

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.

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

The chancellor welcomed new members to Senate and 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

GULLICKSON/HARVEY: That the agenda be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3. Minutes of the Meeting of April 22, 2017

DE LA GORGENDIÈRE/ISINGER: That the minutes of the meeting of April 22, 2017 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

4.1 Recording of Meetings

One senator said that she recalled motions being passed requesting that the Senate review the university's conflict of interest policy, and requesting an opportunity to review the process for selecting the chancellor. The university secretary said that her office had been unable to find any record of formal motions being considered on these issues, though they were both noted in the minutes as having been raised. The Executive Committee has noted the conflict of interest policy review as an agenda item for a future meeting. The senator asked whether consideration could be given to recording the meetings. The chancellor said that the feasibility of doing this would be investigated.

4.2 Student Enrolment Update – Gender Breakdown

Patti McDougall, Vice-Provost Teaching and Learning, provided information about enrolment broken down by gender, as requested at the last meeting. She said that 58% of undergraduate students are female. The figures by college range from 20% in Engineering to 87% in Nursing; she observed that the enrolment pattern in Engineering is similar to that at other universities. 11 colleges have 49%+ female enrolment.

55% of graduate students are women. In Engineering the rate is 22%, while in Nursing it is 94%

Of senior leaders (dean and above) at the university, 44% are women. About half of faculty at the rank of assistant professor are women, falling to 42% at the associate professor rank and 28% at the professor rank. This pattern is to be expected given that there is a higher concentration of women among more recent appointments. Half of sessional lecturers are female.

5. President's Report

The president noted that not all Canadian universities have bodies like the Senate. The university continues to seek ways of making the Senate more effective. He welcomed new members. He said Senate meetings provide an opportunity for representatives of the community to hear from senior administrators and student leaders, and they allow the university to engage with people from different geographical regions, organizations and constituencies.

He said that in his report he would focus on the university's commitment to engagement. As an example, he talked about the university's leadership in promoting reconciliation. The University of Saskatchewan hosted the first national forum on reconciliation two years ago, which brought together Indigenous leaders, university presidents, students, politicians and other stakeholders. The third forum is to be held in Winnipeg in November, and 30 representatives of this university, including a number of students, will be attending. The focus of the forum is on improving circumstances for Aboriginal people in the educational sector. Universities Canada has taken on overall responsibility for the forum for a period of ten years.

The university has entered into a memorandum of understanding with 24 other post-secondary institutions in Saskatchewan, and a similar accord with the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations; both these agreements signify a commitment to closing the educational gap for Indigenous people.

The president introduced Jacqueline Ottmann, the university's first Vice-Provost Indigenous Engagement; the creation of this position is in keeping with the priority the university places on Indigenization.

As other examples of engagement, the president spoke of the memorandum of understanding concluded with the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra, and said that a similar memorandum is being negotiated with the Remai Modern Art Gallery. Agreement has been reached with the City of Saskatoon to work on a comprehensive memorandum of understanding that would be a basis for the exploration of partnerships in a number of areas.

The University of Saskatchewan was the only Canadian university to be awarded two Canada First Research Excellence Fund grants, which provide support for the Global Institute for Water Security and the Global Institute for Food Security. The university is also part of an industry-led consortium

focused on protein innovations which has been shortlisted in the superclusters initiative, which is meant to support research and innovation in Canadian industry.

The president described the efforts made by the university to commemorate Canada 150. These events include a series of conversations with three former prime ministers, and several book launches with an Indigenous theme.

President Stoicheff said that when he took office, he was able to participate in the rebuilding of the senior leadership team. This included the appointment of ten new deans in two years. Eleven of seventeen of the current deans and directors have come from outside the university, which indicates that association with this university has proved attractive to high quality candidates. In addition, two new vice-presidents and a new vice-provost have come from elsewhere.

6. Introduction of Vice-President University Relations and Provost and Vice-President Academic

The president introduced Debra Pozega Osburn, the Vice-President University Relations, who came to the university from a similar position at the University of Alberta one year ago. He also introduced Tony Vannelli, the Provost and Vice-President Academic, who came from a decanal position at the University of Guelph in August 2017. He said that the Provost plays a vital role in aligning resource allocation with the university's academic mission.

7. Report from the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union

David D'Eon, president of the USSU, reported on undergraduate student activities. He said that his priority for his term as president was to make the USSU more open and accountable. He said that the effect of budget cuts on the university has also become an important issue. He said that he and his fellow executive members see these circumstances as creating openings to make changes.

