



**Minutes of University Council
2:30 p.m., Thursday, March 21, 2019
Arts Building Room 241 Neatby-Timlin Theatre**

Attendance: See item 3 Appendix A for the listing of members in attendance.

The chair of Council, Dr. Jay Wilson, called the meeting to order at 2:40 noting that quorum had been reached.

Dr. Peter Alward presented a tribute Dr. TY Henderson from the Department of Philosophy, prepared by Dr. Eric Dayton, professor emeritus in the Department of Philosophy.

1. Adoption of the agenda

Gjevre/Urquhart: *That the agenda be adopted as circulated.*

CARRIED

2. Chair's remarks

The chair acknowledged that Council meets on Treaty 6 territory and the homeland of the Métis. Dr. Wilson reminded those in attendance of the usual protocols for discussion and debate.

The chair reported on the subject of discussion at the last Council chairs breakfast meeting with the president's executive committee, which was the preliminary university budget for 2019-20.

The chair provided an update on the international activities committee, which has conducted a review of its terms of reference, and has proposed that the committee be dissolved. The coordinating and governance committees have asked the chairs of Council committees to consider whether internationalization would be appropriate as an aspect of their terms of reference. The governance committee will report back on these results at an upcoming Council meeting. [Table 1. action item no.1]

A request from the Senate for representation on a committee to review conflict of interest policies, and another request for representation on the review committee for the president will be forthcoming.

16 nominations were received for 15 seats on University Council, so an election will be held. The election will open on March 25 and close on April 12. The chair thanked those who have expressed interest in serving on Council committees.

3. Approval of minutes of the meeting of February 14, 2019

Zello/Jones: *That the minutes of the February 14, 2019 meeting be approved as circulated.*

A concern was expressed with the level of detail in the minutes with respect to a question that had been asked of the provost. The chair responded that the concern had been considered, and it was determined that the issue was appropriately noted in the table of action items at the end of the minutes.

The council member suggested that the brevity of how it was described missed the emphasis of the question that was raised at the meeting. It was suggested that there be an amendment to the minutes to better capture the response from the provost, because there was not any detail about his reply. The chair indicated that this concern would be further considered. [Table 1. action item no.4]

CARRIED

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

5. Report of the President

President Peter Stoicheff paid tribute to two former members of the university community. Patrick Lane died on March 7, 2019. An award-winning novelist and poet, who won the Governor General's award for poetry, he was also a faculty member in the Department of English at USask from 1986 to 1990.

Joe Fafard died on March 16, 2019. He was a famous sculptor who received an honorary degree from USask, and was known for his whimsical and deft sculptures of people and farm animals. He taught at the University of Regina from 1968 to 1974 when it was still part of USask. These are just two examples of the contributions to the fine arts that this university has made at an extraordinary level.

President Stoicheff then presented his report to Council, focusing on the recent federal and provincial 2019-20 budget announcements. The president provided an overview, indicating that further details on the implications for the university would be provided at the next meeting.

With respect to the federal budget, last year was a landmark historically in terms of federal support for research, inspired by the Naylor report on fundamental science. In 2018, the government was clear that the budget would mark significant investments in research, but that universities should not anticipate the same level of funding again in the next year. Therefore, Universities Canada and U15 funding strategies for 2019 did not focus on funding for research. The three areas of focus were: 1) supports for Indigenous students and research; 2) skills

training; and 3) student mobility. The president summarized the investments made by the federal government and their importance for USask and Canadian universities.

The president noted that the provincial budget had been tabled the day before. Given the complexities of targeted funding streams, it would take time to fully understand the implications. He indicated that a more detailed report to Council would be provided at the meeting in April. [Table 1. action item no.2] Forecasts were accurate in that this was the 3rd year of the government's stated 3-year process for the province to achieve a balanced budget. We anticipated a 0% increase, we received a 0% decrease. If this level of funding is ongoing in subsequent years, we will have a lot more to say.

The president noted that there are features of the budget that signal the province's appreciation for the value and contributions that USask brings to the province, such as the renewal of the 5-year MOU for the Fedoruk Centre which provides much needed medical isotopes to the province.

There was a round of Q&A that considered the following.

A question was raised whether the issue that recently arose in the US concerning payment for admissions could happen at USask, and whether an audit is needed to ensure transparency. The president indicated that he had asked similar questions of our admissions team when the news broke and was told that there is no need for a full audit, but that we were reviewing whether there may be vulnerabilities in our processes in this regard. Our risk appears lower due to two significant differences – that we do not have the high profile athletics programs, or SATs in Canada, which were the points of vulnerability in the US.

