

Minutes of University Council
2:30 p.m., Thursday, April 16, 2009
Neatby-Timlin Theatre

Attendance: See appendix A.

1. Opening remarks

The chair called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m., quorum having been met. She began by thanking those individuals who let their names stand for election to Council next year, and announced the names of those elected for terms beginning in July, 2009.

2. Adoption of the agenda

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

CARRIED

3. Minutes of the meeting of March 19, 2009

GRANT/BUNT: That the minutes of the meeting of March 19, 2009 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 president commended members of Council to his written report and invited questions from the floor. There were no questions.

6. Report of the provost

The provost expanded on the item in his written report concerning PCIP's recent activities in development of the university's budget, explaining the process which will lead to consideration of the budget at the board's May meeting. He noted that there is a need to identify \$10M in permanent adjustments for 2009-10 with a potential for further adjustments necessary in 2010-11. One of the most significant challenges is the size and duration of the required pension solvency payments that the university must make extend over a lengthy period, perhaps as long as 10 years. In developing the budget, there have been ongoing conversations with the planning and priorities committee. A subcommittee has been struck to develop principles, process and criteria on which budget adjustments will be based. These conversations have been full and helpful in providing guidance and suggestions. The provost noted that the planning and priorities committee will likely also provide written advice to the president prior to the May board meeting. He advised that another aspect of the budget discussion concerns setting tuition fees, and that the board will consider a tuition fee increase at its May meeting. There will need to be additional

conversations within the university and with government about tuition policy. PCIP is also proceeding with making commitments to funds relating to research chairs, to student support, and to housing in accordance with the university's strategic priorities.

The provost also drew attention to the items in his report under 'implementation of the second integrated plan' and to the symposium that will be held on May 1 in relation to the development of an achievement record.

There were no questions for the provost.

7. Student society reports

7.1 Report from the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union

Brea Lowenberger presented her last report as the vice president academic for the USSU. She drew council members' attention to the announcements in her report of the new executive and to the winners of the USSU excellence awards, and to updates on the Place Riel expansion, Road Map 2020, and the Environmental Film Festival.

7.2 Report from the Graduate Students' Association

GSA Vice President Academic and Awards (Daniel) Xiaodong Zhang presented a verbal report from the Graduate Students' Association. This was also his final report. He announced the results of the GSA elections, which were released on Monday, and noted that the position of VP student affairs is still vacant.

8. Academic programs committee

Professor Gordon Hill presented this item as chair of the academic programs committee.

8.1 Request for approval: administrative revisions to examination regulations

HILL/PROCTOR: That Council approve administrative revisions to the University of Saskatchewan examination regulations as outlined on pages 19-34 of the agenda materials.

CARRIED

8.2 Request for approval: College of Arts and Science: Bachelor of Science four-year and honours in Psychology

HILL/PROCTOR: That Council approve the psychology specialization at the four-year major and honours level of concentration in the College of Arts and Science Bachelor of Science program.

CARRIED

8.3 Request for approval: College of Arts and Science: termination of the Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology field of specialization in the BA four-year and honours programs

HILL/PROCTOR: That Council approve termination of the Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology field of specialization in the Bachelor of Arts Four-Year and Bachelor of Arts Honours programs in the College of Arts and Science, effective on graduation of the students presently enrolled.

CARRIED

8.4 Request for approval: College of Nursing: termination of the Post-Registration Bachelor of Science in Nursing

HILL/PROCTOR: That Council approve termination of the Post-Registration Bachelor of Science in Nursing program in the College of Nursing, effective spring 2013, to allow students presently enrolled to graduate within the five year time requirement.

CARRIED

8.5 Items for information

The following items were received for information:

- Change of names of majors in Microbiology and Immunology
- Approval of Cross-College minor in Toxicology for College of Agriculture and Bioresources
- Programs under review
- Transfer and Articulation workshop

Members of Council were encouraged to consider attending the workshop on transfer credit articulation on April 21.

9. Planning and priorities committee

Professor Jay Kalra presented this item as chair of the planning and priorities committee.

9.1 Approval of the Centre for Strategic Financial Management – Type A

KALRA/GRANT: That Council approve the Centre for Strategic Financial Management, effective April 16, 2009.

CARRIED

9.2 Approval of the Centre for the Advancement of Accounting Education – Type A

KALRA/GRANT: That Council approve the Centre for the Advancement of Accounting Education, effective April 16, 2009.

CARRIED

There was a question about the extent to which the proposed centre has a research and scholarly (in contrast to teaching) mandate and focus. A member of Council pointed out that the planning and priorities committee clarified last year that centres do not necessarily have a research focus: Council has approved some teaching centres.

Dean Grant Isaac responded to a question about how the proponents had responded to the memo sent from the committee on March 24, and one about how the concept of “scholar chairs” relates to the request.

10. Other business

No further business was raised.

11. Question period

The chair directed a question to the dean of the business school, asking whether there was an attempt in the school to balance for-credit instruction on wealth accumulation with for-credit instruction on poverty alleviation. The Dean pointed out that the school’s volunteer tax program has assisted 1100 low income individuals in completion of their tax forms. A student noted that the Edwards School of Business students raised more money for homelessness than any other business school and that they are leaders on our campus in charitable donations. The chair then clarified that her question had been directed to matters of curriculum rather than extracurricular activities; a member of the ESB faculty registered his objection to the question. A council member questioned the appropriateness of the chair’s raising matters of business; the chair responded that it has been her announced intention in chairing Council meetings to try to stimulate discussion of issues.

12. Next meeting – Thursday, May 21 at 2:30 p.m. in Neatby-Timlin Theatre