

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

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

Professor James Nolan delivered a memorial tribute to honour Dr. Richard (Dick) Schoney, professor emeritus of the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics.

Professor Bob Calder delivered a memorial tribute to honour Rev. Dr. Claud Thompson, former faculty member of the Department of English and former acting dean of the College of Arts and Science.

1. Adoption of the agenda

DOBSON/J. WILSON: *To adopt the agenda as circulated.*

CARRIED

2. Opening remarks

The chair welcomed members indicating that he looked forward to another year of collaboration amongst faculty, students, staff, and the administration. He recognized Roy Romanow, university chancellor as being in attendance and conveyed the regrets of Lee Ahenakew, chair of the university's Board of Governors who had hoped to attend. He also recognized Chelsea Willness, Council vice-chair and noted that Council would receive its first report from Tony Vannelli, provost and vice-president academic at the meeting.

The chair reviewed his role and the usual meeting protocols and reminded all of the expectation that Council, as a collegial self-governing body, would conduct its business in accordance with the highest standards of collegial behaviour. Members were encouraged to speak openly and respectfully about institutional matters. The chair asked members to reserve questions for the president and provost until question period if the questions were unrelated to their reports. To conduct meetings more efficiently, he also asked that minor editorial corrections to the minutes or other documents be submitted to the relevant committee chair or secretary in advance of the meeting.

The chair reported that discussion at the recent breakfast meeting of Council committee chairs with members of the president's executive committee focused on the provost's outlook on university planning and the budgetary challenges facing the university.

The chair concluded his remarks by noting some of the important decision items to be submitted to Council during the coming year. In closing, he acknowledged Council committee chairs, committee members, the university secretary's office, and thanked all those who supported his nomination as chair.

3. Approval of Minutes of the meeting of June 22, 2017

AITKEN/de BOER: *That the June 22, 2017 Council minutes be approved as circulated.*

CARRIED

4. Business from the minutes

The chair spoke to the observation at the June Council meeting that there is limited opportunity for discussion of important agenda item at Council, noting that although this may happen on occasion, his review of past minutes revealed there were many occasions where Council devoted significant time to discussion and deliberation of important decisions. He noted the due diligence of Council committees in working out difficult aspects of decision items prior to their submission to Council as translating into what might appear to be *pro forma* approvals. He also noted the possibility of making Council agenda items available as they are approved at the committee level, so that members have more reading time in advance of Council meetings and thereby are better prepared for discussion at Council meetings.

5. Report of the President

President Peter Stoicheff reported that the year ahead would be a significant year as the university approves a new university plan inspired by the *Vision, Mission and Values* document. He expressed that during times of budgetary challenge, thinking imaginatively and creatively is more important than ever. He acknowledged the presence of Chancellor Roy Romanow and spoke of the importance of Council as an academic decision-making body. He also noted he was accountable to Council for the decisions of senior leaders.

The president commented on the recommendations of Canada's Fundamental Science Review panel, commonly known as the Naylor report, and the closer collaboration the report recommends occur between Canadian and international researchers. There is a broad belief that Canada can succeed in the global innovation economy, and the federal government is expected to dedicate resources to advance this claim.

President Stoicheff provided comments on the university plan, recalling that Council received a first draft of the plan at its June meeting and that a second draft is planned to be presented to Council at the November 16 meeting. Since June, the plan has evolved with the realization that slowing the progress of the approval process by several months would provide the opportunity to ensure there is full consultation across the university in response to the second draft and that the plan is as good as it can be.

In closing, President Stoicheff announced that the provincial government had restored the \$20M that had been held back from the university budget, and that these funds would be targeted toward the accreditation and future success of the College of Medicine. President Stoicheff expressed gratitude for this funding decision by the government.

There were no questions of President Stoicheff.

6. Report of the Provost

Provost Tony Vannelli expressed pleasure at being a member of Council. He indicated that universities have an open and transparent dialogue and that Council is one venue and forum in which this may occur. He noted he was struck by the uniqueness of the university as an institution that thrives on interdisciplinarity and partnerships and cares about research, scholarship and student success.

Commending the president, dean of medicine, vice-president finance and resources and the many others who contributed to ensuring the university received the provincial resources required for the College of Medicine, Provost Vannelli asked Council to join him in applause to recognize these individuals. Despite the restoration of the funding, the university remains with a deficit budget that it is required to address. Dr. Vannelli emphasized the importance of high-quality programs in addressing the university's budgetary challenges.

