

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN SENATE
SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2013
8:30 AM – 2:30 PM – EXETER ROOM, MARQUIS HALL**

Present: Vera Pezer (chair), W. Albritton, J. Alexander, S. Anand, L. Ashley, J. MacMillan (for B. Banda), E. Barber, A. Baxter-Jones, R. Dergousoff (for R. Bhargava), E. Bourassa, D. Boyko, M. Buhr, I. Busch-Vishniac, L. Butler, L. Calvert, K. Chad, B. Cram, J. Crawford, A. Danyliw, M. Derdall, D. Dutchak, L. Ebel, S. Finley, P. Flaten, R. Forbes, G. Fowler, D. Freeman, R. Fyfe, K. Gerwing, T. Girardin, N. Glover, S. Haines, M. Hande, D. Hannah, S. Harpell, D. Hill, J. Huyghebaert, L. Isinger, R. Isinger, T. Isnana, J. Jensen, J. Jonsson, G. Keith (for L. King), R. Krismer, L. Lacoursiere, A. Lavoie, M. Loewen, H. Magotiaux, A. March, P. McDougall, P. McKercher, R. McPherson, D. Mihalicz, J. Miller, F. Myers, E. Ohiozebau, E. Olfert, O. Panchuk, N. Prokopchuk, F. Puckett, J. Pulfer, C. Rodgers, L. Schmidt, R. Schriml, Rodney Wiens (for D. Senecal), D. Spitzig, G. Stevens, G. Stewart, P. Stroh, M. Stumborg, L. Swystun, D. Taras, D. Taylor, L. Thibodeau, M. Lawton (for P. Vaidyanathan), J. Wells, B. MacDougall (for A. Whittles), J. Wood, B. Zimmer, Elizabeth Williamson (secretary).

Regrets: D. Agema, F. Anderson, S. Bird, H. Christensen, D. Docken, T. Downey, M. Emde, B. Fairbairn, S. Fortugno, L. Greenberg, J. Halmo, R. Harasymchuk, J. Jacobs, J. Jonsson, A. Kopp-McKay, E. Korsberg, G. McCaffrey, T. Molloy, D. Morgan, E. Nelson, K. Ogilvie, L. Qualtiere, R. Regnier, N. Robertson, K. Rooney, P. Stoicheff, T. Turner, D. Uglem, G. Uswak, J. Walters, T. Wiebe, V. Williamson.

Also present: J. Brown, S. Calver, J. Demkiw, H. Franklin, D. Hande, M. Huynh, J. Kalra, D. LeBlanc, L. Leonhardt, C. MacPherson, J. Mainland, P. Martin, P. Melis, A. Rees, D. Richardson, C. Tennant, M. Weiner, B. Ziola.

1. Opening remarks

The chair called the meeting to order at 8:33 am and introduced Peggy McKercher, chancellor emeritus, and Elizabeth Williamson, new university secretary. Introductions were made by all others in attendance.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The chair asked for a motion to adopt the agenda.

CRAWFORD/KRISMER: That the agenda be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3. Confidential reports (Senate members only)

In accordance with the Senate bylaws, the confidential reports regarding the following items were circulated to only Senate members prior to the meeting, and non-members left the meeting room for discussion of the reports.

3.1 Honorary degrees committee report

In accordance with the Senate bylaws, the confidential reports regarding the following items were circulated to only Senate members prior to the meeting, and non-members left the meeting room for discussion of the reports.

3.1 Honorary degrees committee report

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

3.2 Joint nomination committee for Chancellor

After receiving a confidential report, Senate appointed Blaine Favel as Chancellor of the university effective July 1, 2013.

Non-members returned to the meeting.

Chancellor-designate Blaine Favel joined the meeting and provided a few comments, thanking Senate for his appointment and pledging to do the best he could to represent the university and be worthy of the confidence shown in his appointment today. He also noted he hoped to meet all of the senators individually.

4. Minutes of the meeting of October 20, 2012

The chair invited consideration of the revised minutes of the October 20, 2012 meeting, having noted that a revised copy of the minutes had been circulated to all in attendance. The university secretary explained that the amended set of minutes included changes requested by a member of Senate; these appear in italics on pages 2, 3, 6 and 8 of the revised minutes.

CHAD/BOYKO: That the minutes of the meeting of October 20, 2012 be approved as amended.

CARRIED

5. Business from the minutes

5.1 Report of the Task Force to Review Senate Bylaws

Donna Taylor presented her report on behalf of the task force to review Senate bylaws. She noted that a summary of the proposed amendments to the bylaws were included in the meeting materials and that the proposed amendments provide clarification to the bylaws and are generally of a housekeeping nature.

Ms. Taylor explained that the task force determined that a requirement for the members of the Board of Governors elected by Senate to be sitting members of Senate at the time of their election would be contrary to *The University of Saskatchewan Act*, which indicates that Senate elects members to the Board, rather than elects representatives to the Board. This distinction is now made clear through the amendments to the bylaws. Ms. Taylor also noted that after review of the bylaws, the task force concluded that

nominations from the floor are clearly permitted so the proposed amendments clarify that all elections by Senate allow for nominations from the floor.

