

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.

The chair invited Professor Robert Tyler, College of Agriculture and Bioresources, to present a memorial tribute for his late colleague Frank Sosulski. Professor Sosulski was a professor in the Department of Crop Science from 1958 to 1995 and remained active in the field of cereal chemistry for years after his retirement. Dr. Sosulski passed away March 5, 2009.

Following a moment of silence, the business of Council resumed. In her opening remarks, the chair expressed thanks to Council members for their consistent and active participation in Council meetings this year, and encouraged members to attend the convocation ceremonies that will take place on June 1, 2 and 3.

2. Adoption of the agenda

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

CARRIED

3. Minutes of the meeting of April 15, 2010

PARKINSON/CHIBBAR: That the minutes of the meeting of April 15, 2010 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 president commended members to his written report, drawing particular attention to the significance of the recent announcement of a Canada Excellence Research Chair in water security and quality for the University of Saskatchewan. The fact that ours was among the 13 Canadian universities selected for participation is very important. The federal government will be investing \$10M over 7 years; this amount will be matched by the province. The president expects that because of the compelling importance of water quality and security for the province, region and country, the university will be able to identify external partners to support the university's share of the commitment.

President MacKinnon seconded the chair's comments on the importance of convocation, noting that over the past ten years or so the number of ceremonies has doubled in response to

increasing interest by students and their families in attending their graduation ceremonies. Convocation provides a tremendous opportunity for the university to put on a wonderful public ceremony in front of thousands of people at TCU Place; the students and their families are very appreciative when faculty members attend.

6. Report of the provost

Dr. Fairbairn supplemented his written report by expanding on three items. In the first place, he drew members' attention to recent decisions taken by the Provost's Committee on Integrated Planning (PCIP). One of the tasks of PCIP is to commit funds from the Academic Priorities Fund in support of the commitments under the integrated plan. PCIP has in the past couple of years heavily committed one-time funds in support of the university's agenda; the committee also plans ahead to earmark funding in support of longer term projects. The provost indicated he would be happy to speak more fully on the way these funds are allocated. In the second place, the provost commented on the development of the university's operating budget. As was previously announced, the University of Saskatchewan has a balanced operating budget. This is true in spite of the pension payments the university is required to make, the continued pressure on endowments, and the operating budget from the province being a percent less than was requested, and also because of the adjustments carried out last year and this year which have allowed the university to balance the budget and to keep spending in line. The 4% increase in the Provincial grant and 5.2% increase to tuition overall has resulted in approximately 3.3% being allocated to operations and 1.9% directed to student enhancement. Most importantly, the university is in a position of strength compared with other universities across the country and beyond, and is able to continue to support new initiatives through the Academic Priorities Fund and directed tuition increases. The board has directed that the university's operating surplus—which has resulted from higher than projected credit unit enrolment, deferred pension payments and several other factors—be used to address the major identified risks, such as increasing operating reserves, supplementing trusts and endowments, funding capital projects to which we are already committed, and addressing deferred maintenance issues. The third area for comment relates to copyright tariff increases. The provost indicated that the university has not yet formulated a response and is exploring the alternatives including whether to join AUCC's challenge of the Copyright Board.

There was a question about whether there had been any consideration of the proposed changes in tax treatment for postdoctoral fellows, in terms of modified payouts from endowments; the provost and vice-president finance and administration committed to investigating this issue further.

The chair of the academic support committee observed that her committee has discussed the access copyright tariff increase and is encouraging students to access electronic materials through the library's electronic licenses. She encouraged consideration of whether the university should consider withdrawing from access copyright agreements.

A member asked for more details about the chair in quality improvement and interprofessional health education. Dennis Gorecki of the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition described the purpose and intent of the chair and noted it will come up further in the agenda.

In response to a question about whether there are limits on photocopied materials being made available on reserve in the library, the dean of the library committed to investigating this and to speaking further with the member who raised the question, but noted that the issue is complicated because responses vary depending on whether the environment is printed or electronic, and depending on the discipline.

