

**MINUTES OF UNIVERSITY COUNCIL**  
**2:30 p.m. Thursday, November 21, 2019**  
**Neatby-Timlin Theatre, Arts 241**

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

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:30.

**2. Tributes**

- 2.1 There was a tribute to Professor Emeritus Dr. Graham Simpson, Department of Plant Sciences, presented by Karen Tanino
- 2.2 There was a tribute to Dr. Alan Reese, St. Thomas More, presented by Dr. Michael Cichon

**3. Adoption of the Agenda**

(Mousseau/Urquhart): *That the agenda be approved as circulated.*

CARRIED

**4. Opening remarks**

The chair, Dr. Jay Wilson, acknowledged that Council meets on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of our gathering place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

He reported that the topic of the recent breakfast meeting with the chairs of Council and PEC was “Indigenization and reconciliation” in discussion with Jackie Ottmann, Vice Provost, Indigenous Engagement.

Dr. Wilson reminded those in attendance of the usual protocols for discussion and debate for Council meetings.

**5. Approval of Minutes of the meeting of October 17, 2019**

Motion (Burgess/Jones): *That the minutes be approved as amended.*

A correction was made to the October 17, 2019 meeting minutes of the numbering in *Section 12. Academic Programs Committee* to be 12.1 and 12. 2 versus 10.1.and 10.2 as previously circulated.

The chair’s introductory remarks from the October meeting of Council will be reflected *verbatim* in the minutes, as provided by the chair.

CARRIED

## **6. Business Arising from the Minutes**

### **6.1 Research Report Update**

Karen Chad, Vice President Research presented an addendum to her report presented at the June 2019 meeting of Council. The added material showed the total research revenue in constant dollars (adjusted for inflation) and the percentage of tri-council funding USask receives relative to other institutions.

## **7. Report of the President**

President Stoicheff expressed condolences for the families of the subjects of the two tributes.

The president presented his report for November 2019 and provided further updates.

The president relayed that the Government of Saskatchewan had launched its second Plan for Growth. He gave examples of the many ways USask's expertise intersects with the plan. For instance, keeping young people in the province through education and training, keeping the Saskatchewan economy competitive through innovation and technology, and increasing international engagement.

President Stoicheff reported that the U15 executive presidents had recently met in Ottawa following the federal election. He believes that two of the government's priorities will be innovation and climate change agendas. The U15 will be discussing how each institution can contribute to these priorities.

In keeping with these themes, the president reflected on Dr. Irena Creed's presentation on sustainability from the October 17, 2019 Council meeting. He reported that Dr. Creed was being inducted into the Royal Society and that Dr. John Pomeroy was receiving a Royal Society medal for his contributions in environmental science.

The president also reported that he had struck an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) task force, which would report to Council on its findings. He also reported that USask was one of the first PSE institutions in the federal EDI pilot program.

As previously committed, the president reported to Council that the university's 2019 *Green House Gas Emissions Inventory* was recently released [available online here: <https://sustainability.usask.ca/documents/2019-greenhouse-gas-inventory-report-final.pdf>]. It reports progress in relation to the university's 2012 climate action plan, which had a goal of reducing GHG emissions by 20% by the year 2020. From 2006-2019, GHG emissions increased by 7.8%, but were reduced per square metre by 13% in the context of a growing campus and a growing student population. The university has developed a robust process for ensuring we meet the goals stated in the climate action plan, ideally by 2023, which is in line with the federal government's target for reductions by the year 2030.

There was a question for the president about the relationship between Dr. Creed's presentation on sustainability and the academic decision making role of Council. The president responded that it behooves us to understand all aspects of sustainability. We have the opportunity to consider how it aligns with academic programming. An example of how it can is the USSU MOU on sustainability and climate change, which resulted in the establishment of a fund to support student-led sustainability initiatives.

## **8. Report of the Provost**

Provost Tony Vannelli presented the November 2019 report of the provost.

Dr. Vannelli highlighted key elements of the 2020-21 resource allocation process and timelines. He indicated the importance of this process for our ability to ensure we can achieve our academic mission. In his report, he noted the major changes in TABBS to capture collaboration and encourage interdisciplinarity on academic and research programs going forward. He stated that he is working hard at all levels, i.e. with the Provost's Advisory Committee (PAC), at college and school levels, with vice-presidents, and with support centres to make sure the university is in a sound position going forward into 2020-21. This starts with the allocations to the colleges and vice presidents. Though the budget has been reduced, every effort is being made to keep the university as whole as possible.

