

Minutes of University Council
2:30 p.m., Thursday, February 14, 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 2:45 noting that quorum had been reached.

1. Adoption of the agenda

Downe/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 to Council on two items. First, at its meeting on January 30, 2019, the coordinating committee considered Dr. Findlay's request for clarity on the redactions to a document requested through a freedom of information (FOI) submission to the university and the privacy commissioner on the symposium called "Research Management and the Right to Know," which he presented to Council at the January 17, 2019 meeting. Dr. Wilson noted that the committee invited the university's privacy officer to the meeting to explain the process and to answer questions, and that the FOI request is still in front of courts. Dr. Wilson reported that the committee was satisfied that the president's response at the January 17, 2019 Council meeting addressed the matter.

Second, the chair reported on the monthly breakfast meeting of Council chairs and the president's executive committee. The vice-president of university relations, Dr. Debra Pozega-Osburn presented on the new campaign and brand. The associate vice-president, services, Wade Epp provided an update on labour relations and potential job action by CUPE 1975.

3. Approval of minutes of the meeting of January 17, 2019

Lemisko/Smith: *That the minutes of the January 17, 2019 meeting be approved as circulated.*

CARRIED

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

A Council member requested further discussion on the matter of the symposium on “Research Management and the Right to Know.” The chair indicated that, as he had indicated in his chair’s remarks, the co-ordinating committee had concluded that this issue should not be placed on the Council agenda for further discussion at this time, in part because it is still in front of the courts..

The member stated her opinion that Council should be concerned about the lack of public scrutiny of events such as the symposium to which the FOI request referred, at which industry representatives, researchers and university administrative staff were present.. She showed Council the redacted transcripts of the symposium and posed the question of whether research has to be managed. She recalled the principles of openness, transparency and accountability, and ethical behaviour and respect from the university’s *Mission, Vision, and Values*.

Another question was posed to the provost regarding the meaning of “restructuring” of the health sciences and what will it mean. The question was deferred to the provost’s report.

The chair read a response from Dr. Karen Chad, vice-president research regarding a question posed by Dr. Stephen Urquhart at the November 2018 meeting of Council. The chair read the response to Council, as follows.

At the November Council meeting, Dr. Stephen Urquhart asked the following questions: Has investment in our signature areas led to growth in research productivity in these areas, where productivity is measurable quantity? Does the growth in our signature areas reflect a suitable return on investment for the resources – including scholarships – that have been expended in this direction?

Given that our signature areas were identified a decade ago, and the commitments articulated in the new University Plan and Strategic Research Plan, our Vice-President Research has already initiated the development of a report which will comprehensively address Dr. Urquhart’s questions, and more.

In collaboration with RSAW, vice-president Chad (with the assistance of an advisory group) will return to university Council in the fall with a report comprising four parts:

Background behind the University of Saskatchewan’s decision to identify areas of strength; The process that was undertaken; Facts, data and stories that show the reality of the progress, including an examination of the growth in research productivity and return on the investment for the resources made; Lessons learned and a reflection of our new environment, internally and externally 10 years later.

This report will assist the university, helping to inform dialogue and action, as we move forward to implement the Strategic Research Plan, “Discovery the World Needs” which includes a specific commitment to emboldening our

strengths, while cultivating areas of emerging strength and potential. (Dr. Chad, email correspondence Feb. 14, 2019)

The chair also indicated for Council that Dr. Chad has reset the original timeframe of this work being completed, being mindful of the almost certain CUPE strike.

Another member inquired as to the president's remarks from the minutes of January 17, 2019 indicating a connection between academic freedom, and the ability of members of the university community to enter into discussions on a "without attribution basis." He questioned whether these two concepts were being conflated.

The president replied that he would take the question away and respond at a future Council meeting.

5. Report of the President

President Peter Stoicheff presented his report to Council and spoke to two items specifically: the U15 and Universities Canada's work with the federal Ministry of Innovation, Science, and Economic Development's regarding a variety of issues concerning Canada-China relations; and a question posed at the last meeting on USask's sustainability record.

