

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

The chancellor called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and noted that quorum had been achieved. He acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on the traditional territory of Treaty Six and the homeland of the Métis.

1. Introduction of Senate members and Chair's Opening Remarks

The chancellor asked all members to introduce themselves.

The chancellor noted that the university has changed greatly since he was an undergraduate student, and has become a larger, more research-intensive institution that is making a contribution to addressing local, national and global issues. He said that one thing that has stayed constant is the university's strong sense of place. Engagement between the university and the community takes many forms; the Senate is one important community voice that has a formal role in governance.

The Senate has the dual role of providing a window for the university into the community, bringing different perspectives to university issues, and of providing a channel of information about the university into the community. At this meeting, there will be a session focused on how to ensure that the Senate plays these roles effectively. As well-informed champions of the university, senators can provide valuable support to the university in carrying out its mandate.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

JURGENS/GABLE: That the agenda be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3. Approval of the Minutes of the October 21, 2017 meeting

ISINGER/MENZIES: That the minutes of the meeting of October 21, 2017 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

4. Business arising from the Minutes

The university secretary noted that a request had been made to investigate the feasibility of recording meetings of Senate. Arrangements had been made to make an audio recording of this meeting as a trial. The secretary stated that no transcripts will be made from this recording.

5. Election: Senate-elected members of the Board of Governors

This item is confidential and has been removed from these minutes.

6. President's Report

The theme of President Stoicheff's remarks was connectivity, one of the themes that was identified in the Vision, Mission and Values statement adopted in 2016. He alluded to the University Plan which would be coming before Senate for approval at this meeting, and pointed to its outward-facing character. He spoke of the importance of the concept of Indigenization, and its influence in shaping the plan. He mentioned the extensive consultation with indigenous communities and Elders that had been carried out, and the role played by the new Vice-Provost Indigenous Engagement, Jackie Ottmann in this process.

He also reported on the purchase of the former Forest Centre in Prince Albert, and referred senators to his written report on this purchase. The building will provide a hub for university instruction, research and engagement in the city of Prince Albert and beyond, and a base for advancing the Northern strategy being developed under the leadership of Patti McDougall, Vice-Provost Teaching, Learning and Student Experience. The president reported that about 48% of students enrolled in programs currently based in Prince Albert are Indigenous. He said that the expectation for the hub in Prince Albert is that it will allow the extension of programming by a range of academic units, and will make extensive collaborative activity possible.

The president alluded to the memoranda of understanding that had been concluded with the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra, the Remai Modern Gallery and the City of Saskatoon. With respect to the first two of these, he said that it was important for a university as a cultural organization to connect with other major cultural organizations. In connection with the MOU with the City, he mentioned that among the issues identified for collaboration are urban planning, land development, transit, reconciliation, research and public policy; he hoped that collaboration on these issues would lead to the identification of other issues which could be addressed jointly.

The president talked about the importance of research partnerships in the evolution of the university, and drew the attention of senators to the recent announcement by the federal government of significant investment in five research superclusters. The University of Saskatchewan is the major post-secondary institution involved in one of these, Protein Industries Canada; this consortium also involves other academic institutions and a number of small- to large-sized enterprises.

The president referred senators to his written report, which included information about a number of other items.

7. Report on undergraduate student activities

David D'Eon presented a verbal report, noting that it was his last meeting as President of the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union. He outlined two challenging issues which have arisen over the past several weeks. One of these was the decision of the Indigenous Students' Council to withdraw from its association with the USSU; Mr. D'Eon said that the USSU is keeping the door open for further discussion of what relationship might be beneficial for both organizations. He also mentioned the controversy surrounding the election of new executive members for the USSU; he said that he had submitted himself to have his actions during the election considered by the disciplinary tribunal of the USSU, and that he would abide by the outcome of those proceedings.

He commented that while it is difficult for students to accept that tuition rates should be increased, he applauded the consultation process followed by the administration, noting that this process had been requested by students. He also noted that the provincial budget included decreases in scholarship, bursary and loan programs.

He expressed satisfaction with the initiatives undertaken by the USSU over the past year, including the building of the rink in the bowl, the conclusion of an MOU with Campus Legal Services and the strides made in risk management discussions with campus organizations. He expressed his thanks to the other members of the USSU executive, as well as to senior administrators and supporters of the USSU.