The provost committed that in the new year, upon finalization, he would brief Council on the university's budget submission to the Board of Governors. The details of the budget will become public once the document is approved. He invited the university community to use the budget challenges as an opportunity to reimagine ourselves and consider what we can do, not what we cannot do.

The provost referenced the rankings section of the provost's report and reflected that they are not only an indication of how our organization is cast, but they present an opportunity to become what we truly can. How we compare to world institutions gives us the chance to look at ourselves and say how we can make that better. What we do to achieve the research and academic mission provides us with such opportunities, for instance to increase funding for graduate students, which is reflected in the rankings. Though we do not play to the rankings, they do contain lessons about how to make ourselves better.

The provost invited the Dean of the University Library, Dr. Melissa Just, to present to Council the impact of budget challenges on the library collections for 2019-20. She reported that due to the rising, unsustainable costs of journal subscriptions, largely attributable to foreign exchange rates, the library has to reduce spending on electronic resources by \$1.38M to balance the 2019-20 budget. She conveyed that the library is working very hard within these constraints to minimize the impact to the university's academic mission, and to ensure that scholarship can be maintained at a high level.

Dr. Just reported that since March, the dean and representatives of the library have been visiting various groups, including faculty councils, the GSA, the USSU, RSAW, and TLARC. In these consultations, they provided overviews of the scholarly publishing environment, listed the journal packages that were being cancelled, and shared the principles that guided the decision-making in selection of the titles that were re-subscribed from the cancelled journal packages.

Dean Just conveyed to Council that the unsustainable scholarly publishing ecosystem is a worldwide issue affecting many institutions. She suggested that a more proactive approach is needed to address the underlying problems. The University Library, the Office of the Provost and VP Academic, and the Office of the VP Research will be working together to engage with the campus community to develop strategies to proactively participate in the global conversation.

There was a question for the provost about the timing of the public release of 2020-21 resource allocation decisions, and the location of the publicly available 2019-20 resource allocation information. The provost indicated there would be a public release of the 2020-21 allocations once the Board of Governors approved the budget. He committed to following up about the 2019-20 information.

## **9. Student Societies**

### **9.1 Report from the USSU**

Regan Ratt-Misponas, President of the USSU presented the USSU Report for October and November 2019. He welcomed newly elected Autumn LaRose Smith, the USSU VP student affairs, noting that she is a proud Métis woman from Saskatoon.

He reported that the USSU helped facilitate *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two Spirit Awareness Week* on campus in partnership with the Aboriginal Students' Centre, and that they supported the Sisters in Spirit Vigil in October 4, 2019.

The USSU president pointed to the section in the USSU report that lays out the vision for the USSU this year titled *The Path Forward*. He noted that the executive is developing an action plan. He highlighted that the four components of the USSU plan were reflected in the Medicine Wheel depicted in the report, which the USSU Elder in Residence took to ceremony.

Mr. Ratt-Misponas highlighted an important event that took place on November 18, 2019 on campus: the signing of an MOU between USask and the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan to improve education of Métis people. He noted the importance of the raising of the Métis flag for helping Métis students feel welcome and safe on campus.

He challenged and invited council to explore how we can make more safe space for Indigenous students at USask, so that we are a university that is truly decolonizing, and so that we are truly becoming the university the world needs. The USSU president indicated he would like to see more from Council on reconciliation and decolonization.

### **9.2 Report from the GSA**

Mery Mendoza, President of the GSA presented the GSA report. She highlighted that the GSA is focusing on enhancing activities related to mental health and wellbeing on campus. On November 20, the GSA worked with ISSAC on a mental health workshop.

Ms. Mendoza pointed out for Council that with the university being closed during the holidays it can be a difficult and isolating time for international students. To support students during this period the GSA is opening GSA Commons on several dates while the university is closed, and is developing a holiday program in partnership with ISSAC and the USSU.

There was a question about the support being provided by the GSA and ISSAC for Iranian students during this time of upheaval in that country. Ms. Mendoza responded that every effort is being made to support those students.

## **10. Academic Programs Committee**

Dr. Susan Detmer, chair of APC presented two requests for decision and three reports for information as provided in the materials.