Ms. Taylor explained that the task force spent much time discussing other issues, including the role of Senate, senators and the purpose of Senate meetings. She advised that the task force determined that senators' desire to have discussions on topics of interest to Senate regarding the university, and the amendments clarify this role. Ms. Taylor advised that the task force deemed that Senate would be well served by the formation of an education committee, which, together with the executive committee, could bring forward for discussion matters of interest to senators, and the proposed amendments set out the terms of reference for an education committee.

Regarding senators' academic dress, Ms. Taylor explained that the task force proposed deleting the section of the bylaws dealing with academic costume, and that senators not be allowed to wear PhD gowns when appearing at convocation.

Ms. Taylor noted that the task force has recommended deleting most of the provisions relating to the board for student discipline and appeal board except the election of the roster of six Senate members to serve on such boards and appeals, as these matters are better dealt with in the policy and procedures for non-academic student discipline and appeals.

Ms. Taylor advised that the other proposed amendments are housecleaning matters. Ms. Taylor thanked the other members of the committee, Lorne Calvert, Lori Isinger, Fay Puckett and Jim Pulfer, for their contributions.

5.2 Changes to Senate Bylaws

President Busch-Vishniac advised Senate that although the chancellor is the chair of the executive committee, she had been asked by the chancellor to speak to the amendments to the Senate bylaws on the chancellor's behalf. She reported that the executive committee strongly supports the recommendations of the task force to review Senate bylaws. However, currently there is no procedure by which nominations from the floor can be implemented so the executive committee is recommending a vote to approve the proposed amendments in principle, but wait to vote on the specific wording of the bylaws until October when a procedure to accept nominations from the floor will be presented to Senate.

MCPHERSON/PULFER: That the revisions to the Bylaws of Senate be approved in principle and come into effect upon the development and approval by Senate of procedures to implement the bylaws changes.

CARRIED

6. President's report

President Busch-Vishniac presented her report noting that she was happy to take questions about her written report but would present additional information today, that being the same presentation that was presented to the General Academic Assembly on

the state of the university. This presentation included information about where the university is now, the president's perceptions of where we are going, a draft vision statement and some challenges of what we need to overcome to meet that vision. (*See attached presentation slides in Appendix A.*)

The president then invited questions.

A senator thanked the president for her engagement and the opportunities to meet with her. The senator noted that she believes rigorous debates, although difficult to have, could be held in the university community and was pleased with the addition of an education committee where that debate can occur. Regarding the university comparing itself to the U15, the senator expressed her view that comparison to others was foreign to her and being from rural Saskatchewan, she preferred collaboration as her model. Thirdly, the senator noted that she believed research funding in the College of Medicine was coming from pharmaceutical companies that are responsible for seriously poisoning the land and human development; and that the problem with commercialization of the university is that it removes the ability to remove the cause of the problem, so there is no potential to address health concerns.

President Busch-Vishniac advised that the vast majority of research dollars in the College of Medicine come from the tri-agencies. Also, she explained that when the university receives research funding, there are well-established policies that ensure integrity of the research we do and provide arms-length distance between the funder and the results. The university ensures it is supporting the researchers who are doing the work so academic integrity is ensured.

A senator asked about the Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS), noting that his understanding was that food security involves varied issues such as climate change and sustainable consumption, and asked whether there would be outreach to those in social science and health research and other areas when determining the research themes. He also asked that given involvement of industry with GIFS, whether there were guidelines to ensure the independence of the research and the relevance of the research to optimize the benefit to those most vulnerable to food security.

Karen Chad, vice-president research responded to this question by noting that she would be giving a presentation on the university's centres and suggested that she answer the questions about GIFS in her presentation.

A senator noted watching with concern and interest the reworking of governance and crafting of a new vision at the College of Medicine, and that the community had likewise been exposed to a number of opinions and information. He invited the president to respond to the opinion that suggested purchasing seats at other colleges of medicine in other provinces, and asked whether this was being considered.

The president advised that the university is not considering cutting back on the college at all, and is in fact under pressure from the provincial government to increase the number of seats. She noted that when seats are purchased outside of the province, the students do not tend to come back, so it is not a good way to grow the medical

profession in Saskatchewan. The President explained that her intention, and that of the health region and the province, is to fix what we have and fix it long term.

A senator noted that she was happy with the development of the Global Institute for Food Security, but encouraged the university to remember that at the foundation of food security is water, and water on this planet is under attack and being poisoned from all types of industry. The President responded that water security and quality is one of the university's signature areas, and that the university also has a Global Institute for Water Security.

7. Report of the Vice-president Research: Centres and Institutes at the University of Saskatchewan

Karen Chad, vice-president research, presented her report on the university's centres and institutes. She distributed a list of web links to the centres and institutions advising that more detailed information can be found on their websites, including information about leadership, engagement of faculty and students, partnerships, governance and structures of the centres and institutes.

