

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/WILSON: *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 meeting focused on two topics: non-academic misconduct at student events and how the university responds to challenges around those issues; and college strategic planning, as some colleges proceed with strategic college plans in advance of the university's integrated plan.

The chair acknowledged the leadership of Jay Kalra, former Council chair over his term of service and invited Bob Tyler, former vice-chair of Council to formally recognize Professor Kalra's contributions. Professor Tyler spoke of the high standards of governance and respect for due process embodied by Professor Kalra. In particular, Professor Tyler recalled the hallmarks of Professor Kalra's service as being the ability to bring people together around divisive issues and to foster student involvement in academic governance. Professor Kalra was presented with a print of the Gordon Oakes Red Bear Centre. Professor Kalra, in turn, thanked Council and asked that those present share in his recognition noting members' own contributions to Council.

3. Minutes of the meeting of October 20, 2016

The university secretary reported on the receipt of a correction to the minutes on page 7, section 7.1, to the sentence, "Describing the campus as Canada's most beautiful was considered superlative." The corrected sentence reads, "Describing the campus as Canada's most beautiful was considered ***an unnecessary, readily contestable use of the*** superlative."

De BOER/FLYNN: *That the October 20, 2016 Council minutes be approved with the correction as noted.*

CARRIED

4. Business from the minutes

The chair noted a question about the cost the University of Saskatchewan sustains in order to have an internal signing authority for NSERC grants. Kevin Schneider, interim associate vice-president research responded to the question noting that as a result of a May 2012 NSERC/SSHRC monitoring visit report, university processes were modified to include a separate institutional approval of all expenditures to Tri-agency grant funds in order to meet Tri-agency guidelines. The institutional approver is a control function that ensures expenditures that are not eligible or compliant with Tri-agency and university guidelines are stopped before the charge is entered into the university's

financial system. The Tri-agencies continue to require this function of the university in order for the University of Saskatchewan to retain funding eligibility and therefore the positions that provide this service are permanent. There were questions from members about the permanency of the controls, the cost to the institution, and the number and severity of continued discrepancies. Terry Summers, university controller, reported that although the degree of the discrepancies varies, the practice of having an internal institutional approval function is now considered best practice and promoted to other universities by the Tri-agencies. President Stoicheff indicated he would inquire of members of the U15 and of Universities Canada of their experience with such controls.

The chair noted a second item of business was the request for an explanation of the recent signage in some buildings barring food or drink from classrooms. Brad Steeves, interim director of Facilities Management Division reported that the signs were placed by caretakers to assist in keeping classrooms in a presentable fashion. The signs will be removed and a communications strategy employed to convey that food and beverages are permissible but classroom space is to be kept clean with waste properly discarded and recycled wherever possible.

5. Report of the President

President Peter Stoicheff referred to his written report before members, inviting questions on any aspect. He indicated that he also wished to address the discussion at the October Council meeting about whether the language in the *Vision, Mission and Values of the University of Saskatchewan* referring to “Indigenous and Métis peoples and communities” was the right language. He indicated that the question was raised at the October Council meeting several times and that subsequently he received a number of emails and spoke face to face with many individuals uncomfortable with the wording, which was interpreted to set the Métis peoples apart and not include them as Indigenous. He described the resistance to the language as heartfelt and passionate. After a discussion with the visioning committee and careful consideration, President Stoicheff indicated the language in the *Vision, Mission and Values* of the university would be changed to, “Indigenous peoples and communities.” President Stoicheff indicated he did not believe a further motion of approval was required of Council and Beth Williamson, university secretary, affirmed this belief, indicating the change was not a substantive change requiring a new motion.

The president advised that when the university comes to terms with the language it wishes to use to refer to First Nations, Métis and Indigenous Peoples, the language in the *Vision, Mission and Values* can be changed. Until that time, the *Vision, Mission and Values* of the university will stand as amended. There was some discussion of whether Council should be asked to approve the appropriate nomenclature once this decision is reached, but no decision made in response to this question. The president indicated that Council would certainly be consulted on the question of language.

Closing his remarks, the president thanked Council members and expressed that he always enjoyed participating in discussion at Council meetings.

