

**Minutes of University Council**  
**2:30 p.m., Thursday, May 15, 2008**  
**St. Thomas More College Auditorium**

*Attendance: See Appendix A.*

1. Opening Remarks

Condolences were expressed on behalf of Council by Dr. William Albritton, Dean, College of Medicine, to family and friends of Professor Emeritus Dr. Witold Zaleski, who retired from the Pediatrics Department on June 30, 1987. Dr. Zaleski was a child psychiatrist and taught in the Pediatrics Department from 1967-1987. He died on March 11 at the age of 87.

The Chair requested that our fellow academics, students and people in China and Burma that were affected by the earthquakes and cyclone be remembered during the minute of silence.

Following a moment of silence, and quorum having been met, the business of Council resumed.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The Chair indicated that two additional items relating to the Nominations Committee Report had been circulated at the door as part of agenda item 11.3.

RICHARDSON/KALRA: That the agenda be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3. Minutes of the meeting of April 17, 2008

ZIOLA/REEVES: That the minutes of the meeting of April 17, 2008 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

The Chair reported that items for business that were not covered at the last meeting before quorum was lost have been added to today's agenda.

5. Report of the President

The President provided a verbal update to his written report, and drew members' attention to the fact that the Second Integrated Plan and the Multi-year Operating Budget Framework had been well received by the Board of Governors at its May 2

meeting. He expressed thanks to all involved in developing these important planning documents.

6. Report of the Acting Provost

Acting Provost Ernie Barber echoed the President's thanks to those involved in the recent planning activities, highlighting the involvement of all three of the University's governing bodies in the development of the Integrated Plan for 2008-12. The plan has now been formally approved by both Council and the Board, and has received the strong endorsement of the University Senate. Dr. Barber advised Council members that planning continues, and his office is now actively working on the implementation plan.

There was a question about the significance of a statement in the appendix to the Provost's report that indicates the Province's intention to work with the university sector to develop a tuition management strategy. Dr. Barber responded that while it is not clear whether the government has a particular arrangement in mind, government officials have given every indication that they are prepared to work with the universities in developing their approach. To this end, the University has put a tuition policy project team in place, with the Planning and Priorities Committee serving as the steering committee.

7. Report of Land Use Task Force

Vice President Richard Florizone presented the final report of the Task Force and presented some key comments and observations. He cited the Task Force as an excellent example of collegial discussion and debate at its best, and acknowledged the hard work and support of Karen Chad, Judy Yungwirth and James Cooke, as well as the Council committees which had input. The report identifies the University's land base as a significant and strategically important resource both for the University and for the City of Saskatoon, and identifies the Board of Governors as the authority to make decisions about its use, with input from Council where there are academic implications for that use. The report also identifies pressures on decision-making about the use of the land, including institutional growth, the need for affordable student housing, escalating real estate values and demands for sustainability. A key finding of the report, based on benchmarking against other universities, is that some development is feasible. In order to assure that development proceeds responsibly, the report makes two main recommendations: first, that the university should move to define a 50-year master plan and expand it to our community partners, and second, that there should be a governance structure and process that mirrors the one the University uses for its major capital projects. In the more immediate term, the report suggests that the University move quickly to develop student housing on the western half of what is known as the College Quarter. Development of the eastern half will depend on the 50-year master plan.

## 8. Student Society Reports

### 8.1 Report from the USSU

Academic Vice President Brea Lowenberger presented the report, drawing Council members' attention to the items respecting the orientation and retreat for incoming Executive members. She also announced the USSU was the 2008 recipient of the Saskatchewan Work and Family Balance Award, presented May 12 by the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment & Labour.

### 8.2 Report from the Graduate Students' Association

Daniel Zhang, the new Vice President Academic for the GSA, reported on the Executive retreat held on May 2 for incoming and outgoing executive members in order to develop a strategic plan for the coming year. He outlined the following priorities for the new Executive: establishment of a graduate commons in the former chapel of the College of Emmanuel and St. Chad; streamlining and improving the efficiency of communications among graduate students with the support of university partners; academic integrity; enhancing the financial resources of graduate students; health and dental plan renewal and revisions to the opt-out and opt-in program; lobbying on the housing shortage; and promotion of sustainability projects on campus.

## 9. Bylaws Committee Report

Professor Barry Ziola presented the report as Chair.

