

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

Lisa Kalynchuk, chair of Council called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m., observing that quorum had been attained.

1. Adoption of the agenda

Flynn/Wilson: *To adopt the agenda as circulated.*

CARRIED

2. Opening remarks

The chair made brief remarks, noting the change in leadership in the university secretary's office with the appointment of Beth Bilson as university secretary and acknowledging the contributions of Beth Williamson, former university secretary.

A planning advisory committee has been established to assist administration with the development of the university's next integrated plan. Membership includes the chair of Council and chairs of the academic programs, planning and priorities, and research, scholarly and artistic work committees. The committee has met once and will continue to meet periodically until the new plan is approved.

The 16 member-at-large Council positions and 8 of the 15 college faculty representative seats have been filled. The chair extended thanks to all who submitted nominations and asked members to encourage their colleagues to respond to the second call for nominations.

Two informal gatherings have been organized to provide an opportunity for Council members and members of the General Academic Assembly (GAA) to meet with one another and with Council committee chairs. The first of these meetings will take place on March 15 and will be between members of Council and Council committee chairs; the second meeting will take place on April 12 and will be between members of Council and members of the GAA. Additional details will be released closer to the meeting dates.

3. Minutes of the meeting of January 19, 2017

The chair reported receiving two corrections to the minutes: the reference to the SuperDARN network on page 3 of the minutes under the President's Report should be in reference to SuperDARN Canada, and a revision has been submitted to a sentence in the second paragraph of item 8.1 Respiratory Research Centre, as follows:

Other discussion focused on external versus internal funding support, the source of the ~~internal~~ funding, **the opportunity cost associated with the internal funding**, and the sustainability of centres **in general**.

AITKEN/FLYNN: *That the January 19, 2017 Council minutes be approved with the corrections as noted.*

CARRIED

4. Business from the minutes

The chair indicated that a question about item 9.2 College of Medicine - Changes to Approved Grading System arose at the previous meeting. The question was about the percentage of medical students who fail each year and what the percentage equivalent is for a mark of F. The vice-dean education of the College of Medicine has confirmed the failure rate to be less than 1% over the past several years. Percentage grades are recorded only on internal transcripts of medical students and used within the college for the purpose of awarding scholarships. Any mark below 70% is assigned a grade of F on the student's official university transcript.

5. Report of the President

President Peter Stoicheff referred members to his written report and made additional comments on the transition to a new university secretary. The president spoke of his regard for Beth Bilson and her deep experience in the academic life of the university as a faculty member and former dean. In addition to serving as university secretary, Dr. Bilson will review the role of university secretary and recommend on how the university secretary might be optimally positioned to serve the university. President Stoicheff also acknowledged the contributions of former university secretary Beth Williamson.

The president acknowledged in attendance Professor Jay Wilson, recipient of the prestigious 3M National Teaching Fellowship and Melissa Just, new dean of the Library. President Stoicheff also referred members to the recent op-ed written by Kim Campbell and published in *The Globe and Mail*. Ms. Campbell is a former Canadian prime minister and founding member of the Peter Lougheed Leadership College. The article speaks of the two institutions of the world that offer truth as being in-depth journalism and independent academic study.

The president reported briefly on recent meetings he attended on innovation and the federal budget with other presidents of U15 universities and remarked on meetings with Jane Phillipott, Minister of Health and Kirsty Duncan, Minister of Science. On March 7th, the university will host a full-day forum on building reconciliation. The president spoke of the importance of the event in sharing what steps the university has taken in this regard. More importantly, however, the forum is an opportunity to identify what work remains to be done.

The university recently received a silver STARS rating. The president explained that STARS stands for Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System and is used to measure sustainability performance among post-secondary institutions. Several years ago the university set the objective of achieving a silver rating by 2020. The president thanked all those who contributing to raising the university's rating in advance of its goal and in contributing to a sustainable future.

The provincial budget will be delivered on March 22. President Stoicheff indicated it is unlikely the university will receive an incremental increase in funding. A decentralized process using the responsibility centre management (RCM) budget model will be used to address the anticipated budget reduction. The president indicated that he and other senior administrators continue to emphasize to members of the provincial government that the university should be funded at a rate that in turn allows it to contribute to the province to the degree the province deserves.

