

**Minutes of University Council**  
**2:30 p.m., Thursday, February 22, 2007**  
**Neatby-Timlin Theatre (Room 241) Arts Building**

*Attendance: See Appendix A.*

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m. and declared that quorum had been achieved.

1. Opening Remarks

Condolences were expressed on behalf of Council to colleagues and family of Dr. Lorrie Sippola, who joined the Department of Psychology in 1997. Dr. Sippola taught in the Department, researched and supervised undergraduate and graduate students until her passing on January 14, 2007. The tribute was delivered by Professor Linda McMullen, Department of Psychology.

Condolences were expressed on behalf of Council to colleagues and family of Dr. John Sibley, who was a clinical Professor in the Department of Medicine. Dr. Sibley joined the University of Saskatchewan January 1, 1984, and passed away January 16, 2007. The tribute was delivered by Dr. Tom Wilson, Professor and Head, Department of Medicine.

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

Dr. Merriam reminded Council that nominations for membership on Council will close tomorrow.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

ZELLO/RICHARDSON: To adopt the agenda as circulated.

CARRIED

3. Minutes of the meeting of January 25, 2007

ANGEL/MacDONALD: To adopt the minutes of January 25, 2007 as circulated.

CARRIED

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

## 5. Report of the President

Acting President Michael Atkinson presented the report of the President, commending Council members to the written report that was circulated with the agenda and calling their attention particularly to the report of recent discussions the President has had with federal government representatives.

Dr. Atkinson also acknowledged the excellent work of Cindy Paquette, who will be leaving the University next month to take up a position as Director of Government Relations at the University of Victoria, a parallel role to the one that she has performed with such a high degree of credibility and success at the University of Saskatchewan over the past several years.

## 6. Report of the Provost

Dr. Atkinson then presented his Provost's Report. He expressed his pleasure with the energy and pace with which arrangements are falling into place for the proposed Schools, each of which is ably led by a faculty representative. The School of Public Policy appears to be on the verge of a major breakthrough with respect to collaboration with the University of Regina. The School of Public Health will also be a collaborative effort with a number of large and small universities across western Canada and under the co-sponsorship of the National Public Health Agency.

The Provost also reported on the progress being made on the Academic Health Sciences capital project. He extended congratulations to Professor Lawrence Martz who has been appointed the new Dean of the College of Graduate Studies & Research. In closing he expressed his thanks to those members of the University community who have been working hard on all sides to achieve new collective agreements.

The Provost and the Vice President Finance responded to questions and comments about the College Quarter project, about plans for expansion of classroom space in the second planning cycle, about the plans for the proposed Fine and Performing Arts Centre, and about declining enrolments.

## 7. Student Society Reports

### 7.1 USSU Report

Brad Flavel, Academic Vice President, reported for the USSU.

He reported that the University Student Council has approved an increase in the infrastructure fee from \$10 to \$44 per semester; the funds raised will be used for renovations to Place Riel, and the USSU will be beginning broad consultations about the design of the new space.

Mr. Flavel also reported that in a recent referendum, U of S students passed a new fee of \$118 per student per school year for U-PASS bus passes; this fee will take effect on a probationary basis for two years. There is an opt-out option for students who live in residence and for students with mobility problems. Mr. Flavel noted

that this referendum had the highest voter turnout ever for an election (43%), and that the vote passed with a 59% majority. The GSA is interested in holding its own referendum to decide whether graduate students should also be assessed this fee.

The USSU in cooperation with University Advancement, the Alumni Association, and a number of sponsors from the campus community, will be hosting DisOrientation on March 5-8. Mr. Flavel urged Council members to visit the web site at [www.usask.ca/disorientation](http://www.usask.ca/disorientation) and to pass word of this event along to their students.

Mr. Flavel responded to questions about the disproportional effect of the new fees on part-time and distance education students, about whether a simple majority of voters is sufficient to pass such a high fee, and about whether the Board has an obligation to agree to collect these fees. The Provost noted that a committee is looking at the issue of student fees for part-time students, and also observed that while the University and the Students' Union have a tradition of operating very independently from one another, there are clearly areas where better communication and collaboration would be of benefit to students.

## 7.2 GSA Report

Mr. Adamarola, Vice President Academic, reported that the GSA Council recently passed a motion to conduct a similar referendum on the bus pass; if the referendum passes, the GSA will be able to opt out since 65% of members live very close to campus. He noted that it may be more difficult to opt in than to opt out.

## 8. Planning Committee

Professor John Rigby presented the report as Chair.

### 8.1 Approval of the Ron and Jane Graham Centre for the Study of Communication

Professor Rigby noted that Council has sought and received approval from the Board of Governors to name the physical space, and that Council had previously approved the programs which will be offered at the Centre. The Planning Committee is now bringing the Centre itself forward for approval under the Council Policy on Centres.

RIGBY/MacDONALD: That Council approve the Ron and Jane Graham Centre for the Study of Communication as a Type A Centre (College of Engineering).

CARRIED

9. Nominations Committee Report re Appointment to International Activities Committee

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

PAIN/HAMILTON: That Council approve the appointment of Keith Walker, Department of Educational Administration, to the International Activities Committee of Council effective immediately until June 30, 2010.

CARRIED

10. Academic Support Committee Mid-Year Report

Professor Len Proctor presented the report as Chair of the Committee, referring Council to the written report that was circulated with the agenda materials.

11. Instructional Development Committee

Professor Bob Tyler presented the report as Chair of the Committee, referring Council to the written report that was circulated at the door. There will be a follow-up report in May regarding the SEEQ pilot.

12. Other Business

There was no other business.

13. Question Period

No questions.

14. Next meeting

The next Council meeting is at 2:30 p.m., Thursday, March 15, 2007 in Neatby-Timlin Theatre.

15. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.