

**Minutes of University Council**  
**2:30 p.m., Thursday, June 18, 2009**  
**Neatby-Timlin Theatre**

*Attendance: See appendix A.*

A memorial tribute was delivered by Professor Graham Scoles, Acting Dean, College of Agriculture and Bioresources, for Professor Douglas Knott, Professor Emeritus, College of Agriculture and Bioresources, 1952-1993. Professor Knott retired from the college in 1993 and passed away June 5, 2009.

Following a moment of silence, the chair called the meeting to order. The meeting began with the viewing of a brief film highlighting Dr. Sylvia Fedoruk's induction into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame on April 29, 2009. The chair spoke to Dr. Fedoruk's many accomplishments as one of Canada's foremost medical biophysicists and the only woman conducting medical-physics research in Canada in the 1950s, bringing worldwide recognition to the university, the province, and Canada as a whole.

1. Opening remarks

The acting secretary reported on the results of election for Council chair, stating that Professor Claire Card had been elected as chair for a further two-year term, and that the nominations committee will now begin the process of nominating a vice-chair. The chair commented on the dedication and service of outgoing council chairs, and indicated she looked forward to working with the new chairs of council committees and new council members in the fall.

The chair then commented on the university's administrative review process and expressed the view that the guidelines and framework for communication of administrative reviews should be reviewed to strive and make the review process timely, third party confidential, and inclusive.

2. Adoption of the agenda

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

CARRIED

3. Minutes of the meeting of May 21, 2009

KALRA/SCOLES: That the minutes of the meeting of May 21, 2009 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

4. Business arising from the minutes

No business was identified as arising.

## 5. Report of the president

President MacKinnon referred members to his written report and provided supplementary comments on the search for the Vice-President Research. He indicated there has been an enthusiastic expression of interest in the search, and the search is proceeding well with the search committee now at the point of reviewing prospective candidates. The committee will continue to meet throughout the summer months to identify a short list of candidates, with interviews planned for September and October.

The president also reported on the university funding received under the federal Knowledge Infrastructure Program (KIP) for roof replacement and renovations to complete the WCVM expansion. As the president's office has received several inquiries regarding the construction activity and equipment in the Bowl, the president clarified this is due to this area serving as the temporary staging area for the Place Riel renovations. The renovations should be complete by the fall of 2010, and the staging area dismantled by this winter.

The President also reported on the appointment of Clare Isman as the new Deputy Minister of Advanced Education, Employment, and Labour, indicating he has contacted Deputy Minister Isman and invited her to the campus.

## 6. Report of the provost

Provost Fairbairn highlighted the announcement of Dr. Robert Buckingham as Executive Director of the School of Public Health. He also drew members' attention to the report on the progress of the *Second Integrated Plan* housed on the Institutional Planning and Assessment website.

## 7. Vision 2057: University Land Use Planning

Vice-President Florizone presented the Vision 2057 report, noting the report represents an important milestone in the assessment of university lands and recognizing members from Corporate Administration, the planning and priorities committee, the research, scholarly and artistic work committee, the land use strategy committee, and the College of Agriculture and Bioresources for their work and involvement in producing the report.

Vice-President Florizone spoke of the importance of the university's lands for research and teaching, noting that land represents the classroom environment for colleges, such as Kinesiology and Agriculture and Bioresources. The university's land holdings comprise nearly 18% of the land within a 5 km radius of downtown Saskatoon, and therefore, these lands are very important to the city as well and will be included in the city's master planning exercise slated to begin in 2010.

The 2002 Strategic Directions document *Renewing the Dream* speaks of the university enhancing its revenue opportunities through the creative use of endowed lands. Successful initiatives include Preston Crossing, which generates \$1.0 million in scholarship funding annually. The Vision 2057 report follows on the key recommendations of the 2007-08

Land Use Task Force report: that the land known as the college quarter be targeted for student housing, and that a 50-year master land use plan be constituted.

Steps have been taken towards both objectives, with student residences being planned for the college quarter, and the remainder of the university's core lands designated as core lands, core agriculture research lands, and endowment lands. This represents a consolidated approach to the consideration of university lands and enables discussion of the evolution of agricultural research and the potential development of university lands to take place much more freely and openly than previously.

A key consideration is the sustainability and support of the university's agricultural research in relation to the use of university lands. Acting Dean Graham Scoles reported the College of Agriculture and Bioresources has reviewed the land use scenario. Changes include the relocation of the beef research unit off campus, as has been planned for some time. This is, however, the only research infrastructure planned to move outside of campus lands. Other agricultural activity intended to move outside the city relates to food production and manure distribution, allowing for the consolidation of lands close to campus primarily as plot research space for plant sciences.

