

*Attendance: See Appendix A for list of Senate members in attendance.*

The chancellor called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m., observing that quorum had been attained.

1. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chancellor Romanow welcomed members to the spring meeting of the Senate, and acknowledged that the meeting was on the traditional territory of Treaty 6 and the homeland of the Métis. He said that he was honoured to serve as chancellor of the University of Saskatchewan, and noted that the institution had changed since his time as an undergraduate. He said that a distinguishing feature of the university is the "sense of place" – the institution's awareness of its importance to the people of the province. He said that the university has always valued the links between the university and the community, and that the Senate plays an important role as a voice of the community in the governance of the university.

Members of the Senate introduced themselves.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

STEVENSON/NEUFELDT: That the agenda be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3. Minutes of the Meeting of October 15, 2016

It was noted that the minutes should be changed so that the paragraph quoted from the minutes of the meeting of October 15, 2016 on page 3, line 3, reads "principles outlined" rather than "principals outlined."

GOUGH/BRAATEN: That the minutes of the meeting of October 15, 2016, be approved as amended.

CARRIED

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

4.1 Report Arising from item 5.1 "Vote on recommendation for Chancellor"

The chancellor excused himself from the room for the following item. The vice-chancellor assumed the chair.

The university secretary noted that the previous University Secretary had undertaken at the meeting of October 15, 2016 to report on whether the new chancellor would be continuing in his role as a part-time faculty member in the Department of Political Studies.

The Secretary reported that Chancellor Romanow will be retaining his part-time academic appointment. She said that she surmised that this inquiry had been prompted by a concern about a possible conflict of interest for the chancellor, and she had investigated this question. She had obtained a legal opinion which indicated that counsel could not identify a conflict of interest

under the *University of Saskatchewan Act, 1995* between serving as chancellor and having an academic appointment. She also stated that she had reviewed the university Conflict of Interest Policy, which is binding on all members of the university community, and requires that a member of the university community not engage in any activities for personal gain or benefit which are inconsistent with any obligation towards the university. Members of the university community are expected to identify situations in which their personal interests or professional work outside the university may compromise their ability to participate objectively in decision-making. Thus, the chancellor might have to excuse himself from participating in Senate discussion of the disestablishment of the Department of Political Studies, for example. Many people in the university must play more than one role, and are expected to be sensitive to situations in which this might create a conflict of interest.

The secretary concluded by saying that she could find no support for the suggestion that the chancellor's dual role would create a general conflict of interest.

One senator wished to record that she still felt the dual role played by the chancellor would be subject to misinterpretation by members of the public.

The chancellor resumed his duties as chair of the meeting.

## 5. President's Report

President Stoicheff noted that a written report had been circulated. He acknowledged the presence of the new chancellor and university secretary. He spoke of the new Vice-President University Relations, Debra Pozega Osburn, and the incoming Provost and Vice-President Academic Tony Vannelli, as well as several dean searches which are nearing a conclusion. He said that all of these developments demonstrate the wish of highly qualified candidates to be part of the University of Saskatchewan. He also expressed his thanks to Michael Atkinson for his service as Interim Provost and Vice-President Academic.

He mentioned that the university will be participating in three anniversaries in 2017 – Canada 150, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Alumni Association and the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the University of Saskatchewan. Plans are being made for a number of events to celebrate these milestones.

He said that in a “post-truth era,” universities are more important than they have ever been. This university has extraordinary potential to make a contribution to the innovation agenda, given the breadth of its programming, and its significant research infrastructure – the Canadian Light Source, VIDO/Intervac, the cyclotron, the health sciences complex, and a strong Agriculture and Bioresources college, to name a few examples. The university already makes a greater economic impact in its region than any other university in Canada, and this is something that should be brought home to the government and the community. He said that the recent budget will not define the university, and it will continue to provide strong instructional programs and research in keeping with the statement on mission, vision and values recently adopted by the governing bodies of the university. The question is not what the university needs to be but what the province, the country and the world need it to be.

The importance of the university is illustrated by recent successes in obtaining significant federal research funding, such as the Canada First Research Excellence Fund grants and those under the Major Science Initiatives Fund. The recent creation of a chair for research on multiple sclerosis shows that the university is able to attract talented researchers.

President Stoicheff also alluded to the recent Indigenous forum as part of the continuing effort of the university to become the best place for Indigenous students. He mentioned the MOU signed with the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations, as well as stories in large US publications about the indigenization strategy at this university.

He also referred to the MOU with the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra as an example of partnership in the arts, and to the successful fundraising for Merlis Belsher Place, which represents a strong sports partnership with alumni, donors and the community.

