

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN SENATE
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2011
9:30 AM – 2:00 PM - 150 COLLEGE OF LAW**

Present: Vera Pezer (chair), D. Agema, W. Albritton, J. Alexander, H. Allyn, S. Anand, L. Ashley, B. Banda, E. Barber, R. Bhargava, S. Bird (for FSIN), G. Blackmore, E. Bourassa, D. Boyko, K. Breker, J. Brown, M. Buhr, N. Burns, L. Butler, J. Buzowetsky, L. Calvert, K. Chad, R. Cram, J. Crawford, A. Danyliw, M. Derdall, B. Dubois, L. Ebel, B. Fairbairn, H. Fellehner, S. Finley, S. Fisher, P. Flaten, R. Florizone, R. Forbes, S. Fortugno, K. Gerwing, N. Glover, R. Grauer, W. Gulka, S. Haines, J. Halmo, M. Hande, D. Hannah, R. Harasymchuk, G. Hansen, D. Hickie, J. Huyghebaert, R. Isinger, T. Isnana, J. Jacobs, J. Jensen, J. Johnston, S. Kayira, L. King, E. Korsberg, R. Krismer, L. Lacoursiere, A. Lavoie, A. Lowe-Muller, P. MacKinnon, H. Magotiaux, A. March, L. Martz, J. Miller, F. Myers, K. Ogilvie, E. Olfert, R. Orji, O. Panchuk, F. Puckett, C. Reynolds, C. Rodgers, B. Sanderson, L. Schmidt, R. Schriml, D. Senecal, D. Spitzig, G. Stevens, G. Stewart, P. Stoicheff, P. Stroh, M. Stumborg, D. Taras, D. Taylor, L. Thompson, L. Thibodeau, J. Wells, A. Whittles, Lea Pennock (secretary)

Regrets: T. Downey, D. Dutchak, M. Emde, S. Fedoruk, D. Freeman, D. Hill, B. Johnson, P. McKercher, M. Phillipson, N. Poon, G. Uswak, V. Williamson.

1. Introduction of Senate members and report on Senate election outcomes

Chancellor Pezer welcomed members of Senate to the annual fall meeting, and called the meeting to order at 9:35 am. After describing the role of the Senate and making some housekeeping announcements, including acknowledging the presence of a number of participants in the Occupy Saskatoon march, Dr. Pezer welcomed new members in particular and invited members to introduce themselves, indicating what jurisdiction they represent.

2. Adoption of the agenda

BLACKMORE/FELLEHNER: That the agenda be adopted as circulated.

A member rose to put forward an amendment to the agenda, indicating that she believed that the motions should have been added to the agenda without intervention by the Senate executive. Several other members spoke in favour of adding the motions to the agenda.

The chair then called for a vote on the proposed amendment:

FORTUGNO/FINLEY: That the agenda be amended to include three motions circulated to the members by email prior to the meeting.

CARRIED

THOMPSON/FELLEHNER: To approve the agenda as amended.

CARRIED

3. Minutes of the meeting of April 16, 2011

DUBOIS/SCHMIDT: That the minutes of the meeting of April 16, 2011 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

4. Business from the minutes

There was a question from a member about whether Nancy Hopkins had recused herself from the May Board of Governors meeting where correspondence concerning a potential conflict of interest for the chair was on the agenda. The chancellor confirmed that the chair had indeed recused herself and relinquished the chair to the vice-chair. The secretary committed to giving consideration to a follow-up question about why declarations of conflict are not recorded in the board digest posted on the web site.

There were additional questions about the reasons for the university's seeking a provision in the Act for a third term for Senate appointees to the Board of Governors and about whether a member of the Board of Governors appointed by Senate could subsequently be appointed by Order in Council. The president responded that Senate itself had approved a request to the provincial government to allow a third term for a member of Senate to sit on the Board of Governors. He also reminded Senate members that a protocol for appointment to the board by government has been in existence for several years; the signatories are the province and the university.

A member rose on a matter of privilege to ask for clarification of why city police were present outside the meeting room. The chair expressed her intention to provide a climate for the meeting that is democratic and provides for free expression for all members.

5. President's report

The president welcomed all senators and referred to Senate as the university's window on the province and the province's window on the university. He particularly welcomed new members in attendance for their first Senate meeting. He then referred members to his written report, and indicated his willingness to answer questions on any matter therein.

