



***NON-CONFIDENTIAL***  
***Minutes of University Senate***  
***9:00 a.m., Saturday, October 26, 2019***  
***Exeter Room, Marquis Hall***

See Appendix A for attendance.

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

The chair acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on Treaty 6 territory and the homeland of the Métis. She said that she was honoured to have been appointed as chancellor by the Senate and she was looking forward to acting to support the leadership of President Stoicheff. She said she would try to represent the university in communities across Canada. She reminded senators of their role as ambassadors for the university, and expressed her pride in an institution that is fostering the next generation of global citizens. She said the discovery mission of the university has the potential to have an impact regionally, nationally and globally, and to be, in the words of the University Plan, the university the world needs.

She asked those present to introduce themselves and identify their constituency.

2. Adoption of agenda

The chair noted that item 9.4, changes in the admissions standards for the combined Bachelor of Science Kinesiology and Bachelor of Education program will be added to the agenda. Materials were circulated prior to the meeting.

DOIG/HUNT: That the agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

3. Approval of the minutes of April 27, 2019

DE LA GORGENDIERE/JURGENS: That the minutes of the meeting of April 27, 2019 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

4. Business arising from the minutes

No items of business arising from the minutes were identified.

5. President's report

The president thanked senators for devoting their time to the work of the Senate, and welcomed new members. He noted that a representative of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations was present, as well as one of the Senate-elected members of the Board of Governors. He congratulated the new chancellor.

He encouraged members of the Senate to think in the context of the University Plan, and the ambition stated there for the university to be the university the world needs. He said the plan is intended to be outward-facing, and to inspire those responsible for carrying out the teaching, research and

community engagement mission of the university to consider what local, national and global communities need.

The president noted that for the fifth year in a row, the university has experienced growth in enrolment, with slightly more than 26,000 students registered this year. This pattern of rising enrolment permits this university, unlike some others, to make strategic choices about the recruitment of students. A Learning, Teaching and Student Experience Plan will be presented later in the meeting that includes projects of enrolment growth to 29,000 students by 2025.

Convocation is scheduled for November 13, and will be the second series of Convocation ceremonies held at Merlis Belsher Place. The decision to bring Convocation back to a location in proximity to the campus has received very positive feedback, and considerable numbers of people attending the June Convocation ceremonies took the opportunity to visit the campus.

Representatives of the university, including student representatives, recently attended the unveiling of the signage for the Prince Albert Campus, which is expected to open a year from now. There were many people from Prince Albert there, as well as the premier and other guests. He thanked the vice-provost teaching, learning and student experience for her work on this project. He said that the community of Prince Albert has been very supportive of the development of the campus there, and it will give the university an important base for outreach to northern Saskatchewan.

The president said that the university's research continues to have significant impact. He said that the water research program at the university is ranked first in Canada and 19<sup>th</sup> in the world. He said that the Canadian Light Source, now celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its establishment, is the only synchrotron in the country, and was located here because people in all levels of government – municipal, provincial and federal – had a vision for bringing a world class scientific facility to the university and were willing to invest to make that happen.

President Stoicheff referred to a number of memoranda of understanding between the university and community organizations, including those with the Remai gallery and the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra. The MOU with the City of Saskatoon, one of the first such agreements in Canada, was intended to form the basis for meaningful collaboration. An example of this is the recently-announced Research Junction, an initiative that will make modest amounts of funding available for research projects involving university researchers and city staff focused on bringing university expertise to bear on issues important to the city.

One of the priorities identified by the president when he took office was sustainability. Among the efforts the university has been making in support of this priority are an MOU with the USSU agreeing to collaborate on sustainability projects, and the appointment of a special advisor to the president on sustainability. This advisor, Dr. Irena Creed, will be working with the President's Sustainability Circle to formulate a sustainability plan.

The university has been selected to participate in the national pilot Dimensions project, which is modeled on the Athena Swan program in the UK, and is aimed at promoting equity for university researchers. The university has also established a task force to look at broader issues of equity and diversity.

The president mentioned that the Royal Society of Canada, which recognizes excellence in research, recently announced the induction of Dr. Irena Creed as a member and the award of the prestigious Mirosław Milanowsky Medal to Dr. John Pomeroy, director of the Water Futures program.

The renewal of the Nutrien Chair in Clinical Research in the College of Medicine will support research on new diagnostic processes in cancer care, in collaboration with the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency.

Finally, the president said that the College of Agriculture and Bioresources had harvested the first crop of ceremonial tobacco from a plot on the roof of their building. Elders were consulted in choosing the variety of tobacco to grow and advised on the cultivation. Seeds from the plants are to be shared with First Nations, and the tobacco harvested will be used in university ceremonial events.

