

Attendance: See appendix A.

1. Opening remarks

Dr. Card declared that quorum had been obtained and called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m. She expressed thanks to Council members who attended the annual meeting of the General Academic Assembly on April 8, and congratulated those members of the GAA who have been elected to serve on Council in 2010-11 and who will take up office on July 1. She also expressed congratulations to incoming members of the USSU Executive, and to the Human Resources Division for its willingness to undergo the first administrative review as well as to the external reviewers and all those who participated in the review.

2. Adoption of the agenda

PARKINSON/JAECK: That the agenda be adopted as circulated. CARRIED

3. Minutes of the meeting of March 18, 2010

KALRA/PARKINSON: That the minutes of the meeting of March 18, 2010 be approved.

CARRIED

4. Business arising from the minutes

No business was identified as arising from the minutes.

5. Report of the president

Provost and Vice-president Academic Brett Fairbairn conveyed regrets from the president, who is travelling on university business, and commended members to the president's written report, particularly the sections concerning the signature research areas, the positioning project, and the consultations under way about the cold beverage agreement. Dr. Fairbairn invited Vice-president Chad to comment on the results of the tri-council awards.

Dr. Chad indicated that there is good news with respect to the NSERC results, which had a very poor showing last year. Within two weeks of those disappointing results, NSERC agreed to come to the U of S, brought together a team of department heads and associate deans, and spent some time with them to help them to understand the new national process. A concerted approach followed, to support grant applicants in the next round. The University also made transition funding available to bridge researchers to the next competition. Dr. Chad reported that she had a call a couple of weeks ago from the

president and the vice-president for research of NSERC, in which they congratulated the University of Saskatchewan for its proactive efforts, indicating that the approach has resulted in a significant increase in successful grants. She encouraged council members to express congratulations and thanks to their colleagues, department heads and associate deans who worked so hard to receive these results. She hopes to come back to present more fully on the supports and initiatives her office will be putting in place to support grant applicants and researchers. The university's SSHRCC funding average in the last few years has dropped to around 17%, and there has been even more devastating news from CIHR. These two councils are where the university has been most vulnerable as an institution (and with CIHR, this has also been true provincially). Dr. Chad indicated the health sciences deans and department heads are looking at strategies to put in place to turn this around; she is optimistic that we can do this for the other tri-councils as we did for NSERC.

The president of the graduate students association rose to express concerns about the cold beverage contract and the availability of bottled water on campus. Vice-president Magotiaux indicated that sustainability is one of the aspects the steering committee would like to look at and encouraged students and others to express their views on this issue.

6. Report of the provost

Dr. Fairbairn then turned to the report of the provost, noting that last time Council met, the provincial budget had not yet been released. He referenced the increase of four per cent in the provincial budget and a one-time decrease in the capital budget, and stressed that in presenting the budget the ministry was very consistent in connecting the budget increase to good stewardship of public resources. It has, he suggested, been helpful in that regard for the university to be able to point to the budget adjustments that the university has proactively been pursuing this year in order to keep costs in line.

Related to the budget announcement is the Board of Governors' decision around 2010-11 tuition rates, which was announced earlier today. The board earlier adopted principles for the setting of tuition fees. The application of those principles results in a weighted average fee increase of 5.2 per cent with some variations across colleges. Where there are greater increases the revenues will be used to provide enhanced student services in those colleges offering the programs.

The provost invited questions and comments on tuition. There was a question from a graduate student member concerning the imposition of a 1.5 differential for international graduate students beginning in 2011-12. Dr. Fairbairn responded by indicating that consultations will be held regarding appropriate ways to use the incremental revenues in support for international students.

The provost then continued his report by highlighting the efforts of Vice-provost Ernie Barber and Associate Vice-president David Hannah on creating an action plan for strategic enrolment management. He reminded Council members that targeted increases for international students and aboriginal students are 20 per cent and 15 per cent respectively. He then drew Council members' attention to the summary in his written report of the e-learning task force report and its five major recommendations. Finally, he noted that a celebration of teaching reception will be held Monday April 19 between 4pm and 6pm, to

recognize the university's outstanding teachers with a number of awards that are being given for the first time.

In response to a question about inequities that result in the way distance courses are counted for tuition sharing purposes, Dr. Fairbairn invited Dr. Jim Greer to comment on the work of a supplementary task force to the e-learning task force that is being led by Bob Cram and that will be addressing the administrative issues. The provost expressed the view that the administrative arrangements should be neutral to the mode of delivery, which is an academic decision.