Provost Vannelli outlined the consultation planned for the next stage in the development of the university plan and the intent to have a plan that departs visually from previous plans, noting he would provide greater specificity about the plan at the October Council meeting. In response to a question about how colleges and schools would integrate their strategic plans with the university plan, Dr. Vannelli explained that in the coming months, deans and executive directors would be asked to talk about their individual plans amongst each other. The goal will be to look for linkages and partnerships and thereby allow the university plan to live through and be realized by the colleges and schools.

In closing, Provost Vannelli asked new senior leaders in attendance to introduce themselves. In turn, Huey-Ming Tzeng, dean of Nursing; Doug Brothwell, dean of Dentistry; Trever Crowe, interim dean, College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies introduced themselves and provided a bit of their background to Council.

7. Student Societies

7.1 Report from the USSU

David D'Eon, president of the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU) presented the report. Mr. D'Eon reported on the work of the USSU executive over the past five months, notably the reformation and reconstitution of the Saskatchewan Student Coalition that represents over 60,000 undergraduate students across the province. The coalition will present a cohesive argument to the provincial government as to why postsecondary education matters across the province.

7.2 Report from the GSA

Ziad Ghaith, president of the Graduate Students' Association presented the report. This year the GSA will reinforce its focus on having a graduate student representative on every Council committee and as a voting member on the university's Board of Governors. Mr. Ghaith indicated the GSA would continue to contest the language in the *1995 University of Saskatchewan Act* that does not permit a graduate student member representative on the Board of Governors and would lobby for proportional representation on the university's governing bodies.

The graduate student-supervisor guideline has been adopted. Mr. Ghaith invited members to review the agreement posted on the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies website and provide feedback to the college to improve the guidelines.

Mr. Ziad acknowledged the efforts of the USSU in reforming the Saskatchewan Student Coalition and noted a priority of the GSA is to establish a national body for graduate students.

8. Nominations Committee

Jim Greer, chair of the nominations committee presented the report to Council. In response to each nomination, the chair called three times for nominations from the floor. There were none.

8.1 Request for Decision – Governance Committee Member Nomination

GREER/DOBSON: *It is recommended that Council approve the nomination of Pamela Downe, Department of Archaeology and Anthropology to serve on the governance committee effective immediately and continuing until June 30, 2020.*

CARRIED

8.2 Request for Decision – Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources Committee Member Nomination

It is recommended that Council approve the nomination of Darrell Bueckert, Department of Music, as the sessional member representative on the teaching, learning and academic resources committee effective immediately and continuing until June 30, 2018.

CARRIED

Professor Greer announced that the nominations committee had been advised of a vacancy on the university review committee and would meet the following week to consider nominees. He noted volunteer nominations were welcomed and could be directed either to himself or the committee secretary.

9. Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships

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

9.1 Request for decision: The Allard Foundation Chair in Veterinary Oncology

Professor Germida indicated that the chair was funded for five-year limited term, after which time the chair would be attached to a tenure-track faculty position within the Western College of Veterinary Medicine.

GORDON/DETMER: *It is recommended that Council approve the Allard Foundation Chair in Veterinary Oncology and recommend to the Board of Governors that the Board authorize the establishment of the chair.*

CARRIED

10. Planning and Priorities Committee

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

10.1 Report for Information – 2018/19 Operations Forecast

Dr. de Boer reported that each year the planning and priorities committee is mandated by its terms of reference to provide advice to the president on the university's operations forecast and to report to Council on the nature of its advice. Accordingly, the committee has provided Council with a copy of its letter to the president.

A Council member commented favourably on the reference in the committee's letter to the articulation of a northern strategy and called for all prospects and outreach in the North to be continually highlighted throughout the university.

11. Governance Committee

Jay Wilson, chair of the governance committee presented the committee report to Council. Prior to delivering the committee's report, Dr. Wilson encouraged members to respond to the governance committee email request for input on how to improve member attendance at Council meetings.

11.1 Request for input: Procedures for Student Appeals in Academic Matters

Dr. Wilson indicated the request for input on Council's *Procedures for Student Appeals in Academic Matters* signals the launch of the review of the procedures initiated by the governance committee.

The GSA president inquired about the student guests that attend governance committee meetings and the distinction between being a student guest as opposed to a student member. Dr. Wilson noted that the previous year, student guests from the USSU and GSA were invited to attend committee meetings and play a full part in the discussions of the committee. This year, the committee will assess the involvement of students and consider whether to recommend that the committee's terms of reference be amended to include student members, and if so, what their voting status would be.

12. Other business

There was no other business.

13. Question period

The chair invited questions. There were none.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by motion (DOBSON/GJEVRE) at 4:10 pm.