A member of the Senate asked for an update on the work of the Global Institute for Food Security. The president said this, along with the Global Institute for Water Security, was an institute funded by the Canada First Research Excellence Fund. The institute has a scientific advisory committee recruited internationally, and much of its research is directed at making plants more resistant to climate change.

Another senator asked how the goal of sustainability will be pursued at other sites of the university, such as the Prince Albert Campus. The president said that this would be an issue to be considered in the work of the Sustainability Circle working on the institutional plan for sustainability. He said it would also be a consideration as those planning for the Prince Albert Campus work through how that campus will reflect the priorities and plans of the university.

#### 6. Report on undergraduate student activities

Carlos Munoz Pimental, Vice-president Academic of the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU), noted that a written report had been circulated. He said that the executive had been working on a vision for the organization, and one of their objectives is to continue to be seen as a leader among student organizations on the issue of sustainability. He said the USSU is also trying to ensure that students are aware of the services provided by the USSU, such as bus passes, support for campus clubs, advocacy, the Wellness Centre, Place Riel and SafeWalk. These are services that tie students at the university together. The new action plan for the USSU will focus on education, leadership, decolonization and fostering community.

#### 7. Report on graduate student activities

Mery Mendoza, the president of the Graduate Students' Association, presented the report. She said that the role of the GSA is to advocate on behalf of graduate students. The GSA continues to promote the health of students, and to create a sense of community. She said that the GSA would be having its annual gala on April 4, and are also planning a research conference. She said that graduate students are important to the university as teachers and researchers. The GSA is working to expand the reach and effectiveness of the student-supervisor agreement, and continues to seek representation on the Board of Governors.

#### 8. Report on Board of Governors

Joy Crawford, one of the Senate-elected members of the Board of Governors, presented the report. She noted that this would be a verbal report given the short time between the October meetings of the Board and the Senate. She said the Board had held three meetings since the last Senate meeting in April. Bobby Cameron, Chief of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations, attended a Board meeting to discuss the expectations of his organization from an MOU signed with the university in

the spring. Other guests were the Minister of Advanced Education, the Honorable Tina Beaudry-Mellor, and the Provincial Auditor, Judy Ferguson.

Over the last few meetings, the Land and Facilities Committee of the Board considered the allocation of the bond financing that is directed towards major maintenance and renovation projects in five core campus buildings – Thorvaldson, Physics, W.P. Thompson, Arts and Murray – and also approved the renovations to prepare for the Prince Albert Campus.

The Board approved a number of senior administrative appointments, including that of Chelsea Willness as University Secretary, and conferred chancellor emeritus status on Roy Romanow. The Board heard updates on the restructuring of the Alumni Association and on the Learning, Teaching and Student Experience Plan. The Board also approved revisions to the terms of reference of the standing committees, which included the merger of the Audit and Finance and Investment Committees into a new Audit and Finance Committee.

Ms. Crawford outlined her own activities as a Board member, including her service on the presidential review committee and the campaign planning committee, and attendance at the conference of the Canadian University Boards Association, Convocation, the alumni weekend, the Edwards School of Business pinning ceremony, the reception to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CLS and the Senate forum. She brought to the attention of senators the *Humans Wanted* report from the Royal Bank, which has attracted attention from universities, and one of the specialized offshoots of that report *Farmer 4.0*, a meeting she attended that looked at how to prepare farmers and others for the agricultural industry of the future.

## 9. Report from University Council

Jay Wilson, chair of University Council, presented the report.

### 9.1 For confirmation: Admissions Qualification Change – Master of Science in Marketing

A member of the Senate sought clarification on the wording in the report circulated prior to the meeting. Dean Trever Crowe of the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies explained that the intent of the proposal was to make it possible to consider applicants from a wider range of backgrounds by allowing those administering the admissions process to waive the requirement for a minimum score on standardized tests in appropriate circumstances.

MCKERCHER/THROMBERG: That Senate confirm Council's approval of changes to the admissions qualifications for the Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Marketing for applicants admitted for September 2020 or later.

CARRIED

### 9.2 New vision for interdisciplinary public health programming

The provost, Tony Vannelli, outlined the context in which the Senate will be asked to confirm the disestablishment of the School of Public Health at the April 2020 meeting. He said this recommendation must be seen as part of a new vision intended to expand research opportunities and strengthen programming in the field of public health. The examination of the possible structures for public health is the beginning of a search for optimal ways to promote and sustain interdisciplinary research, teaching and community engagement in many areas, such as health sciences and applied sciences.

At the time of its founding ten years ago, the School of Public Health represented a step forward in the administration of interdisciplinary activity. This structure has not proved an adequate vehicle, however, to attract and involve the more than 55 faculty who do research related to public health – the faculty of the school itself was only eleven or twelve.