A member noted that the budget letter sent to USask from the Government of Saskatchewan indicates that USask would receive \$2M less in the operating grant, and that this was not consistent with the characterization as a 0% decrease. The president responded that this was an expected decrease that is a product of the operation of the Saskatchewan Universities Funding Mechanism (SUFM) and enrolment changes at USask compared to the University of Regina. He acknowledged that it is an imperfect funding mechanism, and he pointed out that this discrepancy is one example of it.

A Council member suggested that similarly to the invitation from the First Nations Assembly to USask, that the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan may be interested in inviting the president to come and work together with the Métis, for instance with the TEP programs. The president provided the background that led to the MOU with FSIN. The two parties worked together on terms of reference two years ago that commit the president to attending one meeting there, and Chief Cameron to attending one meeting on campus. The president indicated that he would be delighted to receive an invitation from the Métis Nation and would seek their guidance to ensure it was a good use of their time.

6. Report of the Provost

Dr. Tony Vannelli presented the provost's report to Council. He indicated that there will be a report to Council later in April with further details about the implications of the provincial budget announcement [Table 1. action item no.2]. At present, conversations are ongoing with Deans' Council and senior leaders regarding the potential impact of the budget for our strategies and plans. PPC will be briefed on Wednesday, March 27, 2019. Thereafter the details will be communicated to the campus community and then externally to the public.

The provost noted that tuition rates had been set and communicated to the Board of Governors and PPC earlier in the week, before the provincial budget. The tuition rates would not change as a result of the budget and will be communicated to students and the campus community in the coming weeks. The new academic program review process developed by the IPA is also going to be very important to ensuring the high quality of programs, which tuition and the provincial operating grant support.

With regard to the federal budget, the provost reiterated that there are opportunities there to support the priorities of USask. These include the work-study program, and graduate studies enhancements for Tri-Council funded programs, for example. Again, further details will be provided in April.

The provost conveyed how the budget day process in Saskatchewan is interesting from his perspective. In the morning, the minister first briefs the president and the Board chair, and then there is an embargoed meeting where the details are communicated to the provost, vice president finance, and the budget team. In the afternoon the budget is announced in the legislature, and the university receives the detailed budget letter while simultaneously, the funding allocation is being announced. Then, over the next few days there are further conversations with the ministry to get a clearer understanding of the details. This information is communicated to the Board, although the preliminary university budget is approved prior to the provincial budget. All of that said, this does not change the overall plans or direction of the university.

There was a round of Q&A that considered the following.

A Council member inquired as to the process that will follow from action items being identified in the Council minutes and asked about the timelines for responses on the items identified.

The chair of Council responded that the table of action items at the end of the minutes is intended to signal that the business identified at Council has been referred to the appropriate office or individual for follow-up. Timelines for reporting back are not the next meeting, as a full response may not be possible in that time, but the Secretary's office tracks the items and brings forward responses to the chair when they are ready.

The provost noted that since the February Council meeting, the question about international differential fees for graduate students has been discussed at Deans' Council and with the

provost's advisory committee, and it was determined not to change the tuition differential for 2019/20. The dean of graduate studies further noted that the provost is working with the college and the IPA to compare our comprehensive funding packages with other U15 universities, and there should be an update for Council in the next few months. [Table 1. action item no.6]

Another member of Council inquired as to the level of university reserves. How will we deal with having fewer reserves, with 0% funding increases or less, and with increasing costs; we have less money, more costs, and less funding. What will the implications be for graduate student supports and stipends?

The provost replied that we must look at cost containment, and examining the way that programs are delivered. We must examine costs at the college level and in support centres, and look at the balancing act with reserves. Central reserves have been deployed to get us through the tough decisions over the last two budget cycles. Down to the college level, this has a magnifying effect. Deans and executive directors are working on alignment between their programs and their budgets. He recognized that it is not easy working in an "austerity" budget environment with the provincial government, which is our main partner. Still, we will rise to the challenge, stay on track, and remain future focused.

7. Student Societies

7.1 Report from the USSU

The chair referred Council to the written report provided in the package.

7.2 Report from the GSA

Naheda Sahtout, president of the GSA, presented the GSA's report to Council.

Ms. Sahtout indicated that it was promising to see the emphasis on research, internationalization, and indigenization in the federal and provincial budgets and hopes that USask can take advantage of these opportunities. She said that it was good that there was no decrease in the provincial budget, but that there still is a lack of appreciation for the importance of post-secondary education in the province.