The president responded to a question from a previous Council meeting about how USask was going to respond to the government of Canada's travel advisory on China. The China travel advisory is on a list with 55 other countries at the same level, including Belgium, Mexico, France and the UK. There are 21 other countries have a higher level of travel risk. We have not called attention to the 55 travel advisories, and therefore have no plans to call attention to the travel advisory to China exclusively.

As he had mentioned previously, U15 and Universities Canada have created an ad-hoc group which has met only once in Ottawa regarding swiftly evolving relationship issues between Canada and China. That ad hoc group has considered how government actions in areas including trade, business competition, and national security might affect universities. He pointed out that USask does not have any research partnerships with Huawei.

The president remarked that universities' relationships with other countries are important for more than one discipline, more than one country, and more than one university. The president offered that in considering which countries and universities to partner with internationally, that we should keep in mind that we can do what governments cannot; that is to say that universities can sustain dialogue on a deep cultural and intellectual level. For instance, President Stoicheff was honoured to receive an invitation to speak at Minzu University in China, a university which is dedicated to the study of ethnic minorities.

President Stoicheff addressed the question about the university's efforts and progress in reducing our carbon footprint. He reported that the data available dates back to 2016. Capital

infrastructure has grown significantly since then, and if actions had not been taken we would have seen an increase to our carbon footprint. Instead, a modest reduction of 1.1% from 2006/07 baseline was reported. Actions to achieve this included, for example: an LED lighting retrofit, an annual reduction of 300 tons of CO², building retrofits, reduction of 68 tons of landfill to compost at a cost of \$150,000, replacement of old transformers, and the potential for a co-gen plant that will generate steam from natural gas not from coal. The latter would be costly and the university has applied for a federal grant.

The chair recognized Dr. Len Findlay. Dr. Findlay suggested that the president take the remarks about and history of the university's ongoing productive relationship to China and hold them in the same frame as Dr. D'Eon's question about academic freedom – academic freedom being about disclosure. He recalled the non-disclosure clause in the university's agreement with the Confucius Institute that was signed under President Peter MacKinnon. He reiterated President Stoicheff's comment that universities can do what governments cannot, and added that that is because universities are not the creatures of government.

6. Report of the Provost

Dr. Tony Vannelli presented the provost's report to Council. He informed Council that on January 24, 2019, the senior leadership forum, i.e. the college and school deans and executive directors, vice-presidents, vice-provosts, and AVPs met at a day-long retreat to share and discuss the alignment of their college and unit plans with the *University Plan: 2025*. A clear and collective vision is coming together. Dr. Vannelli noted the key themes that emerged at the retreat that were outlined in his written report. He expressed hope for a continued strong partnership with the provincial government.

Dr. Vannelli responded to the question posed at the January 17, 2019 Council [in his absence] that was raised again at this meeting regarding the meaning of "restructuring" of the health sciences council. He conveyed that the restructuring will provide mechanisms to support collaboration and interdisciplinarity. In 2009 the health sciences deans' council was created with the purpose of effectively operating the academic, interprofessional, and research mission of the health sciences, and stewarding the investment of \$400M into the health sciences building. The council will be strengthened to achieve ongoing success. Three new positions have been created to move in that direction, and Dr. Steven Jones has been appointed as the lead of the council.

He reported that at the November 7, 2019 meeting of PPC, health sciences restructuring was discussed. On March 14, 2019, further discussions on fostering interdisciplinarity in the health sciences will take place at the governance committee.

A Council member observed that we still seem to be at the stage of realizing that mechanisms are needed to enhance interdisciplinarity and interprofessional education in the health sciences rather than discussing what those mechanisms should be.

Another Council member inquired as to the appropriate balance between “putting students first” and enabling research strength.

A question was posed about how interdisciplinarity is being conceived. Perhaps the discourse should change to “transdisciplinarity”. This would ensure appropriate emphasis on the impact of collaboration between the disciplines, and with disciplines and the community.