The plans for transition from the existing structure have ensured that students in the public health programs can proceed without interruption. Consultation has been carried out with the Faculty Association concerning the reassignment of faculty, and Dean Brothwell of the College of Dentistry has taken on administering the school during the transition period. A task force has been established to consider options for an optimal structure.

A senator asked whether efforts were being made to assure the continued academic quality of the programs during the transition period. The provost said that a student would be added to the task force to ensure that the members understand the student perspective on the quality of the programs. The school was also due to go through an accreditation process using a European standard; the transition offers an opportunity to attempt to attain the higher North American standard. In part, this will entail enhancements to the practicum opportunities for students, which are an important factor in the accreditation process.

A student member of the Senate asked how the interim administrative structure was determined, and whether the task force would be exercising authority during the transition. The provost replied that administrative authority had been conferred on the dean of dentistry, who is a public health specialist. The task force would not have a role in administration, but would be studying possible administrative structures to put in place. Additional support had been provided to the College of Dentistry to make it possible for the dean to assume interim responsibility for the public health programs.

In response to a question from a senator, the provost indicated that all unions who had members who were part of the School of Public Health had been consulted.

### 9.3. For confirmation: Learning, Teaching and Student Experience Plan

The vice-provost teaching, learning and student experience, Patti McDougall, presented the plan on learning, teaching and student experience, which includes the enrolment projections for the university to 2025. She reminded members that it is part of the responsibility of the Senate to approve enrolment targets for the institution. She said the enrolment targets were developed on the basis of what the deans and executive directors of schools articulated as their expectations for enrolment in their programs, based on the pattern of enrolment changes over the last few years. The total number projected is 29,000 students. Colleges and schools were asked to consider how they would provide resources for any expected growth in student numbers.

The plan includes both measurable pursuits and aspirations. The major elements of the plan are systems, structures and processes; sharing our stories; reconciliation; inclusion, empowerment and support; and preparing learners the world needs.

A senator asked about the basis for the balance of undergraduate and graduate students in the enrolment projections. The vice-provost said that the balance had been established some time ago at around 78% undergraduate, 17-18% graduate and 5% non-degree students and medical residents. She said that there might be a greater call for microcredentials and continuing

education, and it would be up to the colleges and schools to consider how this might affect the projections.

A postdoctoral fellow asked whether the plan addressed adequately the need for mental health supports for postdoctoral students. The vice-provost said that postdoctoral fellows are university employees rather than students and it is difficult to accommodate their needs in programs that are designed for students, and financed in part by student fees. Dean Crowe said that this is an important issue, and he had asked one of his staff to work with human resources and the union representing postdoctoral fellows.

THOMPSON/HENDERSON: That the Senate confirm Council's decision to approve the University of Saskatchewan's enrolment goals to 2025, as presented in *Fostering Tomorrow's Leaders: The Learning, Teaching and Student Experience Plan*.

CARRIED

#### 9.4 For confirmation: Admissions qualification change – Bachelor of Science Kinesiology/ Bachelor of Education Combined program

HEPPNER/NEUFELDT: That Senate confirm Council's approval of changes to the admissions qualifications for the Bachelor of Science Kinesiology/Bachelor of Education Combined program, effective May 2020.

CARRIED

### 10. Senate committee reports

#### 10.1 Executive Committee

The president presented the report as vice-chair of the committee.

##### 10.1.1 Report on activities

The president referred senators to the written report, and to the attached guidelines for recording of Senate meetings. A senator suggested that the guidelines provided too limited a window for senators to verify the accuracy of the minutes; the secretary undertook to consider this issue. Another senator asked whether the Executive Committee could consider the possibility of making more use of technology in the future to make it possible for people living a long distance from Saskatoon to consider participating in the Senate.

##### 10.1.2 For decision: Nomination to the Senate Nominations Committee

MCLEOD/BERG: That on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, Senate approve the appointment of Michelle MacDonald to the Nominations Committee for a one-year term beginning immediately and ending June 30, 2020.

CARRIED

##### 10.1.3 Report of the joint Conflict of Interest Policy Review Committee

Marcel de la Gorgendière, chair of the Joint Conflict of Interest Policy Review Committee, presented the report. He noted that the committee had decided to limit the scope of its review to major university-level policies, and would also make an inventory of other policies touching on

conflict of interest. He said that Jason MacLean, a Council appointee to the committee, had undertaken to carry out a literature review.

#### 10.2 For decision: Honorary Degrees Committee report (Confidential)

Guests were asked to leave the room for this portion of the agenda. This item has been removed from these minutes as it is confidential.

#### 10.3 Nominations Committee

HAMILTON/JURGENS: That Senate approve the appointment of Anne Doig to University Council for a one-year term beginning immediately and ending June 30, 2020, and Kelley Moore to the Non-academic Student Discipline and Appeals Board for a three-year term beginning immediately and ending June 30, 2022.

