opportunities for PDFs, the development of an exit survey to learn from PDFs what their experience has been, and a database to track employment opportunities taken up by former PDFs.

Dr. Chad thanked the international activities and research, scholarly and artistic work committees of Council for their involvement with the International Blueprint for Action. An environmental scan across institutions has informed the blueprint and consultation on the draft action plan is about to begin.

Questions were invited. A member inquired about the cost the university sustains in order to have an internal signing authority for NSERC grants, which resulted from a past discrepancy some years ago, requiring the university to have greater stringency attached to its signing process. He questioned whether this additional cost would be sustained in perpetuity. Vice-president Chad requested leave to provide a response at the next Council meeting.

¹ The College of Graduate Studies and Research was re-named the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, effective January 1, 2017.

8. Student Societies

8.1 Report from the USSU

Kehan Fu, president of the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union, presented the USSU report to Council. President Fu reported on a wide range of activities and initiatives involving members of the USSU Executive as outlined in his written report. These include support of the university's Sexual Assault Awareness Week and the REACT to Sexual Assault campaign, the possibility of introducing an ombudsperson for students at the university, the signing of a MOU between the USSU and the university to work together on sustainability initiatives, and student participation in the second annual Truth and Reconciliation Forum held at the University of Alberta.

Mr. Fu was asked if the USSU has any plans to discuss divestment of fossil fuels and indicated he would consult with the USSU sustainability committee and report back on this question. Other comments were about the debate hosted by the USSU for the mayoral candidates. Mr. Fu indicated that youth voter turnout is supported by the USSU not only for campus politics but for civic politics and the event could be viewed on the USSU Facebook page.

8.2 Report from the GSA

Ziad Ghaith, president of the Graduate Students' Association, presented the GSA report to Council. Mr. Ghaith introduced Mylan Tootoosis as the new Aboriginal Liaison of the GSA. Activities of the GSA since the last Council meeting include continued focus on efforts to increase graduate student representation on University Council and the Board of Governors. On November 2nd, the GSA will participate in the National Day of Action hosted by the Canadian Federation of Students to make postsecondary education more accessible to students. Mr. Ghaith asked that members of Council stand with the GSA on that day in support of the day of action.

A member spoke in support of the efforts of the GSA to support the reduction and eventual elimination of tuition. A graduate student in attendance recalled his prior service on the University of Waterloo Board of Governors and noted that the University of Saskatchewan is the only member of the U15 universities without graduate student representation on its board. He noted that as graduate students are invested in the teaching and research mission of the university, they have much to offer to university governing boards.

A member asked about the composition of boards of governors and if they have roughly the same institutional responsibilities. Beth Williamson, university secretary responded to the question, indicating that the responsibilities of university boards are similar and usually involve the financial operations of the university but that the size of boards varies greatly.

9. Nominations Committee

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

9.1 Request for Decision – Academic Programs Committee Member Nomination

Tamara Larre referred to the materials before members. The chair called three times for nominations from the floor, with no response.

LARRE/WALKER: *It is recommended that Council approve the nomination of Darrell Mousseau, Department of Psychiatry, College of Medicine to serve on the academic programs committee for a one year term beginning immediately and ending June 30, 2017.*

CARRIED

9.2 Request for Decision – Planning and Priorities Committee Member Nomination

Tamara Larre referred to the materials before members. The chair called three times for nominations from the floor, with no response.

LARRE/WALKER: *It is recommended that Council approve the nomination of Gregory Wurzer, University Library to serve on the planning and priorities committee for a one year term beginning immediately and ending June 30, 2017.*

CARRIED

9.3 Request for Decision – Promotions Appeal Panel Member Nomination

Tamara Larre referred to the materials before members. The chair called three times for nominations from the floor, with no response.

LARRE/WALKER: *It is recommended that Council approve the nomination of Diane Knight, Department of Soil Science, College of Agriculture and Bioresources to serve on the promotions appeal panel for a three-year term beginning immediately and ending June 30, 2019.*

CARRIED

10. Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources Committee

Jay Wilson, chair of the teaching, learning and academic programs committee, presented the committee report to Council.

10.1 Report for Information – Learning Charter Update

Professor Wilson indicated the report is intended to give insight into how the teaching, learning and academic resources committee is responding to the call for the inclusion of Indigenous learning in all degree programs through revisions to the university's *Learning Charter*. As outlined in the report, the committee is being deliberative and careful in its work and ensuring Indigenous community members are included in its consultation about the *Learning Charter*.

11. Planning and Priorities Committee

Dirk de Boer, chair of the planning and priorities committee, presented the report to Council.

11.1 Request for Decision– Vision, Mission and Values of the University of Saskatchewan

Professor de Boer presented the motion asking Council to adopt the *Vision, Mission and Values of the University of Saskatchewan*. He indicated that in adopting the *Vision, Mission and Values*

document Council is being asked to adopt the document in its entirety. Professor de Boer invited President Stoicheff to speak to the document.

President Stoicheff spoke of the genre of documents, such as mission statements of universities, which exist at a high level. These documents are not to be confused with strategic planning documents. Rather vision and mission statements inform strategic plans. Although there are similarities among these types of documents at universities, the president indicated that if the document were exclusively generic it would lack meaning. Therefore, the document should be aspirational but also realistic and practical and point to what is distinctive about the university. Importantly, the new statement needs to be connected to, but distinguish itself from, the university's 1993 mission statement.