6. Report of the Provost

In the absence of interim provost Michael Atkinson, the president referred to the Provost's Report to Council and invited questions; however, there were none.

7. Student Societies

7.1 Report from the USSU

Kehan Fu, president of the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU) presented the USSU report. In addition to the activities mentioned in the written report, the USSU is organizing a campaign called uSASK Matters in anticipation of the upcoming provincial budget. Mr. Fu reported that the USSU's stance on tuition released in December continues to hold. Mr. Fu asked for support and solidarity in asking for increased funding from the province.

7.2 Report from the GSA

Ziad Ghaith, president of the Graduate Students' Association presented the GSA report to Council. The GSA continues to work on a new student supervisor agreement and is undertaking internal governance changes as an organization. The effect of the recent travel ban within the United States is of concern to the GSA, which has the largest percentage of international graduate students. The GSA is in communication about this issue with other members of the GSA U15 and has issued a position statement against the ban. Mr. Ghaith acknowledged the proactive steps taken by President Stoicheff to publicly decry the ban. In closing, Mr. Ghaith detailed events leading to the upcoming GSA Awards Gala on April 1, including the regional Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition on March 29.

8. Governance Committee

Louise Racine, chair of the governance committee, presented the committee report to Council.

8.1 Request for Decision – School of Environment and Sustainability Faculty Council Membership

Professor Racine explained that the membership of faculty councils must be approved by Council. A notice of motion was presented to Council in January. The change proposed clarifies what is meant by a standard faculty appointment in the School of Environment and Sustainability

RACINE/FLYNN: That Council approve the membership changes to the Faculty Council of the School of Environment and Sustainability as shown in the attachment, and that Council's Bylaws be amended accordingly.

CARRIED

8.2 Notice of Motion – Changes to Council Bylaws Part III, section V. 1. A. Membership of the Faculty councils

Professor Racine indicated the item gives notice of a motion to approve changes to the membership common to all college and school faculty councils and read the motion as follows.

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.

The revisions update position titles and delete a reference to a position that no longer exists. If approved, colleges and schools will be asked to update the membership of their faculty councils in their own bylaws.

Members suggested two minor changes: that the Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies be identified as the Dean of **the College** of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and that the "u" in university Council be capitalized.

9. Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships

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

9.1 Request for Decision – Revised Chairs and Professorships Policy

Dr. Germida reported that the policy on chairs and professorships was last revised in 2005. The revision of the policy guidelines last year prompted revisions to the policy. Revisions include naming the various types of chairs and professorships at the university, emphasizing the fiduciary oversight of the funding of chairs and professorships, recognizing the importance of the contributions of chair holders, and reformatting the policy to confirm to the university's policy template. If approved, the revised policy will be submitted to the Board of Governors for approval in March.

AITKEN/FLYNN: *That Council approve the revised Chairs and Professorships Policy.*

CARRIED

10. Academic Programs Committee

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

10.1 Report for Information – Changes to the Master of Nursing (M.N.) Course-Based Program in Educational Leadership

Professor Flynn briefly summarized the changes to the M.N. course-based program in Educational Leadership. These shift the program focus from educational leadership to professional practice through the introduction of four new courses and increase the program credit units (cu) from 24 cu to 27 cu. The program is directed toward mid-career professionals and is offered to remote communities. Those students who identify as Aboriginal are immediately considered for an Aboriginal student graduate scholarship.

10.2 Report for Information – Credit Reduction for the Master of Arts (M.A.) in Sociology Project-Based Program

The program change comprises a reduction in credit units from 30 cu to 18 cu to bring the program in line with other graduate programs across the university and at comparator institutions. The decrease in tuition revenue is anticipated to be offset by increased enrolment due to the credit unit reduction. An accompanying 3 cu reduction to the thesis program was approved through the course challenge procedure.

10.3 Report for Information – Terminations in the College of Arts and Science

- Public Administration Field of Study

Professor Flynn reported that enrolment and graduation numbers in the program have been shrinking for some time. The success of the Master of Public Administration (MPA) program mitigates the impact of the program termination of the Public Administration field of study within the College of Arts and Science.

- Northern Studies Field of Study

Professor Flynn gave comments on the background of the Northern Studies program. The program was funded from provincial and federal funding sources in partnership with the University of the Arctic consortium. However, low enrolment from partner institutes and the resulting absence of tuition transfers resulted in the university not recouping program costs. Current students registered in the program will be able to complete in a reasonable period of time. The program deletion has no effect on teaching assignments.