8. Report on graduate students activities

Ziad Ghaith, the outgoing president of the Graduate Students' Association, presented the report. He said that one of the major focuses of the GSA over the two years of his presidency has been to advocate for increased representation of graduate students, who make up approximately 17% of students, in university governance.

In particular, he said that the GSA has been making efforts to secure representation of graduate students on the Board of Governors. He stated that the GSA would bring forward in October a motion seeking Senate endorsement of Board representation for graduate students; this would be similar to a motion that was successfully passed at University Council in February 2018.

Mr. Ghaith said that tuition increases, especially those for international students, would be a challenge for graduate students, and urged the university to make efforts to find ways of increasing the funding available for graduate student grants and scholarships.

Mr. Ghaith expressed his thanks to the other members of the GSA executive, and to administrative officers of the university, including in particular the dean of the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral studies, for their support of GSA activities.

9. Report on Board of Governors

Joy Crawford and Daphne Arnason, Senate-elected members of the Board of Governors, referred senators to the written report that had been circulated with the meeting materials.

10. University Council

10.1 Annual Report to Senate

Chelsea Willness, acting chair of University Council, referred senators to the written report provided summarizing the major decisions of Council over the past year.

10.2 Senate confirmation of University Council decisions

10.2.1 Direct entry Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in Chemistry with 85% admissions average

JURGENS/PROKOPCHUK: That Senate confirm Council's approval of a direct entry Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Chemistry with 85% admission average effective September 1, 2018.

CARRIED

10.2.2 Change in admissions qualifications – Bachelor of Education, Sequential Music program (secondary)

GULLICKSON/GABLE: That Senate confirm Council's approval of changes in the admissions requirements for the Bachelor of Education, Sequential Music program (secondary) effective May 2018.

CARRIED

10.2.3 Change in admissions qualifications – Kanawayihetaytan Askiy diplomas in Aboriginal Lands Governance and Aboriginal Resource Management

ISINGER/BUHR: That Senate confirm Council's approval of changes in the admissions requirements for Kanawayihetaytan Askiy diplomas in Aboriginal Lands Governance and Aboriginal Resource Management effective May 2018.

CARRIED

10.2.4 Change in admissions qualifications – Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) program in Biostatistics

MENZIES/TOYE: That Senate confirm Council's approval of the changes to the admissions requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) program in Biostatistics effective September 2018.

CARRIED

10.2.5 Change in admissions qualifications – Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) program

MCKERCHER/DANIELSON: That Senate confirm Council's approval of changes in the admissions requirements for the Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) program effective May 2019.

CARRIED

11. Senate committee reports

11.1 Executive Committee

11.1.1 Report of the Senate Executive Committee

President Stoicheff presented the report in his role as vice-chair of the committee. He noted that the committee had considered the input from members of Senate in the live-polling session held at the October meeting. The committee appointed a working group consisting of Judy MacMillan, Monica Krueger, Kish Wasan and the university secretary to plan a public forum for October 2018.

He also said that the committee had chosen one nominee for the election of Senate-elected representatives to the Board of Governors, in accordance with the procedure set out in the bylaws.

11.1.2 Bylaws revision – Increased number of members on roster of Senate representatives on hearing and appeal boards

KOPP-MCKAY/BRATVOLD: That Senate approve the amendment to the Senate Bylaws section V, 5 to increase the number of members on the roster for hearing and appeal boards from six (6) members to eight (8) members.

CARRIED

11.1.3 Nominations to the Senate Nominations Committee

MURPHY/HOBACK: That Senate approve the appointment of Stuart Garven, Carrie Stavness, Rod Wiens and Christine Wesolowski to the Senate Nominations Committee for one year from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019;

And that Senate approve the appointment of Stuart Garven as chair of the Nominations Committee for the same one-year term.

CARRIED

11.2 Honorary Degrees Committee

President Stoicheff reported to Senate that the Honorary Degrees Committee had approved the award in absentia to a recipient approved by Senate some time ago, in recognition of extraordinary circumstances. He provided the name of the recipient on a confidential basis, indicating that a public announcement would be made within a couple of weeks.

11.3 Education Committee

Nadia Prokopchuk, a member of the Education Committee reported that the committee had been engaged in planning the session on “Student Careers and Employment” which would be presented later on the agenda.

11.4 Nominations Committee

Stuart Garven, the chair of the Nominations Committee, presented the committee’s report, which was circulated at the meeting. The chancellor called for additional nominations from the floor. A senator nominated Leah Howie to a vacancy on the Education Committee, with her consent.