She noted that conversations about tuition rates had been taking place over the last few months. PPC received a presentation of the rates. The GSA is looking forward to conversations in the coming months about international student differentials and funding packages to support students, so that students don't need to work off campus which takes away from their studies. Ms. Sahtout provided an update on the recent activities of the GSA which were also reflected in the report to Council, including the graduate student conference, the three-minute thesis competition, and the annual awards gala to celebrate graduate students research, scholarly and

artistic works and faculty that support graduate student success. She asked that faculty encourage their students to participate in these events.

8. Academic Programs Committee

The chair invited Dr. Roy Dobson, chair of APC to present the report to Council. Dr. Dobson provided the background and rationale for the proposed change.

8.1 Request for Decision: Admission Qualification Change – English Proficiency requirement for the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) Program

Dobson/Solose: *That Council approve the proposed changes to the English proficiency requirements for the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) program, effective the 2021-22 admissions cycle.*

CARRIED

9. Governance Committee

Stephen Urquhart, chair of the governance committee, presented the request for decision and report to Council.

9.1 Notice of Motion to amend Council Bylaws to include the joint committee on chairs and professorships

The proposed motion is *“That Council approve the amendment of Council Bylaws by adding the following terms of reference for the Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships (JCCP) as Part Two, X, effective immediately.”* Approval will be sought at the next meeting.

A Council member requested that the governance committee consider the proposed membership of the JCCP. She expressed a concern about the limited faculty representation on the committee, and about the possibility of donor representation on the search committees for chairs.

Dr. Stephen Urquhart explained that the JCCP is a standing committee of Council, but that it was not included in the bylaws. The governance committee is proposing no changes to the terms of reference of the committee, other than to fix some of the titles of senior administrators. The documents in the Council package are lengthier than those on the website because the guidelines were included for Council’s reference, although they will not be included in the bylaws.

The University Secretary noted that JCCP is a joint committee with the Board, and therefore the proportionality of faculty representation is different than for other Council committees. The chair of Council requested that since this is a notice of motion that the feedback be provided to the governance committee outside of the Council meeting.

The member expressed concern again that the funders of chairs are represented on search committees, and that they have ties to industry. The interim vice-provost, faculty relations, Dr. Jim Basinger responded that all proposals for specific chairs are approved by Council and recommendations are vetted by JCCP in advance of presentation to Council. He assured Council the committee is vigilant about ensuring that the selected chairs represent unbiased research.

The chair of Council asked again that further concerns be addressed to the governance committee.

Another member of Council inquired as to how these concerns would be addressed, and why having a committee consider the matter should preclude having a discussion at Council. It is important for Council to hear these concerns. He expressed concern that Council should vote “yes” on a motion such as this (trusting the committee) without having a full discussion.

The chair responded that materials are circulated in advance of the meetings so that members can consider matters specific to the motion.

9.2 Report for Information: Effective date for the revised *Procedures for Student Appeals in Academic Matters*

Dr. Urquhart reported that the effective date had not been indicated when this item was approved by Council on January 17, 2019. The revised procedures will go into effect on July 1, 2019.

10. Other business

There was no other business.

11. Question period

The chair opened the floor for questions.

Dr. Stephen Urquhart directed a question to the chair of APC. He noted that the Registrar’s Office is upgrading the Banner system and that it will have an effect on multi-term courses, including 6 cu courses, in that it will be more difficult and costly to accommodate them in the system. He inquired as to the potential impact of proposed software changes for academic direction given by Council, i.e. on course syllabi. Dr. Urquhart requested that APC consider the matter and report back to Council. [Table 1. action item no.3]

Another member of Council inquired as to the decision process for determining the appropriate level of detail to be included in the minutes of Council, reiterating the concern expressed earlier in the meeting. The chair responded that since the concern regarding the international tuition

differential was captured in the action items and the provost had undertaken to address it, it had been determined that no further detail was required.

The university secretary said that her office will review the approach to the level of detail included in the minutes. [Table 1. action item no.4]

The chair further indicated that he provides oversight to this process on behalf of the Council members and reminded Council that the minutes are the official record of the business of Council not a verbatim account.

The member of Council suggested that there be a note in the minutes where the discussion took place indicating that there is a action item stemming from the conversation. The minutes are important and it would be valuable to hear a summary of the provost's responses in the minutes, not just the action items.

Another member of Council reminded Council that they had agreed at an earlier meeting that laptops and other devices would be closed during the memorial presentations. The chair confirmed that this was his understanding.