In response to the question asked earlier about the Global Institute for Food Security, Dr. Chad advised that it is a multi-disciplinary organization, involving a number of social science and public policy areas in its development. The university now has GIFS and the Global Institute for Water Security, and both institutes work together.

Dr. Chad invited further questions.

A senator asked what research would be done in northern Saskatchewan to determine the impact of almost 300,000 tonnes of mine tailings at Key Lake lying exposed to the health of northern people, and how will this research take into account that a baseline was never done. Dr. Chad noted that she would take these questions to the executive directors of the centres as these are the sorts of questions we can provide to our research community to explore.

A senator quoted a portion of the GIFS website about the institute conducting independent and relevant research, and creating measurement tools to ensure the research is targeted to areas of greatest need, adequately resourced and demonstrating impact on global food security, and then asked if there was any more information on this. Dr. Chad reported that the GIFS strategic research plan was currently being created and that part of what will inform that plan is the consultations of faculty, staff, students, and external advisors. In addition, the governance structure is establishing an international science panel that will help inform the type of research within these thematic areas. Dr. Chad invited the senator to contact her or Dr. Ernie Barber, deputy executive director and chief operating officer for the GIFS, directly.

A senator noted that he did not see the Lockheed-Martin Centre website in the list of web links, and asked if the university had an ethics committee through which collaborations are vetted and why the largest war-related company would require a Saskatchewan university to assist them. Dr. Chad advised that she was not aware of the

centre to which the senator referred. She reported that the university did have an ethics unit that is responsible to ensure all research conducted adheres to ethics for treatment of humans and animals and is guided by policy at the national level. Any research done from an ethics aspect has to go through this committee. She offered to provide the senator with more information during the break.

A senator asked about the current status of the software developed for research purposes for analyzing what is in water, called THREATS. Dr. Chad noted that she was unable to provide this level of specific detail, but noted she would follow-up and send information to the senator.

A senator asked how the centres communicated with each other and addressed conflicting areas. Dr. Chad reported that there was now a centres forum where all of the executive directors of the centres discuss governance, leadership and opportunities for synergies on a regular basis. Also, the university is starting to have clusters of centres that have obvious synergies to enable them to have breakout discussions.

8. Report on undergraduate student activities

Jared Brown, president of the USSU, reported on what he believed to be the most significant accomplishments of the USSU over the past year. These include: clarifying that the USSU is part of the university community, but is autonomous from the university, and amending its structure and bylaws to reflect this relationship; requiring the members of Student Council to liaise with different colleges and student groups and provide biweekly reports to the Student Council leading to better communications; lobbied to have students as part of the TransformUS initiative; renovations of the USSU's coffee shop in the MUB to amalgamate it with Louis's Pub and rename it as Louis' Loft; the referenda that resulted in the summer UPass at a rate of \$36.75 as compared to the normal rate of \$75; implemented an earlier internal review of executive members to allow for reflection and improvement; began dialogue for pass/fail grading for undergraduate colleges especially in non-professional colleges to move to a better learning element; and helped organize the very successful Aboriginal Achievement Week.

Mr. Brown named the new USSU executive members noting that the voter turn-out had improved from 8% three years ago to 22% this year illustrating what he believed to be better student engagement.

A senator asked whether the UPass will apply to graduate students this summer and had the USSU heard good feedback on academic advising. Mr. Brown noted that he would leave the first question to members of the Graduate Students' Association to answer when giving their report. Regarding academic advising, Mr. Brown noted that his personal experience was good, but it was hit and miss as to whether it was working for individual students and it may need more work.

Patti McDougall, vice-provost teaching and learning, also responded to the second question reporting that over the last two years, since the review, academic advising had mobilized considerable effort and the university now has an advising council of

representatives across campus engaged in on-going professional development. Students can now track their own progress on their development. Ms. McDougall explained the shift to see advising as teaching and that an advising charter is being developed to bring to University Council. The College of Arts and Science played a critical role in the review and reform that has taken place, and made phenomenal changes.

9. Report on graduate student activities

Maily Huynh, vice-president operations and administration of the Graduate Students' Association presented the report on behalf of the association. Ms. Huynh reported on the GSA's activities over the past year, including: providing \$20,000 in bursaries which the College of Graduate Studies and Research matched for a total of \$40,000; increased usage of the Graduate Commons on the corner of Wiggins Avenue and College Drive through extended hours and more bookings; after receiving a petition from students wanting the UPass, negotiated a \$110 per term price with Saskatoon Transit and through a referendum with 38% voter turnout, 66% voted to have the UPass for a 12-month trial period of 12 months and another referendum in February 2014; provided a \$10,000 travel fund for graduate students; conducted a well-attended session on employment opportunities and where to look for employment; working with the university and other partners to increase funding to graduate students through such things as improved living facilities; looking for increased funding from the Ministry of Advanced Education through a graduate retention program; improved GSA monthly council meetings with more attendance; attended events in Ottawa and Vancouver looking for collaborations and how to improve services to graduate students; and represented graduate students through committee and event attendance.

