

Minutes of University Council
2:30 p.m., Thursday, June 19, 2008
St. Thomas More College Auditorium

Attendance: See Appendix A.

1. Opening Remarks

Condolences were expressed on behalf of Council by Professor Emeritus Les Henry, Department of Soil Science to colleagues and family of Dr. Edward Halstead, former Director of the Soil Testing Lab and Professor of Soil Science. Dr. Halstead retired in June 1988. He died on May 30, 2008.

Following a moment of silence and with quorum having been met, the Chair opened the meeting by expressing her appreciation to Council members and, in particular, to Council Committee Chairs for their efforts and dedication on behalf of Council over the past year.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Rhodes/Urquhart: That the agenda be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3. Minutes of the meeting of May 15, 2008

Kalra/Richardson: That the minutes of the meeting of May 15, 2008 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. Report of the President

In addition to his written report, the President warmly acknowledged the service of Dr. Bill Thomlinson and Dr. Ernie Barber, whose respective terms conclude this month, and indicated he would provide a written summation of his remarks for the record to the Acting Recording Secretary.

The President highlighted the leadership of Dr. Thomlinson over the past five and one-half years as the inaugural Executive Director of the Canadian Light Source, noting his outstanding contributions to the CLS, the University, communities and Canadian science. The commitment, responsiveness and flexibility demonstrated by Dr. Barber as Acting Provost over the past year was acknowledged by the President,

particularly in light of the challenges of developing the University's Second Integrated Plan and Multi-Year Operating Budget Framework.

The President also thanked members of Council and Council Committee Chairs for their contributions over the year, noting the meeting concludes a successful year of Council activities.

6. Report of the Acting Provost

In addition to the comments in his written report, Acting Provost Ernie Barber highlighted the appointment of Dr. Gerry Uswak as Dean of Dentistry effective July 1, 2008.

The progress of the University's three interdisciplinary schools in the area of leadership and programming was reported on, and Dr. Barber encouraged Council members to review the status report on the schools at the link provided (www.usask.ca/vpacademic/policies/policies.php). Dr. Barber also referred to the report on the Undergraduate Forum, noting the forum was constituted to enable administrators charged with responsibility for undergraduate affairs to hear student concerns first-hand. The Undergraduate Forum has completed its first year of activity and will continue. An Associate and Assistant Deans Academic Forum is also now formalized, providing an opportunity for the discussion of common issues associated with academic programs across colleges.

A Council Member requested the student responses to the online application of SEEQ be provided as a percentage figure to provide a clearer indication of the low student response rate referred to in the Acting Provost's report. Assistant Provost Barrie Dubray stated he would forward this information on.

In closing, Dr. Barber expressed his appreciation to Council members and Council Committee Chairs, the Integrated Planning Office, members of the Provost's Office and colleagues and senior executives for their support and leadership during his term as Acting Provost.

7. Report of the Incoming Provost

Dr. Brett Fairbairn, Incoming Provost, expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to address Council on important matters related to the Second Integrated Plan. Dr. Fairbairn outlined his expectation for the Planning Parameters associated with the College and Administrative Unit Plans to be released in draft form over the summer for discussion with Deans and Administrative Unit leaders. The organization of the 20 university-level commitments as a key outcome of the Integrated Plan will also progress over the summer.

Dr. Fairbairn also stated he wished Council to be aware of the newly-created position of Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning effective July 1, 2008. The position will reinforce and enhance the Provost's leadership for teaching, learning, and academic issues, and is envisaged as developing the University's academic

innovation agenda and teaching and learning mission as expressed within the Second Integrated Plan and the draft Teaching and Learning Foundational Document.

An acting appointment for a two-year term is planned initially while the position profile is refined and developed in preparation for the search for the first full-term appointment. Dr. Fairbairn expressed his pleasure at the unofficial acceptance of Dr. Barber as the new Vice-Provost Teaching and Learning effective July 1, 2008, for a two-year term.

In response to the question of whether the appointment should be Vice-President rather than Vice-Provost, Dr. Fairbairn replied the position is parallel to the position of Vice-Provost of Faculty Relations, which will be the new title for Vice-Provost Germida. The title also designates the importance and closeness of the position to the Provost.

8. Student Society Reports

8.1 Report from the USSU

The USSU's written report was received for information.

