

**Minutes of University Council**  
**2:30 p.m., Thursday, September 25, 2008**  
**Neatby Timlin Theatre**

*Attendance: See Appendix A.*

1. Opening Remarks

Condolences were expressed on behalf of Council by Acting Associate Dean Len Haines, College of Education to colleagues of Professor Catherine Day. Ms. Day began her teaching near Prince Albert. After receiving her Master's degree, Ms. Day helped to develop the Special Needs Education Program in Saskatchewan and worked as a professor at the University of Saskatchewan from 1967 until her retirement in June 1987. She died May 16, 2008.

Professor Richard Schwier, Department of Curriculum Studies, presented the next tribute, to Dr. Leslie Richards, a faculty member in the College of Education who began his teaching career at the U of S in 1970. Dr. Richards, a native of Wales, received his B.A. and M.Ed. from the U of S while teaching elementary and high school in Saskatoon, and later completed an M.S. in Geography and a Ph.D. at the University of Oregon. Dr. Richards taught for 20 years in the College of Education. He passed away May 16, 2008.

Condolences were also expressed to family and colleagues of Professor Tom Taylor, College of Education Professor of Industrial Arts & Technical Vocational Education (1965-1980). Former Dean Murray Scharf from the College of Education presented this tribute. Professor Taylor died on May 18, 2008.

Dr. Guyon (Guy) Richards followed his father and three older brothers into medicine, training at Christ's College, Cambridge and St. Bartholomew's Hospital in London, and entered military service upon graduation in 1942. His assignment to a Canadian infantry battalion ultimately drew him to Canada. He taught bacteriology and later medical sociology at the U of S until his retirement in 1986. He died June 20, 2008. His former colleague, Dr. Allan Anderson presented his tribute.

Professor Don Cochrane presented a tribute to Dr. Naomi L. Hersom, Dean of Education from 1981-1986, who passed away on June 27, 2008. She graduated in Arts and Education from the University of Manitoba and received her Ph.D. at the University of Alberta in 1969, becoming the University's first female dean, in the College of Education, in 1981. Dr. Hersom was granted honorary degrees from no fewer than seven universities in recognition of her contributions to education in Canada, particularly women's issues.

Finally, condolences were expressed by Professor David Dodds, Head of the Electrical Engineering Department, to colleagues and family of Professor Roy Ludwig, Professor Emeritus in Electrical Engineering. Professor Ludwig enjoyed 44 years as a professor and many years as the Assistant Dean of the College of Engineering. Professor Ludwig died July 2, 2008.

Following a moment of silence and quorum having been met, the Chair opened the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

She welcomed new members to Council and made some comments on the matters that will be facing Council in the coming year, citing the importance of the academic agenda in the University's new integrated plan, including the focus on innovation as evidenced by the new schools, and the emphasis on Aboriginal and international students and on student success. She also cited the importance to Council of the University's sense of place and of opportunities to work in partnership to promote and sustain excellence in all of the University's activities. She expressed her intention to spend time on communication of Council's activities within the University community and invited input from all members of Council.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

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

CARRIED

3. Minutes of the meeting of June 19, 2008

RENNY/MacDONALD: That the minutes of the meeting of June 19, 2008 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

No business was identified as arising from the minutes.

5. Report of the President

The Provost conveyed the President's regrets and presented the report on the President's behalf, calling particular attention of Council members to the items concerning enrolment and the announcement of provincial funding for the Academic Health Sciences project.

6. Report of the Provost

Professor Fairbairn then presented his own report, highlighting the upcoming Town Hall on the implementation of the Integrated Planning Process and providing an overview of the development of planning parameters for unit and college plans, noting that these will be shared in draft form with the Planning and Priorities Committee of Council. He also provided an update on the 20 commitments which have been adopted under the Plan, noting that these provide a work plan for the Provost and for the University for the next four years. Each of the commitments will be assigned to a commitment leader(s) who will be responsible for taking a leadership role for that commitment. The Provost introduced those commitment leaders in attendance at the meeting, and drew Council members' attention to a handout which was circulated at the door and which identifies each of the

commitment leaders. This document is appended as Appendix B. Each commitment leader will be working with an executive sponsor and a small team of five or six individuals who will take responsibility for overseeing the implementation, and a larger team of individuals who have expressed interest in furthering the commitment. The Provost invited Council members to consider becoming part of one or more of these teams.

The Provost also stressed that the Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning will be assisting, particularly with the commitments in Area 1 of the Plan, Enhancing the Student Experience.

He highlighted other areas in his report, including decanal searches, and drew members' attention to the fact that next week is Academic Integrity Awareness week. He also invited Council members to attend a presentation by higher education consultant Ken Steele of Academica Group on emerging trends in post-secondary education in Canada, to be given on Tuesday, October 7 at 10:00 a.m. Further details were circulated at the door.