A member inquired why external stakeholders from industry or Saskatchewan Agriculture were not represented in the Vision 2057 steering committee as the process has major implications for the College of Agriculture and Bioresources. In response, Dr. Florizone indicated that the steering committee was cognizant of the implications of selecting one stakeholder over another. An open house was held to discuss the report which was attended by industry members; the College of Agriculture and Bioresources Long-Term Use Land Strategy also engaged in consultation with industry stakeholders. The Major Project Planning process includes cross representation on the steering committees for major capital projects, as appropriate, and it is at this point that a formal consultative role is provided for external stakeholders.

Another member inquired of the relationship between the Saskatoon Health Region and the university related to the significant investment of health facilities on university lands, and how the planning for these facilities might be engaged within 50 years. Dr. Florizone commented that the university's planning horizon is much longer than the health region's, which has focused on a 10-20 year timeframe related the building of a children's hospital. Issues relate to joint planning and a lease agreement with the university.

A member commented that in the life of a university, 50 years is a small horizon, and inquired whether the university was planning to release the value of the endowed lands in the next 50 years. Dr. Florizone indicated the lands designated as C are core lands and considered protected, allowing the university to double its campus footprint if desired. The designation of lands designated as endowment lands signals that as an institution the university is open to consideration of these lands for development, leading to a revenue stream. A 50-year timeframe seems appropriate in relation to the development the university is presently engaged in, such as Preston Crossing, which has a 15-20 year lifecycle.

8. Student Society Reports

8.1 Report from the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union

There was no report from the USSU.

8.2 Report from the Graduate Students' Association

Nicholas Fraser, GSA president, presented the report. He assured Council that the GSA intends to be active on campus and in committee to ensure the graduate student body is raised in visibility and activity on campus. He reported that construction has begun on the GSA Commons project and an opening date of fall 2009 is anticipated. He expressed gratitude towards the university's Facilities Management Division and to University Advancement, for fundraising efforts to provide furnishings for the new space, and to the university overall for its financial contribution, which will initially subsidize the operational costs of the new commons.

9. Academic programs committee

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

9.1 Arts and Science: BA Four-year and Honours in Community Planning and Native Studies

HILL/WURZER: That Council approve the Bachelor of Arts Four-year and Honours in Community Planning and Native Studies.

CARRIED

9.2 Arts and Science: undergraduate programs in languages and linguistics

Professor Hill briefly outlined the basis for the proposed changes, noting the program meets the degree requirements of the College of Arts and Science.

A council member and member of the department of languages and linguistics stated that although she initially supported the proposal as a means of consolidating the majors with the understanding that the department's programs would remain intact, she now opposed the proposal on the basis of the reduced level of language and comparative literature instruction outlined.

The proposed three-year program consists of 24 credit units in primary language instruction, and the proposed four-year program consists of 30 credit units in primary language instruction, which is the requirement for the present three-year degree program. She stated her belief that the language instruction is not sufficient for students to be taught senior courses in the selected primary language. Further, although language courses are obligatory, it has been proposed that culture courses in English could substitute for literature courses in the foreign language. Comparisons to comparable programs at other

universities were cited, with the view that our university be on par with Dalhousie which requires 36 cu in both language and literature.

She noted that, while the previous program in comparative literature was a difficult one with few graduates, all had proceeded to graduate schools. She urged council member members to defeat the motion presented in its present form, and request that the proposal be sent back to the department for further debate. Another member of the department concurred that under the new degree structure, students will receive a degree with very few courses in the primary language, and that in some languages, there will be no literature course offerings.

Vice-Dean Peter Stoicheff of the College of Arts and Science agreed that the university must be careful how it approaches its language instruction and scholarship. However, he indicated the proposal is the best way for the department to move forward in order to become research intensive and to offer a well qualified set of programs.

In 2006, the department had 6 faculty and 21 programs; with the addition of new faculty, the department continues with 12 faculty and 19 programs. The small number of faculty, coupled with the large number of programs, with low enrolment was unmanageable for faculty and created great uncertainty for students regarding course offerings. The degrees offered were three-year degrees, with low graduation rates and no capacity except through upgrade to a four-year degree program. The situation was also financially unsustainable, and a barrier towards research productivity and the mounting of graduate programs.

