

Minutes of University Council
2:30 p.m., Thursday, January 25, 2007
Neatby-Timlin Theatre (Room 241) Arts Building

Attendance: See Appendix A.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. and declared that quorum had been achieved.

1. Opening Remarks

Condolences were expressed on behalf of Council to colleagues and family of Professor Robert Redmann, Professor Emeritus, Department of Plant Ecology. Dr. Redmann started teaching in the Department of Plant Ecology in 1968 and was there until he retired on June 30, 2000. The tribute was delivered by Professor Jim Romo, Department of Plant Sciences. Professor Redmann passed away on December 24, 2006.

Condolences were expressed on behalf of Council to colleagues and family of Dr. Otto Radostits, Professor Emeritus of Veterinary Internal Medicine, who taught in the College of Veterinary Medicine from 1964 until his retirement in 2002. Professor Radostits was presented with the Master Teacher Award at Fall Convocation in 1986, and in 2003 received the Order of Canada. The tribute was presented by Dr. Reuben Mapletoft, from the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences. Dr. Radostits passed away on December 15, 2006.

Following a moment of silence, the business of Council resumed.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

MESSIER/ANGEL: To adopt the agenda as amended. CARRIED.

3. Minutes of the meeting of December 14, 2006

GANDER/GORECKI: To adopt the minutes of December 14, 2006 as circulated.

CARRIED

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

5. Report of the President

The President commended members of Council to his written report, and drew their attention to the item regarding the launch of the University's Centennial celebrations on January 12 in Convocation Hall. He expressed congratulations to all those involved in making this event a success, and reminded Council members that one of the highlights

of the Centennial Year will be the Congress of Social Sciences and Humanities 2007, which takes place May 26-June 2 on our campus.

In addition to his written report, the President commended those involved--and particularly Professors Stephenson, Srinivasan and Bremner and lab instructors Amos Lee and Lisa Hayden--for their work in developing and delivering a new strategy for a mathematics course to benefit first-year Engineering students and to help to raise Engineering averages that were traditionally low in the first-year Math course. The commitment of these individuals to student support and to coordination of the course resulted in higher averages and better overall student performance. The President cited this as a striking achievement, and congratulated those involved for their successful efforts to address a longstanding issue.

The President also alluded to recent press reports about the imminent departure of Dr. Lorne Babiuk from the University of Saskatchewan to take up a new position as Vice President Research at the University of Alberta. While the U of S will miss Professor Babiuk, the President invited members of the entire community to join him in extending congratulations to him on his new position. The President assured members of Council that the continuation of programs at VIDO/InterVac is provided for and that many of Dr. Babiuk's research grants will remain at the University of Saskatchewan. A search committee is being struck and will begin immediately to identify a worthy successor to Dr. Babiuk.

6. Report of the Provost

The Provost drew attention to the section of his report which describes the first phase of the University Learning Centre and the launch that was held on January 15. This is a larger project which will see further transformation over the next 18 months, and which is intended to fulfil goals articulated in the first Integrated Plan.

The Provost seconded the President's congratulations to Professor Babiuk, and then pointed out that the University of Alberta is not alone in attracting distinguished senior academic administrators, as the University of Saskatchewan has just appointed Dr. Janusz Kozinski, formerly of McGill University and currently at the Institute for Advanced Studies and the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) in France, as its new Dean of Engineering. Dr. Kozinski is on campus today and has indicated to the Provost that one of the things that attracted him to our campus was our Integrated Planning process.

Dr. Atkinson also reported on a discussion which took place at Deans Council recently on the subject of work/life balance, particularly in the context of the planning process. The Deans identified the work associated with planning, and discussed the need to approach this work in the spirit of ensuring that the institution's planning doesn't place an unreasonable administrative burden on colleges and departments. In this respect, it was agreed that the first plan probably tried to achieve too much. The discussion identified both personal and institutional responsibilities for work/life balance, recalling the emphasis that was placed on this theme in the Provost's address in 2005. The Deans had a good discussion about the matter of assignment of duties within colleges. They

are acutely aware of the requirement outlined in the first plan to strive to achieve fair and equitable work loads; they asked to be reminded that they have these responsibilities, and the Provost stated he will be returning to this during the annual evaluation process.