Professor de Boer asked Brent Cotter and Liz Harrison, co-chairs of the vision steering committee for remarks. Professor Harrison extended thanks to members of the steering committee representing faculty, staff, Council, Senate, the Board of Governors, students, and the Aboriginal community, to members of the president's office who assisted with meetings and to Jennifer Robertson for communications and administrative support. Over 4,000 individuals provided feedback either through the two surveys or through face-to-face meetings, in small or large group settings. Senate approved adoption of the document at its October 15th meeting, and the document will be presented to the Board of Governors for approval near the end of October.

Professor Cotter expressed his hope that the document captured the spirit of optimism which he encountered in speaking about the document across campus and briefly outlined the purpose and intent of each section of the document. The chair opened the floor for discussion.

Members raised specific editorial concerns with some of the language in the document.

Describing the campus as Canada's most beautiful was considered ***an unnecessary, readily contestable use of the*** superlative. Changing "most" to "one of Canada's most beautiful campuses" was proposed. The term "life force" was suggested as being dubious with many negative antecedents for those aware of these. Replacing "life force" with the French term "raison d'être" which has "reason" at its heart was proposed as more appropriate, with the comment that the change would also bring the nation's other official language into the document.

More broadly, concerns were raised about the reference to Indigenous and Métis peoples and whether this was expressed correctly. In response, Professor Cotter noted the visioning committee had three members with Indigenous ancestry on the committee and that it was on their advice that "Indigenous and Métis peoples and communities" was used in the document.

In response to a question about the use of the document, President Stoicheff noted that beyond the fact that all institutions and universities have documents such as these, the 1993 mission statement no longer accurately reflects the university. Beyond this practical concern, the president emphasized the text in the new *Vision, Mission and Values* document would permit himself, as president, and others to speak with conviction and authority about the university and its aspirations.

A comment was made as to whether there would be difficulty in changing the document as Senate had already approved it. One of the two Senate representatives on Council offered that if Council were to approve the document with the wording changes proposed, that he did not

foresee that Senate would not also approve these changes, particularly if there was agreement that these changes would better the document.

D'EON/ATKINSON: *To amend the motion to include two changes: to replace "life force" with "raison d'être" and to replace "most beautiful" with "one of the most beautiful."*

CARRIED

de BOER/WILSON: *That Council adopt the Vision, Mission and Values of the University of Saskatchewan as presented, with two changes: to replace "life force" with "raison d'être" and to replace "most beautiful" with "one of the most beautiful."*

CARRIED

11.2 Request for Decision – Centre for Research, Evaluation and Action Towards Equal Justice (CREATE Justice) in the College of Law

Due to the time remaining, Professor de Boer referred members to his written decision item on the CREATE Justice centre, briefly commenting that the centre seeks to further research in the area of access to justice as a societal need. A member noted the possibility of some confusion as a result of the centre name as NSERC also has a program that goes by the acronym CREATE; however, this concern was not considered significant.

DE BOER/K. WILSON: *It is recommended that Council approve the Centre for Research, Evaluation and Action Towards Equal Justice (CREATE Justice) as a Type A centre in the College of Law.*

CARRIED

12. Academic Programs Committee

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

12.1 Request for Decision– Changes to the Admissions Qualifications of the College of Education

Professor Flynn reported that the request to change the admission qualifications for entry to the B.Ed. program will broaden the applicant pool to the program by permitting those with deficiencies in two study areas to enter the program, as long as the deficiencies are cleared prior to their second year in the program. This change will give greater flexibility to out-of-province students whose secondary school graduation standards may not align with the college's admission requirements. The second change requested is to waive the requirement of specific high school prerequisites for those students who have completed 18 credit units of post-secondary work, transferable to the program, with at least a 60% average, on the premise that the attainment of the 18 credit units is equivalent to attainment of the high school prerequisites required.

FLYNN/ZELLO: *It is recommended that Council approve changes to the admissions qualifications for the Bachelor of Education (B. Ed.) program for students who are entering the program in or after September 2017.*

CARRIED

13. Other business

The chair called on the university secretary to provide an update on Council elections. Ms. Williamson reported that an election for two member-at-large positions for one-year terms will open October 21 and close November 10 and encouraged all members of the GAA to vote. A member asked about the status of College of Medicine faculty members under the new one faculty model in the college which includes community-based clinical faculty, Ms. Williamson indicated that her understanding was that these individuals were part-time faculty and therefore not eligible to vote in the election as the definition of a GAA member requires employment on a full-time basis.

14. Question period

A member asked about the recent posting of signs in classrooms that no food or drink is permitted and whether there is a policy that restricts food and drink in classrooms. He objected to the practice of no food or drink and was supported in his objection by several other Council members, who also spoke against the change in practice. The chair indicated she would consult with Facilities Management Division and report back to Council.

In a response to a comment about the removal of agenda item 12.2 and the retroactive approval of decisions already taken, Professor Flynn commented that some of the issues about the approvals obtained arose from a misunderstanding of the definitions and vocabulary used in the *Academic Courses Policy on Class Delivery, Examinations, and Assessment of Student Learning*. The policy will be revised to make these definitions clearer.

15. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by motion (GJEVRE/FINDLAY) at 4:35 pm.