There was a suggestion that there is a link between e-learning opportunities and the university's ongoing commitment to increasing aboriginal enrolment. In responding, Dr. Greer referenced the debate about the extent to which responsibility for student transition, support, and university readiness, which are outside the credit course offerings of our institution, constitute part of the university's mandate

Several other members commented on the tuition differential being implemented in a year's time for international graduate students. Aspects of this issue that were raised and debated included the competitive advantage (or disadvantage) the University of Saskatchewan has in offering one of the lowest tuition levels in the country for international students, the extent to which tuition for graduate students is currently paid from faculty research grants, the need to provide high quality academic and support services for international students including second language training, the alignment of differential fees with the university's tuition principles, and the imperative to provide scholarship and bursary support for students from developing countries. The provost noted that these are all issues that will need to be addressed in the coming year as the university prepares to implement the differential.

7. Student societies reports

7.1 Report from the USSU

Warren Kirkland and Daniel McCullough presented as president and academic vice-president of the USSU. Warren thanked members of Council on behalf of the entire executive for their support, then invited Daniel to talk about the *Be Book Smart* campaign, which the USSU has been running for the past two years. The aim of the campaign is to reduce the burden of the cost of academic materials for students. The presentation focused on ways that faculty can help with this effort.

A faculty member noted that this is a good time of year to send the information to faculty and encouraged the USSU to distribute it to departments.

Jim Greer noted that if a course pack consists of a journal article, faculty members should pay attention to the licensing because if the university already subscribes to the journal we don't have to pay the licensing fees again.

7.2 Report from the GSA

Nick Fraser presented the report as president of the GSA and echoed the USSU's expression of gratitude to Council members for their ongoing support. He urged Council members to encourage their graduate students to vote in the GSA elections, which take place on Monday and Tuesday. He reported that during the past year the GSA executive members sat on more than 40 committees in addition to participating on panels, workshops and other events. While the GSA have been involved in student advocacy and advising, relations with the faculty and administration have remained cordial.

Mr. Fraser noted that Council members can help the GSA to overcome some of the communications barriers it faces by communicating on the association's behalf to their graduate students and telling them about the existence and role of the GSA and of the Graduate Commons.

The GSA has been working on several other issues, as follows:

- transit issues to try to achieve an affordable bus pass solution;
- successfully advocating for an increase in the student assistance rate (Mr. Fraser expressed appreciation to the board for approving an increase of 5 per cent);
- a 24- hour arts campaign to allow students to get access to the Arts Tower after hours;
- labour issues and how graduate students fit into the labour plan;
- human resource training for faculty interacting with graduate students as staff members;
- sustainability issues ('better than bottled' campaign);
- working with the university on housing;
- getting the indigenous graduate student council up and running.

Mr. Fraser reported that as a matter of principle the GSA opposes a tuition differential for graduate students on both ideological and practical grounds. The association sees the issue as a matter of access and believes there are some practical effects that may not have been addressed, including the effect on enrolment. The GSA will articulate its concerns more fully over the next few weeks and will be working to ensure that the differential funds do go back in support of graduate students.

Vice-president Karen Chad commented that administrators don't always get a chance to thank student leaders for the time, energy and passion that they bring to the work they do with the administration, with their peers and with governing bodies. On behalf of Council she thanked the student executive members of both the GSA and USSU, observing that the campus is a better place because of the work they have done over the past year.

8. Planning and priorities committee

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

8.1 Report for information: Operating principles for the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy

This item was received for information. Dr. Kalra indicated that his committee sees this document as a model for future agreements of this type.

A member rose to congratulate the executive director and associate director of the school for the many hours of thought and consultation that clearly went into putting this document together, noting that the document represents the closing of a circle. When Council initially approved the graduate school of public policy, one concern that was expressed was that the details had not yet been worked out. Nevertheless, Council approved the school and expressed faith that the proponents would work through the necessary details; with this document it is clear that Council's confidence was not misplaced.

Dr. Michael Atkinson, Executive Director of the School, acknowledged that creation of the joint school was something of an act of faith and emphasized the extent to which this new school really is a single provincial school. He indicated that the university administration, deans, registrars and secretaries have provided nothing but support and encouragement, and expressed the belief that this will be a model for future collaboration.

9. Bylaws committee

Dr. Gordon Zello presented this item on behalf of the bylaws committee.

9.1 Notice of motion re change in the non-voting membership of the planning and priorities committee

This item was received for information.

10. Nominations committee

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

10.1 Nomination for GAA representative on the search committee for Associate Vice-president Research

The chair called three times for additional nominations from the floor. There being no further nominations, the motion was put to a vote.

WALLEY/ZELLO: That Council approve the nomination of Lee Barbour, Civil and Geological Engineering, as the General Academic Assembly member on the Search Committee for Associate Vice-president Research.

CARRIED

11. Academic programs committee

Dr. Len Proctor presented this item as chair of the academic programs committee.