A member requested a report to Council on the progress toward achieving the guideposts articulated in the university plan. The provost indicated that there would be a report provided to Council in the fall of 2019.

7. Student Societies

7.1 Report from the USSU

Mr. Rollin Baldhead, president of the USSU presented the USSU’s report to Council. He provided introductory remarks in Cree, noting the importance of the land acknowledgement at the beginning of the Council meetings. He suggested that the acknowledgement would be even more meaningful if it was also communicated in Cree.

Mr. Baldhead reported on the activities of each of the vice presidents of the USSU over the past month. He noted the seventh annual symposium on undergraduate research; the “Know Your Rights and Responsibilities” event; speed friending; the monthly farmers’ market; hot chocolate by the rink; and women in leadership. The semi-annual meeting with constituency presidents took place where an update was provided on insurance fees. The USSU is also undertaking a retrofit program to replace inadequate appliances. Efforts are underway to modernize the UPass. An in-house elder has been welcomed by the student and campus community. A campaign will be starting on tuition, to be called “Invest in US” to signal that investing in students is investing in our economy.

Mr. Baldhead responded to the question posed at the January 17, 2019 meeting regarding what strategies made the USSU successful on the campus FOI index. He indicated that the strategies adhere to USSU policies.

Mr. Baldhead provided a translation for his remarks at the beginning of the USSU report. He said “when I stand up here I miss my language. I miss it so much I would like to hear it in our land acknowledgement. I introduced myself to you by my name which was given to me by my great, great family members. Hiy hiy.”

7.2 Report from the GSA

Naheda Sahtout, the GSA president, presented the GSA’s report to Council. She congratulated Dr. Wilson on his election to the chair of Council. The GSA’s current focus is on tuition, and participating in the tuition consultations. Although graduate students appreciate the thoughtful

approach to consultation about tuition, there are still concerns. The GSA understands the need to balance accessibility with high quality. Graduate thesis-based programs should be seen as distinctive, however, as they train graduate students to be future academics and future leaders.

Ms. Sahtout reported that last year the GSA distributed a survey that asked about tuition and international differential fees. Responses conveyed a lack of understanding about the meaning and purpose of differential fees. Several respondents felt that they were discriminatory. The survey found that 50% of graduate students work to fund their education. 40% will graduate in debt. 70% are stressed due to finances. 15% might leave the program due to financial hardship. 70% didn't feel the increase in tuition was reflected in program quality. One of the main factors in mental health and wellbeing was also financial hardship.

Students need to understand where their tuition dollars are spent. Graduate students rely on funding packages. If tuition is increased the university should also look at increasing funding packages. Saskatoon also has a high cost of living and we have one of the lowest research and teaching assistant rates. International students have added cost of maintaining their Canadian residency. Also, if a student is working outside the university then their productivity inside the university decreases.

8. Academic Programs Committee

Dr. Chelsea Willness, vice-chair of Council took over chairing the meeting in Dr. Wilson's place for the APC report given he was a proponent of the request for decision.

Dr. Roy Dobson, chair of APC presented the reports to Council.

8.1 Request for Decision: Degree-level Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language (CERTESL)

Dobson/Brooke: *That Council approve the degree-level Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language (CERTESL), effective May 2019.*

CARRIED

8.1 Report for Information: 2019-2020 Academic Calendar

Dr. Wilson resumed chairing the Council meeting. He reported that the academic calendar was provided in the Council package.

9. Planning and Priorities Committee

Ken Wilson, vice-chair of the planning and priorities committee, presented the request for decision to Council.

9.1 Request for Decision: Name change for the Department of Linguistics and Religious Studies

Wilson/Racine: *That Council approve the name change of the Department of Linguistics and Religious Studies to the Department of Linguistics effective July 1, 2019, with student records to be updated for May, 2020.*

CARRIED

10. Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships

Jim Basinger, interim vice-provost faculty relations presented the report to Council.