A student raised the question of what decolonization means to Council. The chair responded that this was a question that could not be adequately addressed in these last few minutes of this meeting, and that Dr. Jackie Ottmann, vice-provost, Indigenous engagement had just left the meeting so didn't have the opportunity to respond. Dr. Patti McDougall, vice-provost, teaching, learning, and student experience indicated that Dr. Ottmann would certainly appreciate the opportunity to respond. The university is addressing and honouring the TRC calls to action in specific ways, e.g. by examining tenure and promotion standards, and developing an Indigenous engagement plan. These are just a couple of examples. Dr. McDougall indicated she would bring forward the question to Dr. Ottmann to respond to. [Table 1. action item no. 5]

12. Adjournment

Orlowski: The meeting was adjourned by motion at 3:50pm.

Table 1. Council action items

No.	Page	Meeting date	Action	Responsibility
1	p.1 s.2	3/21/2019	The governance committee will report on the feedback from the coordinating committee regarding internationalization in Council committees' terms of reference	Dr. Urquhart
2	p.3 s. 5 & p.4 s.6	3/21/2019	A detailed report on the implications of the federal and provincial budgets will be provided to Council in April 2019	Dr. Vannelli
3	p.8 s. 11	3/21/2019	APC will consider and report to Council on academic effects of the Banner software changes	Dr. Dobson
4	p.8 s. 11	3/21/2019	The University Secretary will examine the level of detail in the minutes with the Chair and governance committee	Dr. Bilson, Dr. Wilson, and Dr. Urquhart
5	p.9 s. 11	3/21/2019	The question of "what decolonization means to Council" will be brought forward to the vice-provost, Indigenous engagement	Dr. McDougall and Dr. Ottmann
6	p.7 s.12	2/12/2019	The results of the GSA survey on tuition and the international differential will be discussed at a future deans' council meeting and provided to the interim dean of CGPS	Dr. Vannelli and Dr. Crowe

COUNCIL ATTENDANCE 2017-18

Voting Participants

Name	Sept 20	Oct 25	Nov 22	Dec 20	Jan 17	Feb 14	Mar 21	Apr 18	May 23	June 20
Andraos, John	R	A	A	A	A	A	A			
Albert, Mike	P	A	A	A	A	A	A			
Basinger, Jim	P	A	P	P	P	P	P			
Bell, Scott	R	R	R	R	R	R	A			
Blakley, Jill	R	P	R	P	R	P	P			
Bonham-Smith, Peta	A	P	P	P	P	P	R			
Brook, Ryan	P	P	A	P	R	P	R			
Brothwell, Doug	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Bruni-Bossio, Vince	P	P	P	R	P	R	P			
Buhr, Mary	P	P	R	P	R	P	R			
Card, Claire	P	A	A	P	P	P	R			
Carter, Mark	P	A	P	P	P	A	P			
Chernoff, Egan	P	P	P	P	R	R	R			
Chibbar, Ravindra	P	P	P	P	A	R	P			
Crowe, Trever	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			
De Boer, Dirk	P	P	P	P	P	R	P			
D'Eon, Marcel	R	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Deters, Ralph	P	P	P	A	P	P	P			
Detmer, Susan	R	R	R	R	P	A	P			
Dick, Rainer	P	R	P	P	P	P	R			
Dierker, Meaghan	A	A	A	A	A	A	A			
Dobson, Roy	P	P	R	P	P	P	P			
Downe, Pamela	P	P	R	P	P	P	R			
Elias, Lorin	P	P	P	P	A	R	A			
Engler-Stringer, Rachel	P	P	R	P	P	P	P			
Eskiw, Christopher	P	P	A	P	P	A	P			
Flynn, Kevin	R	R	R	R	R	R	R			
Fotouhi, Reza	P	A	P	P	P	A	P			
Freeman, Douglas	R	P	R	R	R	P	P			
Gabriel, Andrew	P	A	A	P	A	A	A			
Gillis, Glen	R	P	P	P	P	R	P			
Gjevre, John	P	P	P	P	P	R	P			
Goodridge, Donna	A	P	R	R	P	P	P			
Grosvenor, Andrew	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Gyurcsik, Nancy	P	P	P	R	P	R	P			
Han, Yifan	P	R	R	P	A	P	R			
Harrison, William	A	A	A	A	A	A	A			
Henry, Carol	P	R	P	P	R	P	R			
Jamali, Nadeem	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Jensen, Gordon	P	R	P	P	R	A	P			
Jones, Paul	R	R	A	R	P	P	P			
Just, Melissa	P	P	P	P	P	A	P			
Kalra, Jay	P	P	P	P	P	R	P			
Kelly, Timothy	P	P	P	R	R	R	P			
Khandelwal, Ramji	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Klassen, Lauren	A	A	A	P	P	P	P			
Ko, Seok-Bum	R	R	P	P	P	P	R			
Koh-Steadman, Noah	A	A	A	A	A	A	A			
Kresta, Suzanne	A	P	P	R	P	R	P			
Krol, Ed	P	P	R	P	P	P	P			
Kumaran, Arul	A	P	P	A	A	P	A			
Lamb, Eric	R	P	R	P	P	P	P			
Lane, Jeffrey	P	A	P	R	P	R	P			
Langhorst, Barbara	P	R	R	R	P	R	P			
Lemisko, Lynn	R	R	R	P	P	P	P			
London, Chad	P	P	P	R	P	P	P			
Luke, Iain	R	A	A	R	R	R	R			
Macfarlane, Cal	A	A	A	A	A	A	A			

