

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN SENATE  
SATURDAY, 9:30 A.M., APRIL 17, 2010  
EXETER ROOM, MARQUIS HALL**

Present: D. Agema, W. Albritton, J. Alexander, M. Beazely, R. Bhargava, G. Blackmore, D. Boyko, K. Breker, L. Butler, J. Buzowetsky, K. Chad, E. Cherneski, F. Chimanga, B. Cram, J. Crawford, R. Delahey, B. Dobni, B. Dubois, L. Ebel, M. Emde, L. Ewing, B. Fairbairn, I. Farthing, H. Fellehner, S. Fisher, R. Florizone, S. Fortugno, M. Freeland, D. Froese, J. Germida, R. Grauer, W. Gulka, D. Hannah, G. Hansen, E. Hartman, D. Hickie, J. Huyghebaert, R. Harasymchuk, R. Isinger, B. Johnson, L. Krause, M. Kuzyk, L. Lacoursiere, P. MacKinnon, A. March, L. Martz, B. Nylander, M. Orr, O. Panchuk, T. Paulsen, N. Poon, F. Puckett, P. Rempel, C. Reynolds, C. Rodgers, B. Sanderson, D. Senecal, G. Stevens, G. Stewart, P. Stroh, E. Taman Athmer, D. Taylor, B. Traynor, D. Wagner, F. Wagner, L. Wagner, J. Walker, A. Whittles, V. Pezer (Chair), and L. Pennock (Secretary).

Regrets: H. Allyn, H. Ben, E. Bourassa, M. Buhr, N. Burns, L. Calvert, B. Cotter, J. Dillon, S. Fedoruk, J. Forbes, N. Fraser, D. Freeman, P. Gatin, G. Groves, S. Haines, D. Hasell, R. Hiebert, D. Hill, R. Isinger, C. Isman, J. Kozinski, B. Laroque, A. Lowe, G. McCaffrey, P. McKercher, T. Molloy, R. Mowat, R. Norris, R. Nystuen, K. Ogilvie, W. Richards, G. Robussen, G. Smith, A. Steffen, D. Szmuto, G. Turner, T. Turner, D. Uglem, G. Uswak, A. Whetstone, V. Williamson.

Also Present: M. Atkinson, C. Card, M. Soroka, N. Woods.

Introductory Remarks

Chancellor Pezer welcomed members of Senate back to campus and invited members to introduce themselves and to indicate the region or association they represent.

The chair sought changes or additions to the agenda; there being none, the agenda was accepted by consensus.

1. Minutes of the meeting of October 17, 2009

FELLEHNER/ALEXANDER: That the minutes of the meeting October 17, 2009 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

2. Business from the minutes

No business was identified as arising from the minutes.

3. President's report

The chair invited President Peter MacKinnon to present his report. The president thanked members of Senate for their attendance at this meeting and also for their

presence at the reception last night and the tour of the Library and University Learning Centre earlier this morning. He expressed a particular welcome to new members and acknowledged those senate members whose term ends with this meeting. The president commended members to his written report and identified three themes arising from it: campus development, planning and budgeting, and the reputation of the University of Saskatchewan.

In describing the development occurring on the campus the president noted the presence until recently of 5 cranes on our campus; their presence signals an unprecedented level of construction activity. He also referred to the Vision 2057 planning process, which will be discussed more fully under item 8.4.

With reference to planning and budgeting, the president assured Senate that the University of Saskatchewan has its fiscal house in order. This is in large part due to planning efforts which throughout the recent recession addressed the question, 'how can the university emerge stronger?' He noted that for the fifth year in a row under two different governments, there have been productive and successful conversations with provincial representatives about what the university needs in order to do its work well, and the province has listened and responded with levels of funding that, under the circumstances, are very satisfactory to the university. The university will be able to continue to meet its commitments and pursue its priorities. These priorities are clear under the university's integrated planning processes and the 20 commitments of the second planning cycle, which are being pursued with vigour.