Ms. Huynh described a number of events hosted by the GSA, including: orientation for 1800 students; Halloween party; an awards gala to show the GSA's appreciation of faculty and the university community, and to showcase the accomplishments of graduate students. She noted that the GSA's Aboriginal liaison was also very busy at such events as: meet and greet with Aboriginal students; potluck in the Graduate Commons; Aboriginal graduate students panel; end-of-year steak night and other events. Ms. Huyh concluded her comments by naming the new GSA executive members for 2013/14.

The chair commended the leadership of both the USSU and the GSA, noting that events outside of classes take on a very important role for students, and thanked them for their important work in supporting the students of the university.

10. Items from University Council

Jay Kalra, chair of university Council explained that Council was responsible for academic governance of the university and described Council's role.

Dr. Kalra explained that items approved by University Council over the past five months regarding admission requirements of colleges were being brought to Senate for confirmation in accordance with requirement of the Act.

10.1 College of Graduate Studies and Research Admission Qualifications

Dr. Kalra advised Council is seeking Senate's confirmation to permit applicants with bachelor degrees directly into PhD programs. Dr. Kalra noted that a number of universities already allow this. There were no questions or comments.

KRISMER/BOURASSA: That Senate confirm the revision of the College of Graduate Studies and Research admission qualifications to permit students to directly enter a PhD program from a bachelor's degree.

CARRIED

10.2 College of Dentistry Admission Qualifications

Dr. Kalra advised that Council is seeking confirmation of the removal of the manual dexterity test as a requirement in the application for admission to the dental program. There were no questions or comments.

KRISMER/BOURASSA: That Senate confirm the revision of the College of Dentistry admission qualifications to delete the carving portion (manual dexterity) of the Dental School Admission (DAT) test as a requirement for application for admission to the dental program, effective the 2014/15 admissions cycle.

CARRIED

10.3 College of Medicine Admission Qualifications

Dr. Kalra advised that Council was seeking confirmation to amend the admission qualifications for the College of Medicine, and introduced Dr. Barry Ziola, director of admissions for the college.

Dr. Ziola advised that this is the first major change to application requirements at the College of Medicine in the last 25 years. He provided comparative information that most medical schools require applicants to have an undergraduate degree, but the University of Saskatchewan is the least stringent requiring only the marks for a student's best two years. Dr. Ziola explained that students being able to use their two best years has driven up the minimum averages of students receiving interviews from 78% in 2007 to 84% in 2012; although the incoming average in the class has not changed much. Also, over the last five years, the college has experienced increasing pressure to grant interviews to students with two years from two different colleges, even though the applicants should be working towards a degree.

Dr. Ziola reported that the admissions committee, consisting of 20 members with broad representation, has discussed this change extensively with colleagues across campus and at the University of Regina. This change was approved unanimously by the college's admissions committee, the College of Medicine Faculty Council and University Council. It has also been discussed in the media. The changes will take effect for students applying to be admitted in September 2015, so those students currently completing their second year will be allowed to apply under the old system,

but if they do not gain admission, they would have to wait an extra year to apply in the final year of their degree program.

Dr. Ziola indicated the recommended change for out-of-province students was as outlined in the materials.

There were no questions or comments.

KRISMER/BOURASSA: That Senate confirm the revision of College of Medicine admission qualifications to require a four-year baccalaureate degree by Saskatchewan residents at entrance to medicine, according to the framework described by the college, effective for students applying to be admitted in September, 2015.

That Senate confirm the revision of College of Medicine admission qualifications for out-of-province (OP) applicants that all university courses taken prior to and after application will be considered in calculation of their average, effective for students applying to be admitted in September, 2014.

CARRIED

10.4 Report on Council activities for 2012-13

Dr. Kalra referred to his report on the activities of Council over the past year, provided in the meeting materials. There were no questions or comments.

11. Senate Committee Reports

11.1 Executive Committee Report

President Busch-Vishniac, member of the executive committee, presented the committee's recommendation for appointments to the nominations committee for 2013/14.

BUSCH-VISHNIAC/PUCKETT: That Mairin Loewen and a student member selected by the USSU once the student elections for Senate are complete be appointed to the nominations committee for 2013/14, and that Joy Crawford and Ann March be re-appointed, and that Ann March be re-appointed as chair.

CARRIED

11.2 Nominations Committee Report

The report was presented by Ann March, chair of the nominations committee.

A senator raised a point of order that the report was incomplete as it should have included a nomination for a second Senate appointee to the Board of Governors and that by not making the appointment the Senate was effectively extending the term of Susan Milburn beyond three years which was *ultra vires* to the Act. The senator called for the procurement of nominations for the board appointee to begin.

The chair advised that the report from the committee would be heard and then the issue raised by the senator would be discussed.