### 9.1 Notice of Motion re amendments to Council Bylaw Part Two X with respect to Membership of the Scholarships & Awards Committee

The following notice of Motion was received:

*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.*

### 9.2 Notice of motion re amendments to Council Bylaws Part One, II respecting Council College Elections

The following notice of Motion was received:

*That Council approve the 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.*
10. Academic Programs Committee Report

Items 10.1, 10.2 and 10.3 were presented by Committee Chair Dr. Trever Crowe; Items 10.4, 10.5 and 10.6 were presented by Committee Vice Chair Francois Messier.

10.1 Referral from Coordinating Committee about the Print Calendar issue

This item was received for information.

10.2 Program Termination Procedure for the University of Saskatchewan

In presenting this document for approval, Professor Crowe asked members to delete references to Attachment I in the document, to delete Attachment I, to renumber Attachment II as Attachment I, and to change all references to Attachment II in the document accordingly.

CROWE/MESSIER: That Council approve the updated Program Termination Procedure as amended.

CARRIED

10.3 College of Arts and Science: Revisions to the Anthropology Specialization in the B.A. Program

This item was received for information.

10.4 Graduate Studies and Research: Health Sciences specialization in the M.Sc. and Ph.D. programs

Professor Francois Messier presented this item as Vice Chair of the Academic Programs Committee.

MESSIER/HILL: That Council approve the specialization in Health Sciences in the M.Sc. and Ph.D. programs.

CARRIED

10.5 Graduate Studies & Research: Master of Sustainable Environmental Management, Master of Environment and Sustainability, and specialization in Environment and Sustainability in the Ph.D. program

Professor Messier responded to questions about who had designed the program and what opportunity new faculty in the School would have to revise the program, and whether the credit unit requirement was sufficiently high for the PhD program.

MESSIER/HILL: That Council approve the Master of Sustainable Environmental Management, the Master of Environment and Sustainability, and the Environment and Sustainability specialization in the Ph.D. program.

CARRIED

10.6 Items for Information: Graduate Studies and Research reinstatement and revision of the Performance Option in the Master of Music program

This item was received for information.

11. Nominations Committee Report

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

11.1 Search Committee for the Dean of Veterinary Medicine

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

POST/RICHARDSON: That Council approve the nomination of Graham Scoles, Acting Dean, College of Agriculture and Bioresources, as the General Academic Assembly representative to the Search Committee for Dean of Veterinary Medicine.

CARRIED

11.2 International Activities Committee members for 2007-08

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

POST/RICHARDSON: That Council approve the nominations of Lawrence Martz and Bruce Coulman as members of the International Activities Committee effective immediately to June 30, 2008.

CARRIED

11.3 Nominations to Council committees and Collective Agreement committees for 2008-09

Professor Post thanked all those who were willing to allow their names to stand for appointment to Council's committees. He also noted the two additional

nominations circulated at the door: for Gordon Hill as Chair of the Academic Programs Committee and as Vice Chair of Council. The Chair called for nominations from the floor; there being none, the motion was put to a vote.

POST/RICHARDSON: That Council approve the nominations to Council Committee, Collective Agreement Committees and other Committees for 2008-09 as outlined on pages 249 – 257 of the agenda material and as included in the two nominations circulated at the door as items 11.4 and 11.5.

CARRIED.

12. Planning and Priorities Committee Report

Professor John Rigby presented the report as Chair of the Planning and Priorities Committee. He began by expressing congratulations to President Peter MacKinnon on his re-appointment for a third term.

12.1 Multi-Year Operating Budget Framework 2008/09 – 2011/12

This item was received for information.

12.2 Approval of the Interdisciplinary Centre for Culture and Creativity (ICCC)

RIGBY/KALRA: That Council approve the Interdisciplinary Centre for Culture and Creativity as a Type A Centre in the College of Arts and Science, effective May 15, 2008.

CARRIED

12.3 Approval of the *W. Brett Wilson Centre for Entrepreneurial Excellence*

RIGBY/KALRA: That Council approve the *W. Brett Wilson Centre for Entrepreneurial Excellence* as a Type B Centre, effective May 15, 2008.

CARRIED

12.4 Guidelines for Establishing Departments

This item was received for information.