6. Report of the Provost

Interim provost Michael Atkinson presented the provost’s report to Council, providing comments on the convergence of a number of administrative and managerial changes at the university. These include the implementation of the Responsibility Centre Management (RCM) budget process and the establishment of ConnectionPoint, which is an outcome of the Service Design and Delivery

Project intended to enhance the provision of university services across campus. The university is also at the beginning of a new integrated planning process.

Questions were asked of the provost about university rankings and the perceived lack of clear evidence of a sustained commitment on the part of the university to improved teaching when teaching does not figure prominently, if at all, in many rankings. The provost indicated the topic of university rankings was a complex and sensitive topic and agreed that the university's mission is far larger than those metrics typically emphasized by ranking agencies related to research and reputation.

Discussion included the importance of university rankings to potential graduate students as a means to distinguish among universities. The importance of the quality of the student experience was discussed, with the point made that excellence in research does not preclude excellence in teaching. A member noted there are programs that track metrics related to student success, such as student employment post-graduation that could be utilized by the university. Provost Atkinson indicated that although the university must pay attention to university rankings and systematically work to improve its standing among national and international peer institutions, that it should never "turn itself inside out" for the sake of rankings.

7. Student Societies

7.1 Report from the USSU

The chair reported that there would be no report from the USSU as Kehan Fu, president of the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union was away, and Brooke Malinoski, USSU vice-president of academic affairs was also unable to attend.

7.2 Report from the GSA

Ziad Ghaith, president of the Graduate Students' Association, presented the GSA report to Council, referring members to his written report and commenting on three ongoing initiatives: the November 2, 2016 Day of Action to demand better access to postsecondary education and recognize the large amount of debt many students carry; the efforts of the GSA to improve graduate student representation on the university's governing bodies; and the survey by the GSA to measure the academic and non-academic satisfaction of graduate students.

A growing interest of the GSA is the initiative to formalize the relationship between graduate students and their supervisors through a signed agreement between both parties. A member requested additional information on this initiative. Mr. Ghaith indicated that the committee within the GSA directing this initiative is seeking input from the College of Graduate Studies and Research and will then report to Council.

8. Nominations Committee

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

9.1 Request for Decision – Scholarships and Awards Committee: Member Nominations and Committee Chair Nomination

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

LARRE/FLYNN: *It is recommended that Council approve the nomination of Louise Humbert, College of Kinesiology to serve as a member on the scholarships and awards committee effective immediately and continuing until June 30, 2019, and that Donna Goodridge, Department of Medicine, College of Medicine be appointed as chair of the committee effective immediately until June 30, 2017.*

CARRIED

9. Governance Committee

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

9.1 Report for Information – Affiliation and Federation of the University with other Academic Institutes

Professor Racine informed Council of the plan of the governance committee to review the affiliation and federation of the university with other academic institutes and organizations. The review is prompted by the need to modernize section X *Affiliation and Federation* within the Council Bylaws and develop a set of principles to guide any future affiliation or federation with the university. The existing agreements with the university's affiliated colleges and federated college are historical and were created *ad hoc*.

Professor Racine noted the distinction between federation and affiliation is the degree of integration with the university. Affiliation is a relationship expressed more in terms of an association; federation is a relationship based on a greater degree of integration.

10. Planning and Priorities Committee

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

10.1 Report for Information – 2017-2018 Operations Forecast

Professor de Boer recalled to Council that the planning and priorities committee is responsible to provide advice to the president on the budgetary implications of the Operations Forecast and report to Council. Professor de Boer outlined the timeline of the committee's discussion and involvement with the draft 2017-18 Operations Forecast funding request to the province. In keeping with the province's deadline, the request was submitted to the Ministry of Advanced Education on June 30, 2016. The committee reviewed a draft of the document at its meeting on June 15, 2016, but due to the timing involved was unable to review the final document. As a result, the summary report provided to Council is based on the draft version of the document reviewed on June 15.

Professor de Boer briefly outlined the university's funding requests to the province to maintain its operations. These include an operating grant economic increase of 2.0% over the 2016-17 grant; funding to allow the College of Medicine to continue transitioning to a new model; capital funding, including health sciences, preventative maintenance and renewal, supplemental funding and other facilities funding; continued funding to support student

scholarships; matching support for Indigenous and internationalization student initiatives, and continued funding to support the university's research mission.

