

Minutes of University Council
2:30 p.m., Thursday, February 26, 2009
Neatby Timlin Theatre

Attendance: See appendix A.

1. Opening remarks

The chair called the meeting to order at 2:34 p.m. She announced that 14 nominations were received before the deadline for Council member-at-large nominations, leaving 4 vacancies. In accordance with Council's usual practice, a second call for nominations will go out and if necessary an election will be held. There is also still one vacancy for a College representative, in the College of Medicine.

2. Adoption of the agenda

HILL/URQUHART: That the agenda be adopted as circulated. CARRIED

3. Minutes of the meeting of January 22, 2009

KALRA/HENDERSON: That the minutes of the meeting of January 22, 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 provost indicated that the president sends regrets for the early part of the meeting and hopes to join the meeting in process. He is at a meeting of senior leaders from other postsecondary education institutions in the province, hosted by the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

The provost commended members of the council to the president's comprehensive summary of the federal budget, which is included in the written report along with a copy of an opinion piece written by the president that appeared in the Star Phoenix on February 13.

6. Report of the provost

Dr. Fairbairn began his report by congratulating Baljit Singh of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, the recipient of a 3M teaching award for this year.

The provost reported that PCIP has recently allocated funds to the three new interdisciplinary schools and to the College of Graduate Studies and Research for graduate student support, as well as to the ongoing operations of and enhancements to

the student information system. Further information about these commitments will appear in a forthcoming article in *On Campus News*.

The provost then provided an update on the status of the twenty commitments under the second integrated plan. Each is moving at its own pace, but all are active in assembling teams, developing work plans and undertaking environmental scans.

Dr. Fairbairn drew Council members' attention to the item in his report about the provincial nursing strategy and the item regarding the new governance structure being contemplated in the College of Arts and Science.

Finally he spoke about the Town Hall presentation that he made earlier this week with Vice President Florizone to present their analysis of how the economic situation in the world might affect the University of Saskatchewan, and the scenario analysis that is being undertaken at the request of the Board of Governors. Over 300 members of the university community were in attendance. He noted that there was some misreporting in the press, and he encouraged those who were unable to attend to review the slides of the presentation, available on the provost's web site. A video of the presentation is also available.

7. Student society reports

7.1 Report from the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union

Brea Lowenberger, academic vice president of the USSU, presented the report. She announced the USSU's decision to integrate sustainability into one of its existing staff portfolios, and also its new initiative to recognize excellence in academic advising with a new award. She also reported on developments in the Place Riel expansion programs. Finally, she commended SESD on the timely release of the examination schedule, which appeared in January.

7.2 Report on student housing

Shannon Dyck, whose new title is Vice President for Student Affairs, presented her report on student housing, focusing on the recommendations in the report. These recommendations include the following:

- Adequately fund U of S projects that increase student housing
- Ensure predictability, fairness and stability in rent by investigating the feasibility of limiting rent increases
- Highly publicize landlord/tenant rights and responsibilities and introduce procedures to give tenants a greater sense of security
- Increase Saskatchewan Student Loans' monthly shelter allowance to match rising rental prices
- Raise the cap on the amount students can earn through part-time work
- The City of Saskatoon and the Saskatchewan government should work together and with the federal government, post-secondary institutions, students' unions, the private sector and community organizations

- The City of Saskatoon should change its condominium approvals policy so the conversion of rental properties to condominium ownership is not allowed if the vacancy rate is below 3%
- The City of Saskatoon should change its condominium approvals policy to require unanimous consent from the tenants before a condominium conversion can proceed.

In response to a question about the distribution of the report, Shannon indicated that the report is a public document and has been submitted to the provincial government, the mayor of Saskatoon, and the university. She also reported that the Government of Saskatchewan committed \$15M to student housing following the release of the report.

7.3 Report from the Graduate Students' Association

There was no report from the GSA.