John Rigby, the Interim Assistant Provost in the Institutional Planning and Assessment office, joined the president to outline the current round of strategic planning. This process is a departure from that employed to formulate the first three integrated plans because the recently completed mission, vision and values statement creates a framework for a different kind of plan. The plan is expected to be a high level statement of the aspirations of the university over the next 5 to 7 years, built around the themes of connectivity, sustainability, creativity and diversity. More detailed implementation plans will be formulated at both the central and the unit level.

The timeline for development of the plan is aggressive, with consultation and surveying taking place between now and the fall. Senate will be asked to discuss the plan at its meeting in October.

#### 6. Report on Undergraduate Student Activities

Kehan Fu, President of the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union, distributed a written report. He highlighted a number of initiatives taken by the USSU in 2016-17:

- Under the auspices of the Vice-President Academic, the USSU is working on an open textbooks initiative, which has already saved students a considerable amount of money.
- Several members of the USSU executive had travelled to the UK to participate in meetings that focused particularly on internationalization, including services for international students and study abroad opportunities.
- The USSU collaborated with Protective Services and ICT to develop the USafe app to provide students with emergency contact information and access to assistance in emergencies.
- In collaboration with the Office of the President, the USSU undertook a number of sustainability initiatives, some of which were focused on economic and social sustainability as well as environmental sustainability.
- The USSU leadership participated in AdvoCan, a coalition of student groups from U15 universities, and took part in meetings with government about student issues.
- The USSU continues to work on tuition policy, in consultation with students and with the administrative leaders of the university.
- The USSU launched a USaskMatters campaign of public statements and advocacy in response to the provincial budget. The campaign included opportunities for students to tell their personal stories about the impact of funding and tuition on their educational path.
- President Fu described the year as a collaborative one in which the USSU had constructive relationships with university administrators. He expressed particular thanks to the office of the Vice-Provost Teaching and Learning Patti McDougall. Dr. McDougall congratulated Mr. Fu on his term as president and thanked the USSU for their co-operation.

#### 7. Report on Graduate Student Activities

Ziad Ghaith, the President of the Graduate Students' Association, referred to the written report included in the Senate meeting materials, and highlighted some of the activities of the GSA in 2016-17:

- The GSA has continued a process of restructuring the organization. This includes the creation of a board which includes alumni representation.
- The GSA has also been strengthening ties to other graduate student bodies externally and internally, such as the Association of Graduate Employees. The GSA hosted a successful national conference for representatives of graduate student organizations. The program included a number of topics of common interest, such as student-supervisor relationships.
- The GSA has been making submissions asking for greater representation of graduate students on university governance bodies.

President Ghaith said the GSA looks forward to further work with the USSU and the university administration. Adam Baxter-Jones, Interim Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, thanked the GSA leadership for their collaborative work with the College, and said that they were establishing themselves as national leaders.

## 8. Report on Board of Governors Activities

Joy Crawford, one of two representatives of Senate on the Board of Governors, presented a report on the board's activities during 2016-17.

- The Board continues to try and make its work more transparent. For the second time, the Board hosted a reception for the university community in March, at which members could raise their questions and concern with Board members.
- The Board has incorporated the language used elsewhere in the university acknowledging the presence of the university on Treaty 6 territory and the homeland of the Métis.
- The Board approved the mission, vision and values statement.
- The Board approved the construction of the collaborative research building and the Merlis Belsher Place facility.
- The Board received a briefing on the university's possible post-budget financial strategy at the March 21 meeting. The board will have further discussion of the financial outlook at future meeting, and is concentrating on how to support the university in adhering to its research and learning mission.

## 9. University Council

### 9.1 Report on University Council

Lisa Kalynchuk, chair of university Council, referred to the written report circulated with the Senate meeting materials. She said her report listed a number of specific activities of Council; as an example, she mentioned the approval of the JD program that will be offered in Nunavut beginning in the fall of 2017.

She noted that the tone of discussions at Council over the past year has been collegial and respectful, and expressed her thanks for the hard work done by Council committees. She also commented on the productive relationship between Council leadership and senior administration.

## 9.2 Request for Confirmation of University Council Decisions

Kevin Flynn, chair of the academic programs committee of Council, presented these items to Senate.

### 9.2.1 Changes to Admissions Qualifications - Bachelor of Education (Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) and Indian Teacher Education Program (ITEP))

Professor Flynn explained that the Senate is required to confirm decisions taken by university Council to modify admissions requirements. He said the College of Education had proposed the following changes to bring the admissions requirements for these programs in line with the admissions requirements for the general B Ed degree. These changes would allow students to correct certain deficiencies in their high school credits as they are proceeding through the B Ed program.