13. Discussion of the draft *Foundational Document on Teaching and Learning*

The report was presented by Bob Tyler, chair of the Teaching and Learning Committee, and was received for information. He shared some of the key points that have been raised to date by individuals and committees who have reviewed the document:

- Suggestions to shorten the document by moving some of the quantitative information into appendices
- Clarification whether this is a ‘values’ document, or a plan

- Questions about where the resources will come from
- Need for prioritization of initiatives
- Indication of where campus leadership will come from
- Call for university policies and priorities with respect to e-learning
- Clarification of what is meant by, and emphasis on, experiential learning
- Means to ensure that teaching is valued and rewarded
- Recognition of institutional outcomes as a good thing
- Emphasis on Aboriginal teaching and learning
- Emphasis on internationalization

The Chair of the International Activities Committee indicated his Committee looks forward to seeing more strategies to promote internationalization in the document, including a rubric for international criteria in the evaluation of teaching. A member suggested the inclusion of laboratory activity in the definition of experiential learning. A single strategy for e-learning was identified as a need on our campus; it could be included as an appendix in this document or as a separate document. A student member spoke in favour of e-learning as a way for students to interact with one another beyond the classroom. Members of the drafting committee expressed gratitude for the input they have received to date and encouraged members of Council to relay their further comments to the Committee. Ms. Melis indicated that the USSU has had extensive discussions with the drafting committee, and expressed the hope that Deans will take this document to their faculty and send comments from their discussions.

14. Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee Report

This item was presented by Dean Carol Rodgers, Chair of the Committee.

14.1 New Researcher Award and Distinguished Researcher Award

This item was received for information.

15. International Activities Annual Report for 2007/08

This item was presented by Professor Dwayne Brenna as Chair of the Committee, and was received for information.

16. Coordinating Committee

16.1 Request for Input on Memorial Tributes

This item was presented by the Chair, with a request that Council members offer their views on the presentation of memorial tributes at Council; these should be sent to the University Secretary.

17. Results of Council Elections

This item was received for information.

## 18. Question Period

A member asked the Acting Provost to comment on the time lines for next steps in integrated planning, and how the implementation will unfold. Dr. Barber indicated that a Capital Action plan is being developed; this is a comprehensive document looking at all of the institution's capital assets and calling for strategic decisions on projects; it will be tabled in October. Planning parameters for each of the 26 planning units will be sent in draft form before the end of June; these will outline general and specific expectations and will speak in some instances to particular requests around individual commitments. There will be opportunity for discussion between the new Provost and the unit heads over the course of the fall. Another aspect is the plan to name an institutional leader for each of the 20 commitments in the integrated plan; this person will be responsible for overseeing the activity that supports their assigned commitment and for encouraging creativity, collaboration and efficiency in that implementation. There will be some university-level initiatives in each of the areas; senior leaders will be assigned for each of these as well. Dr. Barber indicated that on June 20 he will be inviting Deans, Directors, leaders of planning units, and Vice Presidents to come together and discuss roles and responsibilities for moving the commitment forward. On the Academic Priorities Fund, PCIP will assign a portion of the \$4.5M available for investment in ongoing work; there will be an accumulation of some one-time funds available to help support the initiatives in the Integrated Plan. A portion will be allocated to initiatives coming forward within each of the commitments in the plan. He observed that since the Academic Priorities Fund rarely covers the full cost of an initiative, there is a strong need for leveraging matching funds and reallocation within units.

Another member asked the President to comment on how the Board of Governors received the plan, and whether there were any messages from the Board to Council. The President responded by characterizing the role of the Board as an oversight role; Board members want to know that a careful process has been undertaken, that the Administration has engaged in consultation and has sought Council's and Senate's support. He noted that several Board members participated at an early stage of the development of themes for integrated planning, and that in general Board members are very supportive of and interested in the planning process.

A Student member of the GSA urged members of Council to remember their colleagues who have been touched by the recent natural disasters in Burma and China. In the province in China where the earthquake occurred, at least 20,000 people have died; the count may be higher than 50,000. Many schools were damaged and many students were killed as the earthquake happened while classes were on. The Chair encouraged individual members of Council to respond to this plea.

## 19. Other Business

There was no other business.

20. Adjournment and Next Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 4:23 p.m. Next meeting is at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, June 19 (St. Thomas More Auditorium, Room 140).