Crystal Lau, the Vice-President Student Affairs, has been concentrating on initiatives to address student mental health issues. She has also launched projects to provide additional student services, such as the provision of menstrual products in campus washrooms, and arrangements for a skating rink in the Bowl. Jessica Quan, the Vice-President Academic, has been strengthening vehicles for advocacy on behalf of students, such as the relaunched Campus Legal Services. She has also been successful in arranging to have co-curricular activity recorded on student transcripts. Deena Kapacila, Vice-President Finance and Operations, has been working to reengage and revitalize campus groups, and has been conducting a project aimed at informing groups about issues of risk and liability.

President D'Eon said that his own activities have included meeting with government officials at various levels, assisting with the organization of a national organization representing students in research-intensive universities, and promoting a provincial coalition of post-secondary students. He has also been working with the Indigenous Students' Council to identify areas for collaboration.

8. Report from the Graduate Students' Association

Naheda Sahtout, Vice-President External, presented the report on graduate student activities. She said that there are approximately 3200 graduate students, which represents about 17% of the total number of students at the university. The GSA's aim is always to improve the situation of graduate students, and to enhance their sense of community.

She reported that a template for student/supervisor agreements has been finalized after a year of work, and that this should clarify the roles and responsibilities of students and their supervisors.

She said one of the priorities for the GSA over the coming year is the issue of graduate student representation on governing bodies, in particular the Board of Governors. Though she said that graduate students appreciate current opportunities to participate in university decision-making, they feel that the voice of graduate students would be valuable at the Board table.

She described the leading role played by the GSA in organizing ThinkGrad, a national network aimed at improving the experience of graduate students across Canada.

9. Report on Board of Governors Activities

Daphne Arnason, one of the representatives elected by the Senate to the Board of Governors, reported on recent meetings of the Board. For the benefit of new members, she noted that the Board is a small body, with eleven members. The senior leadership team provide support and drive the package of material coming to the Board, which helps them in their decision-making. She said that she and the other Senate representative, Joy Crawford, each chair one of the standing committees of the Board, and that they have also been Board appointees to decanal search committees. She noted that a summary of Board decisions is posted on the university secretary's website.

Since the last Senate meeting, there have been three regular meetings of the Board. In that time, three of the five provincial government appointees to the Board were replaced. These new members – Shelley Brown, Grant Devine and Ritu Malhotra – were in place as of the October meeting, and bring diverse expertise to the Board.

At the June meeting, much of the discussion was about the university's financial situation in light of cuts in the grant from the provincial government. The Board approved a comprehensive budget format, endorsed the Operations Forecast (the university's outline of its financial request to the government for support for the 2018-19 year), and supported a proposal for a \$90 million university bond to be issued to support capital projects such as the renewal of buildings in the campus core.

The Board considered the measures that could be taken to address the pressures created by the decrease in funding. In this context, the Board approved a proposal for rollbacks in the salary of 75 senior leaders, including deans and directors, associate vice-presidents, vice-presidents and the president.

The Board also approved a policy for the public disclosure of the salaries of those earning taxable income of more than \$125,000. This information has been available to the public, but has not been conveniently accessible.

The Board approved the waiver of the tuition differential for international students who are Native Americans, in keeping with the spirit of the Jay Treaty of 1794.

With respect to capital projects, the Board gave approval to the technology transformation project proposed for the Human Resources Division, an expansion of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, and the 25-year Athletics and Recreation Master Plan.

The Board meeting of July 2017 largely dealt with considering and approving the university's audited financial statements, and considering the recommendations of the provincial auditor.

A summary of the October meeting will be available in the near future.

10. University Council

Kevin Flynn, Chair of University Council, asked for Senate confirmation of a number of items.

10.1 Changes in Admissions Qualifications for Educational Administration Graduate Programs

Council approved a motion in June 2017 to lower the admission average for graduate programs in Educational Administration to be consistent with the overall admissions average set by the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and to facilitate enrolment in the programs.

QUAN/NEUFELD: That Senate confirm Council's approval of changes to the admissions qualifications for Educational Administration graduate programs, effective September 1, 2018.

CARRIED

10.2 English Proficiency Policy – Minimum English Proficiency Requirements for the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

Senate previously approved the English Proficiency Policy for undergraduate students. This change is intended to align the policy for students in the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies with that policy, and with policies in place at other U15 universities.

A senator asked what steps were being taken to ensure that applicants are not taken by surprise by this change. Trever Crowe, Interim Dean of the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, responded that applicants who have already been accepted will be grandfathered under the old standards, and notice of the changes has been given to new applicants on the college website.

PROKOPCHUK/MCDOUGALL: That Senate confirm Council's approval of revisions to the minimum English proficiency standards for the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, as per the table circulated, effective from the beginning of the admissions cycle for 2018-2019.

