



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

The chancellor called the meeting to order at 9:30 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. He welcomed new members to the Senate.

He noted the significance of the university as an institution whose goal is sharing knowledge and inspiring change, and stressed the role of the Senate in conveying information about the university to the community and championing the university's work.

### 2. Adoption of the Agenda

The secretary drew the attention of Senate members to the two motions that had been circulated prior to the meeting, one from Rae Mitten and the other from Teneille McLeod, which the proponents wished to have added to the agenda. These motions both concerned the proposal for a review of the university's conflict of interest policy. The secretary noted that the executive committee had declined to add these motions to the agenda, as the following motion had been proposed and carried at the meeting of April 21 after presentations on the issue and extensive discussion:

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.

The executive committee was proceeding to implement this motion, and had met with the education committee to decide how to move it forward. A working group was set up composed of members of the two committees with a view to bringing forward a proposal to the April 2019 meeting of the Senate. The executive committee determined that the two additional motions were redundant in this context and that they would provide the working group with the motions and accompanying material for their information.

The secretary pointed out that the bylaws permit a senator to take a motion directly to the Senate when the executive committee declines to place it on the agenda.

MITTEN/HUBICH: That the following motion be added to the agenda:

Motion to implement a discussion of revisions to the University of Saskatchewan Conflict of Interest Policy, particularly in view of corporate presence and partnerships at the University of Saskatchewan, in order to address any perceptions affecting the integrity of University of Saskatchewan Research. Such discussion of recommended revisions to be introduced and discussed by guest speaker, Professor Arthur Schafer, renowned Ethicist at the University of Manitoba, as recommended by

Professor Len Findlay at his recent Research Ethics presentation at the April 21, 2018 University of Saskatchewan Senate Meeting. This discussion is to take the form of an individual presentation by Dr. Schafer, followed by a discussion that would culminate in recommendations by Senate, and the formation of a committee to present a revision for consideration and approval at the April, 2019 Meeting of Senate.

DEFEATED

MCLEOD/GABLE: That the following motion be added to the agenda:

1. Further to presentations on and discussion of conflict of interest at the spring 2018 meeting of Senate, that the Education Committee of Senate initiate by the end of November of this year a review of relevant policies and practices at the U of S.
2. That this Senate-led review include representation and solicit input from senior administration, faculty, and graduate and undergraduate student organizations.
3. That Professor Arthur Schafer be invited to lead this review, or to suggest an appropriate alternate in the event he is unable to accept this invitation.

DEFEATED

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

CARRIED

### 3. Minutes of the Meeting of April 21, 2018

A senator noted that she had asked for an examination of technology options that would permit remote participation in meetings by senators.

Another senator asked that the delay that had taken place in the presentation and debate on her motion be noted in the minutes.

HAMILTON/HARVEY: That the minutes of the meeting of April 21, 2018 be approved with the changes requested.

CARRIED

### 4. Business Arising from the Minutes

The university secretary reported that a staff member in the Office of the University Secretary had been obtaining information about possible options for remote participation.

### 5. Report of the President

President Stoicheff welcomed new senators, and thanked the members of the Senate for their commitment to the university.

The president alluded to the launch of the University Plan, and to the national media attention it had received. He mentioned the unique features of the plan, and said it was particularly pertinent to the Senate that the plan is outward-facing, based on the premise that the University of Saskatchewan should try to become the "university the world needs." He said that the plan calls for the unique attributes of this university to be brought to bear on the world's challenges. The

university must support its students to become inventive, collaborative and sought-after. Though the university needs to be humble in the sense of acknowledging that we can always do better, it also needs to be bold in asserting its ability to assist in confronting complex problems.

One of the things that will make it possible for the university to pursue the goals set out in the plan is the steady increase in enrolment – a factor that universities in some areas of the country cannot rely on. This year, enrolment has increased by approximately 3%, bringing student numbers close to 25,000. The enrolment of Indigenous students and international students has increased significantly. The change in the size and composition of the student population has the potential to be transformative for the university.

The university continues to attract top talent. Dr. Jay Famiglietti was recruited as a Canada Research Chair and director of the Global Institute for Water Security, and has brought with him his research project on global satellite imaging of water. Dr. Carrie Bourassa, Director of the Indigenous Health Institute funded by the Canada Institutes for Health Research, has brought the institute, previously located in Sudbury, Ontario, to the College of Medicine at this university. A prominent violinist, Véronique Mathieu, has been appointed to the David Kaplan Chair in Strings, a chair created with the support of an alumnus of the university.

