



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

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

Len Findlay, Council member, delivered a memorial tribute to honour Ann McDonald, a former colleague in the Department of English.

1. Adoption of the agenda

WILSON/AITKEN: *To adopt the agenda as circulated.*

CARRIED

2. Opening remarks

The chair reported on the meeting between Council committee chairs and Council members on March 15, noting there was a good exchange at the meeting about committee priorities and work. She encouraged members to attend the meeting between Council members and GAA members scheduled for April 12, as it offers the same opportunity for exchange and dialogue.

This month, the meeting discussion between members of the president's executive committee and members of the coordinating committee focused on the university budget and engendered a frank discussion. Concluding her remarks, Professor Kalynchuk informed members of her decision to step down as Council chair on June 30, 2017. A call for nominations to elect a new chair will be issued in the next month, and members were encouraged to consider putting their name forward.

3. Minutes of the meeting of February 16, 2017

The chair reported receiving a correction to the sentence in section 13 Question Period that reads, "If the university is to be a leader in Indigenization, more of these students must be encouraged to attend university" to be changed to read, "In the same way in which we are trying to lead in the area of Indigenization, we should also try to lead in helping students without existing post-secondary education role models in their families." In response to the request for other corrections, a member requested adding a sentence to the same section to read, "The College of Arts and Science continues its commitment to Northern Studies even with the termination of the Northern Studies field of study." Other corrections were to change the word "confirm" to "conform" in the second sentence of section 9.1 and to renumber section 13 Adjournment to 14 Adjournment.

FLYNN/D'EON: *That the February 16, 2017 Council minutes be approved with the corrections as noted.*

CARRIED

4. Business from the minutes

In response to the chair's request for any notations of business arising from the minutes, a Council member referred to the definition of Indigenizing presented at the last meeting and described an incident showing a lack of respect of the university's efforts when the Northern Teacher Education Program (NORTEP) was discussed at the recent Legislative Assembly meeting.

5. Report of the President

President Peter Stoicheff referred members to his written report and acknowledged Professor Kalynchuk's service to Council in her role as Council chair. The President commented on the meaningful discussion that occurred at the Internal Forum on Reconciliation, March 7, 2017, and offered gratitude to Candace Wasacase-Lafferty, director Aboriginal initiatives; Patti McDougall, vice-provost teaching and learning; Alexandria Wilson, director of the Aboriginal Research Education Centre, and others whose efforts made the forum possible.

The federal and provincial budgets have been announced. The federal budget emphasizes increased funding to support innovation and post-secondary access and supports for Indigenous students, with the allocation to the tri-agencies unchanged. The provincial budget announced a decrease of 5% to post-secondary institutes throughout the province. Overall, the university will see a 5.6% decrease in its funding allocation from the province. Although financial modelling included the modelling of a 5% budget decrease, the decrease in funding is larger than expected.

President Stoicheff emphasized that although the budget reduction is the largest funding decrease the university has faced, the budget reduction will not define the university. The university remains committed to its vision, mission and values, will remain a member of the U15, and is an institution dedicated to excellence in teaching, learning, research, and engagement. In discussions with provincial leaders, the positive impact of the university on the provincial economy and its contributions to the province will continue to be emphasized.

Decisions about resource allocations in response to the budget reduction will be made through the Responsibility Centre Management (RCM) budget model. Although workforce costs must be reviewed, an across the board workforce reduction is not contemplated and employee terminations, program reductions, and tuition rate increases are last options. President Stoicheff expressed that senior leaders are committed to working to ensure the acrimony and discontent that characterized the last period of financial stress does not occur again.

Discussion and question topics included the significance of the \$20.0 M funding transfer to the College of Medicine, the potential amalgamation of departments, and the importance of making academic choices based on academic reasons.

6. Report of the Provost

Interim Provost Michael Atkinson presented the Provost's report to Council. Provost Atkinson's comments focused on the university's autonomy and the importance of adhering to the long-term commitments made by the province to the university. Ensuring that a respectful relationship with the provincial government is maintained while keeping the university's academic mission at the forefront of any discussion is imperative.