CARRIED

#### 10.4 Education Committee

Leah Howie, the chair of the Education Committee, presented the report. She said that the committee would be presenting a session on sustainability at the university after the lunch break, and that they were planning a session on the student experience for the April meeting.

[Item 11 was moved to follow Item 12 to accommodate the lunch break.]

#### 12. Senate Education Committee topic: Sustainability at the University of Saskatchewan

Jason MacLean, a faculty member in the College of Law, introduced two students from his environmental law course, Kylee Wilyman and Travis Smith. These students described the conclusions they had reached concerning the carbon footprint of the university, and made a number of recommendations for steps the university could take to reduce the impact on the environment. These included moving away from using heating and power sources reliant on the use of fossil fuels, large-scale composting of university waste, placing limits on access to vehicle parking and introducing biofuels.

Matt Wolsfeld of the Office of Sustainability, described a number of the initiatives the university had taken in recent years to address sustainability issues. One of these was an extensive retrofitting program for the lighting system that replaced existing light bulbs with LED bulbs. He said that this program had been phased so that replacement occurred at a natural time to replace the bulbs. He also indicated that there have been experiments with the use of solar power, including a student-led project outside the John Mitchell Building. He also pointed to projects involving the composting of waste from Culinary Services.

Irena Creed, the new special advisor to the president on sustainability, placed the discussion of sustainability in the context of the United Nations sustainability goals, which provide a framework for the development of an institutional sustainability plan. She indicated that she would expect to be able to present such a plan for consideration by Senate in approximately a year.

The vice-president finance and resources, Greg Fowler, drew to the attention of Senate two initiatives the university is currently involved in. One is a collaboration with the City of Saskatoon and the

Saskatoon Tribal Council to explore the potential for generating hydro power in the river, and the other is a project to introduce co-generation of heat and power.

A question and answer period followed the presentations. One issue discussed was the current dialogue about making sustainability one of the criteria considered in university ranking systems. There was also discussion of how the costs of moving towards more sustainable systems should be calculated.

#### 11. Living our Values

The secretary presented a document entitled *Living our Values*. This document draws on the values identified in the Vision, Mission and Values statement adopted by the governing bodies in 2016, and is intended to articulate the expectation that members of the university community will conduct themselves in a manner consistent with those values. The secretary invited members of the Senate to submit comments. The document will be presented to the Senate for endorsement at a future meeting. It is expected that it will be presented to the Senate for endorsement at the April 2020 meeting.

#### 13. Items for information

##### 13.1 University Relations update on provincial tours

Vice-president of University Relations Debra Pozega Osburn made a brief presentation on the series of visits to Saskatchewan communities that representatives of her office have made over the last two years. She said that the visits had included meetings with school boards, business organizations and community groups. She said that members of the Senate had been of great assistance in some of these visits, and she hoped that senators would continue to play an important role in this program.

##### 13.2 Policy Oversight Committee annual report 2018-2019

The secretary presented the annual report of the Policy Oversight Committee, a body composed of administrators and faculty that provides feedback to proponents of university-level policies and determines what approvals are necessary. The report lists the policies that came before the committee in 2018-2019.

##### 13.3 Report on non-academic student misconduct 2018-2019

The secretary presented the report of the matters that had been addressed under the *Standard of Student Conduct in Non-Academic Matters and Regulations and Procedures for Resolution of Complaints and Appeals*. These regulations fall within the jurisdiction of the Senate.

##### 13.4 Senate elections 2020 – call for nominations

The secretary said that a call for nominations would be going out within the next couple of weeks. Nominations for Senate vacancies would be open until early in 2020, and the voting will take place in the spring. She noted that there is a vacancy in District 9 (Nipawin-Melfort-Hudson Bay) and that the terms of the following five members are expiring in 2020: Davida Bentham, Dan Danielson, Victoria Jurgens, Michelle Thompson and Fred Wesolowski. Dan Danielson, Victoria Jurgens and Fred Wesolowski are eligible to be re-elected.



14. Other business

No items of other business were raised.

15. Question period

A senator asked whether the Senate could examine its own processes with a view to making them more sustainable. The secretary asked whether it would be satisfactory to refer this issue to the Executive Committee, and the senator agreed.

Leah Howie, chair of the Education Committee, asked senators to complete the surveys on the sustainability session that had been left on the tables.

A senator asked whether the Senate would be kept informed of the progress of the university's planning on sustainability issues. President Stoicheff said that he expected a draft would be put before the Senate in the fall of 2020.

16. Adjournment and dates of future Convocation and Senate meetings

The chair thanked members for attending, and the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Fall Convocation: November 13, 2019

Spring Senate meeting: April 25, 2020

Spring Convocation: June 1-5, 2020