



*Minutes of University Council
2:30 p.m., Thursday, November 19, 2009
Neatby-Timlin Theatre*

Attendance: See appendix A.

1. Opening remarks

The chair welcomed members to the November Council meeting, noting that quorum had been achieved. She invited three members of the university community to present memorial tributes for their colleagues.

Professor Doug Thorpe, Head of the Department of English, delivered a memorial tribute for his late colleague Professor Camille Slights, who passed away in Nova Scotia after a brief illness on July 8, 2009. Dr. Slights began teaching at the University of Saskatchewan in 1973 and retired from the department along with her husband Bill Slights, also of the Department of English, in 2004.

Condolences were expressed by Professor Fran Walley, Head of the Department of Soil Science, to the colleagues and family of the late Ming Huang, Professor Emeritus, who died on September 13, 2009. Dr. Huang joined the Department of Soil Science in 1965 and remained active throughout his retirement in research and graduate supervision.

A memorial tribute was also delivered for the late Dr. Gordon Wyant by Dr. David Campbell of the College of Medicine. Dr. Wyant became the first Professor and Chairman of the Department of Anesthesia in the newly opened University Hospital in 1954, and served in that capacity for the next 20 years. He was named Professor Emeritus in 1981; in 1983, the department's library was named in his honour. Professor Wyant died on October 22, 2009.

Following a moment of silence, the business of Council resumed.

2. Adoption of the agenda

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

CARRIED

3. Minutes of the meeting of October 15, 2009

KELLS/PROCTOR: That the minutes of the meeting of October 15, 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 conveyed regrets from President Peter MacKinnon, who is travelling on university business. Dr. Fairbairn referred members to the section of the president's report that describes the Institutional Positioning project, noting that in addition to the information presented in the report, Council members should be aware of the on-line opportunity for faculty and other members of the university community to provide feedback. The survey is open until November 23, and the institutional positioning steering community encourages all members of the university community to offer their input.

In addition, the provost provided a correction to the information on page 11 regarding the president's provincial tours, noting that the tour delegation will be in Melfort rather than Nipawin on December 10th.

In response to the call for questions or comments, Associate Vice President David Hannah noted a change since the document went to print in respect to the plans for the immunization clinics; rather than a 3-day immunization clinic November 24-26, there will be a 2-day clinic on November 25 and 26.

6. Report of the provost

In supplementing his written report, the provost highlighted the planning parameters meetings, and then invited questions. There were no further questions.

7. Student societies reports

7.1 Report from the USSU

Daniel McCullough conveyed the regrets of USSU President Warren Kirkland and presented the report as Vice President Academic Affairs. He thanked Council for its support of the USSU's programs and reported briefly on the "Trick or Eat" initiative, the Teaching Excellence Awards, and Place Riel construction and renovation. He particularly underlined the significance of being nominated for a teaching award and congratulated all those who have been nominated.

A short video relating to the Place Riel renovations was presented and was greeted with applause from members of Council.

7.2 Report from the GSA

There was no report from the GSA.

8. Planning and priorities committee

Dr. Jay Kalra presented the following items for information as chair of the planning and priorities committee:

8.1 2010-2011 Operations Forecast

Dr. Kalra reviewed the process by which the operations forecast is developed each year, and explained the involvement of the planning and priorities committee. On behalf of the committee he expressed support for the operations forecast as a sound projection of the university's needs in the face of continuing economic uncertainty, and as a document based upon realistic budgetary assumptions. Professor Kalra then invited provost and vice-president academic Brett Fairbairn to provide a more detailed introduction to the university.

Dr. Fairbairn explained the purpose of the operations forecast, which is both to act as a vehicle for the University's requests to government and to provide a basis on which the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour can prepare its budget request to cabinet. The document attests to the university's careful stewardship of resources and provides assurances that sound strategic planning undergirds the request.

The provost then led members of Council through the budgetary, economic and planning assumptions that underlie the document for both revenues and expenses, and the thinking behind the request for an operating grant increase of 5.2%, an increase to the annual capital allowance of \$10 million, and consideration of continued investment in capital projects and other areas of opportunity for provincial investment. Dr. Fairbairn expressed thanks to the members of the planning and priorities committee for their input, and commended Ginger Appel, the university's director of institutional budget and planning, and Patty Martin of university communications, for their work in shaping the document.

8.2 University Achievement Record

Dr. Kalra then invited the provost to present the first University of Saskatchewan Achievement Record. Dr. Fairbairn explained the genesis and purpose of this document, which he explained is at root about communications. It is, he said, a way for the university to communicate information about how we are doing to those who are interested. The motivation of the document is accountability for institutional progress on things that matter. The document was developed on the basis of a number of design principles including simplicity, clarity, and objectivity. He noted that the record is linked to a web site that provides much more detailed statistical information about what lies behind the overall outcomes. The web site is active and will become fuller and richer over the next year. The provost stressed that the document is a representation of the university's achievements as a whole institution rather than the achievements of any particular unit, and is therefore not meant as a standard for comparison among parts of the university. The most important use is to stimulate questions and discussion. Early reaction from the external community and the university's governing bodies has been positive and has led to the kind of questions and discussion intended. Additional work needs to be done on benchmarks and targets and on identifying some additional indicators which are noted as being 'in development.'