Ms. March drew Senate's attention to the written report noting a correction in the "Background and Summary" that there was one vacancy remaining, not two. She then advised that subsequent to distribution of the meeting materials, the committee received Simon Bird's consent so the committee was nominating Simon Bird as a member of the executive committee. Ms. March listed the nominees for each committee, as provided in the materials.

MARCH/ABEL: That Senate approve the appointments to Senate committees for 2013/14 as outlined on the attached report with the addition of Simon Bird as a member of the Senate executive committee.

CARRIED

The floor was opened for the discussion on the senator's call for a point of order.

President Busch-Vishniac noted that the provincial government was asked to amend the Act in 2009 to allow the Senate appointee to sit for three terms but this was not put to the legislative assembly at that time. A year ago Senate passed a motion not to name a replacement for Susan Milburn. The president advised that she has received confirmation from the deputy minister of advanced education that the amendment to the Act to increase the number of terms to three will be put forward at the fall sitting of the legislative assembly. Also, the university has received a legal opinion that two things must occur before a Board member is required to leave the Board – they must have completed their three-year term, which Ms. Milburn has done, and Senate must have named a successor. By Senate choosing not to name a successor the Board member's period on the Board is extended. The president noted that there is precedence for this as order-in-council appointees' terms have expired and they have continued to serve until either re-appointed or replaced. The president advised that this is the first time a Senate appointee has been the chair of the board for a very long time. She also pointed out that the majority of people currently on the Board have less than one year experience as a Board member, and it would help her greatly not to have more new members.

A senator noted that the press release stated that Ms. Milburn would be chair of the Board until 2016. Ms. Milburn joined the Board in 2006 so that will be ten years, and nobody is allowed to be on the Board that long. The rule of law is above everyone and applies to everyone so no one is exempt from the law, and no one can exempt others or themselves from the law. Senate should have received a report from the nominations committee and according to legal advice she had received, Senate is operating outside the law. The senator asked that the appropriate nominees be nominated and put forward for election at the fall meeting.

The chair advised that an order-in-council appointee had served on the Board for 11 years, which supports the legal opinion that the University received and that she was relying on.

A senator stated that her understanding was that nominations come forward typically at the April meeting so Senate should have received a report from the nominations committee including a nomination for the Board appointee and according to legal counsel, the university was acting outside the law. The senator asked that the question of Ms. Milburn's appointment as a Board member be put to Senate for a decision.

The chair called a recess at 11:15 am to consider the request and reconvened the meeting at 11:35 am.

The secretary explained the process that would be followed. She advised that a motion could be entered into the proceedings and that she required a written copy of the motion. The motion would then be projected on the screen and Senate would first vote on the procedural motion to add the motion as an agenda item. If there was a majority vote to add it to the agenda, then it would be added under "Other Business". The Chair clarified that Kerr and King's *Rules of Procedure* requires unanimous approval to add an agenda item later in a meeting, but Senate's bylaws say an item can be added by a majority of the body, and the bylaws take precedence over Kerr and King.

The secretary advised that the nominations committee was not at fault because they were acting in accordance with the motion passed by Senate not to name Ms. Milburn's replacement.

The senator commented that a point of order is not subject to a vote, and when acting outside of the law you cannot continue to do so.

The chair noted that there appeared to be two differing legal opinions on the matter, and that she accepted the legal opinion received from the university's solicitor.

11.3 Membership Committee Report

This report was presented by Bob Krismer, chair of the membership committee. Mr. Krismer advised that the committee received an application for membership to Senate from the Saskatchewan Career Work Education Association, a special subject council of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation (STF). The committee is not recommending their membership on Senate. In item 3 of the criteria for membership, educational institutions are not themselves eligible but may be represented by associations. As the Saskatchewan Career Work Education Association is one of 32 special subject councils of the STF, the association is already represented on Senate by the STF itself.

12. Items for information

12.1 Update on Senate Elections

The secretary provided the report on the Senate elections noting the positions to be filled, when voting would open and close, who was eligible to vote and how the voting would be conducted.

12.2 Update on Enrolment

Russell Isinger, university registrar and director of student services, reported on student enrolment based on measurements taken five weeks into each term. Including both the fall 2012 and winter 2013 terms, overall enrolment increased 2.3% for the year, to the highest enrolment level ever. Over the past five years, there has been a trend of moderate growth. Spring and summer enrolment for 2012 was 4% over the previous year. Mr. Isinger advised that the university has a heavier marketing campaign regarding spring and summer courses, particularly directed to grade 12 students, and that colleges are receiving financial incentives to provide more course offerings during the spring and summer months. He indicated he would report on the success of this campaign next year.

Mr. Isinger illustrated the make-up of the student body between graduate students (14%) undergrads (81%), and others. For undergrads, enrolment was up 3.8% in the fall, and 2.6% in the winter. There has been almost 10% growth for the fall term since 2008, and 7% for the winter term. A significant portion (approx. 50%) can be attributed to enrolment in nursing due to changes in the program. In the direct entry programs, new first time out-of-province enrolment is up 20% and first time international enrolment is up, with the bulk of students coming from China.