CARRIED

10.3 Admissions Change for Certificate of Proficiency in Sustainability

At its October 2017 meeting, Council approved the removal of a standalone direct-entry option for the Certificate of Proficiency in Sustainability. It had been hoped that this program might attract students from outside the university, but this proved not to be realistic in light of the prerequisite courses required, and there has been no enrolment of such students.

KOPP-MCKAY/SAMBASIVAM: That Senate confirm Council's approval of the removal of the stand-alone admissions option for the Certificate of Proficiency in Sustainability, effective May 2018.

CARRIED

10.4 Admissions Templates for Student Mobility Categories

At its October 2017 meeting, Council approved a change to the Visiting Research Student Category of the Admissions Templates for Student Mobility Categories. The change lengthened the time students are allowed to remain at the university in order to accommodate visa and immigration issues.

GOUGH/GULLICKSON: That the Senate confirm Council's approval of the Admissions Templates for Student Mobility Categories, effective immediately.

CARRIED

11. Senate Committee Reports

11.1.1 Report of the Senate Executive Committee

President Stoicheff presented the report as vice-chair of the committee. He noted that the committee devoted time to discussing the polling session on the role of the Senate which is the next item on the agenda.

11.1.2 Senate Role Discussion

Corinna Stevenson, a member of the executive committee, engaged senators in a preliminary discussion of the role and mandate of the Senate through the use of live polling technology. Senators were asked to register a response to a range of options, and then invited to explain their choices or to suggest additional options. The results will assist the executive committee in developing ideas for further discussion of the role of Senate at future meetings. Ms. Stevenson made it clear that the exercise was preliminary in nature, and was intended to provide the executive committee with some general direction.

11.2.1 Report of the Membership Committee

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

BENTHAM/GOUGH: That Senate representation be granted to the CEO Council of Regional Colleges and that the Association of Saskatchewan Regional Colleges be removed from the membership of Senate effective immediately.

CARRIED

11.3.1 Report of the Education Committee

Beth Bilson, university secretary, reported that the education committee had decided that to postpone the presentation of a topic to Senate at this meeting in order to prepare the session more thoroughly. The topic will be presented at the spring meeting.

12. Consultation on Draft University Plan

President Stoicheff introduced the discussion of the university plan. He pointed to the Mission, Vision and Values statement that had been approved by the university's governing bodies, and said the plan was intended to create a picture of how the university would be carrying out the concepts in the statement over the next eight years or so. Unlike other university plans, which are often restatements of threefold mission of any university – teaching and learning, research and community engagement

– this plan has been designed to be distinctive and to capture the unique aspirations of the University of Saskatchewan.

Vice President Pozega Osburn and the Provost presented the current draft of the university plan. They described the evolution of the plan since the last version was presented to Senate in June. They noted that the university plan is intended to reflect what makes the university unique; as a parallel process, academic units are being asked to formulate plans that will add more depth and detail to the overall picture.

Vice-President Pozega Osburn said that the format of the plan will draw attention to three major commitments – courageous curiosity, boundless collaboration and inspired communities. These commitments should be understood as emerging from a framework that includes the elements of the university’s mission – discovery, Indigenization, teaching and learning and engagement – and the university’s core principles – sustainability, diversity, connectivity and creativity. Each commitment will be accompanied by several goals. The ambition of the plan is to support the university’s effort to be “the university the world needs us to be” and the character of the plan is very outward-looking.

Responding to the presentation, one senator said as the plan is being revised, consideration should be given to demonstrating the value of the university to rural communities. Those communities face challenging issues related to such things as health care and education, and need to know that the university will play a role in meeting these challenges.

Another senator said that he did not see anything in the plan as presented that would explain how the plan would be implemented. Vice-President Pozega Osburn said that implementation plans are being worked on. A large part of the implementation will be in the hands of the deans, and they are currently working on their unit plans. Several other senators expressed agreement that the implementation of the plan is very important.

A senator endorsed the importance of collaboration. He alluded to the high proportion of Indigenous residents in Prince Alberta and expressed the hope that the university can form partnerships with other players to help meet the educational needs of Indigenous people.

A senator asked whether the expectation is that college plans will align with and be measured against the university plan. The Provost said that this was the expectation. Another senator asked whether milestones would be developed to measure the progress in carrying out the plan. Vice-President Pozega Osburn said that “milestones” is the very term being used, and that work is being done to articulate what milestones should be associated with each goal.

One senator suggested that the plan should reflect the educational disparities for certain groups of people, like northern residents and those who are incarcerated. This would help to make reconciliation a reality.