10.1 Request for Decision: Admissions Qualifications Change – Bachelor of Commerce (B.Comm.) programs

(Detmer/Brook): *It is recommended that Council approve the proposed changes to the admissions qualifications for the Bachelor of Commerce (B.Comm.) programs, effective the 2021-22 admissions cycle.*

CARRIED

10.2 Request for Decision: Degree-level Early Childhood Education Certificate

(Detmer/Brook): *It is recommended that Council approve the degree-level Early Childhood Education Certificate in the College of Education, effective May 2020.*

CARRIED

Dr. Detmer referenced the three APC reports for information provided in the Council materials and presented them to Council.

10.3 Report for Information: Changes to the Biomedical Science programs in the College of Arts and Science

10.4 Report for Information: Bachelor of Science in Environmental Geoscience program

10.5 Report for Information: Engineering Co-op Internship Program

A Council member pointed out that the proposed new BSc will be professionally accredited with APEGS.

**11. Nominations Committee**

Dr. Vicki Squires, chair of the Nominations Committee, presented two requests for decision.

11.1 Request for Decision: Nomination to the University Review Committee

(Squires/Urquhart): *It is recommended that Council approve the nomination of Allison Muri Department of English to serve as member of the University Review Committee for a six month term effective January 1, 2020.*

The chair called for nominations from the floor. There were none.

CARRIED

11.2 Request for Decision: Nomination to the Governance Committee of Council

(Squires/Urquhart): *It is recommended that Council approve the nomination of Terry Wotherspoon, Department of Sociology, to serve as member of the governance committee of Council effective immediately until June 2022.*

The chair called for nominations from the floor. There were none.

CARRIED

## 12. Governance Committee

Stephen Urquhart, chair of the governance committee, presented two requests for decision and one notice of motion.

### 12.1 Request for Decision: Proposed dissolution of the International Activities Committee of Council

(Urquhart/Mousseau): *It is recommended that Council authorize the dissolution of the International Activities Committee of Council, effective immediately.*

In his remarks, Dr. Urquhart responded to a concern raised at the October 17, 2019 Council meeting about the loss of focus and possible loss of faculty voice on the topic of internationalization. He reported that the governance committee is recommending to Council through the Council chair that the provost and vice president research (who are both responsible for internationalization) report annually to Council on the topic. [Table 1. Action 2]

Dr. Urquhart also called on Dr. Keith Walker, who chaired the IAC working group that reviewed the committee's terms of reference to speak to the composition of the committee and the process they undertook. Dr. Walker reported on the balance between administrators, students, and faculty on the committee. He indicated that the final report was two years in the making, and then the recommendation to disband the committee took an additional year to come to Council through the Council committees. He reported that the working group did everything it could to ensure it was meeting its fiduciary, generative, operating responsibilities to Council.

CARRIED

### 12.2 Request for Decision: Updated Standing Committees' Terms of Reference and Internationalization

(Urquhart/Mousseau): *It is recommended that Council approve the attached changes to the terms of reference of PPC, RSAW, TLARC, and APC as they relate to internationalization or regular updates to membership and/or administrator titles, effective immediately.*

Dr. Urquhart indicated that in addition to the changes contemplated in this motion, that in the upcoming year, the governance committee intends to work with Council committees to review their terms of reference broadly. This will ensure that the committee membership and scope are aligned with Council's governance role, and ensures that terms of reference evolve as the university evolves.

CARRIED

### 12.3 Strategic Coordination Subcommittee Terms of Reference

Notice of Motion: *It is recommended that Council approve the amendment of the Council bylaws by replacing the existing terms of reference for the Standing Subcommittee of the Coordinating Committee with the terms of reference for the Strategic Coordination Subcommittee as set out in the attachment.*

Dr. Urquhart indicated that Council handles much of the routine work of academic governance. However, the roll out of major initiatives - and their governance oversight by council - requires planning

and coordination. For instance, interdisciplinarity is a subject that each standing committee of council will deal with, and therefore requires coordination and planning between governing bodies and the administration, which this subcommittee will facilitate.

### **13. Research, Scholarly and Artistic Works Committee**

Dr. Jon Bath, chair of RSAW presented a report for information.

#### **13.1 Report for Information: Annual Reports from the Research Ethics Boards**

On behalf of RSAW, Dr. Bath reminded Council of the importance of the role of the university's research ethics boards. In his comments he challenged the notion that the process of receiving ethics approval simply slows down research. He asserted that instead, it ensures that the research we conduct meets the needs of the community. Dr. Bath thanked the faculty, students, and animals that participate in research done at USask. He also thanked the members for service on these research ethics boards.

### **14. Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources Committee**

Dr. Petros Papagerakis, vice chair of the teaching, learning and academic resources committee, presented one notice of motion and one report for information.