STEVENSON/GOUGH: That Senate confirm the approval of changes to the admissions qualifications for the Bachelor of Education (B Ed) Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP and the Indian Teacher Education Program (ITEP), effective for students who are entering the program in or after September 2017.

CARRIED

### 9.2.2 Changes to Admission Qualifications - College of Medicine

Professor Flynn explained that the College of Medicine had proposed to set aside six seats for entering students from low socio-economic backgrounds provided those students met the standards for admission.

HRYNKIW/LANIGAN: That Senate confirm the approval of changes to admission qualifications for students entering the College of Medicine in or after August 2018.

CARRIED

### 9.2.3 Direct-Entry Doctor of Philosophy (Ph D) Program in Kinesiology with 85% Admissions Average

Professor Flynn explained that the proposed admissions average for this program falls outside the usual standard, and was raised in order to ensure that highly qualified students will enter the program.

MCPHERSON/GULLICKSON: That Senate confirm the approval of a direct-entry Doctor of Philosophy (Ph D) program in Kinesiology with an 85% admissions average.

CARRIED

## 10. Senate Committee Reports

### 10.1 Honorary Degrees Committee

President Stoicheff, the chair of the honorary degrees committee, presented the confidential report of the committee, indicating the list of candidates approved to receive honorary degrees at a future Convocation.

PULFER/TOYE: That the recommendations in the report of the honorary degrees committee be approved.

CARRIED

### 10.2 Senate Executive Committee

President Stoicheff, vice-chair of the executive committee, presented the reports.

#### 10.2.1 Executive Committee Report

President Stoicheff referred to the written report included in the Senate meeting materials. He noted that one issue under ongoing discussion by the committee is the role of the Senate.

#### 10.2.2 Appointments to Nominations Committee

President Stoicheff explained that the nomination of members to the nominations committee is made by the executive committee.

TOYE/MENZIES: That Senate approve the nomination of the following Senate members to the Senate nominations committee for one-year terms beginning July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2018: Stuart Garven, Carrie Stavness, Rod Wiens and Christine Wesolowski.

CARRIED

### 10.3 Senate Nominations Committee

Lori Isinger, chair of the nominations committee, presented the report. The Chancellor called for additional nominations from the floor; none were made.

ISINGER/STEVENSON: That Senate approve the list of nominations contained in the report of the nominations committee.

CARRIED

### 10.4 Senate Membership Committee

Davida Bentham, chair of the membership committee, presented the report.

#### 10.4.1 Report of the Membership Committee

Ms. Bentham referred to the written report included in the Senate meeting materials. She summarized the progress being made on the list of communication and promotion ideas that were contained in the report.

#### 10.4.2 Removal of Organization from Membership

Ms. Bentham explained that the Centre for Policy Alternatives - Saskatchewan had requested to be deleted from the list of organizations having representation on the Senate because the membership of the organization is too small to sustain participation in the activities of the Senate.

GOUGH/WELLS: That the Centre for Policy Alternatives – Saskatchewan be removed from the list of organizations with representation on the Senate.

CARRIED

#### 10.5 ad hoc Bylaws Review Committee (Appointment/Reappointment of Chancellor)

Victoria Neufeldt, chair of the *ad hoc* bylaws review committee, presented the report. She indicated that the proposed changes to the bylaws as they relate to the appointment or reappointment of a chancellor largely concern the review process at the end of a three year term.

PROKOPCHUK/MITTEN: That the proposed amendments to the Senate bylaws be approved.

CARRIED

A member of Senate raised the question of why more than one candidate would not be brought forward for consideration at the time a nomination is made for the office of chancellor. Ms. Neufeldt indicated that this had not been a question within the mandate of the *ad hoc* committee. The university secretary suggested that the senator could communicate the concern to the executive to be considered for inclusion on the agenda for a future meeting.

#### 10.6 Senate Education Committee

Lenore Swystun, chair of the education committee, presented the report. She noted that the committee had chosen as a topic to be explored at this meeting the use of technology in research and teaching. She indicated that following the lunch break members of Senate should go to their assigned breakout rooms for a presentation on a particular technological initiatives.

### 11. Presentations

#### 11.1 Athletics Master Plan

Chad London, dean of the College of Kinesiology, and Paul Rogel, athletics director, made a presentation about the master plan being developed for fitness and recreation needs across the campus over the next 20-25 years. This plan will articulate a campus-wide strategy for both formal and informal athletic and recreational activities.

