

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 emeritus John King delivered a memorial tribute to honour Dr. Gerald Rank, professor emeritus of the Department of Biology.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The chair called for adoption of the agenda. A member asked that discussion of the wearing of hats during the memorial tributes and moments of silence be added to the agenda. The chair proposed that Council consider the topic under question period. This was accepted.

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

CARRIED

2. Opening remarks

The chair reminded members of the usual protocols for discussion and debate and recognized Jacqueline Ottmann, the university's first vice-provost, Indigenous engagement as being in attendance. He clarified that although members may have heard that the report on the proposed School of Architecture would not be discussed at the meeting, every item on the Council agenda would be open for discussion, as is always the case.

The chair reported on the monthly meeting of committee chairs with the president's executive committee. Two topics were discussed at the October meeting: the College of Medicine's preparation for its accreditation assessment visit and the university's strategy with regard to Northern engagement, a priority to which the university remains strongly committed despite external funding challenges.

3. Minutes of the meeting of September 21, 2017

AITKEN/DOBSON: *That the September 21, 2017 Council minutes be approved as circulated.*

CARRIED

4. Business from the minutes

The chair noted that there was one item of business arising on enrolment statistics which would be addressed by the vice-provost teaching and learning under the Provost's Report.

5. Report of the President

President Peter Stoicheff referred members to his written report and provided additional comments on Universities Canada and the work of this body's education committee, which he chairs. The education committee is developing a set of principles, an action plan, and an accountability plan for what it calls "inclusive excellence" in response to the request from Minister Duncan's office that universities become more accountable in terms of gender equity and the representation of other groups. He indicated he would provide a summary to Council once the education committee has reviewed the item.

Universities Canada has also tasked itself through the education committee with providing oversight of the national forums on building reconciliation for a period of ten years, to ensure there is a system in place to identify the next institution to host the forum. The president noted that 30 individuals from the university, including students, would attend the third national forum in Winnipeg in November.

The president referred to the signing of the memorandum of understanding with the City of Saskatoon and the partnership with the Remai Modern Art Gallery as noted in his report. These partnerships and others signified by agreements, including with the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN), the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra and the MOU signed with all 24 post-secondary institutions in the province at the first building reconciliation forum, are examples of how the university is uniquely becoming not only what it wants to be, but what the world wants it to be.

President Stoicheff provided comments on the university's placement within the *Maclean's* rankings and his disappointment at that placement. He indicated that at the same time, he remains undeterred in his belief that the university is not an inferior institution to the universities it ranked beneath. Rather, in his view, the university's reputation has risen. He recounted a number of the university's significant accomplishments over the past several years, including the work on indigenization featured in *The New York Times*, the two Canada First Research Excellence Fund grants, the increase in Royal Society members and Vanier scholarship recipients, and the opening of the Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre, among other accomplishments, and said that he regarded these achievements as the hallmarks of the Canadian university of the future—a university that is community engaged, collaborative, interdisciplinary, indigenizing—and that none of these features are measured by *Maclean's*. The university's rankings task force will report on the gaps in the university's performance and what can be done to close these gaps.

A member referred to the involvement of universities in the reconciliation process and her concern that as this is a long process categorized by annual meetings, over time there may be less interest and the original intent lost in the slow, unfolding process required. She asked how, as the original leaders of the process, the university could prevent this. President Stoicheff reported that Universities Canada has committed to seeing the national forums exist for ten years, and that he would relay the member's comments on to the membership forum. As future forums will be deliberately held in locations other than western Canada, this will stimulate future forums so that the quality remains but the issues change.

A member asked how the university will respond to the *Maclean's* rankings so that faculty, students, and alumni can call on an institutional response when responding to queries from collaborators and others with respect to the university's placement in *Maclean's* and other international rankings. President Stoicheff indicated that the university plan will speak to placement in university rankings.

6. Report of the Provost

Provost Tony Vannelli presented the Provost's report to Council. He reported that since September, he has been spending time with senior leaders, units, colleges, schools, and committees of Council to discuss the university plan to ensure he is engaged in the best interests of the university and its success. The plan will align institutional priorities with the university's mission, vision and values and create opportunities for the university. A multi-year budget will be developed to accompany the plan.