Mr. Isinger presented information on undergraduate and graduate enrolment by origin. For undergraduates in the fall and winter terms 80% are from Saskatchewan, approx. 10% out-of-province, 7% international and 3% unknown. The international undergraduates are largely from China, then Nigeria, then India and Saudi Arabia. For graduate students, 1/3rd are from Canada and 2/3rds are international. This represents the highest proportion of international graduate students the university has ever had. China remains the biggest provider of graduate students, with India and Iran coming a close second and third. In general there is more diversity of origins in the international graduate student population than in the international undergraduate student population. .

Enrolment of graduate students in thesis-based masters programs is up 16% since 2008, and enrolment in course-based masters programs is up over 300%. Enrolment of project-based students is slightly down. Some of the reasons for increased enrolment in graduate programs are: growth in course based programs; investment in scholarships; international student growth; growth in new graduate schools; attractive new programs attract students; research strength of faculty attracts students here to work with faculty.

Mr. Isinger provided information on the international enrolment and Aboriginal enrolment. International enrolment was up almost 10% in the fall term, compared to the previous year, and almost 7% in the winter term. Aboriginal enrolment was down almost 9% in the fall, but increased almost 11% in the winter.

Regarding Aboriginal enrolment, Mr. Isinger noted the university continues its efforts to recruit and retain Aboriginal students, and has also turned its attention to trying to ascertain more accurately how many Aboriginal students are on campus as there is evidence that suggests that we have many more Aboriginal students than our numbers show as self-declaration is voluntary. Student and Enrolment Services is working on an Aboriginal self-declaration project, noting the benefits to students of self-declaration and

using marketing tactics to promote self-declaration. In addition, through data analysis, some data errors have been discovered.

Graduation numbers for Aboriginal students have taken a drop over the past few years, but are recovering. Regarding retention, he noted there are two ways to measure retention – from first to second terms (i.e. did students return after Christmas), and from first to second year. The university's rate for retention between first and second term, for the five direct entry colleges, open studies and education, is between 93% and 95% for all students. When broken out by student groups (i.e. international students, Aboriginal students and others) retention rates are relatively stable and similar, being between 90% and 93%. When looking at retention between first and second year, again for the five direct entry colleges, open studies and education, the overall rate for the past five years is between 75% and 79%. However, when broken down by groups, international retention is 85%, Aboriginal retention is 58% and retention of others is 80%. The Aboriginal retention rate has been below 65% since 2007, so there is definitely more work to be done in this area.

Mr. Isinger noted that more teaching activity indicates more registration in classes and also more tuition revenue. Fall term three credit unit activity for all student groups is up almost 5% over 2011 and winter term is up over 3%. The five-year trend line has been steadily increasing for both fall and winter terms. Off campus education is also up by around 13% over 2011. If considered as a college, off campus learners would constitute the university's second biggest college.

Mr. Isinger advised that due to data problems, there has been a move to term-based reporting and away from session-based reporting. This is more accurate and more in keeping with other universities' practices. Student enrolment is reported in the in fall and winter terms to University Council and annually to Senate in April. Detailed enrolment data is now provided through the self-service website, through uView (www.usask.ca/isa), with further functionality being added. Mr. Isinger reported that a strategic enrolment management plan was being finalized. Mr. Isinger thanked his staff and asked for questions.

A senator asked whether there were other factors that might explain the experience of First Nations peoples at the University. The exercise of encouraging self-declaration may drive the numbers, but she suggested there is a broader base to launch an effort to be inclusive of First Nations peoples at the university.

Mr. Isinger agreed and explained that there is a great effort to make the campus welcoming for First Nations students, staff and visitors, and that self-declaration is just a small part of the student experience. Mr. Isinger noted a number of the initiatives that have been launched and that the administration and all of the colleges are looking for ways to encourage Aboriginal students.

The Chair recessed the meeting at 12:07 pm for lunch and reconvened at 1:05 pm.

13. Presentations

13.1 Operating Budget Adjustments and TransformUS

Greg Fowler, acting vice-president, finance and resources, presented the report on the operating budget adjustments. Mr. Fowler explained that the university has a strategy to remain sustainable into the future. The university predicted a budget deficit for 2012/13 and asked the government for a 5.8% increase but received a 2.1% increase. Based on our planning process, in May 2012 the university was able to project a \$6 million budget deficit this year and \$44.5 million annual deficit by 2016 and identify an action plan to address this challenge.

Mr. Fowler explained the deficit relates to our operating budget and operating fund, which accounts for half of our activity at the university and includes the primary academic activities. Approximately 75% of the operating fund is attributed to salaries and benefits, and 25% to non-salary expenses. The university has been well-funded by the Saskatchewan government and has a tuition rate policy not to use tuition to fill our operating budget deficit. For the 2012-13 budget, \$1.1 billion is projected in consolidated revenues.

Mr. Fowler indicated that eight areas have been identified for further assessment, including: total compensation and rewards; workforce planning; maximize value of university spend; process enhancement/continuous improvement; TransformUS; revenue generation and diversification; reduce institutional footprint; and organizational design.