After wide consultation, an athletics and recreation oversight committee presented a draft report in December 2016, and this draft is now being considered by various decision-making bodies. The draft includes an assessment of existing facilities, which are in need of expansion, renovation or replacement, as well as an assessment of additional facilities that would be needed to serve the needs of the campus and the community.

The draft report articulates eight “Key Directions” to guide planning.

- 1. The need for an ice facility to replace the Rutherford Arena.** The plan is to construct a new 2-ice pad facility. One would have seating for up to 3500, which would permit the university to host major games and tournaments. The other would be smaller and focused on minor hockey. The facility would also include basketball practice courts, and an outdoor plaza.
- 2. Improvements to Griffiths Stadium.** Under the plan, the turf of the stadium would be replaced and the field made large enough to accommodate competitive soccer as well as football. Track facilities would be moved elsewhere. There would be new seating, concessions and change rooms.
- 3. Outdoor fields.** Two grass fields would be included in the plan for the College Quarter area, one of them domed on a seasonal basis. There would also be a large green space retained south of the fields.
- 4. Recreational trails.** The plan contemplates that recreational trails will connect all parts of the campus. The trails would be accompanied by exercise stations and spaces for activities like disc golf.
- 5. Undergraduate residence quadrangle.** The quadrangle between the undergraduate residences would be refitted to include a walk/jog area, a skating rink and possibly a dining pavilion.
- 6. Expansion of the PAC.** An expanded version of the Pac would include additional fitness space, as well as multi-purpose space. It would have a pedestrian connection with other parts of the campus.
- 7. Education Building and adjacent fields.** The plan contemplates that track facilities might be moved to this area. In addition, grass fields would be provided for activities that have not been accommodated by existing facilities, such as cricket and outdoor basketball.
- 8. Social gathering spaces.** The draft indicates that thought will be given to developing social gathering spaces as part of the plan. These might include such things as splash pools or community gardens.

One Senate member asked how the plan might fit with the continuing obligation of the university to provide financial support to the Meewasin Valley Authority, and suggested that the plan might consider channeling those resources to support the plan. President Stoicheff



responded that the university takes its responsibility as one of the founding partners of the MVA very seriously. Though the recent provincial budget did not provide a “flow-through” amount earmarked for the MVA, the university does not have any current plan to rethink the level of financial commitment. The senator noted that this is the way the university should govern itself, but that this had the effect of permitting the downloading of additional financial responsibility on to the university.

Another senator said that she hoped the plan would not lose sight of the use by members of the community of the university running track. Dean London said that the plan was to move the track facility, but there would not be a gap in the service provided for the public.

## 11.2 Galleries Reimagined

Peta Bonham-Smith, Interim Dean of Arts and Science made a presentation on the recent “Galleries Reimagined” project and the report that was presented in December 2016. She described the vision outlined in the report as a “game-changer” which described ways of making use of the gallery spaces – the College Art Galleries, the Kenderdine Art Gallery and the Snelgrove Gallery - and the university art collection to support the teaching, research and community engagement mission of the university. The report recommended placing the galleries and the art collection under the administrative aegis of the College of Arts and Science, pushing the boundaries of academic programming, providing more community engagement and increasing experiential learning opportunities for students. The hope is that placing the galleries and the art collection within the administrative structure of the college would increase their connections with each other, help to resolve the disconnect among the fine arts departments, and extend the use of the galleries and the collection to support academic programming and research.

It is anticipated that making the college a hub for the galleries and the art collection will provide opportunities to facilitate art-related interdisciplinary activity across the campus. An example of the potential for this is a recent exhibition at the Snelgrove Gallery that resulted from a collaboration between the departments of Art and Art History and Anatomy and Cell Biology.

Dean Bonham-Smith said that one important aspect of the recommendations in the report is the articulation of Indigenization as a priority. Strategies for achieving this objective may include the recruitment of Indigenous artists-in-residence, acquisitions from indigenous artists for the collection, engagement with Indigenous communities and partnership with indigenous art organizations.

A transition committee has been established to begin the implementation of the recommendations, with a view to appointing an academic director in July of 2018. The director will be a faculty member, who will be expected to focus on pedagogy and programming.

## 12. Senate Education Committee Discussion Topic – Technology in Research and Teaching

Senators were assigned to five breakout groups. The following were the topics for the presentations.

1. Angela Kalinowski, Department of History: “Using Video Production as an Assessment Tool in Study Abroad Settings”
2. Hayley Hessel, Department of Bioresource Policy, Business and Economics: “Teaching an Online Course: Agrifood Issues and Institutions”

3. Kevin Stanley, Department of Computer Science: "Using Cellphones to Map Social Phenomena"
4. Ryan Banow, Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching and Learning, and Joel Lanovaz, College of Kinesiology: "Using Technology to Improve the Classroom Experience"
5. Heather Ross, Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching and Learning, and Eric Micheels, Department of Bioresource Policy, Business and Economics: "Open Textbooks: Increasing Accessibility to Course Materials"

A representative of each group made a brief report to the Senate meeting.

