

**Minutes of University Council**  
**2:30 p.m., Thursday, October 15, 2009**  
**Neatby-Timlin Theatre**

*Attendance: See appendix A.*

Professor Ramji Khandelwal, Head of the Department of Biochemistry, delivered a memorial tribute for his colleague Dr. Louis Delbaere, who passed away on October 5, 2009. Dr. Delbaere was a member of the department from 1979 until his death, and held the Canada Research Chair in Structural Biochemistry (Tier 1) for the past 8 years. He was to have received an earned D.Sc. from the University of Saskatchewan at this fall's convocation ceremony.

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

1. Opening remarks

Dr. Card welcomed members of Council and reviewed some of the important work that will come before Council this year. The agenda includes ensuring that Council's governance, committee structure and communications strategy are aligned with its goals as a governing body, participating in implementation of the second integrated plan, and continued planning to ensure that the governance of the university continues in the face of a pandemic or other emergency. Dr. Card alerted Council members to the fact that there is also an important document on student academic misconduct coming to Council today for approval. Such a document, which aims to produce outcomes that are timely, fair and just, are of great importance in the academy.

Dr. Card noted that the implementation of the institutional plan will be of continuing interest to Council this year, and that as part of that implementation, the vice-president for advancement is looking for input on positioning of the institution. She encouraged members to take time to reflect and participate in this process. She noted that there is also information before Council on the search and review procedures for senior administration. A joint board/council committee has been struck, and among other things this committee will consider the relative merits of open and closed searches, what an ideal process would look like, how we delegate authority to a search committee, the relative weight that reviews should place on goals and performance, and how to balance openness and accountability with confidentiality.

2. Adoption of the agenda

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

CARRIED

3. Minutes of the meeting of September 17, 2009

PARKINSON/KELLS: That the minutes of the meeting of September 17, 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

President MacKinnon commended members of Council to his written report and offered supplementary remarks on enrolment. He noted that the population of high school seniors is in decline across the province and that this decline is reflected in the number of students in attendance at the annual *Experience Us!* event, which takes place today and tomorrow on our campus. Census Day figures are now available and reflect an increase in overall undergraduate numbers—the first increase since 2003/04. Graduate student enrolment is up 8.9% over last year, an increase of 31% over the past 5 years and of over 44% since 2000-01. The university's graduate student enrolment is now approximately 13% of overall enrolment, which is approaching the target of 15% set forth in the enrolment plan. This is good news. Absolute growth in student numbers across categories is 2.4%, and credit unit enrolment is up 0.9% over last year. Enrolment is, then, slightly better than stable but it is clear that we can take nothing for granted in an increasingly competitive environment.

The president also reported on the sod-turning that took place on Tuesday for the Academic Health Sciences Building's E wing, which will house classroom and academic space. The Minister of Advanced Education was in attendance for what is the largest construction project in the history of the University of Saskatchewan. This represents a dramatic step forward for health care education in the province.

6. Report of the provost

Provost and Vice-president Academic Brett Fairbairn spoke of the many initiatives—new facilities, projects, scholarships, programs--underway on our campus, as reflected in the meeting of the previous day's deans council meeting. He referred members to his written report, which outlines many of these new and exciting initiatives. He particularly drew Council members' attention to the featured speakers at Technology Week, which takes place October 26-30.

7. Student societies reports

7.1 Report from the USSU

There was no report from the USSU.

7.2 Report from the GSA

Nicholas Fraser, president of the GSA, reported on behalf of the graduate students. He noted that the bursary program deadline has been extended to October 30. He extended a thank you to CGSR and others who supported the graduate students' barbeque. He also thanked the president for his comments about the importance of graduate students to the institution. Mr. Fraser commented that the GSA Commons is on schedule for opening

December 15 of this year; they expect to have a grand opening in mid January. The GSA has recently increased its investment in that project by \$80,000 to a total \$350,000 contribution. Recently the GSA had an opportunity to meet with the Assistant Deputy Minister and Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour to discuss issues including inclusion of graduate students in the graduate retention program, graduate student funding, increased scholarships and stipends, and identification of innovative ways to provide funding to graduate students. The GSA continues to find ways to serve its members, including using its redesigned web site to reach graduate students and other members of the university community.

8. Bylaws committee

Dr. Linda Ferguson presented this item as chair of the bylaws committee.

8.1 Report on student appeals for 2008/2009

This item was received for information.

8.2 Request for approval: regulations on student academic misconduct

Professor Ferguson described the process of consultation that went into the current draft of the academic misconduct regulations, and invited discussion. Members of Council asked questions about the merits of requiring students who are found guilty of misconduct to write an essay or make a public presentation, and whether such a penalty would violate requirements for confidentiality. There was also some discussion of the reasons for there not being a permanent record kept of informal resolutions. Dr. Ferguson indicated that the committee had discussed this at length and were unanimous that an informal approach should be educative rather than punitive and should not result in a permanent record. The associate vice-president for student and enrolment services expressed support for inclusion of unprofessional behavior in the definition of academic misconduct, but cautioned that it will need to be clear when misconduct is treated as unprofessional conduct and when it is treated as a violation of the non-academic discipline regulations, which are under the authority of Senate. It was noted that several colleges have begun to put codes of professional conduct in place, and that the wording in the regulations before Council was deliberately crafted to make explicit that unprofessional conduct applies only to activities that take place in a clinical or other academic setting. The colleges will be encouraged to ensure that the wording of their codes is in conformity with the Council regulations.

FERGUSON/ZELLO: That Council approve the attached document *Regulations on Student Academic Misconduct* on pages 23 – 57 of the agenda material to replace the *Student Academic Dishonesty Rules* approved by council in September 1999, effective January 1, 2010.

CARRIED

8.3 For information: process for approval of motions by electronic means in the event of a pandemic emergency—2009/2010 academic year

This item was received for information.

9. Request for input: review of the university search and review procedures for senior administrators

Professor John Rigby presented this item as chair of joint Board/Council committee to review the search and review procedures for senior administrators. He described the purpose and mandate of the committee and its membership, and on behalf of the committee invited input from members of Council. He indicated that when the committee has finished its work it will report for information to Council and to the Board of Governors for approval. He also indicated that the surveys referenced in the cover information sheet will go out in the next 7 to 10 days' time.

There were questions about the time lines for the committee's work and about whether the directors of schools would be included in the procedures. Dr. Rigby invited members of Council to forward their comments to himself or to Sandra Calver, who supports the committee.

10. Nominations committee

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

10.1 Request for approval re appointments to university review committee and the scholarships and awards committee

The chair of Council called three times for additional nominations from the floor for both positions. There being none, the motions were put to a vote.

WALLEY/KELLS: That Council approve the nomination of Jim Handy, History, to the University Review Committee for a one-year term to June 30, 2010.

CARRIED

WALLEY/KELLS: That Council approve the nomination of Rae Bourner, Coordinator of Undergraduate Medical Education, College of Medicine, to the Scholarships and Awards Committee for a one-year term to June 30, 2010.

CARRIED

11. Other business

No other business was identified.

12. Question period

There were no questions raised.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m. Next meeting is at 2:30 p.m., Thursday, November 19, 2009.