Name	Sept 20	Oct 25	Nov 22	Dec 20	Jan 17	Feb 14	Mar 21	Apr 18	May 23	June 20
MacLean, Jason	P	R	R	A	P	A	A			
Manley-Tannis, Richard	A	P	P	P	P	P	R			
Martinez-Soberanes, Edgar	P	P	P	R	P	P	P			
Mousseau, Darrell	P	A	P	P	A	A	A			
Munoz, Carlos	P	P	R	R	A	P	P			
Murphy, JoAnn	P	P	R	P	P	P	P			
Newman, Kagen	A	A	A	A	A	A	A			
Papagerakis, Petros	P	P	P	A	P	R	P			
Phillips, Peter	R	A	P	P	R	P	P			
Phillipson, Martin	P	R	P	P	P	P	A			
Pocha, Sheila	A	P	P	A	A	R	P			
Poettcker, Grant	A	A	A	A	A	A	A			
Prytula, Michelle	R	A	R	P	P	R	R			
Racine, Louise	P	R	P	R	P	P	R			
Risling, Tracie	P	P	P	P	P	R	P			
Sarty, Gordon	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Saxena, Anurag	R	R	R	R	P	A	A			
Shevyakov, Alexey	R	R	R	R	P	R	P			
Simons, Gabe	R	A	R	A	A	P	A			
Smith, Charles	P	P	R	P	R	A	P			
Smith, Preston	P	P	A	P	A	P	P			
Smith, Martha	P	P	P	P	P	P	R			
Solose, Kathleen	P	P	P	R	P	P	P			
Soltan, Jafar	R	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Spurr, Shelley	P	P	R	P	P	P	R			
Stoicheff, Peter	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Squires, Vicki	P	R	P	P	P	P	P			
Swidrovich, Jaris	P	P	P	R	P	R	R			
Thompson, Emma	A	A	A	A	A	A	A			
Tzeng, Huey-Ming	A	A	A	A	A	A	A			
Urquhart, Stephen	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Vannelli, Tony	P	P	P	P	R	P	P			
Vassileva, Julita	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Waldner, Cheryl	P	P	P	P	R	A	R			
Walker, Keith	P	R	P	P	P	A	R			
Walker, Ryan	R	R	R	P	P	R	P			
Wallace, Alexa	A	A	A	A	A	A	A			
Wasan, Kishor	P	P	P	P	R	P	P			
Willenborg, Christian	P	P	R	P	P	P	P			
Willness, Chelsea	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Willoughby, Keith	R	P	R	P	P	R	P			
Wilson, Jay	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Wilson, Ken	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Wilson, Lee	P	R	P	P	P	P	P			
Woods, Phil	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Wotherspoon, Terry	R	R	P	P	P	P	R			
Wurzer, Greg	P	P	P	P	P	R	R			
Zello, Gordon	P	P	P	P	P	P	R			
Zhang, Chris	R	P	A	P	P	R	P			

COUNCIL ATTENDANCE 2017-18

Non-voting participants

Name	Sept 20	Oct 25	Nov 22	Dec 20	Jan 17	Feb 14	Mar 21	Apr 18	May 23	June 20
Baldhead, Rollin	N/A	P	P	P	P	P	A			
Bilson, Beth	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Chad, Karen	P	P	P	R	P	P	R			
Fowler, Greg	A	A	A	A	A	P	P			
Gough, Rhonda	P	P	P	P	P	R	P			
Isinger, Russell	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Kobes, Brent	R	P	A	A	A	A	A			
McDougall, Patricia	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Moellenbeck, Sheldon	P	A	P	P	R	P	R			
Morrison, Karen	P	P	P	P	R	P	P			
Ottmann, Jacqueline	R	R	R	P	P	A	P			
Pozega Osburn, Debra	R	R	R	P	P	R	P			
Sahtout, Naheda	P	P	R	P	R	P	P			
Still, Carl	P	A	P	R	R	A	P			