The president then spoke to the reputation of the University of Saskatchewan, which national reputational rankings tell us is growing. First-class faculty and staff members are being attracted to the University of Saskatchewan, and students are very positively disposed to coming to our university: despite the demographics, numbers are stable and indeed growing modestly. Two important initiatives in respect of enhancing the university's reputation will be discussed under item 9 at this meeting.

The president invited Dr. Michael Atkinson, Executive Director of the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, to say a few words about this new provincial school. Dr. Atkinson provided background to the creation of the school, which is unique as a collaborative effort in pooling the resources of two universities to create a single school of graduate studies.

The floor was then opened to questions from members of the Senate. Questions focused on the following:

- opportunities for addressing Canada's shortage of medical isotopes,
- the status of the Canada Excellence Research Chairs proposal
- the possibility for infringement of academic freedom represented by the pursuit of an innovative materials research centre in partnership with a military defence contractor
- whether there are plans to pursue green energy initiatives on campus
- the effect on students and on Arts and Science programs of the recent budget cuts

- whether there are plans for future joint provincial initiatives with the University of Regina,
- the adherence to green standards in the university's building projects,
- and finally a light-hearted question about research into male pattern baldness.

4. Report on undergraduate student activities

There was no report from the USSU. Ian Farthing, student senator, offered some comments on behalf of the students. He announced that there is a new executive which will take office on May 1, led by incoming president Chris Stoicheff. He also reported that the Place Riel expansion and enhancement is proceeding on target, and that it will address the need for enhanced student services which is a top priority for all students.

5. Report on graduate student activities

There was no report from the GSA.

6. Report on Council activities

The chair invited Claire Card, Chair of Council, to present her report. In prefacing her report, Dr. Card referenced a significant achievement of the graduate students' association this year in opening a new Graduate Student Commons in the former College of Emmanuel and St. Chad chapel.

The chair noted that Council's year got off to an interesting start under the uncertainty of the H1N1 pandemic, and that this provided some unexpected benefits such as development of contingency plans for emergencies and the consideration by faculty of alternative delivery methods for their courses. Another preoccupation of the fall and winter session was the university's financial situation; in this regard, Dr. Card congratulated members of the university's administration for providing detailed and transparent communications concerning its responses to the financial uncertainty and the resulting pension deficits and budget cuts. There was also good information sharing around the capital planning of the university, the integrated planning process, and the new achievement record.

Dr. Card then led Senate members through some of the new academic initiatives that were approved over the past year, and the work of council's committees.

There was one question, about a concern raised by a student to a senate member about the cancellation of French oral language tutorials. The member asked whether the university is giving any thought to restoring these tutorials. Dr. Card indicated that even within the Department of Languages and Linguistics there are different views about the best configuration of language instruction, and that this is a matter of ongoing discussion within the department. She indicated that it would be helpful for the student to communicate her concerns back to the department.

## 7. Items for Approval

### 7.1 Report of the joint nomination committee for chancellor

Dr. Pezer absented herself for this item; Peter MacKinnon assumed the chair as vice-chancellor.

FREELAND/PAULSON: That Senate approve the recommendation of the joint committee that Dr. Vera Pezer be re-appointed as chancellor for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2010.

CARRIED

In response to a question about the number of nominations, the president responded that there were only two nomination packages received; of these, one nomination was ruled out of order because the nominee did not meet the eligibility criteria.

On her return the chancellor was congratulated with a round of applause. She expressed her commitment to the university and her pleasure at the confidence that the Senate has placed in her.

### 7.2 Executive committee

#### 7.2.1 Appointments to nominations committee for 2010/2011

GULKA/CRAWFORD: That Bev Dubois, Deborah Agema, Doris Hasell, Vera Pezer, and Peter Stroh be appointed to the senate nominations committee; and that Bev Dubois be appointed as chair for 2010/2011.