7. Student Society Reports

7.1 USSU Report

Brad Flavell, Academic Vice President, referred Council to his report on p. 19 of the printed materials, particularly noting the update on the Health and Dental Plan and the fact that the UPASS referendum will be held with voting on PAWS.

A member of Council asked whether the UPASS fee would be mandatory only for full-time students or also for part-time students; Mr. Flavell replied that all students, whether full or part time, who live in Saskatoon but not in residence would be assessed the fee and receive a bus pass.

7.2 GSA Report

There was no GSA report.

8. Bylaws Committee Report

8.1 Amendments to Council Bylaws

Barry Ziola presented the report as Chair of the Bylaws Committee.

ZIOLA/CROWE: That Council approve the amendments to the Council Bylaws as circulated.

CARRIED

9. Nominations Committee

Bev Pain presented the report as Chair of the Nominations Committee.

9.1 Appointment to International Activities Committee

PAIN/POST: That Council approve the appointment of Luis Buatois, Department of Geological Sciences, to the International Activities Committee effective immediately June 30, 2009.

CARRIED

9.2 Appointment to Academic Support Committee

PAIN/POST: That Council approve the appointment of Michael Macgregor, Department of Psychology, to the Academic Support Committee effective immediately until June 30, 2009.

CARRIED

9.3 Appointment to Policy Oversight Committee

PAIN/POST: That Council approve the appointment of Graham Scoles of the College of Agriculture and Bioresources to the Policy Oversight Committee effective immediately for a three-year term.

CARRIED

9.4 Appointment to the Scholarships and Awards Committee

PAIN/POST: That Council approve the appointment of Roy Dobson, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition, to the Scholarships and Awards Committee immediately until June 30, 2009.

CARRIED

10. Discussion of Themes for the Second Integrated Planning Cycle

The Provost introduced the revised Themes document which he characterized as “a living document,” noting that the themes are indicative and suggestive, rather than prescriptive. The themes that will eventually guide the second round of integrated planning will emerge from the Colleges and units, which are encouraged to think about which of them resonate with them as they develop their own plans. He observed that the themes as presented constitute neither a major departure nor a fundamental break from what the institution has been doing for the past few years. He also emphasized the need to match up the initiatives we decide to take with the resources available to do them. He then asked Professor John Rigby, Chair of the Planning Committee, to comment and to lead the discussion.

Professor Rigby spoke of the intention that the Themes document would provide the campus community with some focus and common points of reference as they move into the next planning cycle; the intent is that they bring the campus together rather than to divisive. He then reviewed the process that was followed in forging the document before Council today and in consulting with Deans Council, the Board of Governors, the Planning Committee, Council and the community at large. He noted that the last Council meeting raised internationalization, sustainability, and undergraduate teaching as themes which had not been sufficiently addressed in the original eight themes, and that these had been strengthened in the current draft, not by adding them as additional themes but by weaving them through the existing themes. Other comments which had been received by the Planning Committee indicated a lack of support for the eighth theme, “innovate and focus”; it has been removed from the current version. As with any document, there have been trade-offs, particularly since a genuine attempt has been made to limit and prune the number of themes.

Professor Rigby also addressed the relationship between the Themes and the Foundational Documents, which are very much still in place and remain the dominant planning documents; the Planning Committee was comfortable that both internationalization and teaching and learning are well represented in existing or

draft foundational documents. The Planning Committee is also, he reported, satisfied with the process of consultation that has been taken and that the concerns expressed by faculty and the wider community have been heard and incorporated. The Committee believes that the document as presented today will be helpful to Colleges in formulating their plans.

RIGBY/KALRA: That *The Second Integrated Planning Cycle: Emerging Trends and Themes* be endorsed by Council as a guide to assist college and major administrative units in the development of their plans for the Second Planning Cycle, 2008/09 to 2011/12.

CARRIED

There was some discussion of the meaning of the term “endorse.” Professor Rigby responded that Council is being asked to endorse the document rather than to approve it because it is not Council’s document, but rather a document which belongs to the entire community under the leadership of Integrated Planning. A motion for approval would not be appropriate. However, the Planning Committee would like to invite Council to formally express its agreement with the intent and direction of the document by passing a motion to endorse it.