7. Student societies reports

7.1 Report from the USSU

Chris Stoicheff reported as president of the USSU. He introduced members of the incoming executive, whom he noted are all political studies students. He described his executive's priorities, including the Place Riel expansion (which remains within budget and on schedule to be completed in December), the provision of more child care spaces, participation in the new Saskatchewan student coalition, the signing of an agreement with the treaty commissioner's office, and the creation of an aboriginal engagement committee with the goal of creating a more inclusive campus. With regard to the latter committee, he extended an invitation to Council members to be involved in the work of the committee. He also indicated that the University Student Council will be meeting monthly over the summer and weekly in the fall, and indicated he will be inviting various Council committee chairs and others to come out to present to USC. He also asked committee chairs to let him know if any of the student members are not in attendance at their committees, as they may not realize the meetings have been scheduled.

A member rose to congratulate the USSU on its initiative to provide more day care facilities on campus.

7.2 Report from the GSA

Omeasoo Butt presented the report as newly elected GSA president. She asked council members to encourage their graduate students to become involved and to create course councils if they do not have them. She indicated that her executive would like to look at increasing the GSA's food and beverage facilities and to encourage increased use of the commons as well as becoming involved in the new college quarter housing project. The GSA is planning barbeques to raise money for bursaries and to increase graduate student awareness of the association.

Three positions remain vacant on the GSA executive; the association will be re-examining its structure to try to alleviate the heavy workload, which is a deterrent for graduate students becoming involved. Ms. Butt indicates that she and her executive are looking forward to an improved relationship with the USSU and are excited about the child care initiatives and the aboriginal inclusion engagement committee.

A member of Council commended the GSA for providing a voice for graduate students; and on the issues the executive has taken up. Recognizing that he should likely have addressed his comment to the previous executive, he expressed reservations about the wisdom of the "better than bottled" campaign, which discourages students from drinking bottled water but does not address the more serious health and environmental concerns of sugar-laden and drug-laced cold beverages being sold in vending machines.

The vice-president finance and administration congratulated both graduate and undergraduate students for making day care a priority, indicating that when students and the administration have worked together in the past on issues such as housing, they have been very successful in attracting the attention of the provincial government.

8. Planning and priorities committee

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

8.1 Request for decision: Saskatchewan Centre for Masonry Design – Type A

KALRA/PARKINSON: That Council approve the Saskatchewan Centre for Masonry Design as a Type A Centre effective May 27, 2010.

CARRIED

The following items were received for information:

8.2 Report for information: Progress Report on the Implementation of the *Second Integrated Plan*

Dr. Kalra invited Brett Fairbairn, provost and vice-president academic, to comment on the development of the plan and the form the report will take. There was a question about the legitimacy of assigning quantitative measures represented by bar graphs to qualitative goals; the provost responded by acknowledging that while such an assignment carries challenges, it is useful as a way to invite and provoke comments and discussion about institutional goals and progress towards them.

8.3 Report for information: Annual Capital Plan 2010-11

Dr. Kalra invited the provost to comment further on the plan. The provost identified the issue of the discrepancy between the \$30M annual capital allowance request and the \$12M that came to the university through the provincial grant. The provost and vice-president responded to a question about the way that internal loans are financed.

9. Research, scholarly and artistic work committee

Dr. Susan Blum presented this item on behalf of the chair of the research, scholarly and artistic work committee.

9.1 Request for input: *Research Integrity Policy*

Dr. Blum invited comments on the draft policy included in the agenda package, noting that this policy is intended to replace the *Policy on Misconduct in Scholarly Work* approved by Council in 1993. Members of Council were invited to forward their written comments to Dr. Blum.

10. Bylaws committee

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

10.1 Change to council bylaws re membership of planning and priorities committee

ZELLO/KALRA: That Council approve the changes to *Council Bylaw Part Two, VII* regarding the non-voting membership of the planning and priorities committee as outlined on the agenda pages 151 – 152.

CARRIED

11. Nominations committee

Dr. Fran Walley presented this item as chair of the nominations committee. Dr. Walley began by thanking members of the committee for their hard work and also expressed thanks to Cathie Fornssler for her work in support of the committee.

11.1 Request for decision: council committee membership and other committee membership for 2010/2011

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

WALLEY/DEONANDAN: That Council approve the nominations to University Council committees, collective agreement committees and other committees for 2010-11, as outlined on the agenda pages 155 – 163.