CARRIED

#### 7.2.2 Change to board of examiners of professional societies

LACOURSIERE/FREELAND: That Senate approve the deletion of Paula Kotasek of Saskatoon from the Association of Community Planners of Saskatchewan board of directors.

CARRIED

#### 7.2.3 Change to terms of senate members

STROH/L. WAGNER: That the university's administration be authorized to undertake discussions with government, to seek potential changes to the Act which would allow a third term for the senate representatives on the Board of Governors, as well as changes which would give senate greater control and flexibility to defining its own membership.

CARRIED

#### 7.2.4 Senate bylaws amendment

HICKIE/BUZOWETSKY: That the Senate Bylaws III.1 regarding the date for finalization of the senate elections be amended from June 15 to June 30.

CARRIED

#### 7.3 Honorary degrees committee report

The chair invited President MacKinnon to present the report as chair of the honorary degrees committee.

Senate approved a confidential motion to award honorary degrees to four individuals.

#### 7.4 Nominations committee: committee membership for 2010/11

The chair invited William Gulka to come forward to present the report as chair of the committee.

GULKA/BOYKO: That Senate approve the appointments to senate committees for 2010/2011 as outlined in the agenda materials.

CARRIED

#### 7.5 Membership committee report

The chair invited Joanna Alexander to present this item as chair of the committee.

##### 7.5.1 Applications for membership on Senate

ALEXANDER/FELLEHNER: That Senate approve the membership to senate of the Saskatchewan Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists, effective July 1, 2010.

CARRIED

ALEXANDER/BREKER: That Senate approve the membership to senate of the Certified General Accountants of Saskatchewan, effective July 1, 2010.

CARRIED

##### 7.5.2 Proposed change to process for revoking membership on senate

This item was also presented by Joanna Alexander as chair of the committee.

ALEXANDER/FREELAND: That item #5 of the *Criteria for Membership and Continued Membership* be amended effective October, 2010, so that a vote of the senate is not required to remove an organization that fails to meet the attendance requirements.

CARRIED

## 7.6 Decision from University Council

### 7.6.1 Minor changes to the preamble of the Standard for Student Conduct

PUCKETT/HICKIE: That minor revisions be approved to the preamble of the *Standard for Student Conduct*, in order to maintain consistency with the preamble to Council's *Academic Misconduct Regulations*.

CARRIED

## 8. Items for information

### 8.1 Registration report

The chair invited Dr. David Hannah, Associate Vice-president for Student and Enrolment Services, to present the enrolment report. Dr. Hannah spoke of the trends represented by the census day enrolments, and then invited Provost Brett Fairbairn to comment on the enrolment action plan that arises out of the university's commitment to attract a diverse and highly qualified body of students to the University. A copy of the presentation is included as an appendix to these minutes.

A member commended Dr. Hannah on the quality of the report and commented on the pattern of reduced credit unit enrolment for students because of their need to work. There was a question about the commitment of the university to setting aside some of the operating increase from the provincial government for student support, and Dr. Hannah referenced the recent generous gift of the Nasser family, which included significant funding for scholarships and other forms of student support. There was also a question about needs-based funding, to which the provost responded that there is a study of scholarship and bursary support as well as a student debt survey currently under way. He committed to bringing the results of that study back to Senate, as well as a progress report on the institution's strategic enrolment management efforts.

### 8.2 Update on senate election

The secretary provided a brief update on senate elections, which will be held by electronic balloting from mid May to the end of June.

### 8.3 Policy oversight committee annual report for 2008/09

The secretary presented this report for information as chair of the committee.