#### **14.1 Student Learning Experience Feedback Policy**

Notice of Motion: *It is recommended that Council approve the Student Learning Experience Feedback Policy.*

Dr. Papagerakis invited Dr. Patti McDougall, vice provost, teaching, learning and student experience, to give a presentation on the policy and procedures. Dr. McDougall thanked the many people who contributed to the development of the policy and procedures. She noted that the committee presents to Council for consideration and approval the policy, whereas the procedures are provided for information. She also acknowledged a comment made by the USSU since the materials were circulated regarding the use of inclusive language. She responded that the use of terms 'his/hers' and 'she/he' will be removed.

Two Council members pointed out that while there is language in USFA agreement that addresses using these feedback instruments and associated feedback opportunities, APSA, CUPE and PSAC do not have similar language. They inquired as to the possibility of conveying this to the bargaining tables. [Table 1. Action 3]

Another Council member inquired as to the ownership of the data produced by these surveys. Dr. McDougall acknowledged that the practice varies widely from department to department, and college to college. She indicated that the policy calls on the responsibilities of each of those units to create guidelines that will address this, and that her office will offer of assistance to develop guidelines.

#### **14.2 Report for Information: Strategies for Approaching Trauma-Related Student Responses to Course Materials**

Dr. McDougall reiterated that the guidelines were developed and were being shared to help build awareness, and that further work would be done in this regard. Dr. Ann Martin from the Department of

English commented that in developing the guidelines, it was acknowledged that the discipline of English is a place where course material can have an impact on students that was not anticipated. Still, there is an important distinction to be made between ideological discomfort and trauma, which is reflected in these guidelines.

#### **15. Other business**

None.

#### **16. Question period**

A Council member remarked for the chair and the secretary that the *University of Saskatchewan Act (1995)* section 53(2) states that, 24 members representing each college and affiliated and federated college “who is a member of the college and who has been elected by the members of the college” will be part of the composition of Council. However, the member did not recollect an election by their college to that effect. The university secretary committed to providing a response at the next Council meeting. [Table 1. Action 4]

#### **17. Adjournment**

(Jones): The meeting adjourned by motion at 4:30.

**Table 1. Action items**

No	Page	Date	Action	Responsible
1	p.3 s.8	11/21/2019	Report on Board-approved USask 2020-21 budget	Tony Vannelli
2	p.6 s.12.1	11/21/2019	Explore possibility of annual reports to Council on internationalization from the provost and VPR	Jay Wilson
3	p.7 s.14.1	11/21/2019	Relay to bargaining tables use of SLEF in the agreements of PSAC, ASPA and CUPE	Patti McDougall
4	p.8 s.14.2	11/21/2019	Respond to the question of college elections for college members’ seats on Council	Beth Bilson

#### **Attachments**

1. Appendix A – Attendance from the meeting of November 21, 2019

*Next meeting December 19, 2019 – Please send regrets to [michelle.kjargaard@usask.ca](mailto:michelle.kjargaard@usask.ca).*

*Deadline for submission of motions to the coordinating committee: December 4, 2019.*