In 2007, the department voted to devise a modern language degree with literature components and languages, recognizing the university lacked the faculty to maintain all languages. The degree program has been carefully prepared over two to three years, and was approved by the department. The proposal is for a degree program that can be resourced, with excellent quality which reduces the number of small degree programs. All students presently registered in departmental degree programs will have the opportunity to complete.

Other points made in support of the proposal included that the degree structure is based upon models in the UK and Canada intended to preserve language instruction in universities in the face of low enrolment, and to ensure instruction is offered by more than one professor to provide a diversity of perspectives. The new program is based upon the recommendation of systematic program review, which advised the unity of several disciplines. By uniting departmental resources, the department is now able to offer one new four-year degree and a new three-year degree, which does not force students to choose between studying languages or linguistics.

The Provost also spoke in support of the new degree programs as a transition to a new model to secure the future of the department, and expressed his confidence that the college and department will have those conversations in the future to strengthen those programs, if needed.

JAECK/URQUHART: That in view of the weakness of the present document outlining new Three-year and Four-year degree programs in Modern Languages, that the proposal be turned back to the Department of Languages and Linguistics for fine tuning throughout the fall and then return for consideration by Council.

DEFEATED

HILL/WURZER: That Council approve the Bachelor of Arts Three-year and Four-year in Modern Languages, and deletion of the BA Three-year programs in German, Russian and Spanish, BA Four-year and Honours in Comparative Literature and Languages, and BA Four-year and Honours in Linguistics and Languages.

CARRIED

9.3 CGSR: Post Graduate Degree Specialization Certificate: Nurse Practitioner

HILL/WURZER: That Council approve the Post-Graduate Degree Specialization Certificate: Nurse Practitioner.

CARRIED

9.4 CGSR: Master of Science and PhD in Biostatistics

HILL/WURZER: That Council approve the Master of Science and PhD programs in Biostatistics.

CARRIED

9.5 CGSR: Master of Arts in Anthropology

HILL/WURZER: That Council approve the Master of Arts in Anthropology.

CARRIED

9.6 College Admission changes: Nursing (English proficiency), Education (Sask First policy)

HILL/WURZER: That Council approve the deletion of the Sask First admission requirement for the College of Education;

AND that Council approve change in English proficiency admission requirements for the College of Nursing.

CARRIED

### 9.7 Items for information:

The following items were received for information:

- Course-based Program Option, Master of Education in Educational Psychology and Special Education
- Cross-College Minor in Nutrition (Pharmacy & Nutrition, Kinesiology)
- Approval of double listing of BIOL 224 and BMSC 224 Animal Body Systems
- Designator for Bachelor of Arts and Science degree
- Consultation on draft Academic Courses Policy
- Annual Report 2008-09

Professor Hill highlighted the request for the College of Arts and Science to propose a new designation to replace the BASc designation for Bachelor of Arts and Science degrees, in light of the recent awareness of the use of this designation for Bachelor of Applied Science degrees. He also commented on the draft academic courses policy under development, which will be submitted in draft form to council committees for review and feedback.

Professor Hill reported the academic programs committee had a very busy year, with many new program submissions, program terminations, course challenges, and other curricular changes, including consideration of procedures related to admission requirements, the academic schedule and exemptions from policy. He expressed his thanks to all members for their service, and particularly recognized the contributions of Mr. Wurzer and Dr. Desautels, members of the committee's executive, and Ms. Cathie Fornssler, committee secretary.

### 10. Planning and priorities committee

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

#### 10.1 Request for decision: Approval of the Saskatchewan Centre of Excellence in Transportation and Infrastructure

KALRA/RENNY: That council approve the Saskatchewan Centre of Excellence in Transportation and Infrastructure, effective June 18, 2009.

CARRIED

A member requested that Council recognize Professor Berthelot, centre director for his efforts in developing the centre.

The following items were provided for information:

10.2 Report for information: 2008/09 Annual Report, including centres subcommittee annual report

Professor Kalra reported on the work of the committee over the year, particularly in relation to the university's integrated planning efforts and outcomes of the *Second Integrated Plan* and the financial and budgetary affairs of the university. He also referred to the centres subcommittee report and requested any corrections or changes to the list be provided to the committee secretary.

10.3 Report for information: Multi-year capital plan and major capital projects

Professor Kalra reported on the adjustment to the major projects planning process, to permit the planning and priorities committee the additional opportunity to provide input on capital projects following their submission to the Board of Governors. Dr. Kalra also drew members' attention to the multi-year capital plan and annual capital plan, noting the multi-year capital plan was developed as an inaugural plan to provide a framework for capital planning over the second planning cycle, with the annual capital plan providing specific detail on capital priorities and projects.