One Council member noted that the document contains very little in the way of concrete plans and a lot of statements that seem rhetorical or self-evident. The Provost conceded that documents that are created through a broad consultation process tend to collect comments about what we’re already doing. Professor Rigby stressed that the themes document is not itself a plan, and should not have action items in it.

11. International Activities Committee Report

Claire Card presented the report as Chair, in the form of a slide presentation about the recent retreat of the International Activities Committee, at which 22 participants including community and government members discussed the proposed themes for the next round of planning and considered the risks and benefits of each theme in the context of internationalization. She outlined the purpose of the retreat, the materials provided, emerging issues in internationalization, and outcomes of the discussion. Members of the committee are now preparing reports on various aspects of the retreat; these will be brought back to the committee in March. Professor Card also invoked the mission statement which was approved by the Board of Governors and Council in 1993 and wondered whether it requires revision to acknowledge international and global issues as a current reality.

A member of Council raised the importance of providing our own students with foreign language courses, and suggested that a requirement for a foreign language would be consistent with an emphasis on globalization.

12. Planning Committee

12.1 Issues and Criteria When Considering Viable Enrolments at the University of Saskatchewan

Professor Rigby presented a Request for Decision from the Planning Committee. Referencing the earlier discussion of the meaning of Council's endorsing a document, he explained that in this case the word "endorse" is used because it speaks to areas where Council's authority is limited by the authority of department heads, deans and the Provost. The motion is intended to give Council an opportunity to express an opinion and provide advice rather than to approve a course of action. He noted that the report does not apply to graduate programs nor to off-campus courses or courses that are not in lecture format.

RIGBY/KALRA: That University Council endorse the report, "Issues and Criteria when Considering Viable Enrolments at the University of Saskatchewan" and forward it to Deans Council and the Provost's Committee on Integrated Planning (PCIP) as advice for the consideration of those two bodies.

CARRIED

One Council member expressed the view that the sentence on p. 54 which suggests that "an Arts College is expected to have a Philosophy program" should read that "it is essential that an Arts College have a Philosophy program." Professor Rigby accepted the comment as advice and pointed out that this example was only illustrative and not intended to provide direction.

Another member of Council questioned the authority conferred on the Provost's Committee on Integrated Planning (PCIP) by a statement on p. 60, arguing that the authority should rest in the department.

In response to another question, it was pointed out that *Appendix I: Program Termination Procedures* is provided for information as a document that was approved by Council in 2001.

Several members of Council commended the subcommittee on their thorough work on a difficult issue, indicating that it provides a full and nuanced picture and will provide good advice from a faculty perspective about the factors that should be considered and valued in reviewing programs. One member expressed disappointment that resources appear to trump quality of programs; another pointed out that practically speaking, this is the case, as the University often tries to do more than is possible with the available resources. A member asked for clarification of who the 'watchdog' is for low enrolment programs, and was told that this role should fall to the department head and the dean working together.

13. Presentation by Steven Franklin, Vice-President Research on *Measuring Success and the Way Forward Initiative*

Vice President Franklin presented a slide show to highlight key successes, priorities and programs of the Office of the Vice President Research over the past few years. Copies of the presentation are available from the Office of the Vice-President Research.

14. Research Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee Report on *Measuring Success and the Way Forward Initiative* of the Vice-President Research

Rob Pywell, Chair of the Committee, presented the report in support of the Vice-President Research initiative.

15. Academic Programs Committee

15.1 Academic Schedule for 2007-08

Trever Crowe, Chair of the Committee, presented this item for information. He drew Council's attention to the fact that a revised schedule, incorporating some changes from the schedule originally circulated, was provided at the door. There were questions about final examinations for the first quarter of Spring and Summer Session and about the resumption of classes in Term 2 for Nutrition; corrections/clarifications will be made before the schedule is posted.

16. Other Business

There was no other business.

17. Question Period

There were no questions.

18. Next Meeting

2:30 p.m., Thursday, February 22, 2007

19. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.