

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.

David Burgess, associate dean, research, graduate support, and international initiatives in the College of Education delivered a memorial tribute to honour Professor Vivian Hajnal, former professor in the Department of Educational Administration and associate dean in the College of Education.

1. Adoption of the agenda

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

CARRIED

2. Opening remarks

The chair indicated that she was honoured to have been elected as chair of Council and would work diligently on Council's behalf. She thanked Marcel D'Eon, member of Council, for letting his name stand for election and recognized the work of Jay Kalra, former Council chair, indicating that Professor's Kalra's contributions as Council chair would be recognized more formally at a later Council meeting this fall.

The chair asked members to reflect on how Council, as the academic governing body of the university, could play a more active role in determining the future direction of the university and relayed a conversation at a recent Council committee chairs breakfast with the president's executive team. At the meeting, the president mentioned five priorities for the coming year:

1. To achieve research success that is recognized nationally and internationally, as demonstrated by a move up in university rankings;
2. To become an outstanding institution for Aboriginal and Métis students;
3. Sustainability, including financial sustainability and other forms of sustainability;
4. Diversity, which would include international;
5. Connectivity, both interdisciplinary and relationships.

The chair asked members to keep these priorities in mind as Council discusses and debates issues this year. At the October Council meeting, the *Vision, Mission and Values of the University of Saskatchewan* will be presented to Council. She encouraged members to read the document carefully as it will inform the university's next steps.

The chair also recognized that the meeting was the last Council meeting that Ernie Barber, interim provost and vice-president academic would attend in this role. She recognized the strong

leadership and focus that Provost Barber provided to the institution at a difficult time, and the shining example of service which he set. Provost Barber was recognized with applause.

The chair reflected on the concept of service as it indicates the desire to serve and to participate in decisions that move the university forward. The chair reminded members that Council meetings are a place of collegial debate and that Council should aspire to a high standard with respect to diversity of opinion. As Council meetings are open, the way in which members speak to one another shows the media, members of the public and students how Council conducts its business, and Council should strive to set a strong example.

3. Minutes of the meeting of June 23, 2016

AITKEN/FLYNN: *That the June 23, 2016, Council minutes be approved with the correction requested to the minutes under item 5 President's report to include the statement, "Our supporters expect us to improve our rankings."*

CARRIED

4. Business from the minutes

The chair indicated that at the June Council meeting, a question was raised about Council committees making the minutes of their meetings publicly available. The coordinating committee discussed the issue at its recent meeting and came to the conclusion that the current practice is appropriate. The Council committee guidelines indicate that excerpts from the minutes may be released at the discretion of the chair. The chair indicated the request, as understood by members of the coordinating committee, was to better inform Council members about the discussion that occurs during committee meetings, particularly discussion informing recommendations that are then brought to Council. She suggested that providing more detailed cover notes that summarized the committees' discussions of substantive agenda items might help to address the concerns raised.

A number of Council members spoke in turn about the issue. As Council committees report to Council, withholding Council committee minutes from Council was imputed to be misguided. The view was expressed that providing information to some members, but not to others, and particularly withholding information from student members created a hierarchy among Council. Some members affirmed that there are times when they wish to see exactly what happened in committee and what information administrators provide to the committee. Providing committee minutes on a rationalized basis for particularly difficult items was proposed.

Other members suggested that making committee minutes available to Council would limit the discussion and impede the work of the committee as members would no longer engage in frank discussion. Council members who served on committees indicated that a number of unintended consequences could result if committee meeting minutes are widely released. These included having the record be so generic as to be meaningless for fear of challenge. The possibility of inadvertently releasing sensitive details to the government and other stakeholders was mentioned.

As committees have little authority in and of themselves, Council is able to freely question committee chairs about the discussion leading to the committee's recommendation to Council. Decision items can also be turned back to the committee for further discussion. Trusting committee members to conduct their business with due diligence and in good faith to the best of their abilities was said to be at the heart of collegial decision-making.

The chair thanked all members who spoke to the question and confirmed that Council committee chairs should provide more extensive cover notes to accompany recommendations to Council that include the details of the discussion that led to the recommendation.