11 Nominations committee report

Professor Malcolm Reeves presented the report as chair of the nominations committee.

11.1 Request for decision: Appointments to committees for 2009/2010

Professor Reeves noted the addition of Professor Jaswant Singh to the membership proposed for the academic support committee. The chair called for nominations from the floor. There being no nominations, the motion was put to a vote.

REEVES/HARRISON: That Council approve the nominations to Council Committees, Collective Agreement Committees and Other Committees for 2009-10, as described on pages 399-407 of the agenda material.

CARRIED

12. Bylaws committee

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

12.1 Request for decision: Nominations committee members and nominations committee chair

Professor Ferguson noted the addition of Professors Kalowatie Deonandan and Kevin Schneider to the membership proposed for the nominations committee. The chair called for nominations from the floor. There being no nominations, the motion was put to a vote.

FERGUSON/ZELLO: That Council approve the following appointments to the Nominations Committee, effective July 1, 2009:

Jim Kells, Civil and Geological Engineering, term expires June 30, 2012;  
Don Hamilton, Veterinary Biomedical Sciences, term expires June 30, 2012;  
Kalowatie Deonandan, Political Studies, term expires June 30, 2011;  
Kevin Schneider, Computer Science, term expires June 30, 2012;

AND that Council approve the appointment of Fran Walley, Department of Soil Science, as Chair of the Nominations Committee of Council for 2009/10, effective July 1, 2009.

CARRIED

13. Joint Council/Board committee on chairs and professorships

The item was presented by Dr. Jim Germida, chair of the joint council/board committee on chairs and professorships.

13.1 Request for decision: Chair in Aboriginal Health

HENDERSON/BUTLER: That Council approve the establishment of the Cameco Chair in Aboriginal Health.

CARRIED

14. Scholarships and awards committee

Professor Ravindra Chibbar presented the report as chair of the scholarships and awards committee.

14.1 Amendments to undergraduate awards policies

Professor Chibbar noted the Scholarships and Awards policy manual was approved in 2007, and since then amendments have been approved as required. He briefly outlined the rationale for each of the proposed policy amendments.

In relation to the policy on deferral of renewable and continuing scholarships allowed, a member inquired what criteria apply to grant the request and if the deferral could be beyond a year. Dr. Chibbar indicated the committee anticipated requests for deferral would not happen regularly, and therefore planned to consider requests on a case-by-case basis. As the request for a deferral beyond two years was not anticipated, this point will be taken under advisement by the committee.

CHIBBAR/BANNIZA: That Council approve four amended award policies:

1. Entrance Award Limit – One per Student
2. Credit Units Required to be Eligible for Awards
3. Financial Need Assessment for Bursaries
4. Deferral of Renewable and Continuing Scholarships Allowed

CARRIED

15. Academic support committee annual report

Professor Jaeck reported on the activities of the academic support committee over the past year, which focused on emerging trends in educational technology, the development of social networking guidelines for the university, and the continued review of copyright materials, with the intent that a related policy be submitted in the fall. Areas of consideration planned for the coming year are e-learning and VoIP (voice over internet protocol) technology and administration.

Professor Jaeck also reported on the committee's concern regarding the university's previous commitment to increase the library's \$8.0 million acquisitions budget by five percent, which was rescinded, effectively constituting a budgetary reduction. In response, the following motion was carried unanimously:

That the Academic Support Committee express to Council its concern about budget cuts related to the library acquisitions budget that will have negative effects on all units on campus.

In closing, Professor Jaeck thanked all members for their support and recognized the support of Cathie Fornssler, committee secretary.

16. Teaching and learning committee annual report

Professor Long presented the report as committee chair, highlighting the accomplishment of the approval of the teaching and learning foundational document. One of the recommendations within the foundational document is the development of a learning charter to define the aspirations of the university and the roles of all parties involved in the learning experience. Professor Long indicated he would seek input from council, as well as all members of the university community, as the charter is developed.

In closing, Professor Long thanked all members for their support and recognized the support of Cathie Fornssler, committee secretary.

17. Other business

There was no other business.

18. Question period

A member requested a round of applause for the efforts of the chair and for her willingness to serve a subsequent term.

19. Next meeting – 2:30 p.m., Thursday, September 17, 2009

(as amended at the September 17, 2009 meeting of Council)