In response to the invitation for questions and comments, several points were made to clarify some of the language used in the committee's report to Council. The reference to the doubling and re-doubling effect of the money allocated to the university by the province was discussed. Professor de Boer clarified this refers to the growth in the provincial economy as a result of the province's investment in the university as reported in the Economic Impact Study cited in the Operations Forecast document. The study was commissioned the previous year to assist the university in reporting on the economic value of the university to the province.

11. Academic Programs Committee

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

11.1 Report for Information – Nunavut Offering of the Juris Doctor (J.D.) Program

Professor Flynn articulated that the J.D. program to be offered in Nunavut will meet the societal need for law graduates in the territory of Nunavut. The government of Nunavut has contracted with the university to deliver its J.D. program to a single cohort of up to 25 students in Iqaluit, Nunavut. Students admitted will attend at Nunavut Arctic College, taking classes delivered by the university's College of Law professors and sessional lecturers and earn the same degree as students attending at the university's campus in Saskatoon, with the same rigour applied to degree standards.

The distinction is the program offered in Nunavut will be a four-year program, rather than a three-year program. In lieu of the usual 60 credit units of post-secondary study required for admission, the students in Nunavut will complete 30 credit units in a preparatory year of study, which will be part of their program. The Law School Admission Test (LSAT) is also waived for these students due to some of the cultural biases identified in the test that might negatively affect Indigenous students. Instead, students will complete a writing exam as part of their admission requirements. The admissions process for students in Nunavut is rigorous and only those students with a reasonable to strong expectation of completing the program will be admitted.

The change in the admissions process is at the request of the Nunavut government and is based on the desire to build cohesiveness among the cohort of students admitted and have these students identified as law students from the outset of their entry into the J.D. program.

11.2 Report for Information – Admissions Templates 2017-2018

Professor Flynn referred members to the report on changes to admissions qualifications and selection criteria of colleges, provided to Council on an annual basis.

11.3 Report for Information – Recent Approvals by Academic Programs Committee

Professor Flynn briefly reported on each of the decisions approved by APC.

- Project-option in the Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Large Animal Clinical Sciences

Professor Flynn noted the covering report should reference project option not program option. The new project option in the M.Sc. in Large Animal Clinical Sciences targets students interested in clinical practice rather than research in the field. The research option of the M.Sc. remains. The Master of Veterinary Science (MVetSc), which is currently used to deliver advanced clinical training to students will be phased out, as the degree is largely unknown and the M.Sc. is well recognized.

- Changes to the Nurse Practitioner Graduate Programs – Master of Nursing (M.N.) and Postgraduate Degree Specialization Certificate (PGDSC)

The program major is being renamed from Nursing to Nursing Practitioner. The new name will appear on the degree parchment. Other changes include the number of credit units (cu) required. The PGDSC Nurse Practitioner certificate will now comprise 27 cu of study rather than 30 cu; the M.N. Nurse Practitioner program will comprise 33 cu rather than 39 cu. The change in credit units is due in part to the elimination of a capstone writing class as writing at a graduate level is now integrated throughout the programs.

- Deletion of the Soil Science Field of Study for the Master of Agriculture (M.Ag.) and Postgraduate Diploma (PGD) Programs

The M.Ag. is the project-based option of the master's degree in this area and intended for practitioners. With one student enrolled in the program last year, the field of study is being discontinued. Professor Flynn noted the M.Sc. and Ph.D. programs in Soil Science continue to sustain healthy enrolments.

12. Other business

The chair invited the university secretary to provide an update on Council elections. Ms. Williamson reported that Professor Jaris Swidrovich of the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition and Professor Lee Wilson of the Department of Chemistry are the newly-elected members at large appointed to one-year terms on Council. An election for a new faculty representative in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources will open soon.

13. Question period

There were no questions during question period; however, additional information on the economic impact study discussed in reference to the 2017-18 Operations Forecast was provided to Council. The document is public and available online on the IPA website at:
<http://www.usask.ca/ipa/resource-allocation-and-planning/economic-impact-analysis.php>

In addition to the economic impact of the university, several members proposed that the university's social return be assessed, citing as an example the benefits to health care and community organizations relative to the province's investment in the university. The president affirmed the university's reputation is determined, in part, by speaking out and communicating the value of the university. The economic analysis is an attempt to measure only one aspect of the university's many contributions to society.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by motion (DOBSON/FLYNN) at 4:20 pm.