7. Report of the Vice President Finance & Resources on Student Housing

Dr. Richard Florizone thanked Council for having invited him to present on the issue of student housing. He noted that there have been some recent developments reported in the press, and that responses to the student housing shortage by the University and the provincial government are evolving quickly. He cited both long-term and short-term issues around affordability of student housing, pointing out that the University has not built any new housing in 30 years, and that construction costs have outpaced rental costs. He indicated that the University has begun looking at a number of potential solutions, including a SaskHousing proposal. Since the latter was not funded, the University has instead issued a Request for Proposal to prospective developers. The RFP outlines the needs of the university and some of the infrastructure conditions, stipulating some baseline principles but encouraging developers to consider creative proposals. This Friday is the deadline; early indications are that there will be a good response. The proposals will be analyzed, a potential partner identified, and the proposal taken to government in late fall. Dr. Florizone assured Council that this matter is one of his top priorities, and invited questions and comments.

The Vice President responded to questions about the extent to which input has been sought by city and/or community associations, about whether thought has been given to housing for married students and students with children, about whether there is any intention of providing services such as medical and dental facilities and grocery outlets, and about whether the predicted collapse in residential prices would suggest not going forward at this time.

## 8. Student Society Reports

### 8.1 Report from the Undergraduate Students' Association

Brea Loewenberger, Vice President Academic for the USSU, presented the report. She began by correcting the date of the Place Riel meeting, which takes place tonight (not Sept 5) in Lower Sask Hall. She also commented on the recent and coming activities of the USSU, and invited Council members to listen to a program on CFCR 90.5 on Tuesday evenings, hosted by the USSU's VP External.

### 8.2 Report from the Graduate Students' Association

Daniel Zhang, Vice President Academic of the GSA, presented his report highlighting the proposal for a graduate commons space, orientation activities, and ongoing projects. There was one question, about when details of a proposal for a graduate commons would be open to members of the University community.

## 9. Bylaws Committee

Professor Linda Ferguson presented the report as Chair of the Committee.

### 9.1 Notice of Motion re proposed amendments to Council Bylaws Part Two IV with respect to the Terms of Reference of the Coordinating Committee

Professor Ferguson presented some background on the new terms of reference being proposed for the Council's Coordinating Committee. This is an information item, as a notice of motion to be considered at the next meeting:

*That Council approve an amendment to the terms of reference of the Coordinating Committee by adding the additional terms:*

- (1) Setting the agenda for Council meetings.*
- (2) Receiving and determining the disposition of motions from individual members of Council. In making its determination, the Coordinating Committee may refer the matter to a standing committee, or may include the motion on the Council agenda for consideration.*

A suggestion was made that the word "may" introduces ambiguity about whether one of two specified options must be taken by the Coordinating Committee. A concern was registered that this motion would be a 'filter' for an individual to put a notice of motion on the floor. The Chair's response was that this motion does not stop motions coming forward to the floor.

Another member pointed out that there is no provision for what the standing committee must do to get the motion to the floor of Council. It was suggested that the motion be taken back to the Bylaws Committee for re-working. Professor Ferguson confirmed that the motion can be amended next month on the floor of Council and a vote taken on an amended motion.

#### 9.2 Notice of Motion for Changes to Council Bylaws Part Two and Three

A notice of motion proposing housekeeping amendments to the Council Bylaws Part Two and Part Three was received for information.

### 10 Planning and Priorities Committee

#### 10.1 Framework for Assessment: Beyond Systematic Program Review

Professor Jay Kalra, Chair of the Planning and Priorities Committee, presented this item and described the process by which the framework has been drafted and revised. He then invited Brett Fairbairn to comment on the framework. Dr. Fairbairn addressed the questions of why assessment is necessary, why the recommendation is being made not to continue with Systematic Program Review, and why this particular framework is being put forward.

The Chair pointed out that the motion has been moved and seconded:

KALRA/GRANT: That Council adopt *A Framework for Assessment: Beyond Systematic Program Review* as the new framework for assessment for the University of Saskatchewan, effective September 25, 2008.

The seconder noted that the intent of the document is to link assessment to institutional-level planning and decision-making. There was considerable discussion about the motion, including questions about

- How priorities for assessments will be set and why/whether some units might not be assessed;
- What the criteria were for selection of the unit reviews cited in the attachment and how complete the list is;
- Why the choice was made to require systematic review of graduate programs but flexible reviews of other programs;
- Whether a template and set of standard questions will be developed as guidelines for reviews before assessments are done;
- How much feedback and input came in following the June meeting?

A member expressed the view that since a large number of those present are new members who were not at the June meeting and may not have been part of the discussion of the document, Council might prefer to see the approval deferred to the October meeting. The Chair then asked whether the member wished to make a motion to that effect.

HILL/RANGACHARYULU: To defer consideration of the motion to the October meeting of Council.

CARRIED

11. Nominations Committee

WALLEY/HAMILTON: That Council approve the nominations to the Scholarships and Awards Committee as circulated.

CARRIED

12. Question Period

A member rose to complement the USSU for initiation of the goal of seeking solutions regarding the rising costs of textbooks and academic materials as outlined in their report to Council

13. Adjournment and Next meeting

The meeting adjourned at 4:27 p.m. Next meeting is on Thursday, October 23 at 2:30 p.m. in Neatby-Timlin Theatre

DRAFT