10.1 Request for Decision: Chair in Wetland and Waterfowl Conservation

Basinger/Soltan: *It is recommended that Council approve the Chair in Wetland and Waterfowl Conservation and recommend to the Board of Governors that the Board authorize the establishment of this chair.*

There was a call for quorum. Quorum was maintained. The motion was voted on.

CARRIED

11. Other business

There was no other business.

12. Question period

The chair opened the floor for questions.

A question was posed to the provost regarding the split of recognition in TABBS for co-investigators on research grants. The provost reported that currently it is awarded to the principal investigator but that work is underway to improve tracking of collaborative grants and to share credit across teams.

A Council member expressed concern with the report of the GSA on perceptions of international differential fee. Other universities waive the differential fee for funded students. The provost indicated that the question will be brought to the interim dean of CGPS and to deans' council for discussion.

13. Adjournment

Dobson: The meeting was adjourned by motion at 4:00pm.

Table 1. University Council action items

Page and note	Date	Item	Responsible
p.2 s.4	02/12/2019	In the fall 2019 a report on progress on the research signature areas will be provided for Council	Dr. Chad
p.4 s.6	02/12/2019	In the fall of 2019 a report on progress toward guideposts in the <i>University Plan: 2025</i> will be provided for Council	Dr. Vannelli
p.7 s.12	02/12/2019	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
p.2 s.4	02/12/2019	The president will respond to the question on the relationship between academic freedom and discussions that take place "without attribution bias"	Dr. Stoicheff