5. Report of the President

The chair called on Ernie Barber, interim provost and vice-president academic to present the president's report as President Stoicheff was away on university business. Provost Barber acknowledged Lisa Kalynchuk in her new role as Council chair and for her service over the years in other capacities. Provost Barber also acknowledged Professor Graham George and Professor Jo-Anne Dillon as colleagues recently appointed as fellows to the Royal Society of Canada.

Provost Barber reported on the university's accomplishment in securing two of the Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) grants, which comprise \$115 million in funding or 8% of the total federal funding awarded in total for these grants. In addition, the university was awarded three Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) awards, although it was only able to recruit world-class leaders for two of the three chairs awarded, in the areas of global food security and global water security. Recruitment efforts to fill the CERC chair in public health (infectious disease mitigation) were unsuccessful.

Provost Barber asked Council to celebrate these accomplishments and the ability of the university to lead these initiatives with global import. Provost Barber briefly described the CERC chair in food security, which enhances the work of plant breeders and focuses attention on the plant root system. He then elaborated on the recent CFREF \$77.8 million award to lead Global Water Futures research in fresh water stewardship noting that it is built on collaborations across many different universities and disciplines, and includes Indigenous communities. Funds from the academic priorities fund (APF) and the university's strategic funding envelope were used to leverage the matching funding required for the awards. The university has also applied permanent incremental funding toward Indigenous and international initiatives.

A Council member expressed that he was impressed by the two grants and inquired about the food security area, which matches genotypes to soil and water conditions. He asked who the matching partners were and referred to Monsanto and Bayer as companies with operations in the area and on campus and wondered whether they were involved. Provost Barber described the work as creating databases of genome information and functional growth conditions so that plant breeders can use the information to develop crops. He assured the member that there is no requirement about what kind of technologies are used to select the crop variety developed. Because of climate change, land needs to be brought into production across the world, with more local and more rapid development of plant varieties. The project does not require collaboration with any company to use the information.

A Council member gave notice of a question to the president, with the request for a response at the next Council meeting. The questions posed were in relation to the president's trip to China as reported on page 18 of the president's report to Council. The specific questions were: Who decided to have the president's trip to China coincide with the premier's trip to China? And what joint activities with the premier were planned to occur during the trip?

6. Report of the Provost

Provost Barber presented this report to Council, referring to his written report and the enrolment snapshot appended. Patti McDougall, vice-provost, teaching and learning presented a highlight summary enrolment report. Enrolment figures this fall are strong, with degree enrolment at 20,234 students—a 2.6% increase over last year. Overall enrolment is approximately 23,000 students, including non-degree students. There is evidence that enrolment is increasing in targeted areas, including Aboriginal graduate students. Indigenous enrolment has been steadily increasing as a trend over the past 5 years, and there has been an 8.4% increase in graduate enrolment compared to undergraduate enrolment over the past year. A full report on enrolment will be presented in April.

Vice-Provost McDougall advised that as the university considers its next round of strategic planning, the president has indicated his mind remains open to the various possibilities of what size of institution the university aspires to be, and that this includes discussions on the number of undergraduate and graduate students, diversity of students, and the mix of students and programs at the university. The groundwork has already been laid through discussions with colleges and schools this year on their enrolment plans. This information will be compiled and used to inform an institutional discussion on enrolment. In response to a question from a member about numbers of graduate students and graduate degree programs at the university, Vice-Provost McDougall requested leave to share with the member the annualized numbers presented last spring to Council.

A member spoke of the College of Nursing and the indigenization of its student body and encouraged secondary analyses on the Indigenous student enrolment figures. Many First Nations and Métis students spend more time in their programs as many of these students have young families and study in their home community, and therefore the number of Indigenous students may be inflated. She encouraged the university to set more precise goals and numbers, and indicated she was interested in the exact number of Indigenous graduate versus undergraduate students. Vice-Provost McDougall noted that [uVIEW](#), the university's data portal, provides access to up-to-date snapshots of enrolment at the college level.