Professor Alec Aitken, member of Council, read a prepared statement about the program, indicating he had been engaged with the program since its inception in 2003 and had served as academic program director. Professor Aitken objected to a number of statements in the written report presented to Council. Specifically, he pointed out that the on-line Northern Studies courses delivered by the Department of Geography and Planning had several hundred students registered each year, and that it was the weakness of the UArctic reciprocal tuition model that undermined the program. Under the model, visiting students enrolling in any online Northern Studies course paid tuition to their home institution, not the institution that delivered the course. For the last several years, the university has provided services to a broader circumpolar student population by underwriting the education of visiting students. Under this tuition model, the university could no longer cover the cost of the program course delivery.

Professor Aitken also clarified that although the Council report indicates there are only 11 students enrolled in the program, to his knowledge program registration currently shows 26 students with declared majors in Northern Studies. Clarification of the course renumbering was provided with the note that of the seven Northern Studies courses listed in the course catalogue, Geography and Planning will only be delivering three courses going forward. Therefore, the effect of the field of study termination is greater than what is portrayed. The Northern Studies courses are also listed as senior restricted electives in several other continuing programs offered by the college and support programming in a number of diploma programs offered in Nunavut, the Yukon, and the Northwest Territories.

Professor Aitken indicated that the majority of students pursuing Northern Studies degrees are Aboriginal and are place-bound students in the North and have limited options to complete their degrees in the areas where they live, with access only to Nursing, Education, and Social Work programs. With the program deletion, he noted these students are losing the additional

opportunity that Northern Studies offered to attain a degree that translated into meaningful, good paying jobs in these students' communities and on their traditional lands.

Professor Flynn thanked Professor Aitken for his comments.

10.4 Report for Information – Second Degree Option for the Bachelor of Science (B. Sc.) in Kinesiology (Exercise and Sport Studies)

Professor Flynn indicated that the College of Kinesiology is following the practice of other colleges that offer a second degree option to those students who have already attained an undergraduate degree. Transfer credits will be assessed and accepted on a course-by-course basis.

11. Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources Committee

Jay Wilson, chair of the teaching, learning and academic resources committee (TLARC), presented the committee report to Council.

11.1 Report for Information – Definition of “Indigenizing”

Professor Wilson expressed that TLARC began work in earnest last year in response to the initiative on Indigenization of the campus and continues to work hard to sustain momentum. With the assistance of the *ad hoc* Indigenous faculty members' group, the committee has put together an operational definition of “Indigenizing” as a verb to guide its efforts. Faculty members Marie Battiste and Holly Graham were acknowledged as the key authors of the definition.

Professor Wilson expressed that as we are all treaty people, the effort is a collective effort. TLARC is sharing the term with Council to help guide faculty, staff, and students in building their Indigenization efforts and advancing Truth and Reconciliation. He asked that Council members look closely at the definition of Indigenizing and reflect on it and how it applies to the work that they do.

Patti McDougall, vice-provost of teaching and learning indicated that interested students from the Indigenous Students' Council and the Indigenous Graduate Students' Council are coming together in early March to think and talk about what indigenize at the university means to them.

12. Other business

Dr. Bilson expressed that she was looking forward to providing support to Council and its committees. She echoed the importance of Council elections and pointed Council members to the elections section of the university secretary website where information on those positions filled by acclamation and those seats open to nominations is posted.

13. Question period

The chair invited questions. A Council member asked whether there are statistics available that identify those who are the first of their family to attend college or university. He referred to those who have not had this opportunity for post-secondary education as being characterized as “those

left behind.” If the university is to be a leader in Indigenization, more of these students must be encouraged to attend university. Vice-provost Patti McDougall responded that the incoming census survey conducted each fall asks students about their generational status as part of the university’s learning analytics.

Discussion followed on the termination of the Northern Studies program at a time when the university is more firmly committed than ever to Indigenization and reaching out to northern communities. Dr. McDougall indicated that although it might appear that the number of programs serving students in the North and other remote areas is dwindling, in fact the university’s trajectory is toward growth and the offering of more, rather than fewer, programs directed to these students.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by motion (Flynn/Gjevre) at 3:55 pm.