13. Items for Information

13.1 Report on Non-academic Student Discipline for 2016-2017

The university secretary presented the report prepared by her office to summarize cases under the Senate regulations on non-academic misconduct. She pointed out that there was an increase in the number of cases over the reporting period, although these are still not large numbers.

13.2 Policy Oversight Committee Annual Report 2016-2017

The university secretary, as chair of the Policy Oversight Committee, presented the annual report for 2016-2017. She outlined the role of this committee, and noted that the committee has been discussing taking a more proactive role in developing a systematic process of policy review.

13.3 Senate Elections

The university secretary announced that nominations for vacant positions on the Senate have opened and will close on March 1, 2018. There will be elections for districts 1,5, 6, 10 and 13, as well as for five member-at-large positions.

14. Other Business

None.

15. Question Period

No questions were brought forward.

16. Adjournment and Dates of Future Convocation and Senate Meetings

The chancellor thanked senators for their attendance and for their participation in the discussions of the role of Senate and the university plan.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Fall Convocation: October 28, 2017

Spring Senate Meeting: April 21, 2018

Spring Convocation: June 4-7, 2018

Senate Attendance October 2017

APPENDIX A

APPOINTED MEMBERS		DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP		EX-OFFICIO	
Baker, Carey	P	Adam, Allan	P	Bergstrom, Don	R
Bath, Brenna	P	Binnie, Sarah	P	Bonham-Smith, Peta	R
Braaten, Lee	R	Hall, Lee	P	Buhr, Mary	R
Bratvold, Robert	P	Hoback, Jerri	P	Calvert, Lorne	R
Brenna, Bev	P	Gough, Rhonda	P	Chad, Karen	R
Browning, Lynda	P	Kopp-McKay, Adelle	P	Crowe, Trever	P
de la Gorgendiere, M.	P	McLeod, Tenielle	P	Doherty, Kevin	R
Fyfe, Ryan	P	McPherson, Russ	R	Downey, Terrence	R
Gable, Kathleen	P	Michalenko, Richard	R	Favel, Blaine	R
Garven, Stuart	P	Mitten, Rae	P	Fowler, Greg	R
Gjetvaj, Branimir	R	Nicol, Jim	R	Freeman, Douglas	R
Green, Kathryn	P	Pulfer, Jim	P	Germida, Jim	R
Greschner, Toby	P	Smuk, Shawna	P	Ottmann, Jackie	p
Hamilton, Don	R	Stevenson, Corinna	P	Harasmychuk, Robert	P
Harvey, Eileen Mae	P	ELECTED MEMBERS-AT-LARGE		Harrison, William	p
Hollick, Barry	P	Bentham, Davida	P	Isinger, Russell	P
Hrudka, Christine	P	Berg, Susanne	P	Just, Melissa	P
Hubich, Larry	P	Cole, Evan	P	London, Chad	P
Isinger, Lori	P	Danielson, Dan	P	Luke, Iain	R
Kreuger, Monica	R	Gullickson, Gary	P	Martini, Jeromey	R
Lanigan, Dennis	R	Howie, Leah	P	Martz, Diane	R
MacArthur, Sandra	P	Hunter, Rylund	R	McCaffrey, Geordy	R
MacMillan, Judy	P	Jurgens, Victoria	P	McDougall, Patti	P
Martin, Stephanie	R	Mihalicz, Deborah	R	McKercher, Peggy	R
McKercher, Grant	P	Sambasivam, Bud	P	McLaughlin, Mark	R
Menzies, Craig	P	Swystun, Lenore	P	Molloy, Tom	P
Morrison, Karen	P	Thompson, Michelle	P	Nel, Michael	R
Munro, Albert	P	Wesolowski, Christine	R	Pawelke, Michael	R
Neufeldt, Victoria	P	Wesolowski, Fred	R	Pezer, Vera	P
Orr, Mary	P	STUDENTS		Phillipson, Martin	R
Pilat Burns, Charlotte	R	Ghaith, Ziad, GSA	P	Pozega Osburn, Debra	P
Prisciak, Karen	R	Kapicila, Deena	R	Prytula, Michelle	P
Prokopchuk, Nadia	P	Murphy, Aidan	P	Romanow, Roy	P
Stavness, Carrie	P	Quan, Jessica	P	Smith, Preston	P
Toye, Colleen	P	Samson, Kirsten	P	Stoicheff, Peter	P
Wiens, Rod	P	TBA		Turner, Ted	R
Yee, Tim	P	TBA		Uswak, Gerry	R
Zatlyn, Lorna	P	P=present		Vannelli, Tony	P
		R=regrets		Wasan, Kishor	R
		A=absent		Willoughby, Keith	P

NON-VOTING	
Bilson, Beth	P