Mr. Fowler explained that through what has been named, TransformUS, the university is undergoing a prioritization exercise. Two taskforces are working to prioritize all programs based on information submitted by all of the programs, which will be reported to the president by November 30. This will be followed by a formal process of review by the Board and University Council, and then administration will prepare an action plan and timetable. Mr. Fowler advised that no one measure or project by itself will make the university sustainable.

Pauline Melis, assistant provost, institutional planning and assessment, presented the report on TransformUS. Ms. Melis advised that other U15 institutions are facing tight budgets due to reductions in provincial funding, targeted federal funding changes, decreased endowment revenues, increased operating expenses and declining revenues, and in comparison the University of Saskatchewan is in a relatively favourable position.

Ms. Melis showed the provincial operating grant per FTE student from 2006 – 2011 compared to others and the provincial budget highlights, illustrating that the university is well-funded compared to other U15 universities. Ms. Melis noted what other U15 universities are doing to address their budget shortfalls, such as: increasing tuition fees, increasing enrolment, budget cuts, wage freezes, workforce reductions, new budgeting models and systems.

Ms. Melis explained that the prioritization that the university is doing is far more strategic than these other approaches, and more directed and deliberate because our planning process has projected a shortfall, and is taking means to address it in advance.. Ultimately, through this process, the university will become a more financially sustainable institute.

Mr. Fowler concluded noting a balanced budget is projected for 2012-13, with a year-end of April 30, 2013. He invited the senators to attend the session at Convocation Hall on June 13 to receive a complete update on the budget projections.

A senator noted that the provincial ministry of economy is cataloguing the public resources and some are being sold, and asked if the sale of Kenderdine Campus at Emma Lake is part of the plan. She also noted that former president, Peter MacKinnon, and former VP finance and resources, Richard Florizone, have been paid \$1.3 million over what they would have normally been paid and asked what the responses have been to the questions in Letters to the Editor in the *Star Phoenix* about their salaries.

Mr. Fowler advised that he was unable to answer the question about the compensation to the president and VP finance and resources as that was in the purview of the Board of Governors and not his. Regarding the first question, Mr. Fowler explained that the university has a lot of land, including core land in the city. In principle, the university does not generally sell its lands as they are endowments for the future of the university. Income generated from university lands is used to support the operating budget of the institution. Regarding the Kenderdine campus, the program has been placed on hold for a period of three years. Mr. Fowler assured the senator that there are currently no plans to sell or start-up the campus, and the university is generating a plan as to the academic vision for the campus and how to move forward.

A senator commended and thanked the administration for the aggressive plans that have been developed for the future to address the budget shortfall.

Ms. Melis advised that the university has a positive message for the rest of the province, and wants representatives to speak throughout the province, as one of the Board members did recently in Swift Current. She asked any interested senators to speak to her.

A senator noted he appreciated that Senate was being informed of the work being done to get back on course, but asked how the Board of Governors managed to let this get away from them. He also asked why administration wanted to continue the appointment of someone who was previously on the Board who could not see this coming.

The chair responded advising that the university has a history of fiscal responsibility, but two things happened: over the last decade the university was in growth mode and had the means to do so, and the economic downturn in 2008 and 2009 greatly affected revenue return from investments. The chair advised that the university has a problem but it was caught sooner than many other universities and is being addressed; this is not bad management on anyone's part.

Mr. Fowler added that the university was definitely affected in 2008, and is now setting aside more funds for our pensions, but we are not in a crisis. The university's budget is balanced for this year, and is looking solid, although not yet balanced, for next year.

A senator asked about the lands owned by the university, and whether the opportunity to lease out more of that land will have a significant impact on the budget. Mr. Fowler

replied that it will have an impact, but not significantly in this time frame. There are 1000 acres of endowment lands, north of Innovation Place and as part of the College Quarter. He directed senators to the Vision 2057 document on the University's website (www.usask.ca/corporate_admin/real_estate/) for a detailed explanation of the plan of how to use that land. This plan shows significant income will be provided in eight to ten years.

Ms. Melis explained that the university is also looking at ways to maximize its revenues. An example is reviewing the vendors used for different services, and determining if savings can be had by negotiating volume rates.

A senator noted that there have been conversations in the province about the lands in public trust, and asked whether conversations were had with the government about whether the university could acquire the land for future use and future generations. The senator also asked about the Provincial Archives and how the university can be keepers of this legacy into the future. Mr. Fowler replied that he would raise the question about the public pastures with the provincial government. Regarding the archives, he advised that the university has proposed charging Provincial Archives for space use starting in 2015, and meetings are ongoing about this. Mr. Fowler advised that he knew the importance of the Provincial Archives to the university, but that it was important to at least re-coup the operating costs of the space on campus that they occupy.

Ms. Melis introduced Ivan Muzychka, director of communications, and advised that he is working on a communications strategy. She also asked the senators how they would like university administration to help them explain to their communities what is happening at the university, and suggested that a toolkit similar to what was provided previously on the strategic plan could be provided.