8.2 Report from the Graduate Students' Association

The GSA's written report was received for information.

9. Scholarships and Awards Committee Report

Mr. Claude Lang presented the report as Committee Chair.

9.1 Approval of Award Policies

RENNY/REEVES: That Council approve the following two new award policies:

1. Hannon Travel Scholarships – Policy regarding Risk Assessment and Management; and
2. Deferral of Renewable and Continuing Scholarships Allowed

CARRIED

Mr. Lang asked Council members to amend the motion now before them to approve six amended award policies, rather than seven award policies. The third listed amended policy "Calculation of Award Averages for Continuing Students" has been removed to allow further consideration of aspects related to implementation of the amended policy.

RENNY/REEVES: That Council approve the following six amended award policies:

1. Eligibility for University of Saskatchewan Entrance Awards – Attendance at any Accredited High School

2. Credit Units required for Payment of Awards
3. Dual Registered Students – Exception to Credit Units Required for Payment of Awards
4. Entrance Award Limit – One per Student
5. University Awards for Visiting and Exchange Students
6. Continuing Student Scholarship Limit

CARRIED

Mr. Lang expressed his gratitude to the Ms. Janelle Hutchinson, Committee Secretary for support and assistance throughout the year.

9.2 Annual Report of the Scholarships and Awards Committee for 2007/2008

This report was received for information.

10. Nominations Committee Report

Professor Steven Richardson presented the report on behalf of the Committee Chair.

10.1 Nominations for Committees

The Chair called for nominations from the floor; there being none, the motion was put to a vote.

RICHARDSON/HAMILTON: That Council approve the nominations to Council Committees and Collective Agreement Committees for 2008/09, as outlined on pages 69 – 71 of the agenda material.

CARRIED

Professor Richardson expressed his gratitude on behalf of Professor Klaas Post, Committee Chair, for the participation of committee members and the administrative support provided by Ms. Cathie Fornssler, Committee Secretary.

11. Planning and Priorities Committee Report

Professor John Rigby presented the report as Committee Chair.

11.1 Approval of the Indigenous Land Management Institute (ILMI)

RIGBY/KALRA: That Council approve the Indigenous Land Management Institute as a Type B Centre, effective June 19, 2008.

CARRIED

11.2 Approval of Department Name Changes in the College of Arts and Science

Professor Rigby stated the proposed department name changes are the result of extensive discussion and consultation within the College of Arts and Science regarding the future academic direction of the College and departments involved. Dr. David Hannah, Associate Vice-President, Student and Enrolment Services, requested future consultations also include the Registrar's Office to facilitate the related changes which must occur within the SI system. To permit the Registrar's office to make the required changes in a timely manner, Professor Rigby suggested that consultation with the Registrar be made explicit within the template being developed by the University Secretary's Office on the process for submission of a change of name.

RIGBY/KALRA: That Council approve the change of name of the Department of Religious Studies and Anthropology to the Department of Religion and Culture, effective July 1, 2008.

CARRIED

RIGBY/KALRA: That Council approve the change of name of the Department of Archaeology to the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, effective July 1, 2008.

CARRIED

RIGBY/KALRA: That Council approve the change of name of the Department of Geography to the Department of Geography and Planning, effective July 1, 2008.

CARRIED

11.3 Report on Major Capital Projects

This report was received for information.

11.4 Report on Revised Guidelines for the Establishment of Centres

Professor Rigby outlined the major changes to the proposed revisions to the Guidelines for the Establishment of Centres as the removal of the submission of a letter of intent for Type B Centres and guidance on the governance and management of academic programs associated with centres.

11.5 Request for Input: A Framework for Assessment: Beyond Systematic Program Review

Professor Rigby briefly outlined the development and consultation of the proposed assessment framework contained within the document *A Framework for Assessment: Beyond Systematic Program Review* and invited discussion of the document, noting the intent for the assessment framework to be presented to Council for approval in the fall.

Discussion of the document included questions about the timing of the types of assessment included within the academic stream and how these will be coordinated. Greater integration of planned assessment with external accreditation program reviews, particularly professional programs within the area of health, was requested. The request was also made for the description of the scope of professional accreditation to be broadened beyond undergraduate curriculum review to reflect the extensive review undertaken by professional accrediting bodies.