Provost Atkinson explained that the budget allocation model used to allocate provincial funding between the two universities resulted in the University of Regina faring better than the University of Saskatchewan due to the U of R's enrolment growth. Targeted funding and the ensuing vulnerability the receipt of targeted funds creates was noted, as signified by the discontinuation of targeted funding to the International Centre for Northern Governance and Development.

Questions from members included the request for a translation of what the 5.6% funding decrease means in monetary terms, which was noted to equate to a reduction of slightly more than \$15.0 M over the year. Strategies to address the budget reduction include a review of central costs and discussion with collective bargaining units.

Provost Atkinson indicated that senior administration has discussed with deans and executive directors the strategic reallocation of the funds based on the modelling scenarios. This strategic approach, rather than a unilateral reduction across units, is intended to reduce the impact of loss of funding as some units are better able to absorb a reduction than others. The Board of Governors will be asked to consider a deficit budget for the 2017-18 budget year, which will enable the university to adjust to the \$20.0 M funding loss of the College of Medicine.

7. Student Societies

7.1 Report from the USSU

Kehan Fu, president of the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU) presented the USSU report. President Fu reported the election polls to elect the incoming USSU executive close in a matter of minutes. The Usaskmatters Campaign which asks the provincial government to provide adequate funding for student services and programs continues. The USSU continues to consult with its stakeholders about the impact of the provincial budget, including the suspension of the Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Education Savings (SAGES) program and the elimination of personal income tax credits for post-secondary tuition and education expenses as of July 1, 2017.

In response to a query about whether follow-up had occurred with those colleges who did not include the Fall Break week in their student timetable, Brooke Malinoski, USSU vice-president academic indicated that meetings to discuss the break week were occurring with the Colleges of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine.

7.2 Report from the GSA

Ziad Ghaith, president of the Graduate Students' Association was unable to attend. The chair noted that Mr. Ghaith had requested that she read the following statement to Council: "that the GSA supports the USSU campaign Usaskmatters and any other campaign aimed at improving post-secondary education accessibility organized at both the national and provincial levels". The GSA will be releasing a press release in response to the provincial budget.

8. Governance Committee

Kevin Flynn, chair of academic programs committee, presented items from the governance committee on behalf of Louise Racine, committee chair.

8.1 Request for Decision – Changes to Council Bylaws Part III, section V. 1. A. Membership of the Faculty Councils

Professor Flynn explained that the motion updates the membership that is common to all faculty councils. The motion was presented as a notice of motion the previous meeting at which time several editorial suggestions were received. The first of these suggestions was to insert the words “the College” in referring to the Dean of the College of the Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. This change has been made. The second suggestion was to change the capitalization of the “u” in university Council, with the request that the “u” be in upper case. Professor Flynn explained that as the Council Bylaws consistently refer to university Council with the “u” in lower case, this change was not made. In the future, the Council Bylaws will be modified to follow the capitalization rules of the university’s *Editorial Style Guide*.

FLYNN/CROWE: *That Council approve the changes to the membership of the faculty councils as shown in the attachment, and that Council’s Bylaws be amended accordingly.*

CARRIED

8.2 Report for Information – Mid-year Report of the Governance Committee

Professor Flynn referred members to the mid-year report as submitted and indicated any questions should be directed at the chair of the committee upon her return. The report was received with no discussion.

9. Academic Programs Committee

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

9.1 Request for Decision – Changes to the Admissions Qualifications of the College of Education ITEP and SUNTEP programs

Professor Flynn presented the changes to the admissions qualifications for the College of Education’s ITEP and SUNTEP program and explained that the new admissions requirements will allow students entering the programs from high school to be deficient in two study areas as long as they remedy the deficiency prior to starting their second year in the program. The change also removes the requirement for specific high school prerequisites for students who have completed at least 18 c.u. of post-secondary work with a minimum average of 60%. Professor Flynn explained that this change brings the admissions qualifications for ITEP and SUNTEP into alignment with those for the direct-entry B.Ed. program.