Questions about the achievement record focussed on what the data convey about our success in attracting and retaining aboriginal students at the undergraduate and graduate level, and about the extent to which the measures contain assumptions about desirable levels (for example an 'ideal' completion rate). One member of Council wondered whether

some of the expertise that has been developed in arriving at this achievement record, and the expertise in measuring and benchmarking that some units have gained while going through an accreditation process, could be shared across units. The provost offered that the Institutional Planning and Assessment Office is available for consultation and coordination.

9. Academic programs committee

Professor Len Proctor presented the following items as chair of the academic programs committee.

9.1 College of Graduate Studies/School of Public Health – Ph.D. in Epidemiology

In introducing this item, Professor Proctor noted that the academic programs committee approved a name change for the field of specialization for the graduate programs in *Community Health and Epidemiology* to *Community and Population Health Sciences* at its meeting of November 3. This name change will ensure there is no overlap or confusion in the names of these two fields of specialization.

PROCTOR/CARR-STEWART: That Council approve the proposal from the College of Graduate Studies and Research/School of Public Health for a Ph.D. in Epidemiology.

CARRIED

There was a question about students who are currently in the program of Community Health and Epidemiology; Dean Martz clarified that such students would be given the option of graduating under the former or current name of the program.

9.2 Change of program name in Engineering – Professional Communication Option

This item was received for information. The *Engineering Communication* option will now be called the *Professional Communication* option.

10. Academic support committee

Dr. Lois Jaeck presented the following item as chair of the academic support committee:

10.1 Policy on use of materials protected by copyright

Professor Jaeck acknowledged the work of the Copyright Advisory Committee in developing this policy. She noted that the policy clarifies the university's position on the use of materials protected by copyright, and that this is of interest to faculty both as producers and as consumers of knowledge. She led members of Council through the draft policy and the associated guidelines, as well as the letter the university submitted to the Canadian government as part of the Copyright Consultation process.

During discussion of this document, there was a question whether in approving the policy, Council is also approving the associated guidelines. The mover and seconder of the motion expressed the view that while the guidelines are mentioned in the motion, there is not an expectation that modifications to the guidelines would come back to Council for approval. An amendment was proposed that the guidelines and any modifications to them should be subject to Council approval.

With respect to the guidelines, there was a suggestion that “Powerpoint” be replaced with “presentation software.” It was also noted that there is no mention of software in the guidelines.

Two members spoke against the amendment, noting that Council should be setting principles in place and then delegating guidelines to the copyright advisory committee.

BICKIS/HAMILTON: That the motion be amended to add the following: “, and that the guidelines be submitted to Council for approval, as revised.”

DEFEATED

JAECK/BUNT: That Council approve the policy for the *Use of Materials Protected by Copyright*, and recommend its approval to the Board of Governors, with the provision that it should be accompanied by a set of guidelines to be updated on a regular basis by the copyright advisory committee.

CARRIED

11. Nominations committee

Professor Fran Walley presented this item as chair of the nominations committee.

10.1 Appointments to review committees for vice-provost (faculty relations) and dean of engineering

The chair of Council called three times for additional nominations from the floor for members for the review committee for the vice-provost (faculty relations). There being none, the motion was put to a vote.

WALLEY/DEONANDAN: That Council approve the nomination of Janusz Kozinski, Dean of Engineering as the council member on the review committee for vice-provost (faculty relations), and

That Council approve the nomination of Mik Bickis, Mathematics & Statistics, and Len Gusthart, Kinesiology, as the general academic assembly members on the review committee for vice-provost (faculty relations).

CARRIED

The chair of Council then called three times for additional nominations from the floor for the review committee for the dean of the College of Kinesiology. There being none, the motion was put to a vote.

WALLEY/DEONANDAN: That council approve the nomination of Don Bergstrom, Associate Dean of Faculty Relations, Engineering, as the general academic assembly member on the review committee for the dean of the College of Kinesiology.

CARRIED

12. Enrolment report

The chair called on Russell Isinger, Acting Registrar, to present the report. Members of Council congratulated Mr. Isinger on his appointment as Registrar, which will take effect on November 23. A copy of the census day report is available at <http://www.usask.ca/sesd/reports/enrolment-report-2009.pdf>.

Discussion of the presentation focused on the declining Saskatchewan high school population and on the different implications for headcount and credit-unit enrolment between graduate and undergraduate students.

13. Other business

No other business was raised.

14. Question period

The chair asked Russ Isinger and Claude Lang whether there should be any particular targets set for admission of aboriginal students. Claude Lang noted that the university does have a designated aboriginal recruiter, has set up summer programs for aboriginal school students, and is developing relationships with bands across the province. He noted that activity has to happen on many fronts, including encouraging high school completion rates in Saskatchewan for aboriginal students. With respect to targets, he noted that declaration is voluntary but that many aboriginal students, and particularly Métis students, may be increasingly reluctant to self-identify. There is a perception by the aboriginal student centre that there is an increase in not reporting, as well as a decline in the uptake of programs specifically targeted at aboriginal students. He also noted that in contrast to the rest of the population, the aboriginal high school population is growing, and if their completion and participation rates could be increased that would help address our enrolment challenges.

15. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:40pm. Next meeting is at 2:30 p.m., Thursday, December 17, 2009.