President MacKinnon then indicated his intention to restrict his verbal comments to one issue—the allegations by a group of Senate members styling themselves as Senators Working to Restore Democracy, and the implication that democracy is somehow missing from the University of Saskatchewan. He recalled that in 1907 a democratically elected government of the province established an Act to incorporate the University of Saskatchewan. The Act proclaimed the legitimacy and authority of the University's Senate, Council, and Board of Governors. These three governing bodies are all set out in legislation duly passed by the government

of the province. None of these bodies claims to have any authority other than that granted to them by the legislature of the province. The authority of the president's office too is set out in the University of Saskatchewan Act, as is the authority of the deans. The president observed that in the 36 years he has been at the university, the authority bestowed on the institution by the province has been exercised in a systematic, regulated and democratic way, and concluded with the assertion that democracy is alive in well in the deliberations and decision making of the university's governing bodies.

The president then indicated his willingness to answer questions.

The president and members of the administration responded to questions about the emergency preparedness of the InterVac facility and the insurance and liability that are in place in case of a breach of security; about the impact that the establishment of the Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation as a Type C centre has on the operating budget of the university; about the breakdown of costs and operating expenses of the Canadian Light Source and the number of university-based and industrial researchers using the facility; about the possibility of SIAST becoming a degree-granting institution; about whether the new chair in Aboriginal Education would relate to Métis and Inuit students and to programs beyond ITEP; about how much research and education is being done around the health and safety of farmers and whether there are changes in the direction of research to help farmers eliminate chemicals in their farming practices by the southern Saskatchewan Academic Health Services Hub; about how the university is managing the optics of activities relating to wealth creation by corporations and the university's relationship with corporate donors.

One Senate member took issue with the president's remarks on democracy and asked whether his remarks are based on naivety. Another Senate member referenced the active work of the regional advisory councils, through which the people of Saskatchewan have been given ample and unique opportunities to provide input and feedback about things that are happening at the university. A student member suggested that despite being very busy, many students have taken the opportunities available to them to be heard on both Senate and Council, and to exercise their democratic voice in the running of the university. On the subject of corporatization, he expressed the view that from a student perspective the balance among corporate and community interests is about right. The president noted that the calibre of student leadership has been outstanding over the years. A member urged Senate members to remember that just because opinions are not agreed to by everyone doesn't mean that democracy is not at work.

6. Report on undergraduate student activities

USSU President Scott Hitchings presented the report, apologizing first for what he characterized as the mundane nature of the matters contained in it. He reported on the Place Riel renovation and re-opening, the review of the USSU bylaws and policies, and the creation of a new vision for the USSU.

There were questions about the students' position on tuition increases and on whether the USSU has done any work in asking the government to increase royalties on natural resources.

7. Report on graduate student activities

Xue Yao, President of the Graduate Students Association, presented her report on behalf of the Graduate Students' Association. Ms. Yao spoke of work being done with the College to give students opportunities to bring any concerns to CGSR. She noted that the university's Undergraduate Forum has been reconfigured to include graduate students. More than 25 university committees have graduate student representation on them; those students are very busy during the term so the GSA is working to support and encourage these students to be involved. The GSA is also looking at international graduate student tuition rates and parking.

8. Report on Non-academic Student Discipline Cases for 2010/11

This report was presented by the university secretary and was received for information.

9. Senate Executive Committee

9.1 Appointment to Senate Nominations Committee

This report was presented by Vera Pezer, Chair of the Senate Executive Committee.

STROH/HANDE: That Joy Crawford be appointed to the Senate Nominations Committee for 2011/2012.

CARRIED

A member suggested that the Bylaw revisions should take into account revisions to the nomination procedures to make them more democratic.

9.2 Task force to Review the Standard of Student Conduct in Non-Academic Matters

The chancellor presented this item, indicating that the *Standard of Student Conduct in Non-academic Matters and Procedures for Resolution of Complaints and Appeals* is to be reviewed after three years and thereafter every five years. The membership of this Task Force is outlined on page 35 of the agenda material.

9.3 Special committee to review Senate meeting procedures

The chancellor reported that the Executive Committee has been struck to review the Senate meeting procedures and she indicated that there was a sign-up sheet at the door for members interested in serving on this committee, which will be appointed by the Nominations Committee.

A member expressed her dismay about how little say members of Senate have over the contents of the agenda, and indicated her interest in serving on the special committee.

10. Senate Nominations Committee Report

This report was presented for information by Ann March, Chair of the Senate Nominations Committee.

There was a question about the process for selecting the Senate member to serve on the search committee for the president; Ms. March indicated that the reason this appointment was not made by the Nominations Committee was that a majority of members of that committee were interested in serving on the search committee; the Nominations Committee therefore asked that the Executive Committee make the appointment.