The university plan will be presented to Council in December. Provost Vannelli indicated that discussion and dialogue with Council is essential to ensure the plan comes to fruition. Dr. Vannelli noted the university is already successful by many measures and emphasized the importance of collectively speaking about the university and its strengths. As an example, this year the university's results from the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) were among the top results of U15 member universities.

In response to a question about how the college and unit plans will align with the planning process at the university level, Dr. Vannelli reported that deans and executive directors are beginning to dialogue within their units to ask about the goals of the college or school within the strategic framework of the plan. The plan will provide the high-level aspirations and the colleges and schools will provide the richness to the plan as these aspirations are realized across the colleges and schools.

Provost Vannelli called on Patti McDougall, vice-provost teaching and learning to present the 2017-18 fall term census enrolment snapshot. Vice-provost McDougall reported the university's enrolment numbers reflect good news as overall enrolment and student head count are up. The numbers are anticipated to continue to grow over the course of the year so that by spring, overall enrolment will likely be over 24,000 students. This includes an increase in new, first-year students. Discussion is occurring with deans and executive directors about the size of institution the university should be. Dr. McDougall indicated that in the spring of 2018 she would show progress against the enrolment targets set.

Dr. McDougall also responded to a question posed by a member at the May, 2017 Council meeting, which was diarized for response in the fall, about whether the university would experience the same surge in international student applications as reported by other Canadian universities. Dr. McDougall reported that, compared to last year at this point in time, applications for international undergraduate first year students are up 14%. Offers are up by 6% compared to last year and the number of registered international students is also up by 6%.

For international graduate students, applications are up by 30%, and offers went up by 15% with registrations increasing by 2%. Council members were reminded to keep in mind that winter term is important in that it is common for international graduate and undergraduate students to begin in January. As such, additional growth is anticipated and will continue to be tracked.

Responding to a question about distribution by gender, vice-provost McDougall reported that in the 2016-17 academic year, 58% of registered undergraduate students self-reported as female. A full 11 of the 12 colleges with undergraduate programs showed a distribution of female students at 49% and higher. A total of 55% of the university's graduate students are female with 13 of our 15 colleges/schools offering graduate programs showing a proportion of female students at 49% and higher. Across both undergraduate and graduate programs, the proportion of female students

ranged from a lower end in the College of Engineering to a higher end in the College of Nursing. Provost Vannelli thanked Dr. McDougall and her staff for their hard work in gathering and presenting the information.

The GSA president asked about the retention rates of Indigenous students and whether statistics were kept on the number of undergraduate students at the university who enter graduate studies after completing their undergraduate degree. Dr. McDougall indicated she would respond to both questions when delivering the full enrolment report to Council in the spring

Provost Vannelli invited Preston Smith, dean of the College of Medicine to report on preparations for the college's accreditation site visit. Dean Smith gave a brief slide presentation outlining the overall accreditation structure in Canadian medical schools, the standards that apply, the team in place, and the agenda of the accreditation site visit. The college has been preparing for the site visit since January 2016 and has been deliberative in following its 2013 strategic plan, *The Way Forward*. The college has changed its structure, partnerships, faculty development, and engagement strategy in order to transform itself and be in the position to educate excellent doctors. The site visit is scheduled from October 29 – November 1, 2017, and the results will be made known in the spring of 2018.

Provost Vannelli invited vice-provost of Indigenous engagement Jacqueline Ottmann to address Council. Vice-provost Ottmann expressed pleasure and excitement at being part of the university's senior leadership team and spoke briefly of colonization and the healing force of indigenization as a means to strengthen the fabric of the university and society. She noted the number of Indigenous students and the many positive reconciliation activities at the Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre and her goal of highlighting these initiatives and building on them.

7. Student Societies

7.1 Report from the USSU

David D'Eon, president of the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU), presented the USSU report, highlighting progress on the Rink in the Bowl project and the launch of Campus Legal Services. Risk management is a topic under discussion with parties in administration, particularly lack of student awareness of the non-academic student misconduct policy. The USSU hosted a successful cross-provincial rally in three different cities with the Saskatchewan Student Coalition. This initiative has created momentum and elicited a response from the provincial government. Mr. D'Eon announced he was invited to attend the opening of the legislative session the following week and meet with Kevin Doherty, Minister of Advanced Education.