The president reminded the Senate of the grand opening of Merlis Belsher place, scheduled for October 25-27. This facility has been developed after consulting with and obtaining the support of the community, and the feedback from those who have been in it has been very positive. It will include facilities for hockey and basketball, as well as a research and teaching centre focused on athlete health and wellness.

The president noted a number of the research initiatives of the university that underline the objective of being the university the world needs: the mapping of the wheat genome, which will allow plant scientists to make a contribution towards meeting the growth in wheat production necessary to increasing the global food supply; the development at the Canadian Light Source of techniques for creating medical isotopes without the use of a nuclear reactor; contributions to research on multiple sclerosis; the installation of a PET CT scan in the Western College of Veterinary Medicine; the successful development of a vaccine for porcine diseases; and advances in research on clinical and policy issues related to cannabis. He said these are all examples of how research carried on at the university connects with challenges in the world.

A senator suggested it would be helpful to link the events mentioned in the report to specific dates.

## 6. Report on Undergraduate Student Activities

Brent Kobes, acting president of the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU) referred senators to the written report circulated with the agenda. He reported that Rollin Baldhead had been elected as the new president of the USSU in the recent by-election, and that he would be taking office on October 22.

## 7. Report on Graduate Student Activities

Naheda Sahtout, president of the Graduate Students' Association (GSA), reported on the priorities of the GSA for the coming year. She said that they continue to promote the use of the template for a student-supervisor agreement that was adopted last year to provide guidelines for that important relationship. The GSA also continues to work with the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and the Gwenna Moss Centre to formulate options for faculty members who wish to enhance their skills as supervisors.

The GSA is also working to arrange more opportunities for graduate students to interact with industry in their fields, with a view to helping them to prepare for non-academic careers. A recent example was a forum sponsored by the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Sahtout said that the GSA had over the past several years been trying to make the case for adding a representative of graduate students to the Board of Governors, in recognition of the importance of their perspective as researchers and future academic colleagues. She said that the inquiries made by the GSA indicated that this is the only U15 institution without graduate student representation on the board.

#### 7.1 Motion Concerning Graduate Student Representation on the Board

A senator noted that the Board at this university is not a constituent body; Board members are expected to focus on the interest of the institution as a whole. Ms. Sahtout responded that there are graduate student representatives on other governing bodies, and they are aware that they have to keep institutional interests in mind.

A senator asked if the addition of graduate student representation to the Board might set a precedent for requests from other constituencies seeking representation. Another senator expressed concern about the possibility that Senate would be seen as interfering in the affairs of another of the university's governing bodies.

Several senators spoke in support of the motion.

SAHTOUT/HUNT: That Senate support in principle;

a) A request from the Graduate Students' Association, on the next occasion when amendment is being considered, for amendment of the University of Saskatchewan Act 1995 to provide for the appointment or election of one graduate student member to the Board of Governors.

b) In the interim, a request from the Graduate Students' Association to have an appointed or elected representative with status as a non-voting observer or resource person on terms formulated in agreement with the Board of Governors.

CARRIED

#### 8. Report from Senate-Elected Board Members

Joy Crawford reported on recent meetings of the Board of Governors. She said that Vince Bruni-Bossio, a faculty member in the Edwards School of Business, had carried out two consulting projects for the Board, one on the bylaws and committee terms of reference, and one on the preparation of materials for the Board. The governance and executive committee of the Board has been reviewing the report provided and considering how to implement the recommendations.

The Board received a report from Grit McCreath, the Honorary Ambassador of the university.

In July, the Board considered the audited financial statements, and examined how the budget of the university had accommodated the decline in the operating grant provided by the provincial government.

At its most recent meeting, the Board approved a revised Tuition and Fees Authorization Policy which affirmed the principles of accessibility and affordability, comparability and quality of education as the basis for decisions concerning tuition, and added the principle of predictability. The Board also approved the addition of a dental clinic to the facilities that would be included in the university's northern gateway building in Prince Albert.

Ms. Crawford also reported that she would become vice-chair of the Board in January 2019 for a two-year term.

In response to a request from a senator, Ms. Crawford said that the timing of the latest Board meeting and the deadline date for materials for Senate had prevented her from providing a written report.