ADAM/HUNTER: That Senate approve the nominations to Senate committees as recommended in the Nominations Committee report, with the addition of the nomination of Leah Howie to the Education Committee.

CARRIED

12. Conflict of Interest Policy Discussion

The university secretary drew the attention of senators to the Conflict of Interest Policy of the university, and said that this is only one of many policies that touch on conflict of interest issues in different contexts. The policy defines conflict of interest in a very broad way, and gives examples of the wide range of conflicts that may occur. In order to illustrate the breadth of the issue, the secretary said that a panel had been invited to comment on different aspects of university policies.

Debra Pozega Osburn, the Vice-President University Relations, described the Gift Acceptance Policy of the university and the procedures that are in place to ensure that philanthropic gifts are appropriately assessed to ensure that they are consistent with the values of the university. She said

that professionals in the fund-raising field have developed international standards to guide the process of acquiring gifts and articulating the purposes for which they will be used. She described the system of vetting, feedback and approvals that is required for the acceptance of any gift. These procedures permit the university to protect university autonomy and direct resources to important university priorities.

Dena McMartin, Director of Research Services and Assistant Vice-President Research, talked about the policies and procedures in place in relation to research projects. She described the process of vetting research contracts, which includes ensuring that researchers will not be prevented from disseminating their research results, and will not be required to modify or disguise their findings. She referred to the obligations of researchers carrying out research involving human or animal subjects to submit their projects for ethical review. She said that the primary role of her office is to support and facilitate research, and that there can be a tension between the academic freedom of researchers to seek funding and articulate their research objectives in their own way, and the need to make appropriate assessments of controversial subjects or funders.

Len Findlay, a faculty member and long-time member of the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee, outlined the history of universities as institutions that have to grapple with the tension between the pursuit of knowledge and the need to deal with the realities of the world. He expressed the view that universities need to be more transparent about the nature and risks of their engagement with external entities, and need to defend open inquiry vigorously. He acknowledged that partnerships with outside players, including corporations, are an inevitable feature of universities, but said that great care needs to be exercised to ensure that academic values remain paramount in these relationships. He suggested that the Senate initiate a review of the conflict of interest policies of the university to see whether they are sufficiently robust.

SWYSTUN/MITTEN: That Senate direct the Executive Committee and the Education Committee to formulate a proposal for a review of conflict of interest policies at the University of Saskatchewan through a committee composed of representatives of the three governing bodies and chaired by an experienced person from outside this university.

CARRIED

13. Senate Education Committee – Student Careers and Employment

Evan Cole and Bud Sambasivam, members of the Education Committee, moderated this session.

The first part of the session consisted of several presentations. The first of these was by John Ault, Director of the Student Employment and Career Centre. He described the programs in place at the centre to assist students in developing skills for seeking employment and in making links with potential employers in their chosen fields. He said that the centre has created a number of online resources which enable students to pursue their own inquiries, although the staff of the centre also see students on a one-to-one basis. The centre also works with individual academic units to develop programs that will meet the needs of students with particular interests.

Keith Carlson, a professor in the Department of History, described the collaboratorium, an experiential learning project initiated by historians to match students with organizations seeking to have a particular historical research question answered. Megan Gallagher and Sarah White then made a presentation on SWITCH, an interdisciplinary student-run health care clinic in inner city Saskatoon. They emphasized the importance of interdisciplinary teams in addressing the needs of clients, and talked about the professional skills that students acquire while working in the clinic environment.

In the second part of this session, senators were invited to engage in small-group discussion of a series of questions about the importance of experiential learning, and the extent to which it is the role of the university to prepare students for the workforce.

14. Approval of the University Plan 2025: Strategic Framework and Narrative

Debra Pozega Osburn, the Vice-President University Relations, presented the University Plan in its revised form, commenting on the extent to which it had changed on the basis of feedback and suggestions obtained during consultations. A number of changes had been made in the visual “weave” that was meant to encapsulate the plan, and there had been changes in the language used in relation to the commitments and goals. In part, this was attributable to additional phases of consultation with Indigenous communities and Elders, who had stressed the importance of the language used in the plan, and suggested ways of incorporating Indigenous perspectives in the plan.

Vice-President Pozega Osburn also pointed out that each goal was now accompanied by several guideposts. These were intended to provide markers that could be used to assess progress in moving forward on the plan. She said that the guideposts might change in the course of the plan as new initiatives emerge.

STEVENSON/: That Senate approve the University Plan 2025: Strategic Framework and Narrative as presented, effective April 21, 2018.