11.1 Request for decision: Arts and Science – termination of BA in Sociology and Biotechnology

PROCTOR/WURZER: That council approve termination of the field of specialization of Sociology and Biotechnology in the BA four-year and honours programs.

CARRIED

11.2 Request for decision: Arts and Science – termination of BSc in Cell Biology and Biotechnology

PROCTOR/WURZER: That council approve termination of the field of specialization of Cell Biology and Biotechnology in the BSc four-year and honours programs.

CARRIED

It was noted that the Biology and Biotechnology field of specialization remains available.

11.3 Request for decision: Arts and Science – BSc Four-year and Honours in Environmental Biology

PROCTOR/WURZER: That council approve the proposal from the College of Arts and Science for the Bachelor of Science four-year and honours in the field of specialization of Environmental Biology.

CARRIED

There was a question about the impact of this program on the Land Use and Environmental Studies field of specialization, and about whether there should be a plan to delete the LUEST field of specialization. In response, a member of the College of Arts and Science noted that there is a proposal to the College that LUEST be eliminated.

A member suggested that approval of this program should be taken as a call to action. There have been many new programs in environment approved recently, but there is very little coordination among them, and Council should take a proactive role in connecting all these various programs.

There was a vigorous discussion and general agreement about the need to coordinate the institution's offerings in the area of environment and sustainability. The Associate Vice-president for Student Enrolment Services noted the challenge of trying to explain all of these various programs and the differences among them to prospective students. Others noted that a platform for environmental studies had been brought to Council a few years ago but that at that time Council had not expressed any interest in approving such a platform. It was suggested that the Academic Programs Committee could assist by taking a more proactive role in advising how programs can and should be brought together, and how proliferation and lack of coordination can be avoided. Perhaps the question that should be asked when an idea such as the environmental platform is brought forward is not so much whether Council approval is necessary, but whether Council can exercise its influence to assist in coordinating and encouraging collaboration among academic units. It was noted that such a role in governance can advance the institution's

goals of working together, encouraging interdisciplinarity and innovation, and enhancing recruitment efforts.

There was a question about the extent to which the Academic Programs Committee reviews the demand for programs in approving them. There was also a comment that the learning communities could be one vehicle for helping new students to learn about the various environmental options, though a member noted that in order for this to be effective the learning communities themselves would need to consider cross-college options.

11.4 Items for information:

The following items were received for information:

- Honours in Linguistics
- Change of name from *Religious Studies* to *Studies in Religious Traditions*
- Change in program options in *Women's and Gender Studies* with related changes to course and deletion of departmental specializations

In response to a question, it was confirmed that the subject code for “Studies in Religious Traditions” will remain RELST.

12. Other business

No further business was identified.

13. Question period

The chair asked the GSA president to comment on the extent to which a reduction in the cost of housing for graduate students would offset a rise in tuition; Mr. Fraser indicated that while graduate students would welcome more affordable housing, this would not likely be sufficient to offset tuition increases.

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m. Next meeting is at 2:30 p.m., Thursday, May 27, 2010 in **Goodspeed Theatre** (ESB).

Appendix A

Name	Sept 17	Oct 15	Nov 19	Dec 17	Jan 21	Feb 25	Mar 18	Apr 15
W. Albritton	P	P	R	P	P	P	P	P
K. Ansdell	P	R	R	P	P	P	P	R
S. Banniza	P	A	R	P	P	A	P	P
J. Basinger	P	R	P	P	P	P	P	R
A. Bedard-Haughn	P	R	P	P	P	R	R	P
T. Beech	R	P	R	R	P	A	A	A
M. Bickis	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	A
P. Bonham-Smith	R	R	R	P	P	P	P	P
J. Boyd	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
G. Bruce	A	A	R	R	A	R	R	A
M. Buhr	P	R	P	P	R	R	R	P
R. Bunt	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	P
L. Butler	P	A	P	P	R	P	P	P
L. Calvert	P	A	P	R	R	P	A	A
C. Card	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
K. Carlson	P	P	A	P	A	A	R	P
S. Carr-Stewart	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	R
M. Carter	R	P	P	P	R	R	R	R
J. Cheesman	P	R	P	P	R	P	P	A
R. Chibbar	P	A	P	P	R	P	P	R
LConnell/B.Langhorst	P	A	P	P	R	P	P	R(BL)
B. Cotter	R	P	P	A	P	P	A	A
B. Coulman	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P
C. Dahl	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P
A. Dalai	A	A	P	P	A	R	R	P
M. Day	R	R	R	A	P	P	R	R
K. Deonandan	P	P	P	P	R	R	R	P
T. Deutscher	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
J. Dillon	P	R	P	P	P	P	P	R
B. Dobni	P	P	R	P	R	P	P	P
B. Fairbairn	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
L. Ferguson	P	P	P	R	P	R	R	R
I. Fleming	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
S. Fowler-Kerry	A	R	R	P	R	R	P	P
N. Fraser	R	P	A	P	P	P	R	P
D.Freeman/C Rhodes	R	R	R	P	R	A	P(DF)	R(DF)
M. Ghezelbash	P	P	P	P	P	P	R	P
B. Gobbett	P	P	A	A	P	P	P	A
D. Goodridge	A	R	P	R	R	P	P	P
P. Grant	P	A	P	A	R	R	R	A
J. Gray	P	R	P	P	R	R	R	P
J. Greer	P	R	R	R	R	R	R	P
S. Grover	NYA	A	A	A	P	P	A	A
D. Hamilton	P	P	P	P	P	R	P	P
M. Hamilton	P	P	R	P	P	P	A	A
L. Harrison	P	A	P	P	R	P	P	R
D. Hill	P	A	P	P	R	R	P	P
P. Howard	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P
J. Hrynchyshyn	NYA	NYA	A	A	P	A	A	A
L. Jaeck	R	R	P	R	P	P	P	P
D. Janz	P	P	R	R	R	A	A	A
J. Kalra	P	R	P	P	A	P	P	P
Name	Sept 17	Oct 15	Nov 19	Dec 17	Jan 21	Feb 25	Mar 18	Apr 15