#### 11. Report of the Great War Commemoration Committee

This item was moved forward to accommodate the schedule of Dr. Bill Waiser, chair of the Great War Commemoration Committee. Dr. Waiser reported on the activities planned and carried out by the committee over the four-year period since 2014. These included adding missing names to the commemorative signs in Convocation Hall; a round table recognizing the role of Indigenous soldiers in the war; an "antiques road show" enabling people to display their war memorabilia; a lecture series featuring, among others, Brian Gable talking about editorial cartoons related to the war; the reinstatement of the Bateman Cup in recognition of Reginald Bateman, a faculty member who was killed; a walking tour in Woodlawn Cemetery; collaboration with Nutana Collegiate in a display of their war-related art; postings on the University Archives website; and the creation of a commemorative bench, to be unveiled on November 8 in the space north of the Memorial Union Building.

Dr. Waiser said that the objective of the committee had been to impress on people that the Great War and its significance to this university should never be forgotten. He thanked Sheena Rowan, of the Office of the University Secretary, for her support to the committee.

#### 9. Items from University Council

Dr. Chelsea Willness, acting chair of University Council, brought forward for confirmation a number of items concerning changes to admissions requirements. She pointed out that because of the timing of the October Council meeting, Council had not actually approved several of these items prior to the Senate meeting, and she suggested approving them subject to Council approval.

Two of the proposals were for changes in the minimum band scores for graduate programs in Plant Sciences and in the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy (JSGS). A senator who had experience in the Language Centre asked whether this change in requirements would lead to the acceptance of students whose communication skills were limited. Dr. Trever Crowe, interim dean of the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (CGPS), said that the Department of Plant Sciences had extensive experience with the implications of language requirements over a large number of students, and that they had decided in the interests of transparency to try and create consistency in the requirements for applicants. In the case of JSGS, one of the considerations was to make the requirements in the school consistent at both the Saskatchewan and Regina campuses. Dr. Crowe said that CGPS works closely with the Language Centre to ensure that students will not be unprepared for their studies.

One of the other proposals was to remove Calculus 30 as a requirement for admission to the College of Engineering. A senator asked what supports are available to assist first-year engineering students to succeed in their math courses, as the impression is that the retention rate in that college is quite low. Another senator questioned whether the removal of this requirement would actually lower the standards for engineering students with respect to math, at a time when skills in math are increasingly important. Dr. Bruce Sparling, the associate dean of engineering, said that the college had given considerable thought to these and other issues, and that their objective is to ensure that students can meet high standards in university-level math courses. He said that they had concluded that the completion of Calculus 30 was not the best predictor of future success in university math courses. He noted that attrition rates in engineering are similar to those in other direct-entry programs. The associate dean said that the college is working to increase the supports available to students, particularly from groups traditionally underrepresented in engineering, to ensure that they can succeed. Mentoring programs and other supports are being considered.

He said that the college had also concluded that the Calculus 30 requirement constituted a barrier for many students, as that course is often not available in rural and northern schools. The college is trying to increase the diversity of its student body, and particularly to attract more Indigenous students, who might be at a disadvantage because of the requirement. A senator noted that it is a general trend in public education to try and ease the transition to university. A senator representing professional engineers said the profession is trying to increase the diversity of the profession, and he supported the proposed change.

A senator expressed his discomfort with the idea of confirming the proposed changes in admissions requirements before Council has had a chance to consider them.

HENDERSON/MUNRO: That Senate delegate to the executive committee the authority to confirm the proposed changes to admissions requirements once they have been approved by Council.

DEFEATED

HUBICH/HENDERSON: That an electronic ballot be conducted among members of the Senate to ascertain support for confirmation of the proposed changes to admissions requirements after they have been approved by Council.

CARRIED

## 10. Senate Committee Reports

### 10.1 Honorary Degrees Committee

President Stoicheff presented the report of the honorary degrees committee. He outlined the proposed revisions to the guidelines for the award of honorary degrees, noting that the revisions include a provision allowing the award of a degree *in absentia* in extraordinary circumstances.

GOUGH/HUNT: That the Senate approve the revised guidelines for the award of honorary degrees.

CARRIED

The second item in this report was a request for Senate approval of a list of recommended nominees. As this item was confidential, it has been minuted separately.