## COUNCIL ATTENDANCE 2019-2020

## Attendnace Summary - Voting Participants

Name	Sept 19	Oct 17	Nov 21	Dec 19	Jan 16	Feb 20	Mar 19	Apr 16	May 21	June 18
Aitken, Alec	R	P	P							
Alcorn, Jane	A	A	A							
Berry, Lois	R	P	R							
Blakley, Jill	R	P	R							
Boland, Mark	P	P	P							
Bonham-Smith, Peta	P	P	P							
Brook, Ryan	P	P	P							
Brothwell, Doug	R	P	P							
Bruni-Bossio, Vince	A	P	R							
Buhr, Mary	P	R	R							
Burgess, David	P	P	P							
Card, Claire	P	P	P							
Carter, Mark	P	P	P							
Chernoff, Egan	A	A	A							
Chibbar, Ravindra	P	R	P							
Crowe, Trevor	P	P	P							
D'Eon, Marcel	P	P	A							
Dawson, DeDe	P	P	P							
de Boer, Dirk	P	P	R							
Delbaere, Marjorie	P	R	R							
Deters, Ralph	P	P	P							
Detmer, Susan	P	P	P							
Dick, Rainer	P	P	P							
Dobson, Roy	P	R	P							
Downe, Pamela	P	P	R							
Elias, Lorin	P	P	P							
Engler-Stringer, Rachel	P	R	P							
Eskiw, Christopher	A	A	A							
Fonseca, Alejandra	P	P	P							
Flynn, Kevin	P	P	R							
Foley, Sarah	P	R	P							
Fotohui, Reza	R	P	R							
Freeman, Doug	R	R	P							
Gabriel, Andrew	A	P	A							
Gillis, Glen	P	P	P							
Gjevre, John	P	R	A							
Harrison, William	A	A	A							
Henry, Carol	R	A	P							
Illing, Kate	A	R	A							
Jamali, Nadeem	P	P	P							
Jensen, Gordon	P	R	A							
Jones, Paul	R	P	P							
Just, Melissa	R	A	P							
Kalra, Jay	P	A	P							
Kelly, Timothy	P	P	P							
Khandelwal, Ramji	P	R	P							
Klassen, Lauren	A	A	A							
Ko, Seok-Bum	P	P	R							
Kresta, Suzanne	P	R	A							
Kumaran, Arul	P	A	P							
Lamb, Eric	P	P	P							
Lane, Jeffrey	P	A	P							
Langhorst, Barbara	R	R	R							
Lanovaz, Joel	P	P	P							
Lindenschmidt, Karl	P	P	A							
London, Chad	P	P	P							
Luke, Iain	R	A	R							
Macfarlane, Cal	A	R	A							

Name	Sept 19	Oct 17	Nov 21	Dec 19	Jan 16	Feb 20	Mar 19	Apr 16	May 21	June 18
MacLean, Jason	R	A	A							
Manley-Tannis, Richard	P	R	P							
Markham, Taylor	A	A	A							
McEwen, Alexa	A	R	R							
Mousseau, Darrell	A	P	P							
Murphy, JoAnn	P	P	P							
Neufeld, Matthew	P	P	P							
Newman, Kagan	A	A	A							
Papagerakis, Petros	A	A	P							
Phillipson, Martin	P	P	P							
Pocha, Sheila	P	A	A							
Poettcker, Grant	A	A	A							
Power, Sarah	A	A	A							
Prytula, Michelle	P	R	P							
Racine, Louise	R	R	R							
Reaser, Isaac	A	A	n/a-resigned as of Nov 2019 and replaced by Celeste Robillard							
Risling, Tracie	P	P	R							
Robillard, Celeste	n/a	n/a	A							
Sarty, Gordon	P	P	P							
Saxena, Anurag	A	P	A							
Shevyakov, Alexey	P	A	P							
Shin, Hyunjung	P	P	P							
Singh, Jaswant	A	P	P							
Smith, Charles	P	A	A							
Smith, Preston	R	A	P							
Smith, Martha	P	P	P							
Soltan, Jafar	P	P	P							
Sommerville, Kara	P	R	P							
Spurr, Shelley	P	P	P							
Squires, Vicki	P	A	P							
Stoicheff, Peter	P	R	P							
Stuart, Glenn	P	P	A							
Swidrovich, Jaris	P	R	P							
Urquhart, Stephen	P	P	P							
Vannelli, Tony	P	P	P							
Waldner, Cheryl	P	P	P							
Walker, Keith	P	R	P							
Willenborg, Christian	P	R	R							
Willness, Chelsea	P	P	n/a-resigned as of Oct 31, 2019 and will be part of non-voting as of Jan 1, 2020							
Willoughby, Keith	P	P	P							
Wilson, Jay	P	P	P							
Wilson, Lee	P	A	P							
Woods, Phil	P	P	P							
Wotherspoon, Terry	P	P	P							
Zello, Gordon	R	R	R							
Zhang, Chris	P	P	P							

COUNCIL ATTENDANCE 2019-2020

**Attendance Summary - Non-voting participants**

Name	Sept 19	Oct 17	Nov 21	Dec 19	Jan 16	Feb 20	Mar 19	Apr 16	May 21	June 18
Bilson, Beth	P	P	P							
Chad, Karen	P	P	P							
Doig, Anne	n/a	n/a	P							
Ezekwesili, Chiamaka	n/a	n/a	A							
Fowler, Greg	A	P	A							
Isinger, Russell	P	P	P							
McDougall, Patricia	P	A	P							
Mendoza, Mery	P	P	P							
Morrison, Karen	R	P	P							
Munoz Pimentel, Carlos	P	P	P							
Osburn, Debra Pozega	P	P	R							
Ottmann, Jacqueline	P	A	A							
Ratt-Misponas, Regan	P	A	P							
Still, Carl	P	R	R							