

Minutes of University Council
2:30 p.m., Thursday, April 19, 2007
Neatby-Timlin Theatre (Room 241) Arts Building

Attendance: See Appendix A.

1. Opening Remarks

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. and declared that quorum had been achieved.

Condolences were expressed on behalf of Council to colleagues and family of Professor

John Gregory, formerly of the Department of Physics and Engineering Physics. Dr. Gregory started teaching in the Department in 1965 and was there until he retired in 1983. The tribute was delivered by Professor Alan Manson, Department of Physics and Engineering Physics. Professor Gregory passed away in December 2006.

Condolences were also expressed on behalf of Council to colleagues and family of Professor Joyce Booth who taught in the College of Education from 1964 until her retirement in 1991, and who passed away on March 22, 2007. The tribute was presented by Professor Emeritus Sam Robinson, former Associate Dean of the College of Education.

Following a moment of silence a member of Council asked for an additional moment of silence for the 33 students and faculty who died earlier this week in the shooting at Virginia Tech.

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

2. Adoption of the Agenda

It was noted that the President's report, which would normally appear as Item 5, appears as Item 10 because the President is unable to be present until later in the meeting.

REEVES/RIGBY: To adopt the agenda as circulated.

CARRIED

3. Minutes of the meeting of March 15, 2007

The Chair observed that he had been recorded as 'absent' at the last Council meeting and expressed the hope that the minutes of the meeting would vouch for his attendance and that the record could be corrected.

ZIOLA/STOICHEFF: To adopt the minutes of March 15, 2007 as circulated, with the correction to the attendance record noted above.

CARRIED

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5. Report of the Provost

Provost Michael Atkinson introduced his report, referring members to the written materials which were circulated with the agenda. Of particular note are the enrolment issues delineated in the report, including the student retention study undertaken in 2005-06. All in all it has been a very positive year academically for the University.

The Provost committed to providing Council with an overview of the budget that will be taken to the Board at its next meeting; this will be a balanced budget due in large part to the responsiveness of the government to the University's Operations Forecast, which was developed with the advice of Council through its Budget and Planning committees. The Provost commended the Planning and Budget committees for their hard work on this and on a number of other issues, including the Schools proposals that will come forward over the next few months. He then invited questions and comments from members of Council.

There were questions about inflationary adjustments in the general budget of departments, and about the mechanism for appointment of faculty to the three Schools that are being contemplated.

6. Student Society Reports

6.1 USSU Report

No report.

6.2 GSA Report

Samuel Adamarola presented the report as Academic Vice President of the GSA. He reported that the referendum on participation in U-Pass was defeated by the membership because of doubts about the benefits of the bus pass for graduate students, many of whom live very close to campus. He also indicated that because of some petitions against the results of the GSA election which was held on April 10 & 11, there has not yet been an announcement about the election of new executive members. A decision will be made shortly about the validity of the election and the results of the vote.

7. Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee

Professor Rob Pywell presented the report as Chair of the Committee

7.1 Policy on Field Work and Associated Travel Safety

This policy, which has already received approval from the Board of Governors, was presented for information. There were a number of questions about the consultation

path for this document and the ability of colleges and departments to respond to the requirements of this policy. It was pointed out that the document is intended to ensure that departments, colleges, and individual researchers are aware of their obligations under occupational health and safety legislation and other applicable laws.

7.2 Extending Horizons: U of S Research, Scholarly and Artistic Landscape

This report was presented for information.

8. Planning Committee

8.1 Approval of Change of Name for College of Commerce to the School of Business

Professor Kevin Ansdell presented the report as Vice-Chair of the Planning Committee, since the report involves the home College of the Committee's Chair. Dr. Ansdell explained how the proposed School is consistent with the definitions and guidelines of the Schools document approved by Council in June 2006.

ANSDELL/ISAAC: That Council approve the change of name for the College of Commerce to School of Business, effective May 1, 2007.

CARRIED

There were questions about the many ways that the word "School" is used and the fact that it often is used to denote a unit that has a Director rather than a Dean. Professor Ansdell pointed out that for the purposes of administering all academic matters, collective agreements, university policies, administrative arrangements and all other activities conducted by the College of Commerce at the University of Saskatchewan, the name "School of Business" will be deemed equivalent to the name "College" under the University Act and under Council Bylaws.