14. Other business

President Busch-Vishniac provided words of commendation and thanks to Chancellor Vera Pezer at the last Senate meeting of Chancellor Pezer's term. She noted that it is the people that make this province and the university so wonderful and that Ms. Pezer was one of the university's proudest supporters and most valued ambassadors. The president provided a brief history of Chancellor Pezer's involvement with the university, noting that she started working for the university in 1966, later earning her masters and PhD degrees at the university, and prior to her retirement in 2001 was one of the university's longest servicing employees. Under her leadership roles at the university, many student programs were established, and that Chancellor Pezer's career at the university was always about the students. In 2007, Vera Pezer was elected chancellor for the university and has made relationship building one of her priorities.

The president noted the events that Chancellor Pezer had hosted, such as tours to Europe with alumni, and provided highlights of her sports fame. She noted that the chancellor was always lending a helping hand, and credited her prairie upbringing in helping others, which she attributed to something special in the prairies that ingrains helping your neighbours as a core value. The president advised that as she has come to know this institution and this province, she has come to know that the university is the university *for* Saskatchewan that individuals like Chancellor Pezer make that statement

true. She thanked the Chancellor and predicted that this would not be the last time the university will be thanking her for her dedication to volunteering.

The chancellor responded noting that as her term comes to an end she had been thinking what this position has meant to her, and she is enormously grateful. When she became chancellor she knew what the duties would be, but she did not realize the impact it would have on her. As chancellor, she was able to touch the past, present and future. She awarded honorary degrees to wonderfully successful people, had the pleasure to preside over Senate, and at each Convocation watched our future as the students crossed the stage. The chancellor thanked senators for the privilege of working with them.

15. Question Period

A senator noted that he did not want to rehash the administrative retirement package, but wanted to comment that with the new metric of the U15, the university must not forget that it is to be competitive in Saskatchewan, and such a compensation offer has not been made to University of Regina staff. He also hoped that it does not set a precedent for other universities and particularly our own universities in Saskatchewan.

A senator indicated that regarding increasing the number of terms of the Senate appointee to the Board, he has heard that the president needs the continuity on the Board, and he thought it absolutely critical to do whatever it takes to ensure that it happens. He suggested that Senate's motion passed last April regarding not appointing a Board member to replace Susan Milburn be reconfirmed by Senate so it is kept open and no timeframe put on it. He also encouraged the provincial government to amend the Act as soon as possible. The senator raised a point of order, calling on the chair to make a ruling to do this with outmost speed. The chair replied that she would encourage all speed.

A senator asked that the correspondence that President Busch-Vishniac referred to regarding amendments to the Act be provided to Senate. The president responded that she believed the correspondence could be provided.

The senator also noted that when she had presented her point of order earlier in the meeting, the ruling was that the vote took place a year ago, and that vote was that the Senate not put forward a replacement and no deadline was provided for that position. The senator asked that because there was no deadline, does this indicate that the Senate would not need an election to fill this position and whether this prevented an election.

The university secretary replied that the university is waiting for the legislature to open the Act and consider the proposed amendments, but if Senate would like to name a Board appointee before the Act has been amended, the process is to bring this for discussion at the next meeting, either by motion to the executive committee or by motion from the floor. Regarding the resolution passed last April, there is no new information to imply a new position of Senate, other than the passage of time. University administration believes in good faith that the Act will be opened in the fall, but has no control over this event. She indicated she would review the correspondence received from the ministry to make sure it does not have other confidential

information that should be redacted, but that otherwise she believed the correspondence could be provided to Senate.

The secretary also advised that once the Act is amended, then Senate will have the opportunity to determine whether Susan Milburn will be appointed to the Board for an additional term. The senator asked whether there would be an opportunity for the election at the fall Senate meeting. The secretary replied that there will not be an election at the October meeting. There is a process for nominations to come forward. What can happen before the October meeting is that a senator can ask to have the motion placed on the agenda so that nominations can be collected and presented at the April 2014 meeting, and this can be debated at the October Senate meeting.

The president noted that as amending the Act requires three readings, even if the proposed changes are on the fall legislative agenda, the university will not know before April 2014 whether or not the changes have passed.

The senator asked that since the election would have been deferred for two April meetings, if the incumbent member is put forward for a third term, would it be for a full three years, or will the two years of service prior be part of the third term. The secretary advised that the precedent set is that it would be for another three years from the time of reappointment as the term starts at the point when the decision is made.

16. Dates of convocations and future Senate meetings

The chair noted the dates of upcoming convocations and Senate meetings:

Spring Convocation 2013: Monday-Thursday, June 3-6, 2013

Fall Senate meeting 2013: Saturday, October 19, 2013

Fall Convocation 2013: Saturday, October 26, 2013

Spring Senate meeting 2014: Saturday, April 26, 2014

17. Adjournment

In closing the chair read the names of members concluding their term this year and asked members of Senate to join her in recognizing these individuals.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.