In response to a comment by a member that the term Indian in the program name is not in keeping with the term Indigenous used throughout the university, Michelle Prytula, dean of Education indicated that the title of the Indian Teacher Education Program (ITEP) reflects the *Indian Act* and program proponents do not wish to lose this link in the program name.

FLYNN/ZELLO: *That Council approve the changes to admissions qualifications for the Bachelor of Education (B. Ed.) ITEP and SUNTEP programs for students who are entering the program in or after September 2017.*

CARRIED

9.2 Request for Decision – Changes to the Admissions Qualifications of the College of Medicine

Professor Flynn presented the proposed change to the admissions qualification for the College of Medicine, explaining that a Diversity and Social Accountability Admissions Program (DSAAP) questionnaire has been developed and will be completed by all incoming applicants. The questionnaire asks for information about the applicant's social and economic background, including whether they are the first in their family to attend university. There will be six seats offered through the initial implementation of this admissions program, which were created by reducing the number of out-of-province seats from ten to five and by adding on a seat from the regular Saskatchewan resident seats.

A member expressed two main concerns to the proposed change in admissions qualifications: the lack of evidence in support of the change, as distinct from information about the change, and the value of the initiative, which he contended was not self-evident. Preston Smith, dean of Medicine noted that the college's accreditation demands diversity within its student body and social accountability supports having students from a disadvantaged area within the student population who may then go back and serve their home communities in the provision of medical care. The demographics within the college's student body are vastly disparate from the population across the province, with students with inner city and rural backgrounds largely underrepresented. Dean Smith indicated that "padded" cv's are used by students to "buy" their way into Medicine.

FLYNN/ZELLO: *That Council approve changes to admissions qualifications for students entering the College of Medicine in or after August 2018.*

CARRIED

9.3 Request for Decision – Direct-entry Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) program in Kinesiology with 85% Admissions Average

Professor Flynn presented the new direct-entry Ph.D. program in Kinesiology by explaining that the decision is before Council because the direct-entry Ph.D. program does not fit the template for direct-entry Ph.D. programs approved by Council. The single change from the template is the requirement that the applicants for the direct-entry Ph.D. program in Kinesiology will require an admissions average of 85%, which exceeds the 80% requirement outlined in the template. Otherwise, the academic program for this direct-entry program follows the same template as other direct-entry Ph.D. programs, which is a combined Masters and Ph.D. program.

FLYNN/ZELLO: *That Council approve a direct-entry Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) program in Kinesiology with an 85% admission average, effective May 2018.*

CARRIED

9.4 Request for Decision – Changes to College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies Dual Degree Policy to include Cotutelle Agreements

Professor Flynn presented the changes to the Dual Degree Policy of the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (CGPS), which was originally approved by Council in June 2011. The change is to now include Cotutelle agreements. This change will allow the CGPS to enter into agreements at the student level, as opposed to at the program level. Program level agreements will continue to be in place, but this change will allow for greater flexibility developing dual degree agreements.

Cotutelle agreements would be for Ph.D. students only. Students who attend the U of S under a Cotutelle agreement will be required to fulfill the degree requirements of both institutions, but would complete only one jointly-supervised thesis.

The CGPS will need to work to ensure that misconduct, both academic and non-academic, is contemplated in the template for Cotutelle agreements.

FLYNN/ZELLO: That Council approve changes to the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies' Dual Degree Policy to include Cotutelle agreements, effective May 1, 2017.

CARRIED

9.5 Report for Information – Project option for the Master of Science (M.Sc.) in the Small Animal Clinical Sciences program

Professor Flynn indicated that the academic programs committee had approved a project option for the M.Sc. in Small Animal Clinical Sciences. This program will be for students interested in clinical training, as opposed to research, and will eventually replace the existing M.Vet.Sci. program. Identical changes were made to the M.Sc. in Large Animal Clinical Sciences earlier this year.

10. Other business

There was no other business.

11. Question period

The chair invited questions. There were none

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by motion (FLYNN/DOBSON) at 4:55 pm.