CARRIED

11.2 Request for decision: Members on search committees (Vice-provost Teaching and Learning; Dean of Engineering)

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

WALLEY/DEONANDAN: That Council approve the nomination of Graham Scoles, Associate Dean, Agriculture and Bioresources, as the GAA member on the search committee for Dean of Engineering;

AND that Council approve the nominations of Jim Bugg, Mechanical Engineering; Alex Aitken, Geography & Planning; Leslie Biggs, Women's and Gender Studies; and Ernie Walker, Archaeology & Anthropology, as the General Academic Assembly members on the search committee for Vice-Provost, Teaching & Learning;

AND that Council approve the nomination of Liz Harrison, Associate Dean, College of Medicine, as the council member on the search committee for Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning.

CARRIED

12. Academic programs committee

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

12.1 Request for decision: BA&Sc in Interactive Systems Design

PROCTOR/KALRA: That Council approve the proposal from the College of Arts and Science for the Bachelor of Arts and Science in the field of specialization of Interactive Systems Design.

CARRIED

12.2 Report for information

The following items were received for information:

- Change of name for Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) to Juris Doctor (J.D.)
- Change of name for graduate program in Educational Communications to Educational Technology and Design
- Change of name for Nursing program option from NEPS Second Degree Entry Option to Post Degree BSN Option
- New program options in Physics
- Notice that consultation is underway for revision to high school mathematics admission requirements

13. Teaching and learning committee

Dr. Richard Long presented this item as chair of the teaching and learning committee.

13.1 Notice of motion: *University of Saskatchewan Learning Charter*

This item was received for information. The charter, which Dr. Long characterized as something between a policy and a foundational document, will be presented for approval at the June meeting of Council. It is expected that the document will serve to organize our existing policies around teaching and learning and to spur the development of new policies and the revision of existing policies related to teaching and learning.

Dr. Long explained that once the charter is approved its implementation will be the responsibility of the vice-provost for teaching and learning, under the oversight of the teaching and learning committee of Council. He encouraged members of Council to forward their responses to him at learning.charter@usask.ca.

There was a suggestion that the mentoring role of faculty in teaching and learning be strengthened in the document. Another member of Council complimented the committee on the adoption of the 'tree' graphic.

14. Scholarships and awards committee

Dr. Ravi Chibbar presented this item as chair of the scholarships and awards committee.

14.1 Report for information: Annual report to Council: Undergraduate and graduate scholarships and awards

This item was received for information. Dr. Chibbar expressed thanks to the Scholarships and Awards office and particularly to Wendy Roe for her support of the committee over the past year. There was a question about the relative allocation of graduate and undergraduate awards, particularly as there are new types of professional graduate degrees; for example students in the Physical Therapy program no longer have access to the undergraduate scholarship pool. It was agreed this would be a good issue for the committee to consider.

14.2 Request for decision: Approval of one new award policy

CHIBBAR/BANNIZA: That Council approve one new award policy: *Student Appeals of Revoked Awards*.

CARRIED

15. Joint Council/Board committee on chairs and professorships

Dr. Jim Germida presented this item as the vice-provost for faculty relations and chair of the joint Board/Council committee on chairs and professorships.

15.1 Request for decision: Chair in Quality Improvement Science and Interprofessional Health Education

Dr. Germida invited Dr. Dennis Gorecki to provide some background on the development of this chair. There was a question about how attractive a limited-term position would be to prospective faculty seeking permanent positions. It was noted that the funding in place would provide salary and research support for the first 7 years but that the position itself is envisioned to be permanent and tenure-track.

GERMIDA/SINGH: That Council approve the establishment of a Chair in Quality Improvement Science and Interprofessional Health Education.

CARRIED

15.2 Request for decision: CWB Enhancement Chair in Canadian Grain Policy

GERMIDA/BUHR: That Council approve the establishment of a Chair in Canadian Grain Policy.

CARRIED

16. Report of the joint committee to review search and review procedures

Dr. John Rigby presented this item as chair of the joint committee on the review of the search and review procedures for senior administrators.

16.1 Request for input: Draft principles for search and reviews

Dr. Rigby identified the draft principles as one section of what will be a four-part report, and stressed the importance of the principles as a foundation for moving forward to

develop procedures. He responded to one question, about the intent of the confidentiality of the documents.

17. Annual report for senate round table on outreach and engagement

President Peter MacKinnon presented this report as chair of the round table; it was received for information.

18. Other business

No other business was identified.

19. Question period

There were no further questions.

20. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m. Next meeting is at 2:30 p.m., Thursday, June 17, 2010 in **Goodspeed Theatre** (ESB).