11. Report of the Round Table on Outreach and Engagement

This report was received for information and was presented by Heather Magotiaux, Vice-president University Advancement. Ms. Magotiaux explained the mandate and membership of the round table and indicated that it has met once since the last meeting of Senate. At the meeting in November there was discussion of the university's commitment under the second integrated plan for engaging with external partners; the committee heard from co-commitment leaders Peggy Schmeiser and Keith Walker and discussed emerging principles and guidelines. Another item discussed was that one of the gaps for the university was a 'front door' or access point for individuals wanting to contact faculty members working in certain areas. The round table heard about the plans of the Provost's Committee on Integrated Planning to establish an office of Community Engagement and a position in Aboriginal Engagement. They also received reports on the Regional Advisory Council initiatives, as well as considering housing implications for students involved in distributive learning opportunities.

12. Items from University Council

A member rose to ask why Senate has not seen the proposal for the establishment of a nuclear institute that went forward from University Council. The chair of Council pointed out that while the Senate can provide advice about the establishment of institutes, the fundamental authority for the approval of academic research centres rests with Council, which can authorize the Board of Governors to provide for their establishment.

12.1 Western College of Veterinary Medicine change to Admission Requirements

SCHMIDT/HICKIE: That Senate confirm the proposal from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine to change admission requirements as follows: that the Biochemistry requirement be changed to 3 credit units, and that the curriculum be altered to include the additional biochemistry material; that the Physics requirement be changed to 3 credit units; and that the minimum overall GPA be changed to 75 per cent, effective for September, 2012.

CARRIED

12.2 College of Medicine increase to enrolment target

ALBRITTON/BREKER: That Senate confirm the proposal from the College of Medicine to increase its enrolment target to 100 students annually, effective for admissions in August 2012.

CARRIED

12.3 College of Medicine change in definition of Saskatchewan resident for the Purposes of establishing residency qualifications for admission

A Senate member rose to ask the meaning of the statement that all Aboriginal students are considered to be Saskatchewan residents—the dean clarified that there is a set of seats set aside for Aboriginal students regardless of place of origin, but that applicants of Aboriginal ancestry are not restricted to those seats.

ALBRITTON/EBEL: That Senate confirm the proposal from the College of Medicine to change its definition of Saskatchewan resident for the purposes of establishing residency qualifications for admissions within the Saskatchewan admission partition, effective for admissions in August, 2012.

CARRIED

13. Policy Oversight Committee Report

This report was received for information. There was a question about the policy on Capital Debt and what is referred to by ‘capital debt’ in the university context. Vice-president Florizone explained the way that the university uses debt and provided some examples. He noted that the policy itself is available on the university secretary’s web site.

14. Presentations and group discussions

14.1 College Quarter North East Precinct

This item was presented by Richard Florizone, Vice-president Finance and Resources. He referred to the development of a rink, hotel and retail facility on the university’s land in the College Quarter, and the consultations that have taken place. He also made reference to the Vision 2057 document as the basis for the university’s capital planning projects. He described the university’s current housing project, which will add several hundred new beds to the university’s residences for both undergraduate and graduate students, thereby doubling the housing available to students and creating a student neighbourhood. He referred as well to the urgent need for the university to replace its rink, to the possible uses for a hotel on university lands, and to the new fund for P3 funding that the federal government has provided. He indicated the university’s intent to issue a Request for Proposals for a development partner to develop a concept; any resulting project would pass through the university’s usual project governance process. He invited comments, questions, advice and feedback.

There were questions about the possibilities for day care in the new development; about the availability of accommodations for visiting scientists in the hotel complex; and about the potential sources of funding beyond federal government contributions.

Members spoke in favour of the idea of a hotel and the potential attractiveness of the site for hotel owners and about the importance of building outdoor recreational space into the plan.

14.2 Discussion of the Third Integrated Plan

Pauline Melis, Assistant Provost, Institutional Planning and Assessment, presented the discussion topic. Her presentation, which is attached, related to the areas of focus for the third integrated plan. She provided an overview of where the university was before the advent of strategic planning and the conditions that led to the need for, and the implementation of, an integrated planning process. She then reviewed the commitment structure for the second integrated plan, and spent some time talking about three documents that have been produced as outcomes of the planning process: the Achievement Record, the 2010 Survey Synthesis, and the 2011 Accessibility and Affordability study.