7.2 Report from the GSA

Ziad Ghaith, president of the Graduate Students' Association presented the GSA report to Council. Since submitting its report to Council, the GSA has clarified a number of concerns about graduate program review. The GSA continues to hold the opinion that a cyclical seven-year cycle is overly long, notwithstanding that it is the standard across the country. The GSA was not aware at the time of this Council report submission but was pleased to subsequently learn that the graduate program review process does already include opportunities for feedback from both students and alumni. The GSA continues to work on meaningful consultation about tuition, in the midst of student concerns that the university's

reduced budget will affect tuition and quality of education. Mr. Ghaith acknowledged the deans of the colleges of Agriculture and Bioresources, Pharmacy and Nutrition and the Edwards School of Business for meeting with graduate students to discuss tuition and the student experience and invited all other colleges and schools to follow this example.

Mr. Ghaith referred to the recent policy change to classify graduate student stipends as non-earning income. The GSA is concerned about the lack of consultation with graduate students prior to the change. He acknowledged the efforts of Trever Crowe, interim dean of the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies in working with the GSA to clarify the change.

8. Nominations Committee

Pamela Downe, vice-chair of the nominations committee, presented the reports to Council.

8.1 Request for Decision: University Review Committee Member Nomination

DOWNE/DOBSON: It is recommended that Council approve the nomination of Ravindra Chibbar, Department of Plant Sciences, College of Agriculture and Bioresources to serve on the University Review Committee effective immediately and continuing until June 30, 2020.

CARRIED

8.2 Request for Decision: Recreation and Athletics Advisory Council Member Nomination

DOWNE/DOBSON: It is recommended that Council approve the nomination of Angela Lieverse, Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, College of Arts and Science to serve on the Recreation and Athletics Advisory Council effective immediately and continuing until June 30, 2020.

CARRIED

9. Academic Programs Committee

Terry Wotherspoon, chair of the academic programs committee, presented the reports to Council.

9.1 Request for Decision: Admissions Change for Certificate in Sustainability

Professor Wotherspoon conveyed that the admission change to the Certificate in Sustainability was requested following an analysis of pathways of students into the certificate program. At the time the certificate was created, the hope that was that students from outside the university, in addition to those enrolled in degree programs at the university, would apply to the program. However, no students have taken the standalone pathways, largely as a result of the large number of prerequisite requirements. The admission change has no implications for students in the certificate program.

WOTHERSPOON/BURGESS: It is recommended that Council approve the removal of the stand-alone admissions option for the Certificate of Proficiency in Sustainability, effective May 2018.

CARRIED

9.2 Request for Decision: Changes to Admissions Templates – Visiting Research Students

The visiting research category is intended for students not enrolled in a degree program to attend at the university for short-term study. The initial template was designed to recognize the entry of visiting research students for a maximum of six months per 12-month period. Although this is the time period that most students attend, students from China on scholarship require a longer period of eligibility.

WOTHERSPOON/BURGESS: *It is recommended that Council approve the change to the definition of the Visiting Research Student Mobility Category to extend the maximum time at the University of Saskatchewan to a period not exceeding twelve months per 18-month period, effective January 1, 2018.*

CARRIED

9.3 Report for Information: APC endorsement of Architecture Programs (B.Des in Architecture and the M.Arch)

Professor Wotherspoon provided a background and description of the program proposal. This initiative speaks to the delicate balance between positioning the university to be able to take advantage of exciting academic programs, while at the same time sustaining and building programs already in place to which the university is committed. The item is a recommendation from the academic programs committee that has indicated through its own vote support in principle for the Bachelor of Design (B.Des) and Master of Architecture (M.Arch) programs.

The information submitted to Council is a well-documented package that would enable professional programs in architecture, emerging in part from concerns in the professional community that Saskatchewan is the only province west of the Maritimes that does not have an architecture program and has fewer resident architects. The package presents two strongly integrated degree programs. The B.Des program introduces the fundamental skills and concepts and the master's program reinforces these skills and brings students to the level required for certification.

The programs are proposed to be housed in a new school of architecture, which would be an academic unit housed within the College of Arts and Science that would incorporate the current Department of Art and Art History. Elsewhere in Canada, architecture schools are commonly integrated with colleges of engineering; the structure proposed here follows the model most often employed in European institutions.