CARRIED

15. Motion on tuition rates

The chancellor permitted a member to put forward a motion as follows, acknowledging that notice of the motion had not been given and it was therefore irregular:

MITTEN/HUBICH: That Senate write a letter to the provincial government asking that increased funding be given to the University of Saskatchewan to permit the university to decrease tuition rates in light of the hardships caused to students by increasing tuition.

The mover of the motion made a statement in support of the motion. A senator expressed concern that the motion had come forward without notice, and said he did not feel comfortable supporting it, although he recognized the importance of the issue. The Provost made a brief comment about the consultation process followed prior to setting the tuition rate.

The motion was defeated.

16. Items for information

16.1 Update on the School of Architecture and Visual Arts

Colin Tennent, formerly the University Architect, made a presentation about the proposal for a School of Architecture. He said the current proposal was that the school operate under the auspices of the College of Arts and Science. He described the program that would be followed, which would consist of two preparatory years before entering the school, two undergraduate years and two years which would lead to a Master’s-level qualification. He indicated that appropriate space is being considered, and that sustainable funding continues to be an issue that must be resolved before the project can be finalized.

16.2 Campus Master Plan

Colin Tennent and James Cook made a presentation on the development of a master plan for the campus. They said that the plan was being based on a number of themes, including openness of the campus to the community (using the concept of “tawaw” – doors always open), sustainability, acknowledgment of historic patterns and routes, high quality buildings, Indigenization and human movement and interaction.

They described the process of consultation that has been followed, which has included a number of open house events on and off campus. They presented a series of drawings showing the major components of the plan and tying them to the themes underlying the plan.

16.3 Student Enrolment Report

Patti McDougall, Vice-Provost Teaching, Learning and Student Experience, presented a report on enrolment. She said enrolment increased this year by around 1%. The university wishes to pursue a course of strategic enrolment increases with emphasis on particular units and programs. She pointed out that enrolment in some categories, such as international undergraduate students, has fallen slightly, while enrolment among other groups, such as Indigenous students, has risen steadily.

She noted an increase in the number of qualifications attained by Indigenous students, as well as an increase in the number of qualifications awarded overall. She also pointed out the increase in the proportion of students who are registered with Access and Equity Services. She said that teaching activity overall has risen, as well as off-campus teaching activity.

16.4 Guidelines for non-academic misconduct hearings involving allegations of sexual assault

Vice-Provost McDougall referred to a document her office has produced which is intended to provide guidance to members of hearing boards in cases where there has been an allegation of sexual assault. She said the guidelines were intended to assist hearing boards in creating an unthreatening environment and in ensuring that the process is fair. The guidelines will be posted on the university secretary’s website.

16.5 Senate elections update

The university secretary announced that the following individuals had been elected to the Senate in the recent round of elections:

District 5 (Kindersley – Delisle – Lucky Lake):	Michelle McDonald
District 6 (Wynyard – Yorkton – Esterhazy):	Lisa Hermiston
District 13 (Saskatoon):	Anne Doig

Members-at-large:

Christine Wesolowski (second term)
Bud Sambasivam (second term)
Cecile Hunt
Brooks DeCillia
Kelley Moore

The secretary noted that a number of members would not be returning to Senate and thanked them for their service.

Professional or organization representatives:

Carey Baker (Association of Professional Community Planners of Saskatchewan)
Ryan Fyfe (Chiropractors' Association of Saskatchewan)
Lori Isinger (Provincial Council of Women of Saskatchewan)
Nadia Prokopchuk (Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Saskatchewan Provincial Council)

District senators:

Jim Pulfer (District 13)
Russ McPherson (District 5)
Allan Adam (District 10)
Adelle Kopp-McKay (District 6)

Members-at-large:

Deborah Mihalicz
Lenore Swystun
Gary Gullickson

Student members:

Ziad Ghaith
Jessica Quan
Deena Kapacila
Kirsten Samson

A senator pointed out that Lorne Calvert would also be leaving the ex officio ranks of the Senate on his retirement.

16.6 Student Discipline Policy

The university secretary advised that editorial changes have been made to the Student Discipline Policy. The revised version will be posted on the university secretary website.

17. Other business

No other business was identified.

18. Question Period

No questions were asked.

19. Adjournment and dates of future Convocations and Senate meetings

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Spring Convocation, June 4-7, 2018
October meeting of Senate, October 20, 2018
Fall Convocation, October 27, 2018