Members then broke into seven groups to discuss the motions. Each group reported back about the top two or three ideas that came out of their discussions. A summary of their reporting follows:

Aboriginal engagement

- Ensure early engagement with young Aboriginal children in northern and Métis communities, including engagement through research, including exposure to the opportunities for post-secondary education;
- Engage younger students with experienced students, and use role models;
- Develop links and relationships with FNUC to build not only our own but also their base;
- Remove barriers such as housing and day care;
- Implement proactive programs to recruit and welcome Aboriginal students and help them to get jobs.

Innovation in programs

- Implement curriculum reform, with emphasis on creative thinking;
- Reflect the fact that the world is becoming more interdisciplinary and multicultural and build on artistic and aboriginal knowledge;
- Address the broad theme of food security for the world across all disciplines and also the themes of sustainability for energy;
- Find opportunities for joint degrees and partnerships with other post secondary institutions.

Global Sense of Place

- Encourage more dialogue with the international and aboriginal communities 365 days a year;
- Work more educational exchanges into the curriculum including with U.S. institutions
- Conversations should have three different focuses: before students come to university, during their university experiences, and after graduation for supports that might be offered by employers.

Academic programs and Services

- Partner with other institutions in Canada and around the world to find out best practices and bring back into consideration when redeveloping programming and with organizations such as Credenda;
- Make education more accessible – make more courses available in the spring and summer, use more virtual classes and use mobile technologies. Instead of the term distance education, use ‘distributed learning’;
- Introduce culturally sensitive programming – take into account the cultural differences that exist on campus.

Ms. Melis asked for the notes from each group to be collected. She invited members to send additional comments to her directly. A member noted that not one group mentioned anything about funding.

15. Correspondence

15.1 Letter from Senator Mary Jean Hande

This item was received for information.

16. Other business

The chancellor sought and obtained the will of the assembly to spend 10 minutes of debate on each of the motions added to the agenda under Item 2.

16.1 First Motion

On the first motion, the mover cited Section 23 of the Act, and in particular subsections o, p, q and t. She indicated that she and others that have been approached by members of the university community concerning unsatisfactory resolution of complaints and disputes under the harassment procedures of the university and that mediation has been lost in favour of intervention by the courts. She indicated that the motion comes out of concerns raised by Professor Monique Dubé who has left the university and her research chair position over harassment due to her whistleblowing.

A member pointed out that the motion as originally put forward contained none of the specifics just mentioned, and objected that the motion itself is improper in

containing a conclusion. He suggested that the Senate has no basis on which to support a resolution containing such a conclusion.

The seconder of the motion indicated that a researcher has looked at the cases that have gone forward concerning harassment at the university and has 50 cases, of which 20 have gone through to the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal, and others have gone to extrajudiciary bodies. She suggested that when there are such a high number of cases going into the judicial system for resolution it becomes an expensive way to handle disputes.

A member indicated that she had voted against including this motion on the agenda because the motions were not accompanied by any background to indicate why the concern has been raised and what the Senate would be asking the Board of Governors to do.

A request was made to amend the motion and was objected to on the basis that the amendment introduced significant new material. The chair upheld the objection. Ms. Fortugno asked that her objection on a point of order be recorded.

FORTUGNO/FINDLEY: Be it resolved that the Senate of the University of Saskatchewan seeks urgent clarification and action from the Board of Governors (BOG) pursuant to BOG Bylaw IV.5 [Amended June, 2010]* regarding the apparent dysfunction that has arisen between stated policy and direction of the University and the actual role of the University administration regarding dispute mediation and resolution.

***IV RESPONSIBILITIES OF A BOARD MEMBER**

5. To maintain a proper distinction between the Board's role in setting direction and overseeing policy, and the role of the administration in the implementation of policy and management of the institution.

DEFEATED

16.2 Second Motion

The chair invited the mover to speak to the motion. Ms. Hande referenced the threats to the autonomy of the university represented by some of the university's recent activities including an alleged conflict of interest by Nancy Hopkins as chair of the Board of Governors and chair of the search committee for a new president. She also referred to rumoured presidential candidates with direct ties to the nuclear industry. She suggested the Board of Governors should ask for Ms. Hopkins' resignation and should also be asked to report to Senate.

The seconder of the motion spoke of the importance of autonomy, academic freedom and freedom of enquiry. He mentioned his understanding that on the Board of Governors there are representatives of Cameco, Enterprise Saskatchewan and other corporate interests and noted that a former dean of the Edwards School of Business has gone over to Cameco and the Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation. He expressed concern that evidence of a culture of corporatization such that this is

seen as business as usual at the university, and argued that corporate interests must not drive the agenda of the university. He suggested that if there is a conflict of interest in the presidential search, particularly with regard to the affiliation of the chair with Cameco, this must be addressed.