Professor Rigby thanked members for their comments and requested that further remarks and suggestions be directed towards Ms. Pauline Melis, Director of Institutional Planning.

11.6 Annual Report for 2007/2008

This report was received for information. Professor Rigby expressed his appreciation to Council members for their collegiality in advancing the academic affairs of the University, to members of the Planning and Priorities and College Plans Review Committees for their efforts throughout the year, and noted special thanks to Ms. Pauline Melis, Director of Institutional Planning and Ms. Sandra Calver, Committee Secretary.

12. Bylaws Committee Report

Professor Barry Ziola presented the report as Committee Chair.

12.1 Amendment to Council Bylaw Part One II re Council Elections

ZIOLA/RIGBY: That Council approve the following amendment to Council Bylaw Part One, II, *Election of Faculty Members to Council*

7. *In the event that insufficient nominations are received for faculty members at large under Section 53(2)(i) to fill the vacant positions, then those nominees whose nominations were received by the deadline will be considered elected by acclamation, and a second call for nominations will be sent.*
8. *In the event that no nominations are received by the deadline for a College representative under Section 53(2)(b) or for a librarian under Section 53(2)(d), then a second call for nominations will be sent.*
9. *If after two calls for nominations no candidate comes forward for a College representative under Section 53(2)(b) or for a librarian under Section 53(2)(d), then the Dean or the College Committee charged with nominations will be asked to ensure that a candidate is nominated. The Secretary will run the election in the event that more than one nominee comes forward for a position from that process.*

CARRIED

12.2 Amendments to Council Bylaw Part Two X re Membership on the Scholarships and Awards Committee

Professor Ziola explained that the motion requiring the Scholarships and Awards Committee Chair be a member of Council is made to balance the preference of Colleges to designate administrative staff, whose area of expertise is in the administration of scholarships and awards, rather than academic faculty members to the Committee, with the need to ensure oversight by Council.

ZIOLA/RIGBY: That Council approve the following amendment to Council Bylaw Part Two X with respect to the membership of the Scholarships and Awards Committee:

That the membership of the Scholarships and Awards Committee be amended to require that the chair be a member of Council, and to include a provision that should none of the College/School representatives who are Council members be available to chair, the Nominations Committee will identify a member of Council, supernumerary to the College/School representatives, to chair the committee.

CARRIED

12.3 Appointments to the Nominations Committee

The Chair called for nominations from the floor; there being none, the motion was put to a vote.

ZIOLA/RIGBY: That Council approve the following appointments to the Nominations Committee, effective July 1, 2008.

Kevin Ansdell, Geological Sciences, term expires June 30, 2010
Mark Carter, College of Law, term expires June 30, 2011
Malcolm Reeves, Civil & Geological Engineering, term expires June 30, 2011
Fran Walley, Soil Science, term expires June 30, 2011.

CARRIED

12.4 Request for Input: Student Code of Conduct

Professor Ziola introduced discussion of the item, noting the draft preamble for the Student Code of Conduct proposed to replace the *Non-Academic Discipline and Appeals* regulations is also envisaged as forming the guiding principles for the *Student Academic Dishonesty and Appeals* regulations.

Comments included the importance of communicating the University's expectations with regard to student conduct and support for the explicit statement within the document supporting students' right to freedom of expression if expressed in a non-threatening manner. A Council member requested fellow members review the document closely from the perspective that the draft code represents a substantial

policy change from the University's present involvement to now include student conduct off campus identifiable to the University.

Professor Ziola encouraged Council members to provide further comments to Dr. David Hannah, Associate Vice-President, Student and Enrolment Services and Dr. Lea Pennock, University Secretary.

13. Academic Programs Committee

Professor Francois Messier presented item 13.1 on behalf of the Committee Chair and briefly summarized the program, which allows students in any of the four existing programs of Agricultural and Bioresource Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering, and Geological Engineering to follow on in the new degree program from their second year.

13.1 Engineering: BE in Environmental Engineering

MESSIER/REEVES: That Council approve the new degree program of Bachelor of Science in Engineering (B.E.) in Environmental Engineering.

CARRIED

13.2 Agriculture & Bioresources: Reinstatement of the Agronomy Major

Professor Gordon Hill presented the remainder of the report. The Agronomy field of specialization remains one of the most popular themes within the Plant Sciences Major. With the revisions to Diploma in Agronomy, reinstatement of the Agronomy field of specialization at the major level within the BSA degree program, will allow transfer from the diploma program to a degree granting program.

