

**Minutes of University Council**  
**2:30 p.m., Thursday, November 15, 2007**  
**Neatby-Timlin Theatre**

*Attendance: See Appendix A.*

1. Opening Remarks

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:35 pm, and declared the meeting properly constituted with respect to quorum.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

POST/RHODES: That the agenda be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3. Minutes of the meeting of October 18, 2007

STEEVES/WISHART: That the minutes of October 18, 2007 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

A member asked whether Council minutes are distributed to non-members of Council prior to their being approved. The Chair indicated that there is a statutory requirement that a record of all motions passed at Council be distributed to all deans and department heads 10 days following the meeting, and that these be posted in a conspicuous place.<sup>1</sup> These are draft minutes until approved at the next Council meeting.

No other business was identified as arising from the minutes.

5. Report of the President

The President began his remarks by indicating that while Labour Relations at the University are addressed in settings other than University Council, the University cannot ignore the fact that a strike by any of the unions on campus affects all members of the community—faculty, staff, students and campus visitors. He assured members of Council that the University is doing everything it can to bring the current dispute to a conclusion on terms that are acceptable to the administration and Board, and to CUPE 1975. He stressed that he is not at liberty to share the precise nature of efforts underway to this end. These processes are complicated, delicate, and sensitive, and it is necessarily the case the conciliation must be conducted in confidence and in camera. He did, however, ask to put on record once again that the University values the

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<sup>1</sup> The statutory requirement is the *University of Saskatchewan Act*, Section 62(1) and (2).

contributions of its employees who are members of CUPE, and that we hope to bring to an early resolution those matters that continue to separate us at the bargaining table. In the meantime, he expressed gratitude for the patience of faculty, staff and students who have experienced the disruption and inconvenience of this work stoppage.

A member of Council asked whether the Board will be taking any action based on the petition that was delivered to the Office of the University Secretary, and took issue with the approach to labour relations reflected in the Human Resources Division Integrated Plan. The President indicated that the petition will be delivered to Board members, who will follow up as they see fit, but he emphasized that since the Human Resources Division reports to him through the Vice President, he takes responsibility for the Division and its activities.

Another member expressed appreciation to the President for his reassurances that every effort is being made to bring the current dispute to a resolution which will be acceptable to both sides. One member asked that the record show that this is a difficult time for members of the University community as it struggles to keep its academic programs going.

## 6. Report of the Acting Provost

Dr. Ernie Barber began by acknowledging that the past two weeks of action by CUPE 1975 have been difficult for many on campus and echoed the President's gratitude to the faculty, staff and students who have been working very hard to ensure that students are able to proceed with their academic work. He affirmed that students continue to be the University's top priority during this time.

The Provost reported that the month since Council last met has been marked by a great deal of activity focused on the next round of integrated planning; this work has been necessarily curtailed to some degree but is proceeding. He has now read almost all of the plans and observed that they are full of creative ideas and reflect a positive and optimistic view of our university and its future. He encouraged all members of Council to take time to respond to the survey that will be coming out shortly to elicit input to the themes for the second integrated plan. In response to a question from a student member, the Provost assured Council that students will be given an opportunity to respond to the survey.

## 7. Student Societies

### 7.1 Report from the USSU

Josie Steeves, USSU Vice President Academic, reported on behalf of the USSU. In addition to her written report, she spent some time describing the ways in which students are affected by the labour disruption, and the importance students place on a prompt resolution to the dispute and the resumption of normal activities and services. She also indicated that the USSU has not taken an official position on the

dispute; they will, however, be holding a rally November 16<sup>th</sup> to urge both sides to resume discussions in order to reach a resolution as soon as possible.

In response to a call for questions, Professor Jaeck asked whether it would be in order to propose the following motion:

“We the members of University Council urge the negotiating team of the university administration and the CUPE negotiating team to return to the bargaining table immediately, with a view to resolving the negative effect of the strike on University academic programs, especially the critical conditions that presently exist in the Colleges of Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, and Dentistry.”

The Chair ruled that without proper notice, a motion which would commit Council to a particular stance is not in order, but invited individual members of Council to register their views.

## 7.2 Report from GSA

There was no report from the Graduate Students' Association.

## 8. Bylaws Committee Report

### 8.1 Notice of Motion regarding Changes to Council Bylaws

Barry Ziola, Chair of the Bylaws Committee, brought notice of motion for a change in the procedures for selecting the Vice Chair of Council. The proposed bylaws change will go forward as a Request for Decision to the December 2007 meeting of Council.

## 9. Nominations Committee Report

Klaas Post presented the report as Chair of the Nominations Committee.

### 9.1 Appointments to University Review Committee and the Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee

POST/RICHARDSON: That Nicholas Low, Food and Bioproduct Sciences, be appointed as a member of the University Review Committee, to June 30, 2010.

CARRIED

POST/RICHARDSON: That Doug Thorpe, English, be appointed as a member of the Research, Scholarly & Artistic Work Committee, to June 30, 2010.

CARRIED

10. Academic Programs Committee Report

Professor Trever Crowe presented the report as Chair of the Committee.

10.1 College of Agriculture and Bioresources: Proposal for Bachelor of Science in Renewable Resource Management

CROWE/HILL: That Council approve the proposal from the College of Agriculture and Bioresources for a Bachelor of Science in Renewable Resource Management [B.Sc. (RRM)].

CARRIED

There was a question about the proportion of transfer credits for students coming in with 60 transfer credits from SIAST, and it was confirmed that a student would need an additional 60 credits from the U of S in their final two years to receive the U of S degree.

11. Planning and Priorities Committee Report

11.1 Update on College Plans Review Committee Activities

This item was presented for information by John Rigby, Chair of the Planning and Priorities Committee.

12. Question Period

There was a comment from a student member on the effect of the strike on students in clinical programs, and particularly the effect of not having clinical services deemed to be essential services.

13. Adjournment and Next meeting

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m. The next meeting is at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, December 20 in Neatby-Timlin Theatre.