The president pointed out that at last Senate knows what this motion is about. He spoke about the diverse meanings of the term ‘corporatization,’ referencing the fact that the university is a body corporate under the Act. The motion appears to suggest that the University of Saskatchewan should not be associated with and should not work with business. He argued that the university’s work is with communities and with public organizations of all kinds, and that multi-layered partnerships, including those with business, must be nurtured. With respect to conflict of interest, he expressed confidence that where there is an issue of conflict it is appropriately dealt with by that member declaring the conflict and abstaining from the discussion and/or the vote. He asserted that to cut off all access to corporate partnerships would constitute a denial of the academic freedom of members of the university who work with business and other communities.

HANDE/MILLER: Be it resolved that the Senate of the University of Saskatchewan seeks urgent clarification and action prior to December 2, 2011 from the Board of Governors (BOG) pursuant to BOG Bylaws III.5 [Amended June, 2010]** regarding the apparent inability of the University to protect and defend its autonomy.

**III ROLE OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

5. To protect and defend University autonomy.

DEFEATED

16.3 Third Motion

The chair invited the mover to speak to the motion. Mr. Miller indicated that since being elected to the Senate he has realized that there is no way for a member to communicate with other members. He also said that he had no wish to undermine the legitimate authority of the executive committee, and requested that the intent of the motion be carried out in a way that is procedurally appropriate.

It was pointed out that the second sentence of the motion as presented creates a ‘closed loop’ that much of the debate focuses on.

The seconder of the motion indicated that she wished to explain her letter of correspondence (included on the agenda as item 15.1). She indicated she had been told that she was not authorized to use the Senate distribution list, and was thereby denied the opportunity to make fellow Senate members aware of the information in her letter, and that she therefore asked that it be included on the agenda of this meeting.

There being no further discussion, the chair called for the vote.

MILLER/HANDE: Be it resolved that, pursuant to Senate Bylaws 2.(d)(ii) [revised April 2010]*** the Executive Committee of the Senate of the University of Saskatchewan shall appoint a special committee to review past practices and recommend future policy for facilitating communication among senators. Members of such committee shall be chosen from a list of nominees designated by this meeting of Senate, including the mover and/or seconder of this Motion.

***V. Committees of the Senate

2. Executive Committee

(d) Duties and Powers

(ii) To appoint task forces or special committees composed of members of Senate with power to investigate and report on matters of interest and concern to Senate.

DEFEATED

17. Question Period

Chancellor Pezer invited any further questions before the meeting closed.

A member asked that action be taken on the issue of sexual harassment on campus.

Another member extended an invitation for Regional Advisory Committee members to get together as a group at the end of the meeting.

A student spoke on behalf of a visitor to ask a question about support for the arts and humanities in the university and in particular the study of languages. He asked the president to comment on what internationalization includes and whether the president believes the study of languages to be important. The president responded that the work of internationalization has proceeded well at the university, beginning with his predecessor, George Ivany, and that the number of international students during that period has grown from 600 to over 2000. He invited the dean of arts and science to comment further. Dean Stoicheff indicated that the College has changed its structure from a series of language departments to a consolidated department of modern languages: this process has taken two years and there is now a terrific modern languages program that has quadrupled the number of students enrolled. He confirmed that the College is working to ensure it has as strong a set of language courses as any major medical doctoral university in the country.

The same student pointed out that the Senate Executive is required to have a student member annually selected by the students, and expressed the hope this appointment would be made.

A member raised a concern about grade inflation and academic standards and expressed support for reinforcing literacy and numeracy.

A member commented on the recent receipt by Council of the proposal for the Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation, and singled out a disturbing sentence in the document that suggests the success of the institute will be demonstrated by a

measured increase in support for the nuclear industry. Referencing the recent Fukushima crisis, she asked why Senate has not been given an opportunity to provide input on the centre. The chancellor indicated that she would ensure there was an opportunity for discussion of the centre at the spring Senate meeting.

The chancellor closed with an invitation to Senate members to attend the upcoming Convocation ceremony, where Desmond Morton will be given an honorary degree. She expressed thanks for the hard work of the catering and other staff who worked to support the meeting.

18. Adjournment and next meeting of Senate

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m. Next meeting is Saturday, April 21, 2012.