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				
Albert, Mike	P	A	A	A	A	A				
Basinger, Jim	P	A	P	P	P	P				
Bell, Scott	R	R	R	R	R	R				
Blakley, Jill	R	P	R	P	R	P				
Bonham-Smith, Peta	A	P	P	P	P	P				
Brook, Ryan	P	P	A	P	R	P				
Brothwell, Doug	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Bruni-Bossio, Vince	P	P	P	R	P	R				
Buhr, Mary	P	P	R	P	R	P				
Card, Claire	P	A	A	P	P	P				
Carter, Mark	P	A	P	P	P	A				
Chernoff, Egan	P	P	P	P	R	R				
Chibbar, Ravindra	P	P	P	P	A	R				
Crowe, Trever	P	P	P	P	P	P				
De Boer, Dirk	P	P	P	P	P	R				
D'Eon, Marcel	R	P	P	P	P	P				
Deters, Ralph	P	P	P	A	P	P				
Detmer, Susan	R	R	R	R	P	A				
Dick, Rainer	P	R	P	P	P	P				
Dierker, Meaghan	A	A	A	A	A	A				
Dobson, Roy	P	P	R	P	P	P				
Downe, Pamela	P	P	R	P	P	P				
Elias, Lorin	P	P	P	P	A	R				
Engler-Stringer, Rachel	P	P	R	P	P	P				
Eskiw, Christopher	P	P	A	P	P	A				
Flynn, Kevin	R	R	R	R	R	R				
Fotouhi, Reza	P	A	P	P	P	A				
Freeman, Douglas	R	P	R	R	R	P				
Gabriel, Andrew	P	A	A	P	A	A				
Gillis, Glen	R	P	P	P	P	R				
Gjevre, John	P	P	P	P	P	A				
Goodridge, Donna	A	P	R	R	P	P				
Grosvenor, Andrew	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Gyurcsik, Nancy	P	P	P	R	P	R				
Han, Yifan	P	R	R	P	A	P				
Harrison, William	A	A	A	A	A	A				
Henry, Carol	P	R	P	P	R	P				
Jamali, Nadeem	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Jensen, Gordon	P	R	P	P	R	A				
Jones, Paul	R	R	A	R	P	P				
Just, Melissa	P	P	P	P	P	A				
Kalra, Jay	P	P	P	P	P	R				
Kelly, Timothy	P	P	P	R	R	R				
Khandelwal, Ramji	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Klassen, Lauren	A	A	A	P	P	P				
Ko, Seok-Bum	R	R	P	P	P	P				
Koh-Steadman, Noah	A	A	A	A	A	A				
Kresta, Suzanne	A	P	P	R	P	R				
Krol, Ed	P	P	R	P	P	P				
Kumaran, Arul	A	P	P	A	A	P				
Lamb, Eric	R	P	R	P	P	P				
Lane, Jeffrey	P	A	P	R	P	R				
Langhorst, Barbara	P	R	R	R	P	R				
Lemisko, Lynn	R	R	R	P	P	P				
London, Chad	P	P	P	R	P	P				
Luke, Iain	R	A	A	R	R	R				
Macfarlane, Cal	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				
Manley-Tannis, Richard	A	P	P	P	P	P				
Martinez-Soberanes, Edgar	P	P	P	R	P	P				
Mousseau, Darrell	P	A	P	P	A	A				
Munoz, Carlos	P	P	R	R	A	P				
Murphy, JoAnn	P	P	R	P	P	P				
Newman, Kagen	A	A	A	A	A	A				
Papagerakis, Petros	P	P	P	A	P	R				
Phillips, Peter	R	A	P	P	R	P				
Phillipson, Martin	P	R	P	P	P	P				
Pocha, Sheila	A	P	P	A	A	R				
Poettcker, Grant	A	A	A	A	A	A				
Prytula, Michelle	R	A	R	P	P	R				
Racine, Louise	P	R	P	R	P	P				
Risling, Tracie	P	P	P	P	P	R				
Sarty, Gordon	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Saxena, Anurag	R	R	R	R	P	A				
Shevyakov, Alexey	R	R	R	R	P	R				
Simons, Gabe	R	A	R	A	A	P				
Smith, Charles	P	P	R	P	R	A				
Smith, Preston	P	P	A	P	A	P				
Smith, Martha	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Solose, Kathleen	P	P	P	R	P	P				
Soltan, Jafar	R	P	P	P	P	P				
Spurr, Shelley	P	P	R	P	P	P				
Stoicheff, Peter	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Squires, Vicki	P	R	P	P	P	P				
Swidrovich, Jaris	P	P	P	R	P	R				
Thompson, Emma	A	A	A	A	A	A				
Tzeng, Huey-Ming	A	A	A	A	A	A				
Urquhart, Stephen	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Vannelli, Tony	P	P	P	P	R	P				
Vassileva, Julita	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Waldner, Cheryl	P	P	P	P	R	A				
Walker, Keith	P	R	P	P	P	A				
Walker, Ryan	R	R	R	P	P	R				
Wallace, Alexa	A	A	A	A	A	A				
Wasan, Kishor	P	P	P	P	R	P				
Willenborg, Christian	P	P	R	P	P	P				
Willness, Chelsea	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Willoughby, Keith	R	P	R	P	P	R				
Wilson, Jay	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Wilson, Ken	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Wilson, Lee	P	R	P	P	P	P				
Woods, Phil	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Wotherspoon, Terry	R	R	P	P	P	P				
Wurzer, Greg	P	P	P	P	P	R				
Zello, Gordon	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Zhang, Chris	R	P	A	P	P	R				

COUNCIL ATTENDANCE 2018-19

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				
Bilson, Beth	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Chad, Karen	P	P	P	R	P	P				
Fowler, Greg	A	A	A	A	A	P				
Gough, Rhonda	P	P	P	P	P	R				
Isinger, Russell	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Kobes, Brent	R	P	A	A	A	A				
McDougall, Patricia	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Moellenbeck, Sheldon	P	A	P	P	R	P				
Morrison, Karen	P	P	P	P	R	P				
Ottmann, Jacqueline	R	R	R	P	P	A				
Pozega Osburn, Debra	R	R	R	P	P	R				
Sahtout, Naheda	P	P	R	P	R	P				
Still, Carl	P	A	P	R	R	A				