Provost Barber invited John Rigby, associate vice-provost, Institutional Planning and Assessment (IPA) to address Council on the recent StatsCanada report on tuition released two weeks ago. The StatsCanada report compares post-secondary education in the province of Saskatchewan with the post-secondary sector in Ontario. StatsCanada uses the concept of average tuition. Professor Rigby explained that this is intuitively appealing, but if you have differential tuition across programs, it is very difficult to calculate a meaningful average. Because the university has more professional programs that charge a higher rate, our tuition on average is higher. The StatsCanada report also does not factor in mandatory fees that are quite a bit higher at other institutions.

Tuition rates are set in consultation with deans who consult directly with their own student body on the issues of affordability, comparability and quality. The university's unweighted tuition increase was approximately 2.5% last year. As the university's tuition policy is refreshed, the principle of affordability will take into account changes in the cost of living. Professor Rigby indicated the university is at, or below, the median of comparator institutions when all of these factors are taken into consideration.

Professor Rigby provided some standard figures across a number of categories for a standard Arts student, graduate student, and international student (undergraduate and graduate). Last year, the

university distributed approximately \$43 million in scholarships, bursaries and other student awards.

Provost Barber closed his report with remarks on the value of the work of Council in its deliberation of decisions. He recalled that in the spring of 2014 he accepted the role of interim provost and vice-president academic as he was encouraged by his belief in a collective mission. Despite differences, he indicated there is a deep caring at the level of the individual about the university and the sharing of knowledge and noted it was his privilege to have served the university in a leadership capacity.

7. Student Societies

7.1 Report from the USSU

Kehan Fu, president of the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union, presented the USSU report to Council. Mr. Fu acknowledged the efforts of Provost Barber over his term as interim provost and vice-president academic. The USSU executive has spent the summer developing leadership in the area of undergraduate research and seeking research opportunities for existing students. Within the USSU vice-president finance portfolio, efforts have focused on creating a co-curricular record so that students can provide a history of achievement in non-academic areas. The USSU Women in Leadership week seeks to celebrate the promotion of women in leadership roles within the USSU and other areas of campus.

Mr. Fu reported that tuition will be a main priority this year as the USSU executive members are not only elected leaders but elected advocates. There will be an intense consultative process with college societies and constituent groups to decide on the most relevant tuition topic. In general, the USSU wishes to consider the general question of tuition accessibility. This is a large topic, given the limitation of one-year terms as an executive. The USSU wishes to work together with academic bodies and other stakeholders to have a sustainable tuition policy.

The second priority is around improving and increasing student engagement with the provincial government and on advocating for post-secondary education from a student perspective. The USSU wishes to examine the question of education accessibility as a whole, in relation to the less tangible costs of transit, open textbooks, access to support services for mental and student health, student residences, and campus security, among other costs. These are important services that may be excluded in discussions on funding. Mr. Fu concluded by indicating the USSU would entertain collaborative discussion on these and other topics.

7.2 Report from the GSA

Ziad Ghaith, president of the Graduate Students' Association, presented the GSA report to Council. Mr. Ghaith noted that the GSA Welcome Week was attended by more than 1,500 graduate students and thanked the university administration and the College of Graduate Studies and Research (CGSR) for their help, facilitation and participation in the event.

Mr. Ghaith noted that graduate students continue to be underrepresented on important Council committees, including the governance committee, and at Council. The GSA continues to work to increase representation on Council and Council committees. The GSA is also consulting about the possibility of having a memorandum of understanding between graduate student

supervisors and graduate students that will ensure the quality of graduate education at the university.

On October 5, the GSA is meeting with representatives from the provincial government to discuss government support for post-secondary education. In closing, Mr. Ghaith reported the GSA is taking part in the Canadian Federation of Students National Day of Action on November 2 to ask for a reduction in tuition, an increase in funding for postsecondary education, and to provide a grant for Indigenous students. Mr. Ghaith expressed the hope that Council would support the efforts of the GSA on this day.

8. Nominations Committee

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

8.1 Request for Decision – Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee Member Nomination

Tamara Larre referred to the materials before members. The chair called three times for nominations from the floor. There were none.

WALKER/GYURCSIK: It is recommended that Council approve the nomination of David Burgess, associate dean (research, graduate support and international initiatives), College of Education to serve on the research, scholarly and artistic work committee effective September 22, 2016 and continuing until June 30, 2019.