### 10.2 Executive Committee

President Stoicheff presented the report of the executive committee as vice-chair. He said that the committee had considered a number of issues at its last meeting which were outlined in the written report. He indicated that the committee had requested that the secretary bring forward draft guidelines for the making and use of recordings of Senate meetings. The committee had also asked the secretary to provide senators with a document summarizing meeting procedures; such a document was included with the agenda package for this meeting.

The executive and education committees met jointly to decide how to implement the motion passed by the Senate in April concerning a review of conflict of interest policies. A working group was appointed (Corinna Stevenson and Aidan Murphy (executive); Iain Luke and Leah Howie (education)) to prepare a proposal to be presented to the April Senate meeting.

The president said that a working group of the executive committee that had been asked to plan a public forum; the forum, entitled "Cannabis Conundrum – Insights and Perspectives," is scheduled for 4-6 p.m. on December 4, in the High Up Above Room of the Holiday Inn Express on College Drive. A panel composed of Jerome Konecni (Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy), Mark Carter (College of Law) and Michael Szafron (School of Public Health) will focus on legal and public policy issues related to cannabis.

### 10.3 Education Committee

The education committee report was circulated with the agenda.

### 10.4 Nominations Committee

Stuart Garven presented the report as chair of the nominations committee. He reported that the committee had made the following appointments to search committees for senior administrative positions:

- Vice-president Research Search Committee – Vera Pezer
- Dean Agriculture and Bioresources Search Committee – representative chosen by the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists
- Dean Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies Search Committee – Marcel de la Gorgendière

He said that the procedures for establishing a joint Board-Senate committee to select a nominee for chancellor require that Senate approve the Senate representatives. He indicated that the Board had selected Lee Ahenakew and Shelley Brown as the Board representatives.

GARVEN/GOUGH: That Senate approve the appointment of Corinna Stevenson and Bud Sambasivam to the joint nomination committee for chancellor.

CARRIED

## 12. Young Innovators – Presented by the Senate Education Committee

The following presentations were made by three early-career researchers:

- Kirby Nilsen: “Application of genomic resources in wheat breeding”
- Erin Barbour-Tuck: “A longitudinal study of fat mass accrual from adolescence through emerging adulthood”
- Scott Adams: “Improving access to ultrasound imaging in northern, remote, and Indigenous communities”

## 13. Items for Information

### 13.1 Annual Report of the Policy Oversight Committee

The secretary presented the annual report as chair of the policy oversight committee. She indicated that a revised Tuition and Fees Authorization Policy and a new Smoking, Alcohol and Substances Policy had been considered by the committee and approved by the Board of Governors.

### 13.2 Report on Student Non-Academic Misconduct Proceedings 2017-18

The secretary referred senators to the written report on student non-academic misconduct proceedings. A senator questioned whether the analysis presented in the report can have any statistical meaning given the limited number of cases.

### 13.3 Nominations Open for Senate Elections

The secretary reminded members of the Senate that nominations have opened for the Senate elections.

## 14. Question Period

A senator asked for a gender breakdown of senior administrative positions. Vice-provost McDougall reported that the current proportion of women in senior leadership positions is 46%, although this will vary as vacancies occur and new appointments are made.

The same senator raised a question about the availability of information concerning the deliberations of the Board of Governors, and expressed the hope that the Board would be as transparent as possible about its work.

A senator asked about the event that had occurred at spring Convocation, when many education graduates were unable to obtain hoods for the ceremony. The secretary responded that there had been an unexpected failure on the part of the long-time supplier of hoods and gowns to provide the correct number of hoods. The Convocation staff had responded to this by asking students to remove their hoods when they had crossed the stage in order to permit other students to have hoods for the walk across the stage. The secretary said that this had been unfortunate, but the solution devised by the Convocation staff was the best that could be done in the circumstances. As a follow-up, the senator asked if thought could be given to relaxing the rules about the return of gowns and hoods to allow graduates more opportunity to have professional photographs taken, and if more options for



parchment frames could be offered. The secretary responded that the Convocation team is now working to plan for the relocation of Convocation to Merlis Belsher Place, and that this move will likely allow a wider range of options for students.

A senator asked whether an evaluation form for the meeting would be provided. The secretary undertook to arrange this.

15. Adjournment

HAMILTON/STEVENSON: That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m. The next meeting will be on April 27, 2019.