Dean Grant Isaac confirmed, in response to a question about the cost of implementation, that external costs such as those involved in revising recruitment materials and the student information system would be borne by the School.

8.2 Principles for Faculty Appointments to Interdisciplinary Schools

This item was presented by Professor John Rigby, Chair of the Planning Committee of Council, who noted that while the document was prepared by the Provost, it has been the product of considerable consultation with both Council committees and administrative committees.

In response to a question, the Provost confirmed that appointments to the Schools are anticipated to be tenure-track academic appointments. Council members made further comments about the narrowness of the wording of the document which suggests that schools are "defined in large part by the societal changes that they address," and about the process, which one member felt had excluded department

heads from the consultation. There were also questions about whether standard and associate appointments are mutually exclusive categories, about the distinction between secondary and primary joint appointments, about the effect of migration of resources to schools on departments, and about how joint appointments track to five-year terms. The Provost pointed out that some of these issues are still being worked out and that there are likely to be some changes of language in the next version of the document.

9. Bylaws Committee

9.3 Notice of motion regarding revisions to Terms of Reference for Academic Programs, Budget, Planning, and Nominations Committees

Professor Barry Ziola presented this item as Chair of the Bylaws Committee, indicating that this motion will be brought to Council at its meeting in May. A primary reason for the revisions is to streamline the process for expediting programs through Council. He indicated that the last two lines on p. 78 should be deleted as they are an artefact of an earlier version.

One member suggested that the wording on item 11 of the Planning Committee's terms of reference would be clearer if it specified that this exclusion relates only to operating and capital budgetary matters.

10. Report of the President

The President expressed thanks to Council for accommodating his schedule, indicating that he was unable to be here at the beginning of the meeting as he was paying tribute to a member of staff who has been here for 41 years. He referred faculty to his written report, and then delivered the following remarks about the incident earlier in the week at Virginia Tech:

Our solidarity with and sympathy for the faculty, staff & students at Virginia Tech is front and centre in our minds at this time. We are conscious of those features of universities that can make them vulnerable to the behaviour of the deranged or the malevolent: access and openness. At the same time, they are features that help to define us as institutions and we cherish them greatly. Ours are not government or corporate buildings in which elaborate security screens out the unwelcome or even just the uninvited. Ours is not a military installation readily identified by barriers, police and rigid security protocols. Indeed such measures and attributes are foreign to us and they are undesirable to us.

However, we should do all that we can to prevent and at the same time to be prepared for those bent on the destruction of persons or property. And we will do all that we can. In addition to existing safety measures (which include joint training between Campus Security and the Saskatoon Police Service), my colleague Vice-President Florizone has asked for additional reviews and options to give us the best possible assurance that we are doing all that we should be doing in this area. But at

this time, we join our colleagues in universities everywhere in mourning the events at Virginia Tech.

11. Other Business

There was no other business.

12. Question Period

Making reference to the changes in committee terms of reference that will come before Council next month, a member of Council suggested that it might be wise for Council itself to engage in some strategic planning with respect to governance, including reflection on the role and relevance of the General Academic Assembly and the best size and structure of Council committees. The President responded with a reflection on the history of the creation of the General Academic Assembly and suggested that the annual meeting might have more relevance if it were advertised (as provided for in the Act) as an annual 'State of the University' address from the President, rather than simply sending out what looks like an agenda for just another meeting at a busy time of year.

Comments were also made on the poor attendance of some members of Council and the apparent reluctance of some younger faculty to become engaged in university governance, perhaps because they don't realize the opportunity they have to be involved in collegial self-governance through Council.

Vice President Richard Florizone provided some clarification around the questions that were raised at Council last month with respect to the temporary link from the News section of the University's home page to the HR web site and to the reason for e-mail addressed to faculty on academic matters being cleared and posted by the Human Resources Division. He noted that Vice President Heather Magotiaux is leading a new task force that will be considering the adequacy of our current policies and mechanisms for internal communications; these recommendations will come back to Council for consideration.

13. Next meeting

The meeting adjourned at 4:35pm. The next Council meeting is at 2:30 p.m., **Thursday, May 17, 2007** in Neatby-Timlin Theatre.