HILL/MESSIER: That Council approve reinstatement of the Agronomy field of specialization at the major level in the Bachelor of Science in Agriculture program.

CARRIED

13.3 Arts & Science: New Degree Structure for Bachelor of Arts and Science

Professor Hill noted the proposed degree structure opens a wider array of programming options to students in the form of integrated degree programs in the arts (social sciences, humanities and/or fine arts) with the natural sciences. The proposed degree structure is responsive to student demand for innovative programming, such as the creation of a Bachelor of Arts and Science in Health Studies.

HILL/MESSIER: That Council approve the Bachelor of Arts and Science as a new degree structure for programs in the College of Arts and Science.

CARRIED

13.4 Arts and Science/Medicine: Biomedical Sciences second year Revisions and Related Changes to Professional College Admission Requirements

Professor Hill described the amalgamation of a common core of second year undergraduate courses common to the Departments of Anatomy and Cell Biology, Biochemistry, Microbiology and Immunology, and Physiology as a forward-looking step which provides entry into a discipline specific major in the third year of study of these programs.

Comments related to the question of resources due to the laboratory reorganization and new laboratory space required and the development of contingency plans in the event the required funds are not forthcoming. Dr. Ovsenek, Associate Dean, Biomedical Sciences noted there are budgetary shortfalls and additional resources are required; however, the budget estimates reflect a realistic view of the costs associated with the transition to a common year. Professor Hill noted that in approving the proposed changes Council is approving the academic merits of the proposed revisions; the associated resources will require subsequent approval by those with authority over resources, including PCIP.

Comments on the C7 Electives included the suggestion for a review of the prerequisite requirements for the electives listed to ensure the courses listed are available for the majority of students, and that the C7 Electives in the Biochemistry program encompass electives in the arts, in addition to the sciences.

HILL/RICHARDSON: That Council approve the proposed Biomedical Science program changes and related changes to professional college admission requirements, subject to sufficient incremental funding.

CARRIED

13.5 Items for Information: Arts & Science: Minor in Water Science
CGSR: Revisions to Master of Nursing Nurse Practitioner Option Program

This report was received for information.

13.6 Annual Report for 2007/2008

This report was received for information

Professor Hill expressed his appreciation on behalf of Professor Trever Crowe, Committee Chair, to all members for their service over the year, and in particular to Ms. Pauline Melis, Director of Institutional Planning and Ms. Cathie Fornssler, Committee Secretary.

14. Academic Support Committee

Professor Marek Majewski presented the report on behalf of the Committee Chair.

14.1 Annual Report for 2007/2008

This item was received for information.

14.2 Request for Input: Using Copyrighted Materials in Electronic Formats: Principles and Responsibilities

Professor Majewski introduced the discussion item, stating the item proposes a set of principles, definitions, and responsibilities related to the responsible use of copyrighted materials, particularly materials in electronic form. The impetus for a policy is due in large part to the lack of clarity in the *Copyright Act* regarding the use of electronic materials in university classrooms. However, with the amendments to the *Copyright Act* recently tabled in the House of Commons, it is not clear whether a policy or guidelines on copyright will be required for the University. Nonetheless, a clearer understanding of copyright with respect to education and the rights and responsibilities of University members in their access of copyrighted materials is desired.

A Council Member commented that the scope of the issues identified goes beyond the issue of electronic resources in the classroom to the issue of copyright in an academic setting. As copyright is an incentive for creators to create intellectual property and place some restrictions on its use, the request was made for a reflection of the balance between creators and users of intellectual property within the principles outlined.

Further comments and reflections were invited to be sent electronically to Ms. Cathie Fornssler, Committee Secretary.

15. Teaching and Learning Committee Annual Report for 2007/2008

This report was received for information.

16. Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee Annual Report for 2007/2008

This report was received for information.

17. Joint Board/Council Committee on Chairs and Professorships Annual Report for 2007/2008

This report was received for information.

18. Question Period

No questions were raised.

19. Other Business

There was no other business.

20. Adjournment and Next Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m. Next meeting is at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, September 25 in the Neatby-Timlin Theatre – Room 241 Arts.