CARRIED

9. Planning and Priorities Committee

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

9.1 Report for Information – Report on University Lands and Capital Projects

Professor de Boer noted the planning and priorities committee is responsible for advice to the president and senior executive on operating and capital budgetary matters, including infrastructure and space allocation issues. Professor de Boer invited Greg Fowler, vice-president finance and resources to provide an overview of the development of university lands and some of the larger capital projects contemplated or underway.

Vice-President Fowler recalled that the *Vision 2057* document was endorsed by Council in 2009 and approved by the Board of Governors. This land-use planning study, issued under Brook McIlroy, derived principles to guide the university's use of its lands, based on teaching and research excellence, competitive recruitment and retention, financial sustainability, environmental sustainability, improved community integration, and enhanced partnerships. The report is based on a long-term view which will enhance the density of the university's core lands, consider transit corridors, and follow architectural guidelines.

The university holds 165,000 acres or 18% of the lands within the core of the City of Saskatoon. Working in conjunction with the City and its growth plan is integral to the

university's land use planning efforts. Although not considered as a panacea for funding, the thousands of acres of university lands designated as endowed lands are estimated to have a commercial value as high as \$1 billion dollars. The university has no intention of selling its lands, but will lease them.

Presently a request for proposal (RFP) has been issued for a mixed use village in the north-west corner of the College Quarter on the 8.8 acres that intersects between Cumberland Avenue and College Drive. Other developments include the College Quarter Ice Facility and the College Quarter Hotel Development, across from the stadium parkade, which will house a Holiday Inn Express and Staybridge Suites.

VP Fowler recalled that in 2012 he asked for a phasing plan to understand the development of the core campus. The next decade will be spent on renewal rather than new build. This approach will be more disruptive as the Murray and W.P. Thompson Buildings are renewed within the academic core of the university. The Collaborative Science Research Building, which is a new building, must be completed by April 2017 under the terms of the \$30 million federal grant received. The building will first be used to decant the W.P. Thompson Building as it is renewed.

Questions were invited. A member asked for an update on the Clarion Project, which was to create a new fine and performing arts facility. VP Fowler responded that the project is a priority for the president and is presently at the conceptual stage, with a change in location from the College Quarter to a space between St. Thomas More College and Emmanuel St. Chad. There will be consultation as the project proceeds.

A member asked about the lack of classroom space until the A wing in the Academic Health Sciences Complex is complete and for an update on the B wing completion. He noted that the Facilities Management website does not contain information on all of the projects mentioned, and inquired about the prioritization of capital projects. VP Fowler indicated that it is almost impossible to keep a precisely ordered and ranked list, and therefore projects are grouped. The listing of capital projects includes projects that focus on academic space, infrastructure, student experience, and a matrix that looks at the technical requirements of buildings. In addition, there are almost 300 minor capital projects that cost less than \$500,000. Specifically, Board 2 approval for the A Wing is to be presented to the Board of Governors for approval in December 2016. The A Wing is planned to be complete by 2019; the B wing will be complete by early December and ready to move into by early January.

10. Coordinating Committee

Elizabeth Williamson, university secretary presented the report of the coordinating committee to Council.

10.1 Report for Information – Paperless Council Agenda Packages

Ms. Williamson reported that the coordinating committee passed a motion in May to provide the Council agenda packages in electronic format only, effective the first meeting of Council in September 2016. Council members will receive notification of when the monthly package is posted on the Council website and will have the ability to print any portion of the agenda. The decision was made to support being eco-friendly, to eliminate or decrease printing, courier and

mail costs, and to respond to the elimination of the university's printing services last May, which resulted in a new print provider with a longer turnaround time.

11. Other business

The chair invited the university secretary to provide an update on Council elections. Ms. Williamson reported the newly-elected faculty representative for the College of Medicine was Darrell Mousseau of the Department of Psychiatry. Council is presently seeking nominations to fill two one-year terms. Ms. Williamson encouraged faculty members interested in serving to submit a nomination.

16. Question period

A member asked leave from the chair to provide a comment, rather than a question, about the Day of Action on November 2, noting the high amount of debt many students are faced with after graduation. He questioned where innovation will come from when students are saddled with debt and urged fellow Council members to support students and exert pressure on governments in relation to student debt.

17. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by motion (STONE/DOBSON) at 4:25 pm.