### 8.4 Update on Vision 2057

The chair invited Dr. Richard Florizone, Vice-president Finance and Resources, to provide an update on Vision 2057 and the College Quarter. Dr. Florizone stressed the importance of the university's urban lands to its ongoing planning initiatives, and provided some background on the consultations that have taken place in

developing the Vision 2057 project. He then turned to a discussion of the College Quarter Master Plan, which envisions creation of a vibrant mixed-use community of student housing, shops, and recreational facilities. He referenced plans for creation of dedicated graduate student and family housing, and the university's efforts to secure funding for these projects as well as for a replacement for the Rutherford Arena. In closing he noted that the next steps will involve a review of traffic impacts, public consultations, and consideration of infrastructure needs and zoning.

There was a question about whether there is a plan for other lands outside of and adjacent to the city limits, particularly those used by Agriculture and Bioresources for its research activities.

Senate adjourned for lunch from 12:00 until 12:45 p.m.

### 8.5 Update on Learning Charter

The chair invited Professor Rick Long, chair of the teaching and learning committee of Council, to present this item. Dr. Long circulated a graphic representation of the learning charter and described the process of consultation and the way the content and presentation has evolved since he presented this item to Senate six months ago. In accounting for the move from the earlier 'wheel' graphic to a 'tree' graphic, Dr. Long explained that the graphic is intended to convey the organic nature of the learning process, the concept of diversity, and the idea of rootedness and stability. He noted that the text of the revised document is more aspirational than the earlier draft, and acknowledges students and faculty as integral parts of the university itself. He also indicated that the Learning Charter is unique—to his knowledge, no other Canadian university has developed such a document.

Next steps for the charter include approval by the teaching and learning committee and by Council, followed by implementation, which will necessarily be a broadly-based effort. He invited senate members to access the charter on the university's web site and/or to provide input to [learning.charter@usask.ca](mailto:learning.charter@usask.ca).

## 9. Presentation and discussion

### 9.1 University of Saskatchewan institutional positioning: next steps

The chancellor invited Vice-president Heather Magotiaux to present this item. Ms. Magotiaux situated the positioning project as an outcome of, and complement to, the enrolment action plan, and explained its close alignment with the project to identify the university's signature areas of research. She went on to describe the purpose of the project and the process that has been followed to identify the final positioning statement, and reviewed the input that the steering committee received from external and internal stakeholders (academics, students and prospective students at the graduate and undergraduate level, and donors). The slides for the presentation are attached as an appendix two to these minutes.

Senate members were then invited to break into small groups to consider, with respect to four different areas (services and offerings, people and behaviours, resources and infrastructure, and communications), the following question:

*In order to implement this position, what would you start doing, stop doing, and continue doing?*

The outcome of the discussion groups is summarized in an appendix three to these minutes; it will be used by the steering committee in its development of an implementation plan.

## 9.2 Signature areas of research

The chair invited Dr. Karen Chad, Vice-president Research, to present this item. Dr. Chad described the commitment, under the 20 commitments of the second integrated plan, to identify the university's areas of preeminence in research, scholarly and artistic work. She explained the reasons that it's important to undertake such a project, and the consultation process that has been undertaken to identify what it is, in the area of research, that sets the University of Saskatchewan apart. She then identified the criteria that have been developed to select the signature areas. The broad signature areas that have emerged from this process are as follows:

- Aboriginal
- Agriculture
- Infectious diseases
- Synchrotron science
- Energy
- Water

The next steps involve taking these broad areas and being more specific about what it is that is distinctive about the university's approach to them. A copy of the presentation is attached as an appendix four to these minutes. Senate members are invited to send comments to the steering committee through the web site <http://www.usask.ca/vpresearch/workshop/index.php>

## 10. Other business

The chancellor reminded members of Senate that convocation will take place June 1, 2, and 3 and that members of Senate are welcome to join the platform party.

The chancellor also acknowledged those members of the Senate who have completed their terms as senate members and thanked them for their service.

## 11. Adjournment and dates of future senate meetings

The meeting adjourned at p.m. Future meetings will be held on:

- Saturday, October 16, 2010
- Saturday, April 16, 2011



- Saturday, October 15, 2011
- Saturday, April 28, 2012

*As amended October 16, 2010*