8. Academic programs committee

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

8.1 Examination regulations: request for input for procedural changes in examination regulations

Professor Hill indicated that many of the changes included in the proposed revisions are for housekeeping and clarification purposes and are under the authority of the academic programs committee. They are being brought for input; the committee meets in three weeks and following that period, the academic programs committee will consider the responses and recommend changes for approval.

8.2 College of Graduate Studies and Research: Master of Public Policy, PhD in public policy

HILL/PROCTOR: That Council approve both the Master of Public Policy (M.P.P.) and Ph.D. in public policy.

CARRIED

It was noted for clarification that the M.P.P is a new degree, while the Ph.D. in public policy is a new area of specialization within the Ph.D.

8.3 College of Arts and Science: Changing Bachelor of Science requirements to allow students to receive more than one Bachelor of Science degree; termination of the Advanced Certificate and Honours Certificate in Science

HILL/PROCTOR: That Council approve changes to the Bachelor of Science degree requirements so that students may receive a Bachelor of Science Four Year or Bachelor of Science Honours as a second degree and as a second B.Sc. degree, effective for the fall, 2009 convocation, and

That Council approve termination of the Advanced Certificate and Honours Certificate in Science, effective on completion of existing certificate programs.

CARRIED

There was a question about whether a parallel change is also being contemplated for Arts degrees, and also a question about whether this change applies to other science degrees such as Bachelor of Science of Agriculture (B.S.A.), Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology (B.Sc.(Kin)), or Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy (B.S.P.). It was clarified that the motion before Council today pertains only to the Bachelor of Science degrees (B.Sc. Four Year and B.Sc. Honours) in the College of Arts and Science.

8.4 Report for information: new level of concentration for science majors in Arts and Science: “specializations” within a major

Professor Hill explained the rationale and context for this decision, and also indicated that following discussion of this initiative the academic programs committee elected to strike a subcommittee to conduct a review of the existing nomenclature report. There was some discussion of the desirability of ensuring that students declare their majors, minors, and specializations early in their programs; it was suggested that these comments be relayed to the dean and vice deans in Arts and Science.

9. Bylaws committee

Professor Linda Ferguson presented the report as chair of the committee.

9.1 Motion re revisions to Council Bylaw Part One IV – creation and composition of council committees (g): re *ex officio* members

FERGUSON/ZELLO: That Council approve the amendment to Council Bylaw *Part One IV.1.g* as outlined on pages 173 – 175 of the agenda material.

CARRIED

9.2 Motion re revisions to Council Bylaw Part Three V – faculty of the School of Public Health

FERGUSON/ZELLO: That Council approve the addition of the terms of reference of the constitution and duties of faculties by including the Faculty of the School of Public Health:

- (n) All faculty members who hold a standard appointment in the School
- (o) Faculty members with a primary joint appointment in the school with a 0.25FTE or more time commitment to the school or a secondary joint appointment in the school with a 0.25 FTE or more time commitment to the school.
- (p) Up to two clinical community-based faculty members who have been elected by the community-based members of the school to represent the range of public health practice. At least one of these will be based outside of the Saskatoon Health Region.

- (q) The following members may be heard in faculty council, but may not vote:
- i. Associate members
 - ii. Adjunct members
 - iii. Faculty members who hold a primary appointment in the school or a secondary appointment in the school with a less than 0.25 FTE commitment to the school
 - iv. Such other persons as faculty council may, from time to time, appoint.

CARRIED

9.3 Notice of motion for change to membership of international activities committee

This report was received as a notice of motion for the next meeting of Council. The motion amends to membership of the committee to reduce the number of *ex officio* voting members by two members.

10. Nominations committee

This report was presented by Professor Malcolm Reeves, chair of the nominations committee.