The academic programs committee found many exciting and innovative dimensions within the program proposal, particularly the integration of Indigenous knowledge and local design principles. The committee found the program goals and structure to be well framed. The program accommodates core fundamental knowledge of the discipline and brings into play much interdisciplinary collaboration. The program has strong support from the representative professional communities, is supported by the Department of Art and Art History and was approved by the Faculty Council of Arts and Science. The program has been seen by Council previously in the form of a notice of intent submitted by the planning and priorities committee to Council for information.

The academic programs committee acknowledges that the program requires considerable start-up resources, and this aspect has been a large part of discussions at every stage. Professor Wotherspoon noted that in order for the program to move to a position to be approved, an adequate foundation has to be secured. Although it is unusual to bring a program at this stage to Council, a certain level of commitment is required to be able to ask for funding from external funders. If not reviewed and seen as an academically strong program, it is difficult to carry on these discussions both within and outside the university. Professor Wotherspoon noted that several of the courses in the package provided require an update as some time has passed since the proposal was developed.

Discussion of the program proposal included questions to clarify the tuition amount of the program and the resources required to mount the program. Provost Vannelli remarked that the university would look for ways to fund this initiative by assuring start-up funding and ongoing operating resources to support the program without depleting resources from other units.

9.4 Report for Information: Jewish and Christian Origin Certificate of Proficiency and termination of the minor in Jewish and Christian Origins

The change reported to the program on Jewish and Christian Origins changes the nature of the program from a minor to a certificate. The credit units remain the same. To register in the program as a minor, students must be registered in the College of Arts and Science. Moving from a minor to a certificate permits students from other colleges to register in the certificate program and provides greater formal recognition than completion of a minor. Dr. Wotherspoon noted it was also difficult to keep up with the changes to the requisite courses to deliver a minor. The certificate provides greater flexibility.

9.5 Report for Information: Admissions Templates 2018/19

Professor Wotherspoon indicated that each year the admission templates of colleges and schools are maintained in an updated list and presented to Council for information.

10. Governance Committee

Jay Wilson, chair of the governance committee presented the committee report to Council.

10.1 Notice of Motion: Changes to Council Bylaws Part III Section V.1.A. *Ex-officio* Membership of the Faculty Councils

Professor Wilson reported the changes present permit those *ex-officio* members on faculty councils to have a representative attend if their involvement is based on being able to provide timely information and expertise at faculty council meetings.

NOTICE OF MOTION: It is recommended that Council approve the changes to Part III Section V.1.A (a) to (m) of the Council Bylaws Membership of the Faculty Councils as shown in the attachment.

11. Planning and Priorities Committee

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

11.1 Request for Decision: Name Change to the School of Physical Therapy

Professor de Boer indicated the decision to change the name of the School of Physical Therapy comes about in recognition of the growth in Rehabilitation Science education and research in the school in the areas of Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Speech Language Pathology. The name change will identify the school as an academic unit where research in these areas takes place.

Liz Harrison, associate dean, physical therapy and rehabilitation sciences clarified that although the plural form “sciences” would be acceptable, the singular form “science” is the most common label used in all rehabilitation science units.

DE BOER/K. WILSON: *It is recommended that Council approve that the School of Physical Therapy be renamed the School of Rehabilitation Science effective May 1, 2018, with student records to be updated in September, 2018, and that Council's Bylaws be amended to reflect the new name of the school.*

CARRIED

12. Other business

Dr. Bilson announced that the recent Council election to fill a member at large vacancy resulted in the election of Cheryl Waldner of the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences to a one-year term and that Seokbum Ko of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering was acclaimed to a three-year term as the elected representative of the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

13. Question period

The chair invited discussion on the question about the wearing of hats during moments of silence when memorial tributes are presented. Varying views were expressed. The gesture of removing of hats was seen by some as a sign of respect to family members and colleagues in recognition of their loss; others saw the gesture as a colonial tradition that Council need not uphold in the interests of advancing decolonization. Members were also reminded to give their full attention to the tribute and not engage with technology. The chair proposed that he refer the concerns raised to the coordinating committee for discussion and a response to Council.

14. Adjournment

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