### 13. Items for Information

#### 13.1 Student Enrolment Report

The Vice-Provost of Teaching and Learning, Patti McDougall, presented a report on enrolment. She noted that the number of Indigenous undergraduate students has reached about 8.3% of the total undergraduate population, the target being 13%. Indigenous graduate students account for around 7% of graduate students.

There has been a steady increase in the number of students registered with the office of Disability Services for Students, with just under 1600 students currently registered. This represents about 7% of students; the general rate at Canadian universities is about 8%. The university continues to look for ways to support these students.

Dr. McDougall said that her office follows the retention rates in first and second year very closely, and the university has adopted a number of retention strategies. The retention rate for Indigenous students has risen somewhat. She also noted that the completion rate for Indigenous students has risen by about 4%.

There has been an increase of 3.4% in 3cu instruction activity, which has a positive effect on the provincial funding formula. Off-campus teaching activity is up about 3.7%, and now represents approximately 14% of total teaching activity.

A senator asked whether it would be possible to have information about the gender breakdown of the student numbers. Dr. McDougall said that she would provide this information at the fall meeting.

#### 13.2 Senate Elections

The university secretary announced that the elections for members-at-large of the Senate would take place between May 2 and June 16, 2017. There are seventeen candidates for five at-large positions. Biographical information will be available on the election tab on PAWS.

### 14. Other Business

A senator asked that any items being brought to the Senate for consideration should be presented before they are finalized.

Another senator indicated that she intended to put forward a proposal for further amendment of the bylaws concerning the selection of a chancellor.

A third senator said that she was pleased to hear that the executive committee will be considering the role and mandate of the Senate.

Two senators raised the issue of possible conflict of interest in the relationship between the university and corporations. They asked that the Senate be given an opportunity at a future meeting to examine the steps the university has taken to guard against such conflicts.

The chancellor thanked departing senators for their work during their terms as senators.

#### 15. Question Period

A senator asked for an update on the fate of the Kenderdine Campus. President Stoicheff indicated that the university had retained Cal Brook to do a site assessment of the Kenderdine Campus, and a number of options emerged from this assessment. The university is trying to formulate a vision for the use of that site, going beyond visual art, and is considering possible funding strategies.

A senator expressed support for discussions of the future role of the Senate, and asked why it appeared the Senate would only be asked to “rubber stamp” the completed strategic plan rather than being involved in the formulation of the plan. President Stoicheff responded that there will be opportunities for senators to express their views about the themes of the strategic plan, and that senators will still be able to have meaningful input into the version of the plan that comes forward for consideration in the fall.

A senator asked about the plans involving the Northern Teacher Education Program (NORTEP), which is now being administered by Northlands College. He said there are concerns about whether students currently in the program will be able to complete their studies, and also about the future prospects for aspiring teachers in northern communities. He said that it appeared that the program might not be a priority for Northlands College, and that there are uncertainties about funding for students and continued employment for staff.

Dr. McDougall responded that the university was put in the position where they had to release control of the NORTEP program because of loss of funding for it. The university is concerned about the students in the program, and is working to ensure that all of those students will be able to complete their degrees. The university put together a proposal last fall for collaboration with another institution to continue offering the NORTEP program, but in the end the government decided that Northlands was the appropriate administrative home for the program. The university continues to discuss with Northlands College how to maintain course offerings and other aspects of the program,

A senator asked whether the university could comment on the recent cuts to the operating grant. President Stoicheff said that in the years before 2013 the increase in the university’s grant had gone from 8% to 5% to 2% and that this had triggered a major shift in financial strategy. The recent cut of 5.6% must be seen in the context of this altered financial strategy, and also in the context of the shift to responsibility centre management, which means academic and administrative units are more accountable for the use of their resources.

The specific allocations to colleges were the result of a data-driven process, and the variations in the reductions across colleges reflect many factors, including the capacity of the college to absorb the reduction. The university is providing support to the colleges as they determine how to deal with the reductions in their own environments, and how to ensure that their activities continue to align with the overall vision and priorities of the university.

From the university’s point of view, significant tuition increases, involuntary layoffs and reductions in supports for students would be solutions of last resort. There is considerable flexibility in the

system, and much of the evolution of the response to the financial situation will depend on negotiations with unions representing different groups of university employees.

16. Adjournment

The chancellor thanked senators for their attendance at the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.