10.1 Members of the joint board/council committee to review the *Search and Review Procedures for Senior Administrators*

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

REEVES/ANSDELL: That Council approve the nomination of Jim Cheesman, Psychology, College of Arts and Science, and

That Council approve the nomination of Bob Gander, Electrical and Computer Engineering, College of Engineering, and

That Council approve the nomination of Joan Sawatzky, College of Nursing

as the General Academic Assembly members on the Joint Committee to review *Search and Review Procedures for Senior Administrators*.

CARRIED

10.2 Search and review committees

The chair called for nominations from the floor for each of the following motions. There being no further nominations, the motions were put to a vote.

REEVES/ANSDELL: That Council approve the nomination of Janusz Kozinski, Dean of Engineering, as the member of Council on the Search Committee for VP Research.

CARRIED

REEVES/ANSDELL: That Council approve the nomination of Marie Battiste, Educational Foundations, College of Education, and

That Council approve the nomination of Karen Lawson, Psychology, College of Arts and Science, and

That Council approve the nomination of Nazeen Muhajarine, Community Health and Epidemiology, College of Medicine, and

That Council approve the nomination of Stephen Urquhart, Chemistry, College of Arts and Science

as the General Academic Assembly members on the Search Committee for VP Research.

CARRIED

REEVES/ANSDELL: That Council approve the nomination of Jane Lamothe, Engineering Library, as the GAA member on the Review Committee for Associate Vice-President, Information and Communications Technology.

CARRIED

REEVES/ANSDELL: That Council approve the nomination of Vivian Hajnal, Educational Administration, College of Education, as the General Academic Assembly member on the Review Committee for Dean of Kinesiology.

CARRIED

11. Planning and priorities committee

Professor Jay Kalra presented the report as chair of the committee.

11.1 Report on the college and administrative unit planning parameters

Professor Kalra outlined the background of his committee's review of the planning parameters and invited the provost to comment. Dr. Fairbairn expressed appreciation for the planning and priorities committee's involvement in reviewing these documents and for Council's involvement in the process. He described the importance of the parameters to the university's planning efforts.

There was a comment about the workload implications for faculty; the provost pointed out the importance of using the planning process to set priorities and to identify areas that should get less attention as well as those which should command more attention.

A member of Council expressed a plea for plainer language in these documents.

12. Report of the joint board/council committee on chairs and professorships

12.1 Revised guidelines for the establishment of chairs and professorships

RODGERS/BASINGER: That Council approve the revised *Guidelines for the Establishment of Chairs of Professorships* effective February 26, 2009.

CARRIED

There was a question about the effective date of the motion and the guidelines under which the new chairs were developed; it was clarified that the guidelines are effective immediately and that the new chair positions were developed using the new guidelines. There was also a question about the composition and terms of reference for the joint/board committee on chairs and professorships; it was noted that the membership and terms of reference have been approved by both the board and council.

12.2 Distinguished Chairs (University of Saskatchewan chairs program)

RODGERS/BASINGER: That Council approve the terms of reference for the *Distinguished Chairs (A Component of the University of Saskatchewan Chairs Program)* effective February 26, 2009.

CARRIED

There was some discussion of the value of this honorific, which does not appear to carry any compensation. In response to a question about whether there was any discussion of providing for distinguished chairs in teaching, the vice provost indicated that there was not, but that the committee would take this as a suggestion.

12.3 Chair in Rational Drug Design

There were discussions about the effect of the economic downturn on the endowments; the vice provost indicated that the funds for this position are secured.

RODGERS/BASINGER: That Council approve the establishment of an endowed chair in *Rational Drug Design*.

CARRIED

12.4 Chair in Patient Adherence to Drug Therapy

RODGERS/BASINGER: That Council approve the establishment of a chair in *Patient Adherence to Drug Therapy*.

CARRIED

13. Other business

No other business was raised by Council members.

14. Question period

There were no questions.

15. Adjournment and next meeting

The meeting adjourned at 4:18 p.m. Next meeting is at 2:30 p.m., Thursday, March 19 in Neatby-Timlin Theatre.