S. Kaminskyj	P	P	P	P	P	R	P	P
J. Kells	P	P	P	P	P	R	P	P
A. Kilistoff	P	R	P	R	A	A	A	R
J. Kozinski	A	R	R	A	R	R	P	P
J. Lamothe	P	P	P	R	P	P	P	P
M. MacDonald	P	R	P	P	R	P	P	P
M. MacGregor	P	R	P	A	P	P	R	P
P. MacKinnon	P	P	R	P	R	P	R	R
J. Martini	A	P	P	A	P	A	A	A
L. Martz	P	P	P	P	P	R	P	P
J. Merriam	P	A	P	R	P	A	P	A
S. Miller	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
K. Ogilvie	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Pahwa DaveRishi	NYA	NYA	P	P	P	P	R	R
D. Parkinson	P	P	R	P	P	P	P	P
L. Proctor	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
R. Pywell	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Q. Xiao	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P
B. Rakochy	NYA	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
E. Ralph	P	P	P	P	P	P	R	P
C. Rangacharyulu	P	P	P	R	P	P	P	P
C. Reynolds	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
B. Richards	A	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
J. Rigby	P	P	P	P	R	P	P	P
C. Rodgers	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P
K. Russell	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P
K. Schneider	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
R. Schwier	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Y. Shi	A	A	A	A	resigned	resigned	resigned	resigned
B. Si	A	P	P	P	P	A	A	A
B. Sparling	R	P	P	P	R	P	P	R
B. Stelmach		R	P	R	R	P	P	P
C. Still	R	R	P	R	P	P	P	A
D. Surtees	R	P	R	P	P	P	A	P
L. Tabil	P	P	A	P	R	P	P	P
G. Tannous	R	R	R	P	P	P	A	R
D. Torvi	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
R. Tyler	R	P	P	P	R	R	R	A
E. Tymchatyn	A	P	P	A	A	A	A	A
S. Urquhart	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	R
G. Uswak	A	R	P	R	A	A	R	R
A. Van Kessel	P	P	A	P	P	A	A	A
K. Walker	P	P	A	P	A	P	P	P
F. Walley	P	P	P	P	P	R	P	P
Y. Wei	P	R	P	A	P	P	A	P
V. Williamson	R	A	P	P	P	P	R	P
S. Wood	NYA	R	R	A	A	A	R	R
L. Wu	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
G. Wurzer	P	P	P	A	P	P	A	P
G. Zello	P	P	P	P	P	P	R	P

Non-voting members

Name	Sept 17	Oct 15	Nov 19	Dec 17	Jan 21	Feb 25	Mar 18	Apr 15
K. Chad	P	A	R	R	P	R	P	P
B. Cram	P	P	P	P	R	R	P	R
D. Ens	P	P	A	R	P	P	P	P
R. Florizone	P	P	R	R	P	R	P	R
R. Isinger	P	R	P	P	P	P	P	P
W. Kirkland	P	R	P	P	P	P	P	P
H. Magotiaux	R	P	P	A	R	P	R	P
D.McCullough	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P
R. Mowat	P	resigned	resigned	resigned	resigned	resigned	resigned	resigned
L. Pennock	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
P. Rempel	A	P	R	R	R	P	R	P
G. Smith	R	P	P	P	R	P	R	R